



New Home for Hospice

June 11, 2007 - Hospice is pleased to announce that the Sisters of Charity have decided to make Saint Joseph's Convent at 385 Dufferin Row available to us for the site of our future Residential Hospice. This home is located in a peaceful West Side neighborhood. It has a large dining room, commercial kitchen, chapel, as well as living rooms, office space, meeting space, library, and bedrooms on the second and third floors.

"It will make a perfect home for our current non-medical support programs, our offices and our planned 10-bed Residential Hospice program," says Sandy Johnson, Executive Director.

"Our current home at 282 Douglas Avenue has served us very well over the past year. We have established wonderful new programs and are providing greater support to our community," says Marilyn Craft, Chairman of the Board. *"But, this is not enough. A Residential Hospice is needed to offer 24-hour comprehensive holistic care and support, including medical and nursing care, as well as emotional and spiritual care. We are very grateful that the Sisters of Charity have elected to become investors in this vision for our community."*

Hospice will be selling our current home on Douglas Avenue and moving into our new home in July. Our new home will continue to be called Bobby's Hope House to honour Catherine "Bobby" Lawson and her family who played an instrumental role in making our Hospice House possible. It was Bobby's dream that we would one day be able to open a 10-bed Residential Hospice. Her family assures us that their mother would be elated with this news if she were alive today.

Hospice continues to work with government to secure the funding needed to open our 10-bed Residential Hospice on the second floor of our new home. If you want this for our community, please let your MLA know.

Hospice is very grateful for the support the community has given us over the past year. Without you, none of this would be possible! Please feel free to drop by our new home and learn more about what's happening at Hospice. A Public Open House will be held in the fall.

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Our NEW address as of July 1, 2007

Hospice Greater Saint John * 385 Dufferin Row * Saint John, New Brunswick E2M 2J9
Tel: (506) 632-5593 E-mail: info@hospicesj.ca Website: www.hospicesj.ca



Residential Hospice – The Facts

What is a Residential Hospice?

A Residential Hospice is a home away from home – a place to live and die in peace and dignity surrounded by loved ones and cared for by a team of qualified professionals and volunteers. They offer compassionate, quality care for people who can no longer be cared for at home, but do not require the expensive and highly medical/technical care delivered in an acute care hospital.

Who Would Residential Hospice Serve?

Most people living with a life-threatening illness would prefer to live out their final days at home - most die in hospital. The breakdown often happens in the last weeks or months of life when families are exhausted and cannot afford to hire 24-hour nursing care. Today, there are over 400 people with a palliative illness who spend the last month(s) of life in an acute care bed at the Saint John Regional Hospital. Half of these people who could have lived and died in Residential Hospice.

What Are the Costs of Residential Hospice?

There will be no fee for Residential Hospice care - Government and Hospice would cover the daily cost of care to the patient/family in a shared funding model.

Our estimated annual operating costs of a 10-bed residential hospice are a modest \$800,000 per year. Hospice is proposing that the NB Government & Hospice share the annual Residential Hospice operational costs in a 70/30 split, like they do in Ontario. Therefore, the NB government's daily costs would be \$200/day rather than the \$800 per day they currently pay for hospital care. Hospice is seeking annual government funding in the amount of \$580,000 per year and is prepared to raise the additional \$221,443 needed to fund Residential Hospice program.

Would Residential Hospice Replace the Palliative Care Unit?

No. The Palliative Care Unit would remain at the Saint John Regional Hospital to offer advanced pain and symptom management and expert end-of-life care to over 200 people annually who have uncontrolled symptoms and acute palliative care needs.

How Does Residential Hospice Help Support Access to Acute Care Services?

Moving people with a palliative illness from acute care hospital beds to a Residential Hospice will help government reduce wait times to acute care hospital beds. Our proposed 10-bed Residential Hospice will have the capacity to care for 130-150 patients per year, patients who will otherwise occupy acute care hospital beds for the remaining weeks or months of their lives. These acute care hospital beds can then be used to address wait times for joint replacements, cancer treatments and sight restoration, reducing wait times and enhancing access.

“Dying patient at Regional moved from private room” This was the headline in a May 5th article in the Telegraph Journal. The article reported on how the hospital staff had to make a difficult choice about which patient should have a private room. The end result was that a dying patient on 4C North, had to be moved from a private room to another room to accommodate another patient with an antibiotic resistant infection who required isolation. This dying patient was not on the Palliative Care Unit because it was full and was therefore, occupying an acute care hospital bed. Stories like this one are set to become more commonplace as the numbers of aging, ill and dying people increase. If you want this for our community, please let your MLA know. See the attached for more information.

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Residential Hospice “Say Yes!” Campaign

1. **Call** your local MLA and tell them you want government to work with Hospice to establish a Residential Hospice in Greater Saint John.
2. Send a letter requesting the same to **(use e-mail or regular mail)**:
 - ⇒ Premier Shawn Graham
 - ⇒ A copy to the Honourable Michael Murphy, Minister of Health
 - ⇒ A copy to the Honourable Mary Schryer
 - ⇒ A copy to the Honourable Roly MacIntyre
 - ⇒ A copy to your MLA

SAMPLE LETTER OPTIONS

Option #1:

Our Hospice in Saint John has an innovative and timely solution to some of the current healthcare issues in our community – Residential Hospice. Funding a Residential Hospice will help to address the bed crisis at our Saint John Regional Hospital and be cost-effective care for our dying citizens. I urge you to provide the funding needed to make this possible.

Option #2:

As a senior citizen I want quality healthcare. I want timely access to acute care services, reduced wait times for hospital beds and access to quality end-of-life care when needed. I believe Residential Hospice in our community is the right solution for the right care at the right time. Residential Hospice should be part of your new healthcare plan for the province. I support Hospice Greater Saint’s request for funding to establish a Residential Hospice.

Option #3:

You have healthcare issues and Saint John has solutions. Hospice Greater Saint John has offered you a timely and innovative solution to our current healthcare issues. I support a Residential Hospice in my community and I urge you to provide the funding to make this happen.

Option #4:

Every year at our Regional Hospital, there are over 200 people living and dying in acute care hospital beds, contributing to long wait times for access to acute healthcare services. In May, our newspaper reported that a dying patient on 4C North, had to be moved from a private room to another room to accommodate another patient with an antibiotic resistant infection who required isolation. This dying patient was not on the Palliative Care Unit because it was full and was therefore, occupying an acute care bed. Stories like this one are set to become more commonplace as the numbers of aging, ill and dying people increase. A Residential Hospice is needed to ensure patients receive the right care at the right time.

OR, create your own message and feel free to tell your stories of what you need and expect re end-of-life care, what you have experienced and how Residential Hospice can make a difference.

3. Send a letter to the Editor – www.canadaeast.com – on the home page click on “Write to the Editor” and type in your letter. If you don’t have e-mail, mail your letter to the Telegraph-Journal at P.O. Box 2350, 210 Crown Street, Saint John, New Brunswick E2L 3V8

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4. Talk to your network of colleagues, family and friends to educate them on Residential Hospice and ask them to get involved and to start talking to their MLA's and sending letters to our politicians as noted above.

Premier Shawn Graham
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Honourable Michael Murphy
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Ms. Nora Kelly
Deputy Minister
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