



The Compassionate Community Index

Compassionate Community Index

The Compassionate Community Index (CCI) is a survey that assesses communities with respect to their level of readiness, commitment and efforts to become a more Compassionate Community. The results of the survey will identify strengths and opportunities for growth that the community can use to guide actions towards building a Compassionate Community. The CCI can also serve as a benchmark to evaluate Compassionate Community initiatives as they grow.

The CCI survey should take between 10-15 minutes to complete.

How to administer the CCI?

The CCI is intended to be administered within the context of a community meeting.

Before administering the survey, the meeting facilitator should make sure that participants:

- ✓ have been introduced to the concept of Compassionate Communities,
- ✓ are made aware of the gaps in supports and unmet needs of people with serious illness and their families, and
- ✓ are informed about examples of Compassionate Community initiatives in other communities

Upon completion of the survey, the facilitator engages the participants in a discussion about the results. If time is limited, a preliminary discussion at the initial meeting can be followed by a more fulsome discussion at a subsequent meeting.

Following discussion of the survey results, the facilitator and participants can use the CCI Action Guide to identify realistic actions to begin building a Compassionate Community.



What is a Compassionate Community?

A Compassionate Community is a community of people who are passionate and committed to improve the experiences of those living with a serious illness, caregiving, dying and grieving. A Compassionate Community takes an active role in caring for people, assists people to live comfortably in their homes, connects people to supports, raises awareness about end of life issues, and builds supportive networks in the community.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS:

- The CCI includes 5 sections, with 5 statements each. Please rate each statement as to your perception of your community.
- For each section, tally the number of checked boxes in each column.
- Then, respond to the 4 questions on the last page.
- Please hand in your completed survey to the facilitator before leaving the meeting.

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE FACILITATOR:

- Upon completion of the survey, please engage the participants in a discussion about the results.
- Refer to the **Compassionate Community Index (CCI) Handbook** for background information and help to facilitate the community assessment meeting.
- Refer to the **Compassionate Community Index Action Guide** for suggested actions and projects appropriate for the readiness level of your community.


The Handbook & Action Guide are available from the BC Centre for Palliative Care, www.bc-cpc.ca.


Our Community: _____

Date of Assessment: _____


Assessment completed by (optional): _____


In the following five sections, please check the box corresponding to your perception of each statement:

A AWARENESS & ADVOCACY 	NOT YET STARTED	JUST STARTED	ON THE ROAD	NEARLY THERE	WE'RE THERE!	DON'T KNOW/ NOT APPLICABLE
1. Most people I know in our community plan in advance for the way they want to be treated and cared for during illness and near end of life.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Our community hosted at least one interactive public forum in the past two years where the topic of compassionate community was discussed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Our community often hosts awareness events about death, dying, grief, loss and living fully (e.g. Advance Care Planning sessions, Bucket List Festivals, Film Festivals, Death Cafes).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The health care professionals I know in our community are aware of existing community support services and recognize their work as an important component of holistic care.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. In our community, there is a strong coordinated voice that advocates for and supports the idea of creating a compassionate community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tally: Count the number of checked boxes in each column.						

B ATTITUDES & COMMITMENT 	NOT YET STARTED	JUST STARTED	ON THE ROAD	NEARLY THERE	WE'RE THERE!	DON'T KNOW/ NOT APPLICABLE
1. End of life is not a taboo subject in our community. In fact, conversations about caregiving, dying and grieving have been normalized.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. People in our community support each other practically during experiences of serious illness, when facing mobility issues, or dealing with grief.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Our community embraces compassionate behaviours and looks out for those in need for support and socially isolated.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Our community engages health care professionals, the municipality, other leader organizations and volunteer groups to develop home-grown solutions to help those in need for support and socially isolated.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. The municipality/City Council has made a commitment to adopt the Compassionate City Charter.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tally: Count the number of checked boxes in each column						

 LEADERSHIP & CAPACITY 	NOT YET STARTED	JUST STARTED	ON THE ROAD	NEARLY THERE	WE'RE THERE!	DON'T KNOW/ NOT APPLICABLE
1. There is a recognized individual or organization in our community who/ that takes the lead on compassionate community initiatives.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. There are volunteers in our community who participate in compassionate community activities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. There is a recognized individual or organization in our community who/ that coordinates the compassionate community volunteers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. There are community organizations (e.g. NGOs that work with seniors, aging, chronic diseases, the municipality, faith communities, etc.) that support or work collaboratively with the compassionate community initiative.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. There are training opportunities and resources available in our community to support volunteers to carry out the compassionate community activities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tally: Count the number of checked boxes in each column						

D NETWORKS & CONNECTIONS 	NOT YET STARTED	JUST STARTED	ON THE ROAD	NEARLY THERE	WE'RE THERE!	DON'T KNOW/ NOT APPLICABLE
1. There are support group(s) or organization(s) to check-in with the unmet social needs of seniors, frail people, those facing social isolation and life-limiting illness, caregivers, and other vulnerable people.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. There are support group(s) or organization(s) in our community that help people feel connected while coping with significant changes in health status or social circumstances.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. People in my community know how to find and access support services when needed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Neighbours in our community often have strong social connections.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Overall, our community has strong social circles and networks of support.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tally: Count the number of checked boxes in each column						

E OPPORTUNITIES & RECOGNITION 	NOT YET STARTED	JUST STARTED	ON THE ROAD	NEARLY THERE	WE'RE THERE!	DON'T KNOW/ NOT APPLICABLE
1. There are people in our community who are actively engaged in identifying needs, new ideas and opportunities that support our compassionate community initiative.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. There are people in our community who are actively exploring partnerships with other compassion-based initiatives such as age-friendly communities, dementia-friendly communities and programs that support homeless people.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Our community promotes and celebrates reconciliation with indigenous peoples, and memorials of other important community losses.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Our local media (including social media) often feature compassionate community success stories.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Our community hosts an annual award to recognize individuals (and/or organizations) who take on a commitment to the compassionate community initiative.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tally: Count the number of checked boxes in each column						

1. Name 3 words, phrases or adjectives that **best describe** our community.

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2. **We best show we are a Compassionate Community** by (list up to 3):

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3. What are 3 **significant challenges** hindering development of a Compassionate Community?

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4. What are 3 **undeveloped opportunities** around Compassionate Community?

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Additional Comments:

Please hand in your completed survey before leaving the meeting. Thank you!