



All Together

Nurturing Partnerships. Reimagining Palliative Care



2024 All Together Symposium

Engagement & Insights

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Message from the BC Centre for Palliative Care Team

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who joined us for **All Together Symposium** in Vancouver, BC, on October 4th, 2024. Together, we celebrated a significant milestone—the BC Centre for Palliative Care’s 10th anniversary!

As the only provincial palliative care event in British Columbia, the **All Together Symposium (ATS)** is dedicated to you—our partners: palliative care leaders, partner organizations, researchers, healthcare providers, policymakers, and individuals with lived experiences. The symposium fosters collaboration across sectors, creating a shared vision for the future of palliative care.

This year’s theme, **“Nurturing Partnerships. Reimagining Palliative Care,”** emphasized the transformative power of collaboration. By strengthening partnerships across healthcare systems, community organizations, and policymakers, we can reimagine and enhance the quality of care for patients and families facing serious illnesses.

The 2024 ATS was designed to inspire new ideas, build meaningful connections and exchange best practices and cutting-edge approaches to palliative care. Our day was hosted by our engaging Master of Ceremonies, **Dr. Doris Barwich the founder of BCCPC**, and opened with a powerful territorial acknowledgement and welcome by **Elder Carleen Thomas and Elder Marr Dorvault**. Keynote addresses from internationally recognized presenters **Dr. Seow** and **Dr. Kelli Stajduhar** set the stage for a full day

of dynamic sessions, interactive workshops, and thought-provoking panel discussions led by experts in palliative care. The day concluded with a deeply moving closing keynote by **Jordan and Kerena Letcher**, who shared their heartfelt journey of navigating serious illness as a family. Their story powerfully underscored the profound impact of compassionate care, leaving a lasting impression on all who attended.

This report captures key insights, feedback and takeaways from ATS 2024 to inspire your continued efforts in reimagining palliative care. It also serves as a foundation for strengthening our partnerships and advancing collaboration across sectors.

We hope you find this report beneficial, and we look forward to welcoming you again for the next **“All Together Symposium”**. Together, we’ll continue to shape the future of palliative care for patients, families, and communities across British Columbia.

Thank you for being an essential part of this exciting and transformative journey!

The BC Centre for Palliative Care Team

www.bc-cpc.ca

Acknowledgements

Territorial Acknowledgment

We are grateful for the opportunity to host All Together Symposium on the unceded and traditional territories of the Coast Salish Lands of the xwməθkwəy̓ə (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. Our heartfelt appreciation to **Elder Carleen Thomas** and **Elder Marr Dorvault** for their meaningful traditional welcome and kind blessings at the Symposium.



Symposium Planning Committee

A heartfelt thank you to the Symposium Planning Committee & Presentation Proposal Review Committee for their dedication and effort in bringing this event and program to life.

Eman Hassan
Kathleen Yue
Melody Jobse
Tina Lowery
Lesley Johnston
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Presentation Proposal Review Committee

Susan Scott Gabe
Barbara Pesut
Eman Hassan
Kevin Harter

Della Roberts
Kimberly Miller
Dr. Andrew Collins

Thank you to our Master of Ceremonies Dr. Doris Barwich, for her outstanding stewardship throughout the symposium.

A special thank you to our keynote speakers—Dr. Hsien Seow, Dr. Kelli Stajduhar, and Jordan and Kerena Letcher—**and to our many presenters**, whose insights and stories deeply enriched our program and made this event a resounding success.

We thank you—our participants, for your enthusiasm, participation, and commitment. Together, you have embodied the spirit of being “**All Together**” as we work toward “**Nurturing Partnerships and Reimagining Palliative Care.**”

Thank You to our Sponsors

We are grateful to our sponsors for their generous support of our event.

Platinum

Institute for Health System
Transformation & Sustainability 

Silver



Panel Sponsor



Symposium Program

The 2024 All Together Symposium highlighted the transformative power of collaboration in shaping the future of palliative care, aligning with our theme: *“Nurturing Partnerships and Reimagining Palliative Care.”*

Our program featured an impressive lineup of **25** sessions, workshops, and panels, led by **47** noted presenters, including educators, palliative care leaders, clinicians, researchers, community leaders, and advocates and featured a rich variety of topics, including grief and bereavement, innovative rural approaches to compassionate care, equity in palliative care, and the reimagining of hospice care. Participants also explored meaningful dialogues on death and dying alongside other cutting-edge initiatives shaping the future of palliative care. Highlights included dynamic panels on “social prescribing”, “conversations that matter,” and a range of interactive workshops designed to inform and inspire.

ATS Program: you can access the event agenda at <https://ccevent2024.bc-cpc.ca/event-agenda/>.

Keynote Presentations Recordings and Slides are available at <https://ccevent2024.bc-cpc.ca/presentations/>.



Most viewed sessions on the Whova App:

1. “Social Prescribing” - Panel
2. “Finding Hope in a Reality of Hardship: A Parent’s Perspective of Caring for a Child with Serious Illness” – Keynote
3. “Reimagining a hospice model of care”
4. “Conversations that Matter” - Panel
5. “Healing Together: Community-Driven Grief Support Programs”
6. “Designing More Equitable Palliative Care: A Pan-Canadian Approach to Improving Access Quality and Safety of Care” - Workshop
7. “Home Grown Hospice”
8. “Blurring the Boundary Between Health Care Professionals and Patients’ (Legacy Project)
9. “Death Downtown: Alternative Memorialization on Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside” – Workshop and Film
10. “Goals of Care Conversations: Building Provider Skills and Learnings from the Patient Experience”

Participant Profile

The **All Together Symposium (ATS)** welcomed nearly 200 participants from across British Columbia, creating a dynamic and vibrant day. Participants included representatives from community organizations, policymakers, volunteers, advocates, researchers, students, palliative care leaders, clinicians, BCCPC staff, and educators.

Notably, **91%** of attendees were first-time participants, reflecting the symposium’s ability to reach and engage new voices.

Our efforts to bridge the gap between the health system and the compassionate communities’ approach to palliative care are reflected in the representation of our participant’s fields of work. Fields of work included health care providers and management, non-profit management and staff, community volunteers, researchers, and “other” fields such as Death Doula and Hospice Volunteer, Project Leader and Patient and Family Advisor.



Participants

- | | |
|--|---|
|  Health Care Providers |  Researcher |
|  Health Care Management |  Knowledge Translation |
|  Non-profit Management |  Policy Development |
|  Non-profit Staff |  Student |
|  Community Volunteer |  Other |

Participant Experience

Participant Satisfaction

When asked about their experience at the symposium, **98% of the participants strongly agreed or agreed with the following statements:**

- I felt inspired by the sessions and speakers.
- I liked the variety of topics offered.
- I liked the format of the event (program, sessions, in-person experience).
- This event provided me with valuable networking opportunities.
- I would recommend the symposium to my colleagues.
- Overall, I'm satisfied with my experience at this event.

What Participants Enjoyed Most

Participants highlighted several aspects they appreciated:

- “The collaborative format and sharing of knowledge (as well as lived experiences).”
- “The keynote speakers—very inspiring.”
- “I loved the inspiration and new ideas that allow me to reimagine all that is possible.”
- “Variety of interesting topics made for an enjoyable and informative, fast-paced day.”

“I loved the inspiration and new ideas that allow me to reimagine all that is possible.”

Participant Experience

Building Connections at ATS 2024

A primary objective of ATS 2024 was to bridge the gap between the health system and community organizations through meaningful engagement. The symposium aimed to engage participants by fostering networking opportunities, encouraging the exchange of ideas and resources, and enabling learning.

The **Whova event app** played a pivotal role in achieving this goal, offering a unique platform for participants to form new connections, strengthen existing ones, and access valuable resources in a collaborative space.

ENGAGEMENT

COMMUNITY BOARD MSG TOTAL	PHOTOS SHARED TOTAL	ATTENDEE PROFILE VIEWS TOTAL
252	26	672

POPULAR PHOTOS
MOST LIKES

[See all photos](#)



NETWORKING

PRIVATE MESSAGES
1-ON-1

152

Whova

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

DISCUSSION TOPICS POSTED	COMMUNITY BOARD TOTAL MESSAGES
34	252

ASK ORGANIZERS MESSAGES	BREAK-THE-ICE MESSAGES
8	25

JOB POSTING MESSAGES	OTHER CONFERENCES MESSAGES
4	7

ARTICLE SHARED
MESSAGES

14

whova NETWORKING HIGHLIGHTS

PRIVATE MESSAGES 1-ON-1	ATTENDEE INTERACTION 1-ON-1
152	125 <small>ATTENDEES WHO HAVE INTERACTED WITH EACH OTHER IN PRIVATE 1-ON-1 MESSAGES</small>

ATTENDEES INDICATED INTEREST

20

RECOMMENDED ATTENDEES

155
ATTENDEES MATCHED BASED OFF OF INTERESTS, LOCATIONS, AFFILIATION

BIZ CARD SCANNED AND EXCHANGED	ATTENDEES PROFILE VIEWS
2	672

"Thanks everyone! A great day!"

Participant Recommendations

Recommendations for Future Symposiums

Participants recommendations included extending the event to two days to allow participants to attend more sessions and to engage in deeper discussions and include stories about lived experience.

- “It could have been longer to dive deeper into the topics and breakouts.”
- “Too many speakers, made it difficult to choose which ones to attend. Would have loved it to be taped to share widely and/or see other speakers”
- “Would have liked to take in more sessions”
- “I would appreciate even more stories about the work.”
- “Too many concurrent sessions. Hope that the symposium can be organized over 2 days so people can attend more sessions.”

Recommendations for Future Topics

- “More alternative approaches” “Rural/remote focus”
- “Chronic disability and palliative care”
- “More lived experience and community members involved in research there to share experiences”
- “I live in a Rural community. Any innovative ideas are always welcome.” “The benefit of a Palliative Response Team in reducing visits to ER.” “More synthesized research. Practical applications to practice”
- “MAiD and its effects on the bereaved”
- “Cultural practices and beliefs”
- “Hospice day programs - successful models.”
- “Palliative care and MAiD; Palliative Care for “Incapable” person (working with Substitute decision maker)”
- “MAiD support, volunteer training”
- “How to operationalize the compassionate community tool kit to become a certified City for compassionate care”
- “Something more in terms of interests for Health care providers”
- “Learning to solve programming challenges. More connections established between attendees.”
- “More models of community-based services and rural care, you did this, would just like to keep seeing more!”
- “Education of HCP on the importance of the Bow Tie model of PC.”
- “More on medical assistance in dying”
- “MAiD updates”



Presenter Experience

Presenter Satisfaction

Presenters shared **overwhelmingly positive feedback** about their experience at the symposium.

All **presenters** stated they would recommend the symposium to others.

100% of respondents rated the following aspects as **'excellent'** or **'good'**:

- Their understanding of the symposium's purpose.
- The venue: catering, organization, Wi-Fi, accessibility and accommodations.
- The clarity of their role as a presenter.
- The time they had to prepare for the symposium.
- The support they received from BCCPC staff.
- Their overall experience with the symposium.

What Presenters Enjoyed Most

The most cited highlight was the **opportunity to network, learn from others and meet people in person.**

- "Connecting with others; topics were interesting and useful."
- "Great energy, lots of great presentations. Invigorating. Inspirational."

Suggestions for Future Improvement

Presenters offered valuable feedback for enhancing future symposiums:

- Consider offering a **hybrid option** to reach a broader audience.
- Include more **panel presentations** to foster diverse discussions.
- Provide **larger breakout rooms**, as some sessions were held in spaces that felt too small.



Looking Ahead

Celebrating Success

ATS 2024 was a resounding success and vital step in BC Centre’s continued efforts build bridges between the health system and compassionate communities. Together, we’ve built a strong collaborative foundation, and we invite you to continue **“Nurturing Partnerships. Reimagining Palliative Care.”**

Thank you for your contribution to the success of ATS 2024!

Explore More All Together Content

Join Our All Together ECHO Series

This series focuses on compassionate communities’ initiatives and welcomes health care providers, volunteers, community groups, and individuals eager to connect and learn.

Learn more and register: <https://www.bc-cpc.ca/echo>

Interested in presenting?

We’d love to hear from you. Share your ideas by contacting us: conversations@bc-cpc.ca

Stay tuned for updates about the next “All Together” Symposium

We look forward to hosting you once again!

BC Centre for Palliative Care