



Abbotsford Hospice Society Announces a Credited Grief Support Course

Abbotsford Hospice Society (AHS) is proud to announce their launch of a new accredited Grief Support Course. AHS has partnered with the University of the Fraser Valley's Community Health and Social Innovation (CHASI) Hub to develop an interactive, web-based learning platform, a significant milestone towards becoming the first hospice society in British Columbia to provide professionals and volunteers with accredited recognition of their learning. This achievement will greatly enhance this community's education, care, and support to individuals and families experiencing grief and loss personally and in their work environments.

Abbotsford Hospice Society is thrilled to extend its training beyond its valued volunteer community to other individuals, regions, and communities in British Columbia. This expertly developed course would cover introductory and some intermediate aspects of palliative care and grief support.

The curriculum provides professional development opportunities for:

- Family physicians or palliative care physicians
- Care staff and support staff, from palliative care, home care, or long-term care homes
- Family practice residents and students
- Pharmacists, Social workers, Psychiatrists, Counsellors
- Medical students and other professionals with an interest in palliative care
- Abbotsford School District for High School student education credits
- Community Hospice and PCCU unit in the Hospital volunteers

This Grief Support Course speaks to the importance of educating people of all ages, cultures, and professions regarding end-of-life care, giving our community a better way to connect with those who are terminally ill, their families, and friends for the critical support needed before and after the loss of a loved one.

Abbotsford Hospice Society extends its deepest gratitude to the First West Foundation for partnering with this initiative and generously donating the funds needed to develop this innovative initiative. The grant is part of First West Credit Union's newest endowment, Keeping A Good Thing Growing. The support of the First West Foundation has been instrumental in enabling the society to forge this partnership with the CHASI Hub to expand and advance education and awareness locally and across the province of BC.



“We are so pleased to have this partnership with First West Foundation and CHASI hub, to advance grief and loss education for our community and beyond. This course will help remove stigmas of end-of-life processes and give people the confidence and tools they will need to provide support to those grieving the loss of a loved one.” – Andrea Critchley, Executive Director of Abbotsford Hospice Society.

“The entire CHASI team was so inspired by what AHS does to support individuals and families.”
- Dr. Martha Dow, Director of Community Health and Social Innovation (CHASI Hub), UFV Associate Professor of Sociology.

“We’re very proud to partner with Abbotsford Hospice Society and CHASI to support this very important training program,” says Susan Byrom, executive director of First West Foundation. “The Keeping a Good Thing Growing endowment was established to support and enhance an organization’s growth and capacity, and the development and delivery of the Grief Support Training is an outstanding program for our inaugural grant.”

Abbotsford Hospice Society remains dedicated to serving the community and providing compassionate end-of-life-care for over 27 years. With CHASI Hub credentialing and First West Foundation’s generous support and partnership, AHS is well positioned to continue making a profound impact on the lives of individuals and families in our community and other regions.

For more information about this course and registration, please visit Abbotsford Hospice Society at www.abbotsfordhospice.org/education. Ph. 604-852-2456



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