

## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

### **What is hospice palliative care?**

Hospice palliative care is the care given to a person and their caregivers when there is an illness that cannot be cured. The philosophy of hospice palliative care is to give attention to the emotional, social and spiritual, as well as to the physical needs of each person to ensure optimal quality of life.

### **What kind of care does a residential hospice provide?**

A residential hospice provides a comfortable home-like setting for the residents at end of life when staying in their own home is no longer possible. A team of professionals and volunteers provide care to the residents on a 24 hour basis. All staff has special training in palliative care. The focus of palliative care is so much more than just symptom management. It is based on supporting people in a caring environment and attending to their needs as they change.

### **Who is eligible for care at this residential hospice?**

People with a life expectancy of three months or less will be eligible for care at the residential hospice. The residential hospice will accept local residents throughout the greater Huntsville district.

### **What will it cost?**

There is no charge to residents admitted for hospice care. Operational expenses are covered by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the generous donations of our community supporters.

### **What benefit does residential hospice offer people?**

For those dealing with a terminal illness, hospice is about sanctuary. Those who turn to the residential hospice will enter a home-like environment where peace, privacy and dignity are encouraged.

### **Can caregivers stay overnight?**

The residential hospice is being created with both the resident and his or her caregivers in mind. Caregivers will be encouraged to continue to play an integral role in caring for their loved ones. When necessary a caregiver can stay in the resident's room and every effort will be made to ensure comfort for everyone.

### **Why is a residential hospice being built now?**

The residential hospice is being built to help respond to the growing need to provide end of life care for those in the area with a terminal illness. Hospice Huntsville has been selected by the Local Health Integration Network as the pilot project to develop a rural residential hospice.

A portion of sustainable operating funds for the residential hospice has been secured from the Local Health Integration Network and a one-time capital investment has been secured through Fed Nor.