

About the survey

The Powell River Hospice Society and the Powell River Division of Family Practice conducted the Palliative Care Community Survey during the months of October and November 2018.

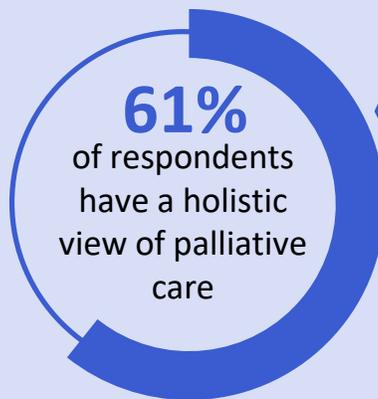
The survey was distributed by the Powell River Hospice Society in both paper and online formats to assess the baseline level of awareness about palliative care in the Powell River community, perceptions of what palliative care means, and community members' level of preparation for end of life care.

Responses were collected both voluntarily and anonymously, and a total of 168 responses were collected.

PALLIATIVE CARE COMMUNITY SURVEY | 2018

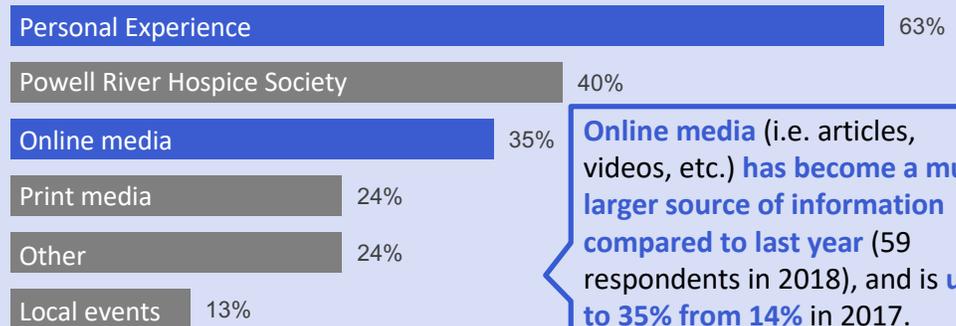
KEY FINDINGS

What does palliative care mean to you?



The majority of respondents defined palliative care as encompassing at least 3 of end of life care, better pain and symptom management, support for anyone with a terminal diagnosis, and improved quality of life and death. The most common association was end of life care, with 90% of respondents choosing this option. 4 out of 168 of respondents (2%) indicated they did not know what palliative care meant. All other responses are detailed in the Appendix.

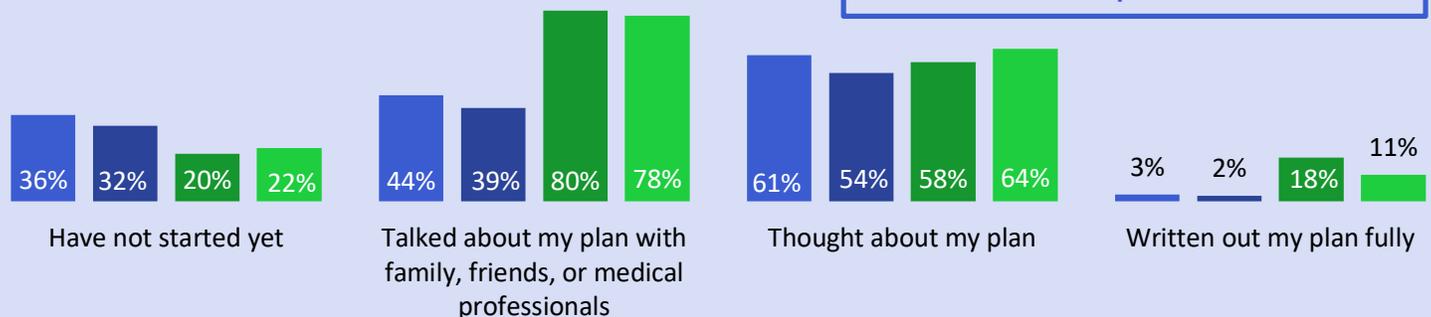
How have you learned about palliative care?



Online media (i.e. articles, videos, etc.) has become a much larger source of information compared to last year (59 respondents in 2018), and is up to 35% from 14% in 2017.

Have you thought about your end of life plan or discussed your plan with family, friends, or medical professionals?

■ 20-34 ■ 35-49 ■ 50-64 ■ 65+

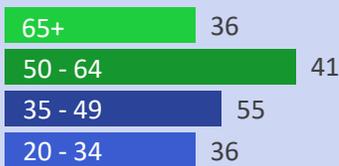


Younger respondents were more likely to have not started end of life planning, while older respondents were more likely to discuss their care plan.

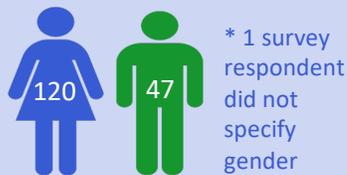
Survey Demographics

A total of **168 people** responded to the community survey. **One third were 50 – 64** years of age, **71% were women**, and **65% resided in the City of Powell River**.

Age



Gender



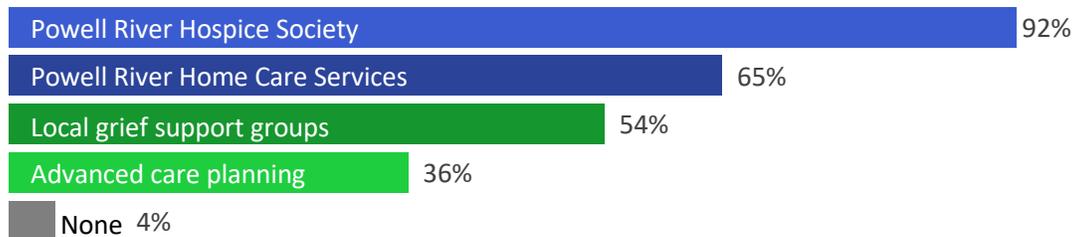
Residence



Community awareness of palliative care

Most respondents learned about palliative care through **personal experience** (105 respondents, 63%), the **Powell River Hospice Society** (68 respondents, 40%), or **online media** (59 respondents, 35%) (i.e. articles, videos, etc.). Respondents who learned about palliative care through other sources commonly referred to work or volunteer experience, or knowledge gained from friends (see Appendix for full list of other responses). **Nearly all respondents were aware of the Powell River Hospice Society** (154 respondents) and **Home Care Services** (109 respondents), while **fewer were aware of local grief support groups** (91 respondents) or **advanced care planning** (61 respondents). A **small percentage** (7 respondents) were **not aware of any of the services**.

Which of the following services are you aware of in Powell River?



More respondents reported an increase in their knowledge of palliative care over the past year than in 2017 (70% in 2018 compared to 59% in 2017), with a larger portion of respondents claiming their knowledge had increased “very much” (29% in 2018 and 20% in 2017).

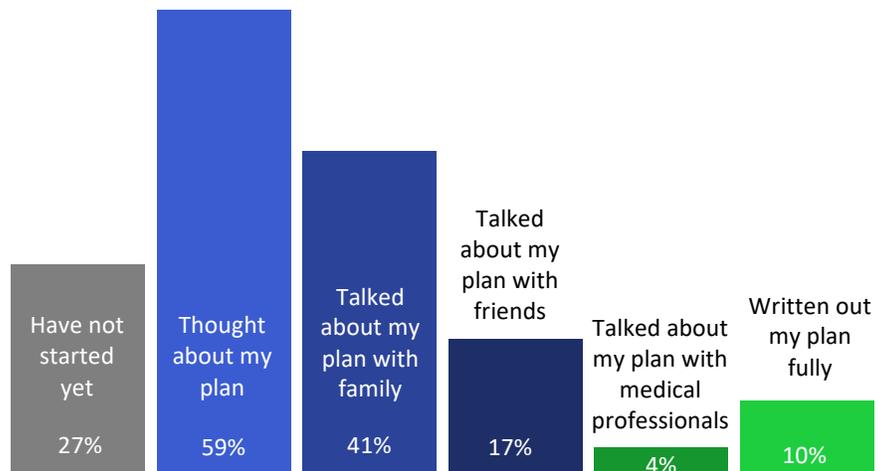
Has your knowledge of palliative care increased in the past year?



Respondents who learned about palliative care through **personal experience**, the **Powell River Hospice Society**, **online media**, or **print media** indicated more often that their **knowledge about palliative care had increased** compared to those who learned through local public events or other sources.

Planning for end of life care

The majority of respondents had thought about their plan (99 out of 168), and nearly half had talked about their plans with family (69 out of 168). There were **no significant differences in responses between men and women**. Respondents in the **50-64 year age category were the most likely to have written out a full plan** (18%, or 10 out of 55 respondents in that age category), followed by those in the 65+ year age bracket (11%, or 4 out of 36 respondents 65 years or over).



Appendix

“What does palliative care mean for you?” - Other

Support for those supporting the person requiring palliative care
Advanced care planning
Grief counseling
Having more control over your own end of life experience
I would like it to include end of life care for a person who chooses to end her/his life
Respite when care giver at home needs a break
Persons diagnosed with dementia/Alzheimer's should be considered to some degree "terminal"
Professional and empathetic help to make informed medical decisions
Support for anyone with a terminal diagnosis including support of families and loved ones
Family support

“How have you learned about palliative care?” - Other

A friend	Health professional career
A dying friend was obliged to leave her community as palliative care was not available at the time	Hospital worker
Books	I used to volunteer at the hospice house in Prince George
Books and personal interest	I work in healthcare
Church	None
CME events	Nurse in family
Colleagues	Occupation - Nurse
Community Health Worker training at VIU	Register care
Discussions with people	Retired Home care RN
Doctor	School. I'm an RMT and I did a palliative care outreach
Don't know	Someone in my church when I lived in Richmond
End of life Doula	Through my line of work
End of life training	Training from Victoria Hospice Society
Event at cemetery	Volunteer in Victoria
Family member volunteered for years in Ontario	Work experience
Friend involved in Palliative care	Worked in healthcare
GP	Worked in the community as an RN with additional palliative training through Victoria Hospice Society