

Announcement Made at One Vision One Voice Provincial Palliative Care Conference, April 19th, 2010.

Last year, at this very gathering, OPCA and HAO announced that we were exploring the options for a closer relationship. Over the last 12 months, that relationship continued to evolve with regular meetings and joint work on various initiatives. Relationships strengthened, trust grew, comments and suggestions of one provincial association continued, regularly, from government, providers, and both HAO and OPCA members.

Over the last six months the OPCA and HAO board chairs have increased the dialogue and a few months ago we put the question of integration to our members. We surveyed and asked if we should “continue as separate associations with a strategic alliance working closely on common issues” or “move to one integrated association representing all aspects of hospice palliative care in Ontario” or “other”, leaving it to our members to fill in the blank.

We are very pleased to now share with you the survey results.

The HAO member survey had a 79% response rate with 92% of the respondents in favour of one integrated association representing all aspects of hospice palliative care in Ontario.

The OPCA member survey had a 41% response rate also with 92% of the respondents in favour of one integrated association representing all aspects of hospice palliative care in Ontario.

On April 18, 2010, the two boards held a joint board meeting to discuss the results and agreed to move forward and develop an integration plan to form one hospice palliative care association for Ontario.

A joint working group was appointed with four representatives from each association. Their mandate is to move forward developing an integration plan for one association representing all hospice palliative care in Ontario. Together we are stronger, and our voices unified as we strive to achieve our vision of quality end-of-life care for all Ontarians.

You will receive more information as the process moves forward and work begins. As we begin this process, we don't know how we will get there, but we know the outcome that our membership has clearly called for. We are committed to a process that is open and inclusive of our members, respecting the unique skills, talents, and gifts of our diverse movement.

ONE VISION, ONE VOICE, ONE ASSOCIATION.

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