



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Tiffany Nobes

1-800-998-7398 Ext. 130

tnobes@huntingtonsociety.ca

Huntington Society of Canada Able to Reach Rural Areas Thanks to BC Centre for Palliative Care Grant

(VANCOUVER, BC) December 11, 2017 – Thanks to a new partnership with the BC Centre for Palliative Care (BCCPC) and their \$5,000 grant, the Huntington Society of Canada (HSC) is able to expand its services to reach rural and remote communities in British Columbia and educate them on Huntington disease (HD) palliative care approaches.

Currently, there are families impacted by HD that do not have access to critical support including information about palliative care and how to build a network of support. By expanding the program to rural and remote communities in BC, these individuals and families will have the opportunity to connect with the HSC Family Services Team who will be able to provide them with valuable support and information regarding palliative care through the HD Education Program.

The HD Education Program strives to help break down the sense of isolation experienced by those impacted, and assist individuals and families in making informed decisions about their life by gaining access to valuable support and information. Palliative care especially is a critical component of the program. By introducing palliative care early in the course of the disease, individuals and families have the opportunity to integrate their learning and work with HD staff to prepare a long term plan.

Rhonda Romolock, HSC British Columbia Resource Centre Family Services Worker, is excited for the opportunities this grant will provide for the Huntington disease community. “This partnership is so important in helping us provide better family care,” Romolock says. “We will now have the resources available to reach more rural areas where education on palliative care is not provided.”

Since Spring 2016, BCCPC, in partnership with the British Columbia Hospice Palliative Care Association (BCHPCA), has provided seed grants, totaling \$304,858, to support 67 projects delivered by 48 hospice societies and other non-profit organizations across British Columbia.

Communities who wish to have an information session held by HSC on HD palliative care in their area are being encouraged to contact the British Columbia Resource Centre or HSC directly by calling (604) 822-7195 or emailing Rhonda at rromolock@huntingtonsociety.ca.

– 30 –

Huntington disease (HD) is a debilitating brain disorder that is fatal and incurable. About one in every 7,000 Canadians has HD and approximately one in every 5,500 is at-risk of developing the disease. Many more are touched by HD whether as a caregiver, a family member, or a friend. Huntington disease is often described as having the symptoms of Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s and ALS – simultaneously. As the disease progresses, a person with Huntington’s becomes less able to manage movements, recall events, make decisions and control emotions. The disease leads to incapacitation and, eventually, death.



British Columbia
HOSPICE
PALLIATIVE CARE
Association



**BC Centre for
Palliative Care**



Huntington Society of Canada
HUNTINGTON
Soci t  Huntington du Canada

The **Huntington Society of Canada (HSC)** is a respected leader in the worldwide effort to find a meaningful treatment for HD. HSC is the only Canadian health charity dedicated to providing help and hope for families dealing with HD across Canada. HSC aspires for a world free from Huntington disease. For more information about HD and HSC visit www.huntingtonsociety.ca.

The **BC Centre for Palliative Care (BCCPC)** is a provincial organization that supports non-profit organizations who strive to improve the everyday experiences for people affected by serious illness or who are nearing end of life.

The **British Columbia Hospice Palliative Care Association (BCHPCA)** is a not-for-profit, membership organization, which has been representing individuals and organizations committed to promoting and delivering hospice/palliative care to British Columbians since 1986.