

**Governance & Senior Leadership Forum
Palliative and End-of-Life Care... A Joint Pledge**

WELCOME REMARKS

Maria Britto

Board Chair, Central West LHIN Board of Directors

Good evening everyone,

I hope you've been enjoying your dinner and taking the time to network with colleagues and friends.

My name is Maria Britto and, as Chair of the Central West LHIN Board of Directors, it is my sincere pleasure to welcome all of you to this Governance and Leadership Forum.

It is a sellout crowd!

"At some time, in some way, we will all face the end of life. And most of us share a common hope: that when death comes to us or a loved one, it will be peaceful and free of pain. We hope to face death surrounded by those we love, feeling safe, comfortable and cared for."

An appropriate quote for us to be mindful of as we move through the evening ahead. Everyone in this room has an opportunity to make the end-of-life experience a better one... to provide hope... for loved ones, patients and indeed... for yourselves.

Tonight, we are here to discuss palliative and end-of-life care... a topic that affects all of us both professionally and personally. That is why the Central West LHIN decided to take a slightly different approach tonight, broadening the list of invitees beyond the Governors and Senior Leadership of Central West LHIN Health Service Providers.

I am absolutely thrilled to see such broad representation from the healthcare continuum including... Health Service Providers... the Central West Community Care Access Centre... Long-Term Care... Community Support Services... Public Health and the Region of Peel ... members of the Central West Palliative Care Network... members of the Central West Primary Care Network... Physician Leaders... and elected officials.

Thank you for coming.... In record numbers!

In particular, I want to take a moment and acknowledge our Keynote Speaker, Dr. Denise Marshall, Palliative Care Provincial Lead at Cancer Care Ontario.

Nancy Naylor, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health System Accountability and Performance Division at the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

And, Dr. Laura Harild, Cancer Care Ontario's Palliative Care Lead for the Central West and Mississauga-Halton LHINs.

Thank you all, for taking the time to be with us this evening.

Let's quickly run down what we will accomplish in our time together.

The relationships that exist among us are the key to effective knowledge exchange and continuous improvement.

And so, as has become customary at these sessions, we will first take a few moments to open up the floor for participants to share their latest news... to let us know some of the significant happenings and undertakings within their respective organizations.

It is fitting that we then pause to reflect on a personal story told from the family perspective... grounding us in the patient's first philosophy ahead of our ensuing discussions.

The Provincial Palliative Care Strategy... The Declaration Document... The Minister's mandate Letter... the Auditor General's Report... ... it is an important time for palliative and end of life care in Ontario.

Our keynote speaker, Dr. Denise Marshall will provide us with valuable insights into the current state of palliative and end-of-life care provincially.

Information gleaned from Dr. Marshall's presentation will set the context for outlining the elements of a joint Pledge, a commitment to coordinating care in a way that enables us to accomplish so much more collectively than we can as individual organizations.

And then, recognizing that the local health care needs of communities are best understood by those who live and work in them, we want to hear from you.

Through the small group table discussions and feedback session we want to know how the Pledge can be enhanced... how your organizations can support, adopt and action the Pledge... and how together, we can measure its success.

Palliative and end-of-life care will continue to be a priority for the Central West LHIN.

Now is the time for us to seize a great opportunity... to take bold steps together... to really make a difference.

We have a busy night ahead and, with its spotlight on palliative and end-of-life care, you will have an opportunity to inform an important area of the local health care system.

Have an enjoyable, interesting and productive evening.

I look forward to the ensuing discussion.