

# Practical & Financial Information for People with Advanced Cancer

Practical and financial information found in this handout may help you and your family with decision-making, as your cancer advances.

## Stopping Work:

**Employment Insurance Sickness Benefits** are available to those who qualify. You must have enough hours and need to stop work because of illness or injury. To learn more search, the Service Canada website or call 1-800-206-7218.

**Employment Insurance, Family Caregiver Benefits (during sickness) and Compassionate Care Benefits (end of life)** is available for eligible people who need to temporarily stop working to provide care and support to a loved one. To learn more search, the Service Canada website or call 1-800-206-7218.

**Canada Pension Plan Retirement and Disability** benefits are available to those who qualify. The **Terminal Illness Application** streamlines and shortens the application process. The application is available online or at a local Service Canada office. To learn more call 1-800-622-6232.

**Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction** provides income assistance and disability programs for those who qualify. To learn more or apply go to the Ministry website or call 1-866-866-0800.

**Veterans Affairs Canada** has practical and financial programs for veterans, RCMP and members of the Canadian Forces, for those who qualify. To learn more go to Veterans Affairs website or call 1-866-522-2122.

## Legal and Health Care Decisions:

Planning ahead ensure that your financial, legal and health care decisions are dealt with according to your needs and wishes. To learn more search the BC government website under [Estate Planning, Wills & Dealing with Death](#). Or the BC Centre for Palliative Care website for [Resources](#) and an [Advance Care Planning](#) interactive workbook can guide you through planning.

**BC Palliative Benefits Program (Plan P)** is a benefit through Pharmacare when a doctor assesses eligibility and makes a referral to the program. Benefits can include medications,

equipment, supplies and hospice. To learn more search Medical Services Plan (Pharmacare) or call 1-800-663-7100.

**Home & Community Care** programs in BC provide community services such as home nursing, hospice and respite care. To learn more go online and search your regional health authority's Home and Community Care programs, call your Public Health service or ask your physician to refer you.

**BC Centre for Palliative Care** and **Canadian Virtual Hospice** have created a guide called [My Wishes, My Care: Thinking it Through](#) which can help you explore and share your future healthcare wishes.

## **After a Death:**

Information about what to know and do after a death occurs is available on the [BC Government website](#). Learn about:

What do I need to know?

Someone has died, what do I do?

How do I honour their wishes?

What happens to their body?

What documents do I need?

How do I register it or get a death certificate?

Where can I access support?

What does the Coroners Service do?

Who do I contact if someone died outside of B.C.?

Who do I contact if someone from elsewhere died in B.C.?

**Veterans Affairs Canada Benefits** may assist with the costs of burial and funeral expenses (including grave markers) and provide a survivors pension. To learn more search their website or call 1-866-522-2122.

**Public Guardian and Trustee – Estate & Personal Trust Administration** provides assistance when someone dies without a Will or the executor or family member does not carry out this role. To learn more search, the Public Guardian and Trustee of BC website or call 604.660.4444.

**Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction** may help with funeral costs for someone who dies without any means to pay for funeral expenses - call 1-866-866-0800.

**Memorial Society of BC** is a non-profit organization to help you with End of Life planning and Funeral costs. Visit their website or call 604-733-7705.