

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Family announces \$4-million donation to transform palliative care in Nova Scotia**

(Tuesday, February 26, 2019 – Halifax, N.S.) The QEII Foundation is proud to announce that the Murphy family – on behalf of the J & W Murphy Foundation – have generously made a \$4-million donation to transform palliative care in Nova Scotia.

At a formal announcement on February 26, the QEII Foundation revealed that \$3-million of the family's donation will be the catalyst in creating an Endowed Chair in Palliative Care at the QEII Health Sciences Centre, and \$1-million will provide critical funding for Nova Scotia's first hospice, Hospice Halifax.

#### **About the J & W Murphy Foundation's donation**

Inspired by their own experiences, the Murphy family's extraordinary generosity will have a direct impact on palliative care through their support of Hospice Halifax and by fueling groundbreaking research funded in perpetuity.

It's a cause that is deeply personal for the family.

"In just four years, my sister Karen, sister-in-law Holly and I lost three family members: our brother and Holly's husband, Jon; and our parents, Janet and Bill," says Lisa Murphy of the J & W Murphy Foundation.

According to Lisa, the family learned firsthand that as a province, our conversations about palliative care need to start much earlier.

"It has to be as easy to have those conversations with your loved ones and healthcare teams as it is to talk about your flu shot," says Lisa.

In addition to igniting palliative care research and supporting the funding of Hospice Halifax, the Murphy family hopes their gift will help shatter some of the stigma surrounding palliative care and its importance in helping individuals at any point in their illness – whether they have two months remaining, two years or longer.

"On behalf of all Nova Scotians, we're incredibly thankful to the J & W Murphy Foundation and entire Murphy family for their visionary commitment to transform palliative care in our region," says Bill Bean, President and CEO at the QEII Foundation. "As catalysts for change, their generosity will elevate care and research in Atlantic Canada and play a pivotal role in shaping our province's dialogue around palliative care."

#### **About the Endowed Chair in Palliative Care**

Funded by a community of donors, like the J & W Murphy Foundation, endowed research chairs at the QEII are world-renowned experts in their field who are appointed for a five-year term. These endowment funds are invested permanently, where only the interest from the investment is used to fund the long-term research position in perpetuity.

The QEII Foundation is currently on a \$4-million fundraising campaign – of which the J & W Murphy Foundation has donated \$3-million – to complete funding for the Endowed Chair in Palliative Care. Once the campaign is complete and the position is recruited, the Endowed Chair in Palliative Care will be

crossed-appointed at the QEII, NSHA and Dalhousie University. At its heart, the Endowed Chair in Palliative Care will be dedicated to leading palliative care research at the QEII and, ultimately, translating evidence-based findings into best practices, policies and training that will be adopted here at home — and both nationally and internationally.

According to Dr. Drew Bethune, medical director of NSHA's Provincial Cancer Care Program, "this endowed chair and the research potential it offers will be critical in addressing one of our greatest needs in Nova Scotia."

Research conducted around the globe has already demonstrated that quality palliative care improves patient and family quality of life and well-being, reduces healthcare costs and in many instances, even prolongs life.

"Our chair will build upon these findings, establish the QEII as a true centre of excellence in palliative care and enable us to continue doing better for our patients," says Dr. Bethune. "Donors like the Murphy family should feel proud knowing their generosity will have such a meaningful impact on the lives of patients and their families."

To learn more about the Murphy family's donation and our vision for palliative care, visit [QE2Foundation.ca/transform](http://QE2Foundation.ca/transform).