

Abstract Submission Guidelines

Nova Scotia Hospice Palliative Care Association Conference 2026

Theme: *Understanding the Palliative Approach and End of Life Care Across the Lifespan*

We invite proposals for presentations that explore grief, loss, hospice, and palliative care across all stages of life and from a variety of perspectives—clinical, cultural, community-based, academic, experiential, and more.

Presenters are encouraged to submit abstracts that reflect inclusive, trauma-informed, and equity-oriented approaches, and that align with the conference theme. Submissions from individuals with lived experience, as well as those from historically marginalized or underrepresented communities, are especially welcome.

Submission Deadline: January 16, 2026

Notification of Acceptance: February 16, 2026

Submission Method/Platform: Submit your proposal through our online JotForm at <https://form.jotform.com/253157256185057>. You will receive an automatic confirmation email upon successful submission.

Scan the QR code to submit:



Questions? Contact Dr. Kristian Suen at ksuen@nshpca.ca for inquiries with your submission.

Required Elements for Each Submission

1. Presenter(s) Name(s), Affiliations, and Bio

Include the name(s), professional titles, and organization(s) of all presenters.

- Provide a short bio for each presenter (100 words max), highlighting relevant expertise or lived experience.
- Include contact information (email and phone number) for the primary presenter.
- Maximum number of co-presenters: 4 (including primary presenter)

Note: You may include co-presenters. Bios may be published in the conference program if accepted.

2. Title

Provide a clear, concise, and descriptive title for your session.

- Aim for a title that captures the topic while engaging potential attendees.
- Avoid jargon or overly technical phrasing.
- Maximum 15 words or 120 characters

Example:

“Supporting Youth Through Perinatal Loss: Creating Space for Grief in Schools and Clinics”

3. Session Format

Select the type of presentation you are proposing:

- **Oral Presentation** (30–40 min, + 5-10 min Q&A)
- **Workshop** (interactive, 30-45 min)
- **Poster Presentation** (Poster dimensions: 36” x 48” portrait orientation)

- **Creative or Experiential Session** (art, storytelling, ritual, etc., 30-45 min)

Tip: Match your content and goals to the format that best fits your approach.

Please note that final session lengths and formats may be adjusted based on program needs and acceptance decisions.

4. Abstract (300 words)

Describe your session in detail. This is the core of your proposal, include:

- What the session is about
- Why the topic is timely or important
- Any methods, tools, or perspectives you will explore
- Whether it is practice-based, research-based, or community-informed
- If presenting research, briefly describe methodology and key findings/expected outcomes.
- Clearly indicate which stage(s) of the lifespan your session addresses: prenatal/perinatal, pediatric, adolescent/young adult, adult, older adult/elder, or multi-generational.

This description helps reviewers understand the focus and value of your session.

5. Learning Objectives

Clearly list 2–3 learning objectives that describe what participants will gain or be able to do after attending your session.

Tip: Use action verbs like: *identify, explain, explore, apply, recognize, evaluate*.

Example:

- Participants will be able to identify key components of trauma-informed grief care for 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

- Participants will learn how to facilitate drop-in grief support groups in rural communities.

6. Intended Audience

Describe who would benefit most from attending this session. (Max 200 words)

Examples:

- Palliative care nurses
- Hospice volunteers
- Educators
- Grief facilitators
- Youth workers
- People with lived experience of grief and loss
- Physicians and healthcare providers
- Social workers and counselors
- Spiritual care providers
- Community health workers

This helps with scheduling and session promotion.

7. Relevance to Conference Theme

Explain how your session aligns with the 2026 theme:

“Understanding the Palliative Approach and End of Life Care Across the Lifespan”

- Does your proposal address a specific stage of life, population, or form of grief?
- How does it contribute to cross-sector, inclusive, or lifespan-informed care?
- Maximum 150 words

8. Technical And Space Requirements

Let us know what you need to deliver your session effectively:

- Projector/screen
- Microphone (lapel or handheld)
- Flip chart or whiteboard
- Space for movement or creative activities
- Internet access
- Quiet room or special accommodations

Please note that while we will make every effort to accommodate requests, availability of specific equipment or room configurations cannot be guaranteed. You will be notified of confirmed AV availability upon acceptance.

If your session requires special materials (art supplies, ritual items, etc.), please indicate whether you will provide these or need assistance.

9. Equity Consideration / Lived Experience (optional)

We invite you to indicate if your session is informed by:

- Lived experience with grief, caregiving, or systemic loss
- A culturally-specific or marginalized perspective (e.g., Indigenous, African Nova Scotian, racialized, rural, 2SLGBTQIA+, etc.)
- Equity-based or trauma-informed approaches

Note: This question is optional and will not be used to disqualify any submission. It is intended to help create a diverse and inclusive program that values community voice.

10. Accessibility & Accommodations

If you require accessibility accommodations to present (e.g., mobility access, breaks, etc.), please indicate your needs. We are committed to supporting all presenters.

Review & Selection Process

All submissions will be reviewed by a diverse committee using a scoring rubric that evaluates relevance to theme, quality of content, clarity of objectives, alignment with equity and inclusion values, and representation across the lifespan. Presenters will be notified of decisions by February 16, 2026, and must confirm participation by March 16, 2026.

Presenter Expectations (if accepted)

- Confirm participation by March 13, 2026
- Register for the conference (presenter registration fee may apply—details provided upon acceptance)
- Submit final presentation materials by April 1, 2026
- Arrive at your session 15 minutes early for AV check
- Be available for the full duration of your scheduled session
- Adhere to time limits to respect attendees and fellow presenters