



BUILDING COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES

Through Innovation
and Creativity



Are you interested in starting up a compassionate community initiative to support people who are affected by a serious illness, end of life, or grieving experience?

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www.bc-cpc.ca/all-resources/community-organizations/

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[Revelstoke Hospice](#) is 'thinking outside the phonebooth' with creative solutions that continue to grow their compassionate community. From 'Death Cafes' to wind phones, the organization's innovative approaches to supporting those dealing with end-of-life issues are seeing great success. The rural community is growing closer through important conversations and unique tools that help guide people through the end of life and grief and bereavement.

Katie O'Brien, interim executive director at Revelstoke Hospice believes a casual, come-as-you-are, no-commitment approach is what makes the 'Death Cafes' so popular. "We're all going to be impacted by death at some point in our lives," she says. "So, we're working to build the foundations for death literacy through discussion groups and public awareness."

The organization's **wind phone project** combines public art and a unique concept that enables people to speak with their loved ones once again – on a disconnected phone. Originally developed in northern Japan in 2010 by a garden designer to help him cope with a loved one's death, Revelstoke Hospice's wind phone will enable people to grieve in a safe, community space. The City of Revelstoke agreed to contribute the land where the wind phone will reside. "We expect to break ground on this project in the spring," says Katie. "We're working with a local artist and contractor to bring the wind phone to life. When it's finished, we'll have a commemorative space, brought forward by the hospice to honour those who have passed."

While **volunteer turnout has been a challenge** for the organization, Revelstoke Hospice has a Volunteer Social planned in the fall and some recruiting drives planned as well. In a Compassionate Communities Roundtable that the BC Centre for Palliative Care coordinated in September, participants agreed that hospices may benefit from carrying out their own volunteer training. As a critical component of the Revelstoke Hospice team, volunteerism is an area that the organization will be committing more time and resources to over the months ahead.

Revelstoke Hospice is, indeed, growing their compassionate community by collaborating with other local areas and finding creative ways to draw people together.

Through ongoing dialogue among networks and with continued community outreach, Revelstoke Hospice Society is clearly only a phone call away for support.