



# Annual Report

## 2025 - 2026

[seatoskyhospicesociety.ca](https://seatoskyhospicesociety.ca)

*April 2025 to March 2026*



We acknowledge our work and volunteer engagement takes place on the traditional ancestral and unceded territory of the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) and of the Southern Stl'at'imx Nations of Líl'wat, N'Quatqua, Skatin, Samahquam and Xa'Xtsa/Douglas.

We acknowledge that the Nations and the people are the original caretakers and stewards of the lands and waters, and that their voices need to be centered in our partnership toward better health and wellness for all.



Sea to Sky Hospice Society  
38140 Behrner Drive  
Squamish, BC V8B 0J3  
604-892-6051 ext. 5  
info@seatoskyhospicesociety.ca

[seatoskyhospicesociety.ca](https://seatoskyhospicesociety.ca)

Charitable Tax Number  
84582 1727 RR0001

## LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

On our 20th Anniversary year, we are grateful for every volunteer, staff member and supporter who has helped create the community of care we are today.

As we celebrate 20 years of the **Sea to Sky Hospice Society**, we honour the vision of those who began this journey and everyone who has helped it grow. What started around a kitchen table has become a community of care reaching across the Sea to Sky.

As we reflect on 2025–2026, we are deeply grateful for the people who make the Sea to Sky Hospice Society what it is: our clients and families, volunteers, staff, donors, funders and community partners.

This year, we continued to strengthen the foundations of our organization—supporting our staff, strengthening our internal systems, and nurturing our volunteer team including training a new cohort of volunteers who are already settling into their new roles supporting clients and programs.

We continued to listen closely to our Sea to Sky community and respond to what people need—from

expanding our services and offering our first Art Therapy program in Pemberton and Memory Tree event in Whistler, to providing counselling, grief and loss programs, and practical assistance. Through it all, we remain grounded in a client-centred approach: meeting each person where they are and bringing warmth, connection and even moments of joy during difficult times.

Thank you for being part of it. Together, we are creating a community where people experiencing serious illness, dying, death and grief can feel cared for, connected and surrounded by compassion.

With gratitude,

**Muff Hackett** Board Chair  
**Chris Wrightson** Executive Director



Our mission is to promote and provide compassionate care for all Sea to Sky residents with life-limiting illness and ongoing support for their loved ones.

Receiving the diagnosis of a life-limiting illness can be an emotional and challenging experience. Through the generosity of Sea to Sky community members, partner organizations and local businesses, we are able to provide care and intentional programming to individuals and families free of charge.

Our charitable organization has a compassionate team of over 60 trained volunteers who support residents throughout the Sea to Sky, from Furry Creek to D'Arcy.



20th Annual Hike for Hospice, May 2026

Our values and guiding principles are rooted in Compassion, Collaboration, Integrity, Respect and Engagement.



Each person's experience is unique and they will be valued, affirmed and treated with dignity, respect, and understanding.



Life is a precious journey of growth and development. Dying and grieving are a natural part of this journey that can be met with serenity and hope.



Individual choices will be respected to allow life to be lived to its fullest; while enabling each person's physical, emotional and spiritual needs to be met on their own terms.



Strength comes from our partnership with community, and we strive to promote and encourage an interdisciplinary, community-wide program of palliative care.





Memory pavers in the memorial garden at the Whistler Blackcomb Foundation Sea to Sky Community Hospice



This includes patients at the **Whistler Blackcomb Foundation Sea to Sky Community Hospice** in Squamish, as well as clients in their homes and communities throughout the region, from Lions Bay to D'Arcy.

Our programs and services offer both practical and emotional support, delivered by our dedicated team of trained staff and volunteers. Each program is shaped by the needs of our communities.

The Sea to Sky Hospice Society provides compassionate care for residents living with life-limiting illness, along with ongoing support for their families.



## PROGRAMS AND SERVICES



Quilts provided by Squamish and Whistler Valley Quilters Guilds

## Whistler Blackcomb Foundation Sea to Sky Community Hospice

The Hospice unit is located adjacent to the Squamish General Hospital and is operated by Vancouver Coastal Health and the Palliative Care Team. The Sea to Sky Hospice Society works in collaboration with the team to support patients and their families. Support is provided by our wonderful team of volunteers who visit patients, help out in the Hospice Unit, play music, and help families. We also endeavour to make the Hospice Unit feel more like home with beautiful quilts from Squamish and Whistler Valley Quilters Guilds, flowers, snacks, personal care products, and the Jamie-Lyn Marchant Library.

## Palliative Support

### Visiting clients

Companionship and emotional support for patients and caregivers through conversation, activities, and shared interests.

### Bedside vigil

Gentle presence and support for patients and families during the final days and hours of life.

### Patient Care Fund

Reducing financial burdens for adults with life-limiting illness and their loved ones to support a life well-lived through the dying process.

To apply for funds, visit us online at [seatoskyhospicesociety.ca/care-fund](https://seatoskyhospicesociety.ca/care-fund)

Ten families received support through the Patient Care Fund, with \$5,094 distributed.



## Bereavement Support

- Grief & loss groups
- Walking groups
- Art therapy groups
- Clinical Counselling
- Bereavement support packages
- Pregnancy & Infant Loss care packages
- Book Circles



## PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

### Clinical Counselling

We offer free clinical counselling for anyone in the Sea to Sky communities experiencing bereavement. You don't have to have a connection to Hospice to access this support.

### Community Engagement & Education

We regularly host and participate in events throughout the Sea to Sky communities which contribute to discourse and support end-of-life planning and education.

### Squamish Volunteer Drivers

The Squamish Volunteer Drivers program provides transportation for Squamish residents to oncology and medical specialist appointments in Whistler, the North Shore, or Vancouver.

### Memory Tree

Each year, we host the Memory Tree event in Squamish and Whistler, providing a space for the community to honour and remember loved ones who have passed. Open to everyone, we gather to reflect, share memories, and inscribe wooden hearts which hang on the Memory Trees in tribute to those we love.

### Oncology Tea Service

Volunteers provide tea and baked goods to those receiving care at the Oncology Clinic at Squamish General Hospital.



**500+**  
cups of tea  
and treats  
served!

## 115 people

attended our 2025 Memory Tree events—80 people attended in Squamish and 35 in Whistler.

## 112 people

attended our group bereavement programs.

## 30 people

received visits from our volunteers.

## 638 rides

to medical appointments arranged through Squamish Volunteer Drivers — covering more than 87,000 km!

## 147 hours

spent serving patients at our Oncology Tea Service.



Jody Kramer, Client Services Coordinator

Our annual Hike for Hospice event in May raises funds and celebrates the work of the Hospice Society.

149 hours of free clinical counselling was provided to Sea to Sky residents, with 63 individuals receiving support.



VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers are the heart of the Sea to Sky Hospice Society.

Our dedicated team supports patients and families, helps facilitate our group bereavement programs, and bring our community events to life. Our volunteers' kindness, skills and experience bring comfort to clients and families. We are so grateful for their commitment, which enables us to provide services throughout the Sea to Sky.



Interested in volunteering?

For more information please email us at [info@seatoskyhospicesociety.ca](mailto:info@seatoskyhospicesociety.ca)

Tatiana Lee, Volunteer Coordinator and Jackie Fulton, Vice Chair



Volunteer Contributions

- Visiting clients
- Program facilitation and support
- Bereavement support
- Board of Directors
- Community engagement and outreach
- Fundraising and events
- Administration
- Oncology Tea Service
- Library, Gardening, Music, Cooking and Baking

FINANCIALS

Expenses

|                                        |           |
|----------------------------------------|-----------|
| • Programs and Staffing                | \$257,575 |
| • Facility and Operations              | \$44,498  |
| • Community Engagement and Fundraising | \$9,602   |
| • Distribution to Endowment Fund       | \$101,820 |

Total \$413,495

Revenue

|               |           |
|---------------|-----------|
| • Donations   | \$224,160 |
| • Fundraising | \$74,127  |
| • Grants      | \$192,780 |
| • Interest    | \$12,046  |
| • Memberships | \$1,997   |

Total \$505,110

For full financial statements please email us at [info@seatoskyhospicesociety.ca](mailto:info@seatoskyhospicesociety.ca)



Testimonial:  
Art Therapy Participant

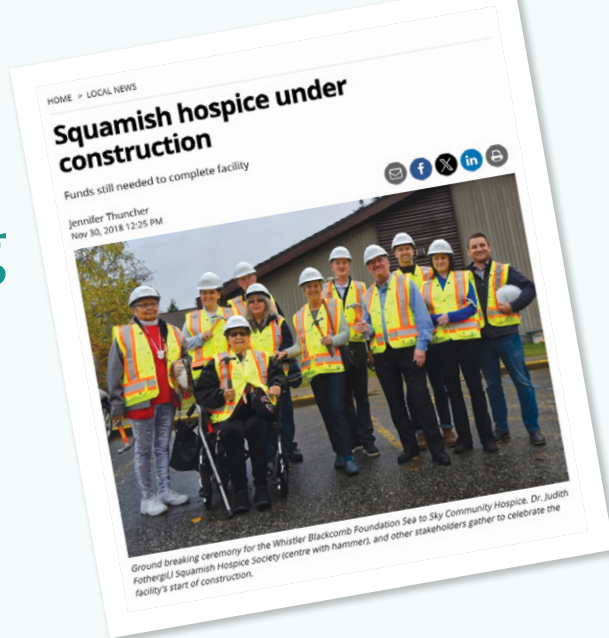
"Hearing other people's stories of their journey with grief and loss made me realize I wasn't alone, which was reassuring and uplifting.

I felt a renewed sense of positivity, which I hadn't felt in a long time. That was very powerful. I found the art therapy to also be relaxing and enjoyable, as there was such a sense of freedom that we could create anything we wanted and it would be acceptable as we explored its meaning."



# Celebrating 20 Years of Hospice Care in the Sea to Sky

Twenty years ago, a dedicated group of community members came together to formally create the Squamish Hospice Society, laying the foundation for the Sea to Sky Hospice Society we know today. Their vision and leadership helped shape hospice care in our community. In addition to providing compassionate support, the Society raised over \$2.5 million to build the Whistler Blackcomb Foundation Sea to Sky Community Hospice, which opened in November 2019.



This snapshot was taken from an article in the November 30, 2018 issue of the *Squamish Chief*. You can read the whole story online at [squamishchief.com](http://squamishchief.com) or by scanning the QR code below.



## OUR TEAM

**Executive Director**  
Chris Wrightson

**Client Services Coordinator**  
Jody Kramer

**Volunteer Coordinator**  
Tatiana Lee

**Counsellor**  
Carlee Baker

## Board of Directors

**Board Chair**  
Muff Hackett

**Vice Chair**  
Jackie Fulton

**Secretary**  
Kim Voelker

**Treasurer**  
Michael Rukus

**Medical Lead, Sea to Sky Palliative Care**  
Dr. Gabe Piper

Ashley Gordon, David Hildreth, Heather Baxter, Kathy Leverton, Khapquolanogh Henry Williams, Rosehannah Hartley, Simon Charles, and Sonia Dahmi

## Thank you!

We appreciate every volunteer, supporter, business, and individual who make it possible for us to provide such a wide range of services and support throughout the Sea to Sky. Thank you!

Members of our current Board of Directors, from left to right: David, Kim, Michael, Muff, Gabe, Khapquolanogh, Jackie, and Ashely.





# Join us in supporting compassionate care.

This past year, thanks to our generous supporters, we were able to provide care, comfort, and connection to so many individuals and families across the Sea to Sky. Your donation can help us continue this important work, supporting those who need us most in the year to come.

Please scan the QR code below to make a donation, or reach out to us at [info@seatoskyhospicesociety.ca](mailto:info@seatoskyhospicesociety.ca) if you would like to support our work.



[seatoskyhospicesociety.ca/donate](https://seatoskyhospicesociety.ca/donate)