



Last updated at 11:17 PM on 27/09/07

Hospice care needs respect: senator

MONIQUE CHIASSON
The Truro Daily News

TRURO - A Manitoba senator visited Truro last night with a message: hospice care has come a long way but there are more strides to be made.

"We have come a long way, but have a long way to go," said Senator Sharon Carstairs. She was in Truro speaking to the Colchester East Hants Hospice Society.

"Hospice care is not as respected (as other medical fields) because it isn't recognized as a full specialty in the medical system," Carstairs, who was born and raised in Nova Scotia, said.

But new programming in schools might help change that.

"In 2008 medical graduates will have a core course in palliative care in Canada. I think that will change the dynamic."

Carstairs said statistics indicate that between 15 to 25 per cent of Canadians have access to some form of hospice care. It wasn't until 1974 that hospice care was introduced in hospitals.

The senator said hospice ultimately comes down to making the dying person comfortable and following their wishes.

"If people want to die at home, why are 75 per cent of people dying at hospitals?" she questioned. "We should respect how people want to die. We should be judged as a society on the way we treat people who are dying."

Carstairs said doctors also need to be educated.

"Some doctors are reluctant to give people over to palliative care because they have a sense of failure."

Carstairs, who is the former minister with Special Responsibility for Hospice-Palliative Care and has been a strong spokeswoman for hospice care, has a personal reason behind her passion for quality care for end-of-life people.

"My mom died in 1980 and she had a DNR (do not resuscitate) and (the doctors) resuscitated her," she said.

"I believe people should have control, to some degree, of how they want to die."

mchiasson@trurodaily.com

28/09/07

Past news :

- [December 2007](#)
- [November 2007](#)
- [October 2007](#)
- [September 2007](#)
- [August 2007](#)
- [July 2007](#)
- [June 2007](#)
- [May 2007](#)
- [April 2007](#)
- [March 2007](#)
- [February 2007](#)

Want to increase traffic to your site?

Advertise with

