



Media Release

A JOURNEY ACROSS CANADA IN SUPPORT OF HOSPICE PALLIATIVE CARE
Wednesday, August 5, 2015 from 11:00 am – 12:00 noon at Mariner's Hall, Marina Park

Ian's Walk for End of Life Care 2015

Thunder Bay, Ontario – On May 21 2015, 39 year old Ian Bos, alone and on foot with nothing but a backpack and a cell phone, embarked on an incredible cross country journey in memory of his late father, Ted Bos, in hopes of raising awareness and funds for hospice palliative care in Canada. See <http://www.ianswalk2015.com/> or <https://www.facebook.com/ianswalk2015> for more information on Ian's journey.

Bos is walking an average 40 km a day, stopping along the way to participate in local events and fund raising activities to generate awareness regarding the benefits of hospice palliative care. On August 5 and 6, he will be stopping in Thunder Bay, meeting with the local palliative care community and speaking about his experiences. His stay here will be hosted by Hospice Northwest.

Bos is encouraging Canadians to connect with him along the route and to support hospice palliative care in Canada by texting 'hospice' to 20222, making a donation via his website or donating to a local hospice organization such as Hospice Northwest.

Inspired to walk across Canada in honour of the hospice palliative care his father received before he passed away, Bos hopes to engage Canadians in the conversation regarding end-of-life care while raising \$25,000 to support access to care in communities across the country.

After his diagnosis January 2014, Bos' father Ted endured unsuccessful treatment and surgery before being referred to hospice care in Nova Scotia. Bos passionately describes the palliative care team's attention to his father's symptoms, fears and frustrations responding with respect, empathy and support. The team provided the "confidence and support we needed as a family to care for him while also giving him the ability to maintain his independence," says Bos.

Aside from raising money to support hospice palliative care, Ian hopes the walk will also draw attention to this service, which is vital to the local community and the country at large. According to the Canadian Institute for Health Research, only about 1 in 3 Canadians facing end-of-life illnesses have access to palliative care, which is defined as an approach to care focusing on the quality of life in the time remaining. With an aging population and diminishing resources in the Canadian medical system, this approach to service will only become more vital, as it allows people to stay at home longer. In Thunder Bay, Hospice Northwest provides compassionate care to individuals with life limiting illness, comfort to their families and emotional support to anyone who has lost a loved one.

For more information, please contact:

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Hospice Northwest is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing compassionate support to individuals and their caregivers as they face the challenges of living with a life-threatening illness.

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