

Senator Sharon Carstairs talks about palliative care

Senator Sharon Carstairs was recently in Regina as part of a cross-country roundtable tour aimed at gathering insight into the state of palliative and end-of-life care in Canada. Carstairs has been a tireless advocate of palliative care, authoring landmark reports such as her 2005 *Still Not There: Quality End-of-Life Care – A Progress Report*.



Louise Cadrin, director of Palliative Care Services, speaks with Senator Sharon Carstairs. Leader-Post photo by Roy Antal. Copyright Regina Leader-Post. Used with permission.

During her Feb. 10 visit, she conducted a discussion at the Greystone Bereavement Centre in Regina which looked at recommendations from her previous reports as well as the achievements, goals and challenges associated with delivering palliative care. Those attending the meeting included palliative care and bereavement practitioners, health care managers, officials from the Ministry of Health, researchers, and representatives of the Regina Palliative Care Inc. and the Saskatchewan Hospice Palliative Care Association.

Her day also included a tour of the Regina Palliative Care Unit at the Pasqua Hospital, the Regina Wascana Grace Hospice and the Greystone Bereavement Centre.

Information Carstairs' gathers from roundtable discussions, research and outreach activities – including a survey – will assist her in preparing an updated report on the evaluation of hospice palliative care in Canada, which is expected by the summer of 2010. To participate in her survey, click on this link: <http://tinyurl.com/pec2009e>.

Submitted by Louise Cadrin, director of Palliative Care Services