



**THE 6th BIENNIAL ONTARIO  
PAEDIATRIC PALLIATIVE  
CARE SYMPOSIUM**

**Wednesday, June 17, 2026**  
**Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel & Suites**



# THE 6th BIENNIAL ONTARIO PAEDIATRIC PALLIATIVE CARE SYMPOSIUM

**Date:** Wednesday, June 17, 2026  
**Time:** 8am-4:30pm

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**01** 8:00AM - 9:00AM Registration & Continental Breakfast

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**02** 9:00AM - 10:00AM

**Dr. Jared Rubenstein, MD**

**Title: Dignity Therapy in Pediatrics**

A brief review of the legacy intervention of Dignity Therapy followed by a discussion of modifications made in the pediatric setting shared through the story of a case series of 4 patients and families.

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**03** 10:00AM - 10:30AM

Refreshment Break

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**04** 10:30AM - 12:00PM

**Concurrent Workshops**

**Ceilidh Eaton Russell, PhD, CCLS**

**Title: Every question matters: communication that honours children's experiences and rights, even when we don't have an "answer".**

This 90minute workshop introduces a child centred approach to understanding and supporting children's grief related to illness, death, and other significant losses. Moving beyond stage based grief models, it emphasizes children's rights, agency, and unique contexts. Drawing on insights from over 700 anonymous questions from grieving young people, the session presents a practical communication framework to help clinicians invite, validate-, and respond to children's difficult and often unspoken questions with clarity and compassion across palliative and hospice settings.

AGENDA



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## Heros Circle

**Rabbi Elimelech Goldberg**

**Title: Pain Extraction® vs Distraction: Empowerment Tools in Palliative Care**

1. The MATIO method (Martial Arts Therapy Inside Out)
2. The Power of Purpose in therapy
3. Clinical examples of successful therapeutic interventions
4. Tools to bring home for practitioners

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## Panel of Spiritual Care Providers

**Ani Jamyang Donma**  
**Sandy Broad**  
**Afraz Baksh**

**Title: Embracing Spirituality at End of Life:  
A Toolbox for Compassionate Care.**

In this workshop we will explore meaning making through Spiritual & Religious practices, customs, and beliefs at end of life.

We will also explore tools for developing presence, deep listening, loving kindness and deep relaxation through mindfulness modalities derived from the Buddhist tradition and the Hospice Movement that are also suitable for those of no particular faith.

We will also explore several of the faith traditions, how they view death, as well as the prayers, rituals and ceremonies associated with these traditions. With this understanding we can start to create a toolbox with what we need to embrace each caregiving opportunity with grace, wisdom, respect and skillful means.



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**05** 12:00PM - 1:00PM Network Lunch

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**06** 1:00PM - 2:30PM  
**Concurrent Workshops**

**Ceilidh Eaton Russell, PhD, CCLS**

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**Heroes Circle**

**Rabbi Elimelech Goldberg**

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**Panel of Spiritual  
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**07** 3:00PM - 3:15PM

**Special Guest  
Speaker  
Presentation**

**Kira Goodman, RN, BScN, MBA  
Canada's Paediatric Care Alliance**

**Title:** Canada's Pediatric Palliative Care Alliance: Care for Every Short Life

In Canada, the rarity of pediatric palliative care means it is not consistently prioritized in system planning. This invisibility drives systemic under resourcing, leaving providers and families to coordinate complex care without adequate support. To overcome this fragmentation, Canada's Pediatric Palliative Care Alliance, established through Health Canada funding and hosted by Roger Neilson Children's Hospice, is building a unified national network. This presentation

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explores how shared infrastructure, including a Core Care Pathway and Resource Hub, harnesses the power of collaboration to build capacity and transform care, working to ensure no family faces serious illness alone.

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**08**

3:15PM - 4:30PM

## **LIGHTNING TALKS**

Brief descriptions of new and exciting work in the field of pediatric palliative care.

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**09**

4:30PM

Wine and Cheese Reception - Main Foyer

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