

# EVERY CANADIAN DESERVES THE CHANCE TO SAY GOODBYE

## VIRTUAL CONCERT HELD BY CHPCA HONOURS THOSE LOST DURING THE PANDEMIC

Saskatchewan Hospice Palliative Care Association (SHPCA) is pleased to support Saying Goodbye, a virtual concert held by Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association (CHPCA).

Every Canadian deserves the chance to say goodbye to their loved ones, even in an unprecedented crisis such as COVID-19. There have been too many heartbreaking stories of families who were unable to say goodbye due to extreme restrictions on end-of-life visitations. As a result of these restrictions during the pandemic, many people who have lost a loved one have not been able to say goodbye, visit, and in many cases have a proper funeral or celebration of life.

This virtual concert is an opportunity to acknowledge and honour those who have passed away during this pandemic and show support to the families and friends who are grieving in these difficult times. The concert will air on November 15, 2020 as part of CHPCA's National Bereavement Day campaign, with representations from every province and territory, featuring an array of Canadian talents, including John McDermott, Tara Shannon, Alan Doyle, Gowan, Rosie MacKenzie, Florent Vollant, Keelin Wedge, Shari Ulrich, Ray Legere, Shelia Carabine & Amanda Walther, Jessy Lindsay, and Saskatchewan's own, Eileen Laverty.

SHPCA caught up with Eileen Laverty, to find out why the Belfast-born, internationally recognized Saskatchewan folk artist chose to lend her voice to this cause. Laverty was invited to join by her mentor and friend, Canadian music icon, John McDermott. When Laverty learned the event focused on grief and bereavement during Covid-19, she knew how important it was to lend her voice.

"It's heartbreaking to know that people haven't been able to have the supports that they need through their grief and dealing with the loss of a loved one – so I was more than happy to support such an important cause," she says, "there's so many stories about friends and family struggling with trying to get the help and supports needed right now, it's been a real challenge."

It is not the first time Laverty has lent her talents to the hospice and palliative care cause. In 2019, she wrote "Close to Home" a song commissioned by St. Paul's Hospital Foundation to honour the late Gord Engle of Saskatoon and raise funds for the Hospice at Glengarda. Ultimately, the Close to Home campaign raised over \$20 million.

Now, Laverty is debuting a new song, "The River" which will be performed for the first time at the virtual concert.

"The song is about the people in your life that are there to lift you up when you need a hand," she says. Her hope is that her performance, and the whole concert, will raise awareness and funds for the quieter needs, as she says, during the pandemic.

"People are grieving silently, and people are lonely silently [...] we need to reach out, and remember them and do something. I hope it raises funds to support those who are grieving and those who are in palliative," Laverty adds. During the virtual concert, donations can be made through Canada Helps, and for all donations made by Saskatchewan residents during the show, SHPCA will receive 50 per cent. We greatly encourage those who can to donate, and support this excellent initiative, and our ongoing mission to advocate for hospice palliative care, including bereavement, through networking, education and research.

For more information about the concert, please visit [chpca.ca/sayinggoodbyeconcert](http://chpca.ca/sayinggoodbyeconcert) and find CHPCA on Facebook at [facebook.com/CanadianHospicePalliativeCare](https://facebook.com/CanadianHospicePalliativeCare).

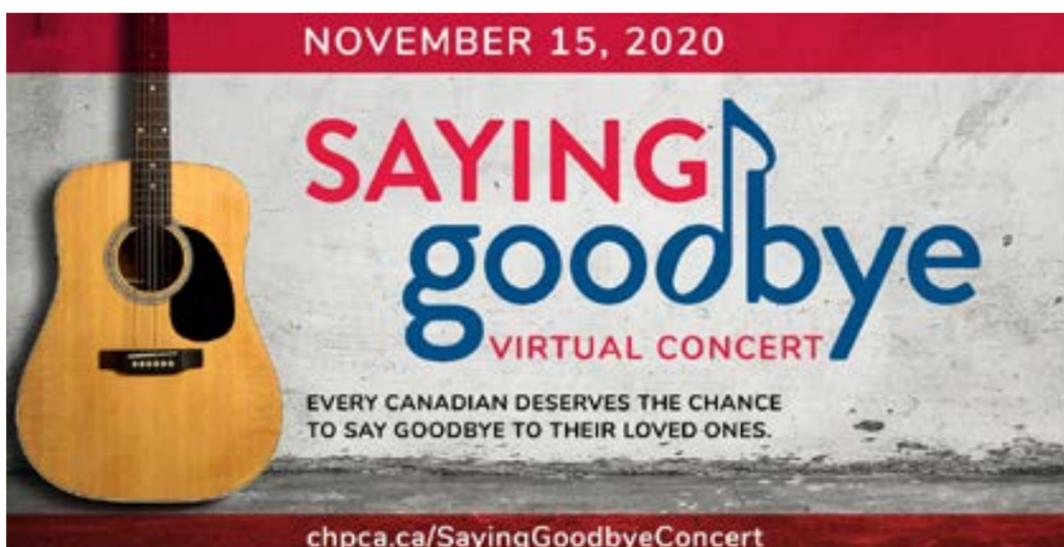


**EILEEN LAVERTY**



**Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association**

**Association canadienne de soins palliatifs**



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