



NURTURE LIFE, OPPOSE DEATH ON DEMAND

“The question is not whether you need relief, it is how to find it. Suicide is not the answer.” Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto

The federal government has introduced legislation to expand euthanasia.

Those who oppose euthanasia expressed concern in 2016, when it was first legalized, that once the state legally provided death for some, it would only be a matter of time before the criteria would be expanded. We were told this wouldn't happen. Less than four years later — at a pace faster than other jurisdiction in the world — the government is removing safeguards so more people can die by euthanasia.

The government plans to make euthanasia available to those without life-threatening illnesses and to those who are no longer capable of making decisions for themselves. It will allow some Canadians to be euthanized on the same day they request assisted suicide.

Take a moment to reflect on the most vulnerable among us:

- People with disabilities pressured into euthanasia by those who see them as a burden. For years they've fought for equality and now they are being told their life is no longer worth living.
- Dementia patients who signed a “directive” 10 years ago — now someone else will decide when they die.
- Suffering people who have inadequate palliative care. With a 10-day reflection period removed from the proposed legislation, in their pain and loneliness, some may be euthanized before they can reconsider their decision.

Their lives matter. Rather than making it easier to die, the federal government should make life worth living.

We know that people with disabilities face obstacles. Forty-five per cent of Canada's homeless identify with a mental or physical disability. Why isn't the government helping them? We know that palliative care can help people with their pain and loneliness at the end of their life. The federal government has promised \$6 billion to improve Canada's seriously underfunded palliative care system. Where is that money?

Instead of rushing to implement services that would prevent some from choosing euthanasia, we are rushing to help facilitate the death of more Canadians.

FACTS:

- Nearly everyone who doesn't die unexpectedly, could benefit from palliative care. But only 30 per cent of Canadians receive palliative care.
- Canada ranks 11th in the Quality of Death Index. The United Kingdom and Australia top the index.
- In the Netherlands and Belgium, people have undergone euthanasia for autism, profound grief, schizophrenia, depression, bipolar disorder, PTSD and anxiety.
- Canadians with disabilities are more than twice as likely to be living in poverty.

“Euthanasia must be called a false mercy, and indeed a disturbing ‘perversion’ of mercy. True ‘compassion’ leads to sharing another’s pain; it does not kill the person whose suffering we cannot bear.”

—Saint Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae*, 1995, #66

“I fear we’ve so devalued certain groups of people — ill people, disabled people, older people — that I don’t think it’s in their best interests to enshrine in law the right of doctors to kill certain people.”

—Liz Carr, Disability Rights Advocate



ACT NOW! Tell your MP that you oppose euthanasia at: www.helptheliving.ca

For more information, go to: www.archtoronto.org/euthanasia



Archdiocese
of Toronto