



**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council**



**Legislation Chair
Communiqué # 3
DATE: January 17, 2020**

TO: Diocesan Chairpersons of Legislation
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)
CC: National Chairperson of Legislation, Betty Colaneri (for information)
FROM: Sharon Malec Provincial Chairperson of Legislation

Federal Consultation on “Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) Eligibility Criteria and Request Process”

A letter from Bishop David Motiuk, Edmonton Eparchy of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

On January 13, 2020, the Government of Canada, through the Department of Justice, launched a two-week general public consultation on the expansion of eligibility for assisted suicide – euthanasia (“Medical Assistance in Dying”, commonly referred to as MAID) following the September 2019 Superior Court of Québec ruling that found it unconstitutional to limit access to MAID only to people nearing the end of life. The Government of Canada has not appealed the Québec court ruling, but instead has indicated it would be prepared to change the law for the entire country.

While the Government previously committed to a full review of the legislation five years after it was passed (June 2016-June 2021), the present consultation targets one specific component of the legislation (“Eligibility Criteria”) and is intended to help the Government form its response to the Québec court ruling. Canadians are being invited to share their views (online or PDF) by the close of the consultation period on Monday, 27 January 2020, at 11:59 p.m. (PST).

Online <https://justice.survey-sondage.ca/f/s.aspx?s=6E6210A5-E100-4201-A55D-CFB52ADA1C0C>

PDF: https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/cons/ad-am/survey_maid_eng.pdf

The questions in the survey do not ask whether or not euthanasia/assisted suicide should be expanded to include persons with disabilities; that instead, is assumed. The only direct questions in the survey regard whether or not a person should be allowed euthanasia/assisted suicide by means of his or her own advance directives or whether the Government’s current “safeguards” are sufficient to prevent abuse, pressure, or other kinds of misuse of MAID once eligibility is broadened to people whose deaths are not reasonably foreseeable. However, there is space within three sections of the survey for comments to be made, which could include, for example: expressions of concern about expanding access to euthanasia/assisted suicide because of pressures on or abuse of vulnerable persons (including minors, the depressed, the mentally ill, the disabled); the inadequacy of the so-called “safeguards”; advocacy for better and stronger

safeguards; and the urgent need for viable options to MAID that would be possible through more adequate government funding and support for palliative care, home care, and hospices.

You may choose to invite your parishioners to share their views by completing the questionnaire and including their own comments.

A message will likewise be posted to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishop's website to inform the general public of the CCCB's previous statements on assisted suicide/euthanasia and also provide links to the consultation, available on the CCCB website:

<https://www.cccb.ca/site/eng/media-room/euthanasia-and-assisted-suicide>

God bless!

Bishop David Motiuk,
Edmonton Eparchy Ukrainian Catholic Bishop