

May 17, 2022

To: Ontario Political Party Leaders

Dear Party Leaders:

The 2022 Ontario general election provides Ontarians with an opportunity to discuss pressing issues of concern. One of them is the need for eligible individuals across the province to access Ontario's medical assistance in dying (MAID) system.

Dying With Dignity Canada (DWDC), the national organization committed to improving quality of dying and end-of-life choice, is raising awareness about the need for increased investments to respond to the gaps that currently exist within Ontario's MAID system.

These gaps are the result of a number of factors:

- The increasing levels of awareness of MAID and the resulting growth in demand for MAID resources, assessments and provisions;
- Recent changes to Canada's MAID Law (Bill C-7, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying)*) expanding the eligibility criteria now and in March 2023 when the stigmatizing and discriminatory exclusion of those with a mental illness will end;
- Lack of consistent access to MAID because of inconsistent policies and few MAID clinicians in some geographical areas;
- Extensive documentation and reporting requirements create a time-intensive administration burden for clinicians that could be alleviated by funding of additional MAID care coordination services;
- The ability for publicly-funded faith-based healthcare institutions to opt out of providing services including MAID; and
- The lack of a provincial funding model for Nurse Practitioners (NPs) – healthcare professionals that provide critical MAID services in communities across Ontario.

Further, the DWDC supports the Nurse Practitioners' Association of Ontario's (NPAO) position statement which calls for the Government of Ontario to establish a province-wide funding mechanism for NPs to deliver MAID services. NPs can help to close gaps in coverage across Ontario and can contribute to consistent and stable MAID services in Ontario.

IT'S YOUR LIFE. IT'S YOUR CHOICE.



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Everyone across Ontario, whether they live in urban, rural or remote areas, requires access to MAID services in the community in which they live.

This election, DWDC looks to our political leaders for leadership on improving Ontario's MAID system.

Sincerely,

Helen Long, CEO

