

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



VOICE for CHOICE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR DYING WITH DIGNITY CANADA

REFLECTIONS ON DEATH AND DYING

Creating space for end-of-life conversations

Join us for Dying With Dignity Canada's first ever national conference.

In November, we hosted eight informative and diverse topics, and on January 11, the conference will begin again with six more seminars – all free of charge.

- Bringing up MAID in Canada
- 10 things to know about MAID in Canada
- Palliative care: Quiz yourself
- Palliative care
- Assisted dying in Switzerland
- Assisted dying in other regions

 REGISTER @ www.dyingwithdignity.ca/upcoming_webinars

THREE SISTERS ADVOCATE FOR ADVANCE REQUESTS

The Eusanio sisters have watched their father suffer from Lewy body dementia for over three years. He regularly experiences hallucinations, violent outbursts and frequent falls. "It is a terrible condition and heartbreaking for us to watch," the sisters shared. For this reason, all three sisters are advocating for advance requests for MAID to become law. It's too late for their father but they all want the ability to express, in an advance directive, that should they be diagnosed with dementia, they want a medically assisted death in order to avoid the intolerable suffering that they witness their father living through every day.

The Eusanio sisters have written to their new MPs imploring that the parliamentary review of MAID be

made a priority now that the election is over. We know that 80% of Canadians support advance requests for MAID, it is an important issue for many of us. You too, can reach out to your MP through our online letter writing action.



 FIND OUT MORE @ www.dyingwithdignity.ca/allow-advance-requests-now

Clarifying Advance Consent, The Waiver of Final Consent and Advance Requests

ADVANCE CONSENT	WAIVER OF FINAL CONSENT	ADVANCE REQUEST
Legal in Canada	Legal for Track 1 patients in Canada	Not legal in Canada
If you are eligible for MAID and choose to self-administer the medications, you can provide advance consent – a written arrangement with your provider to complete your assisted death, in the event of complications.	This waiver allows someone who has already been assessed and approved for MAID to receive it on their chosen date even if they don't have the capacity to consent at the time of the MAID procedure.	An advance request is when a competent person makes a request for assisted dying that could be honoured later, given a specific health state, but after they lose the capacity to make medical decisions for themselves.
Became law with the passage of Bill C-14 in June 2016.	Became law with the passage of Bill C-7 in March 2021.	To be studied in the parliamentary review of MAID with recommendations from the Joint Committee.

Happy Holidays

December is a time for reflection and gratitude.

Every day we are moved and motivated by our supporters. We could not do the work we do without your commitment to end-of-life rights. **Thank you.**

Warm wishes from all of us at Dying With Dignity Canada

 DWDCanada  @dwdcanada www.dyingwithdignity.ca



DWDC ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY 1 - OCTOBER 31, 2021



PERSONAL STORIES
SHARED ON OUR BLOG



1000+
PEOPLE
SUPPORTED BY
EMAIL OR PHONE



6 GRIEF
LITERACY
WEBINARS
WITH 1,492 ATTENDEES



230
REGISTERED
VOLUNTEERS
SINCE LAUNCHING OUR
VOLUNTEER SOFTWARE
ON APRIL 19 - THE FIRST DAY OF
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW UPDATE



As this newsletter goes to print, we are eagerly awaiting Parliament's return on November 22. We were pleased to see the re-appointment of **David Lametti** as Minister of Justice and **Carla Qualtrough**, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion. Their familiarity with medical assistance in dying (MAID) and Bill C-7 will be beneficial as we continue our calls to reinitiate the review of MAID by a joint committee of both Houses of Parliament, included in Bill C-7.

The joint committee was originally announced in June but quickly adjourned due to the election called for September. Its members are responsible for reviewing and giving recommendations on advance requests for MAID, access to MAID by mature minors, the state of palliative care in Canada, and the protection of people with disabilities. The deadline for this work is March 2022.

Newly appointed Minister of Health, **Jean-Yves Duclos**, also plays a key role in this review with responsibility

for the independent review addressing protocols, guidance and safeguards for requests for MAID for those with a mental illness. The members of the expert panel on mental illness were announced in August 2021 and will give recommendations on MAID for those whose sole underlying medical condition is mental illness. In March 2023, the restriction on MAID for mental illness will be lifted, the recommendations and framework for this change in legislation need to be in place by then. We anticipate that the new Minister of Health and Addictions, and Associate Minister of Health, **Carolyn Bennett** will also be engaged in this review.

The timelines are tight for this very important work. Along with Dying With Dignity Canada, it is critical that you also encourage parliament to prioritize the review of these issues through our online letter writing action.



FIND OUT MORE @
[www.dyingwithdignity.ca/
allow-advance-requests-now](http://www.dyingwithdignity.ca/allow-advance-requests-now)



WORLD RIGHT TO DIE DAY BEACON OF LIGHT RELAY

On Tuesday November 2, Dying With Dignity Canada participated in the World Right to Die Day Beacon of Light Relay at Queen's Park in Toronto, Ontario. We were joined by several volunteers from our GTA Chapter and other supporters to recognize this important day.

Federation members from around the world also gathered on the steps of their houses of representatives to pass the 'beacon of light' to fellow activists and show support and solidarity for all those who seek the right to assisted dying throughout the world.

You can view CEO Helen Long's Beacon of Light Relay speech on DWDC's Facebook page.



STAY IN TOUCH! www.dyingwithdignity.ca

Sign up to receive regular updates from Dying With Dignity Canada on upcoming webinars, events, advocacy initiatives, & opportunities to engage. And follow us on:  [DWDCanada](https://www.facebook.com/DWDCanada)  [@dwdcanada](https://twitter.com/dwdcanada)

Dying With Dignity Canada 500 - 1835 Yonge St., Toronto, ON M4S 1X8 Tel: 1-800-495-6156
Support Dying With Dignity Canada to help make unwanted suffering at end-of-life a thing of the past.
Charity Registration Number: 11889 0086 RR001.