

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



# VOICE for CHOICE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR DYING WITH DIGNITY CANADA

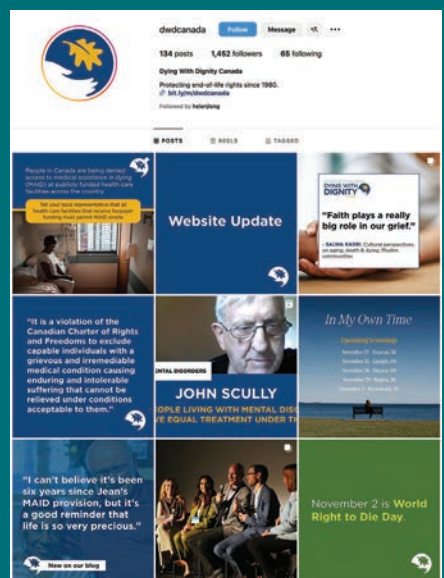
## HIGHLIGHTS

 **3,188**  
THANK YOU CALLS MADE  
IN 2023 (JAN - OCT)

 **650+**  
VIEWS  
OF OUR ADVANCE  
REQUEST VIDEOS

 **436**  
ATTENDEES  
AT OUR ASK A MAID PROVIDER  
WEBINAR WHO SUBMITTED  
**118 QUESTIONS & COMMENTS**  
AT THE LIVE SESSION

## STAY CURRENT



Dying With Dignity Canada keeps you up to date on end-of-life issues through stories, stats and other important updates related to our mission on all our social media platforms, including our new Instagram account. Follow us at @dwdcanada



On November 2, 2023, Dying With Dignity Canada hosted the premiere of "In My Own Time" at Scotiabank Theatre in Toronto with 300+ in attendance.



The film is directed by **Sandy Clipsham** and **Blair Cameron** of Ward 1 Studios.

Using first-hand accounts from people across Canada, "In My Own Time" offers perspectives on medical assistance in dying (MAID) less commonly seen in media reports and presents an opportunity to educate people on end-of-life choice in Canada. The film follows the emotional stories of people across the country who chose to end their suffering through MAID and how navigating this decision leads to life-affirming realizations with family and friends.

Other community screenings of the film include Ottawa, Guelph, Duncan, Dartmouth, & Regina with more to come.

 Check the **UPCOMING EVENTS** section of our website for more screenings, in person and online.

## HOW TO CONTINUE TO ADVOCATE FOR ADVANCE REQUESTS FOR MAID

At Dying With Dignity Canada, we have not stopped advocating for advance requests for MAID, something we know 82% of people across Canada support.

The Special Joint Committee on MAID made three clear recommendations to make advance requests legal in Canada, now we need the government to act. Collectively, we can do this with continued pressure on our elected decision makers.

**CONTACT**  
[advocacy@dyingwithdignity.ca](mailto:advocacy@dyingwithdignity.ca)  
for help connecting with your MP.




**1** Sign our **NEW e-petition** in support of advance requests for MAID. It is available on our website under the **Advocacy** section.

**2** Share the **e-petition** in your own networks, we need **500 signatures** to have the petition read and shared in the House of Commons. This is another tactic to request action from the government.

**3** Call or meet with your **Member of Parliament**. Candid, personal outreach from constituents goes a long way with MPs.



## STAY IN TOUCH! [www.dyingwithdignity.ca](http://www.dyingwithdignity.ca)

Sign up to receive regular updates from Dying With Dignity Canada on upcoming webinars, events, advocacy initiatives, and opportunities to engage. And follow us on:  DWDCanada   @dwdcanada

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.

## The 2022 Report on MAID

Health Canada released the *Fourth Annual Report on MAID* on Tuesday October 24, 2023. This annual data offers an important overview of who is accessing MAID and whether there is safe and consistent delivery of MAID across the country. The 2022 data was congruent with data from previous years and suggests that eligible people across Canada are accessing this end-of-life option appropriately. One result that raised questions for us was the 2,144 individuals who requested but died prior to receiving MAID; we worry that this is due to a lack of access to MAID services in some regions of the country. The additional reporting requirements that came into force in January 2023 will establish even more comprehensive and inclusive reporting in the fifth report next year.



Every year more people across Canada become aware of MAID because of:

- **GENERAL KNOWLEDGE & MORE CONVERSATION ABOUT THIS END-OF-LIFE OPTION**
- **KNOWING SOMEONE WHO MADE THE CHOICE**

There were **13,241 MAID** provisions reported in 2022, accounting for **4.1% of all deaths** in Canada.

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500 - 1835 Yonge St., Toronto, ON M4S 1X8  
Toll free: 1-800-495-6156

DWDCanada @dwdcanada

# MAID AND MENTAL DISORDERS



The sunset clause on MAID and mental disorders **will expire on March 17, 2024, after a 12-month delay**, and as recommended, the AMAD committee has reconvened to assess preparedness for the upcoming change in the law.

Their report is due by January 31, 2024. All the required preparations are complete including the *Model Practice Standard* and its accompanying document *Advice to the Profession* published in March 2023, and The Canadian Association of MAID Assessors and Providers has launched the *Canadian MAID Curriculum*. It is the first nationally accredited, comprehensive, bilingual educational program to support the practice of MAID in Canada and includes a module specific to MAID and mental disorders.

Mental disorders can be grievous and irremediable medical conditions, and for the very small number of individuals who have suffered for decades despite multiple treatments, therapies and medications, the ability to apply for MAID in 2024, provides choice and restores equal rights to MAID law.

There is a great deal of misinformation in the media about how MAID and mental disorders will be assessed and administered beginning in March that Dying With Dignity Canada is actively trying to clarify and set straight.



Watch the webinar **MAID AND MENTAL DISORDERS** with **Jocelyn Downie** and **Dr. Justine Dembo** for factual information about this topic on our website.

## LEAVE A LEGACY GIFT TO DWDC IN YOUR WILL

Did you know you can leave a legacy gift to DWDC in your will? It is an act that is generous, simple, and allows you to leave a larger gift than would be possible during your lifetime, while retaining control of your assets.

You can leave cash, securities, or a percentage of your estate. Your estate will receive a charitable tax receipt that can lower or even eliminate estate taxes.

Discuss it with your loved ones and lawyer and consider drafting or updating your will or adding a codicil. DWDC is funded entirely by donations

and our generous supporters; create a lasting impact for end-of-life choice for people across Canada by leaving a legacy gift to DWDC in your will.



Reach out to **Ryan Lindsay**, our Director of Development, with any questions; [ryan.lindsay@dyingwithdignity.ca](mailto:ryan.lindsay@dyingwithdignity.ca)