



# Euthanasia Prevention Coalition

Dear Friend,

July 31, 2020

Canada's euthanasia [Bill C-7](#) needs to be shelved and the federal government needs to do a full review of the law. Parliament will not debate Bill C-7 until late September and the Superior Court of Québec agreed to suspend the *Truchon* decision until December 18. Bill C-7 is an irresponsible bill that uses undefined expansive language. It would permit euthanasia for an incompetent person if they had previously been approved. One reason someone may become incompetent is dementia. Recently I published an article (on the EPC blog, [www.epcblog.org](http://www.epcblog.org)) explaining how permitting euthanasia for people with dementia paves the way for euthanasia without consent. This provision in Bill C-7 removes the right of an incompetent person to change their mind.

Just when I thought things were bad enough, the Netherlands began debating a bill that would extend euthanasia to people who are not sick but feel that their life is complete. The bill would allow anyone over the age of 75 to be prescribed lethal drugs. Many of the people who seek death for "completed life" are lonely and socially isolated.

You may be aware that I began running regularly more than two years ago. Last September, some of you sponsored me in my first 10 km race. On October 4, I will be running my first half marathon (21 km) with a good friend. I have been training for this run every day for the last few months.

I am running to raise money for **Compassionate Community Care (CCC)**. Will you sponsor me?

CCC is a registered charity that provides advice for people who are facing end-of-life medical treatment or care decisions, or euthanasia. CCC has created a training program for volunteers to visit lonely and socially isolated seniors and others in their communities. All donations payable to Compassionate Community Care should be mailed to the EPC office. You may also sponsor me by donating to the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition. **Thank you for supporting my run!**

**Sponsor Alex's  
Run for Charity!**

Your donation goes  
to **Compassionate  
Community Care**

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**Half Marathon • Hamilton Bay  
Sunday October 4, 2020**

Health Canada recently released the first annual report on euthanasia and assisted suicide (MAiD) which can be found [at this link](#). The data was gathered from the death reports submitted by the medical or nurse practitioners who caused death. Unlike the Québec euthanasia report (October 2019), the data in the Canadian report hides potential abuse of the law. The Québec report indicated that at least 13 assisted deaths did not comply with the law and 3 were for hip fractures.

The 2019 Canadian euthanasia report indicates that there were 5,631 assisted deaths reported in Canada, accounting for 2% of all deaths and representing an increase of 26% since 2018. Every province experienced a

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growth in the number of assisted deaths. The number of reported medically assisted deaths up to December 31, 2019 is 13,946. **It is concerning that 13.7% of the assisted deaths listed “isolation or loneliness” as a key reason.** Therefore, approximately 770 Canadians died by lethal injection in 2019 because they needed family, friends, personal or emotional support.

As stated earlier, the report does not attempt to uncover problems with the law. [Roger Foley](#) (Ontario) was told that he could not have self-directed home-care, but instead was offered MAiD. [Candice Lewis](#) (Newfoundland) was pressured by a doctor to ask for euthanasia and [Alan Nichols](#) (B.C.) lived with chronic depression and died by euthanasia against the pleadings of his family.

The 2019 California assisted suicide report was released indicating a 20% increase in assisted suicide deaths. Similar to other jurisdictions, the report is only based on the reports received by the government. It was unknown how 82 people who were prescribed lethal drugs died. California may have a problem with un-reported assisted suicide. [The 2019 Hawaii assisted suicide report was also released.](#) Even though assisted suicide has been legal for less than two years in Hawaii, the report urges the government to eliminate the waiting period and allow nurses to assist suicides.

The Delta Hospice Society needs your support to prevent the British Columbia government from forcing them to provide euthanasia. We urge you, our supporters, to support the Delta Hospice Society. [Click here to download the membership application.](#)

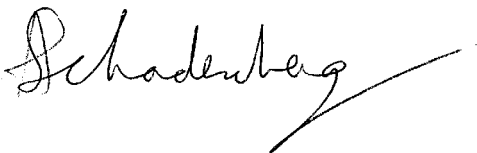
**Summer is a great time to make a difference!** Please contact your member of parliament and say that you oppose Bill C-7 which will expand euthanasia in Canada. [You can search for your MP at this link.](#) You can focus on the following points:

- Canada needs to do a proper review of the law before even considering expanding it,
- Bill C-7 goes far beyond the scope of the Truchon court decision, which is unnecessary,
- the bill continues to use the phrase “natural death is reasonably foreseeable” without defining it, and
- Bill C-7 allows someone to request and die by euthanasia on the same day with no chance to change their mind.

Summer is an important time for family, friends and relaxation, but our work at the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition does not stop. The EPC blog is updated daily. [Please donate to enable us to continue protecting people.](#) Also please sponsor my run in October by donating to the Compassionate Community Care (CCC) charity.

In the past month we have contacted many people whose EPC membership had expired. We are thankful that many of these people renewed their membership. We depend on our regular and monthly donors and ask you to consider becoming a monthly donor for any amount by credit card, cheque, PayPal or direct deposit.

**We are incredibly thankful for your continued support!**



Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director