

Government Induced Dying
and
Mental Disorder and Disability Euthanasia
in Canada

Position Paper

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St. Francis Life Group

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As a lay group meeting in St. Francis of Assisi Church in Newcastle, Ontario, this is our position on Canada's "Medical Assistance in Dying" program, which we will refer to more accurately as "Government Induced Dying" moving forward.

- 1) As submitted by the Catholic Bishops of Canada, we remain steadfastly opposed to all forms of euthanasia and assisted suicide [for the reasons stated](#):
 - *"Euthanasia and assisted suicide have far-reaching consequences for how we as a society understand health care, the human person, and the common good."*
 - *"The legal expansion of eligibility for Medical Assistance in Dying will only serve to erode the respect for the essential dignity of the human person and the common good of society, which must be committed to protecting and safeguarding vulnerable individuals and those without a voice."*

- 2) With regard to the planned expansion of Government Induced Dying to those suffering solely from a Mental Disorder, we support Mental Health organizations in opposing this vehemently. We welcome the [February 2nd, 2023 legislation](#) tabled to delay its implementation to at least March, 2024. We call upon government to listen to [stakeholders in the psychiatric community](#).

- 3) We believe that the entire process around Government Induced Dying has been rushed and should be paused for reconsideration and referendum. The current government received the votes of only one in three voters and only one in seven Canadians; it does [not have a mandate to enact a law](#) with such far-reaching consequences for humanity.

- 4) With regard to any discussion of including babies in the Government Induced Dying program, this group maintains that **no baby can give informed consent** to be killed and therefore no baby can be included in the program, as that would constitute murder.
- 5) With regard to discussion of including so-called “mature minors” in the Government Induced Dying program, this group maintains that the age of majority exists precisely to remove the risk that young persons will be permitted to make decisions that will cause them harm. There is no greater harm than death; therefore, there is no more inappropriate situation to introduce the idea of a “mature minor” than in a situation involving the decision to actually choose death. This should never happen as that would constitute murder.
- 6) Our group seeks to affirm the protection of conscience rights of medical professionals and promote the mission of healthcare institutions in serving the healthcare needs of individuals without being forced to provide Mental Disorder and Disability Euthanasia.
- 7) We urge the governments of Ontario and Canada to provide evidence and effective support for substantial funding and access to palliative care services, and other viable care options for vulnerable populations.
- 8) We are requesting that our Member of Federal Parliament keep this group apprised of any advances on this file or other opportunities for members of the public to learn more about what the current government is planning with regard to expanding, amending or implementing this program. We wish to extend to our MP and other elected officials our support in organizing and attending community events to raise awareness of and opposition to Canada’s Government Induced Dying program, including Mental Disorder and Disability Euthanasia.
- 9) Our group believes that lay people in general and members of St. Francis Catholic Church in Newcastle in particular have a responsibility and an obligation to speak out against Canada’s Government Induced Dying program, its rushed implementation by a government that has no mandate to create it, and its inevitable expansion to groups who actually need assistance in living.
