



Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID)

Dementia Advocacy Canada affirms the rights of people living with dementia to benefit from all of Canada's civic and legal rights including the right to choose medical assistance in dying (MAID).

Bill C-14, the current federal legislation permitting MAID, excludes most people living with dementia for three primary reasons:

1. The applicant must have, in the opinion of two accepting physicians, the cognitive capacity to understand and sign a request for MAID;
2. The applicant must be experiencing unendurable pain from a diagnosed disease or medical condition with death in the foreseeable future;
3. The applicant must be able to knowingly and willingly consent to an assisted death at the time of actual administration, which is a mandatory, minimum ten days after the initial application.

Dementia Advocacy Canada recognizes the efforts of those who endeavour to:

- Provide support to those who have chosen MAID and to their care partners.
- Educate & support those living with dementia who want to choose MAID before their window of giving informed and cogent consent is compromised.
- Legalize advance requests for those living with dementia who have clearly indicated their choice for MAID.
- Protect those with dementia from being pressured into a medically assisted death against their wishes.
- Protect those with dementia whose decision to choose MAID is not supported by family or support partners.
- Educate & support institutions responsible for training medical personnel, counselors and other community support workers about the complexities of MAID.

Source: Ron Posno, Dana Livingstone, Jule Briese
For more information please go to: www.dyingwithdignity.ca