

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MP ON ASSISTED DEATH

ARNOLD VIERSEN

Member of Parliament
Peace River—Westlock



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA



Veterans are offered Assisted Death by Veterans Affairs Canada instead of care.

Canada performs more organ transplants from Assisted Death donors than any other country.

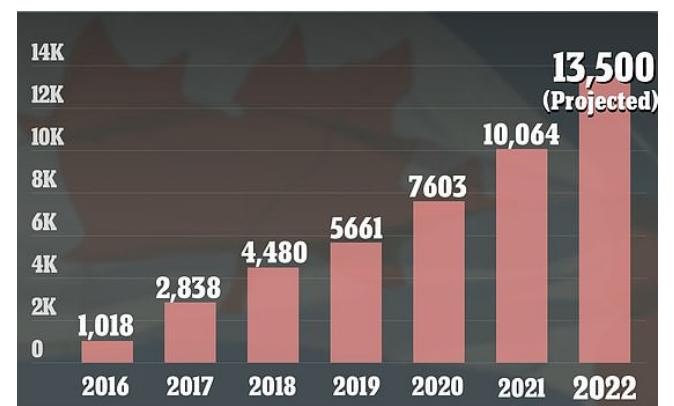
Canadians are choosing Assisted Death over living in poverty or loneliness.

More than 31,600 Canadians have died by Assisted Death as of Dec 2021.

Dear Constituent,

In 2016, the Liberals legalized Assisted Death in Canada under Bill C-14. **This legislation allowed those 18 years and older with a “grievous and irremediable” medical condition and whose natural death was reasonably foreseeable to access Assisted Death.**

In 2019, the Superior Court of Quebec’s Truchon decision ruled that the reasonably foreseeable death clause violated Sections 7 and 15 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Rather than appealing the ruling, the Liberals tabled Bill C-7, which repealed the reasonably foreseeable death clause. **Bill C-7 also included a clause that would allow those with mental illness as a sole medical condition to access Assisted Death beginning March 17, 2023.**



Assisted Deaths in Canada

Due to significant alarm raised by Conservatives and the medical community, this past spring, the Liberals rushed Bill C-39 through Parliament, in order to delay the implementation of this clause by an additional year.

During Second Reading debate on this bill, **I called for an outright cancellation of the expansion of Assisted Death** to those with mental illness as a sole underlying medical condition. Already we have seen an alarming and dangerous progression as a result of the rapid expansion of Assisted Death.

I do not believe that Assisted Death is an acceptable solution to mental illness and psychological suffering. **Our health care system should help people find the hope and support they need to live—not assist in their deaths.**

Many of you have written and expressed fear that Assisted Death could become a replacement for access to adequate health care in our country. I have and continue to be outspoken on this.

Please take a moment to fill out the attached survey so I can hear your thoughts on Canada’s Assisted Death regime and this planned expansion. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.

Arnold Viersen, MP
Peace River—Westlock



I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Do you agree with my position that Assisted Death should not be expanded to those with mental illness as the sole underlying condition?

Yes

Unsure

No

Do you believe an additional year will allow the government to sufficiently prepare adequate safeguards for accessing Assisted Death for a mental illness?

Yes

Unsure

No

Do you support extending Assisted Death to infants and minors as advocated by the Quebec College of Physicians and currently practiced by Belgium and the Netherlands?

Yes

Unsure

No



Name

Email

Phone

Address



In Dutch law, a doctor who believes that a patient has genuine treatment options available to them cannot sign off on and perform assistance in dying. This makes assisted death a last-resort in the Netherlands, and doctors are required to use their professional medical judgement in these cases.

In Canada, there is no such requirement on doctors. Doctors are free to ignore their ethical judgement and provide assisted death if the patient is insistent.



Canadian Mental Health Association
Mental health for all

"The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) is deeply disappointed that the government supports allowing those with mental illnesses to seek medical assistance in dying."

"CMHA's position... is that until the health care system adequately responds to the mental health needs of Canadians, assisted dying should not be an option—not now and not two years from now."



CASP Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention
ACPS Association canadienne pour la prévention du suicide

"Ending the life of someone with complex mental health problems is simpler and likely much less expensive than offering outstanding ongoing care."

"This creates a perverse incentive for the health system to encourage the use of MAID at the expense of providing adequate resources to patients, and that outcome is unacceptable."



Meet Cpl. Christine Gauthier - Paralympian and Retired Canadian Forces

Retired Army Corporal Christine Gauthier competed for Canada at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Paralympics. In December, she testified in Parliament about her fight with Veterans Affairs Canada for five years to get a wheelchair ramp installed at her house - only to be offered assisted death.

"It was just getting too much and unbearable. And the person at VAC mentioned at that point, 'Well, you know that we can assist you with assisted dying now if you'd like.' And I was just shocked because I was like, 'Are you serious?' Like that easy, you're going to be helping me to die but you won't help me to live?"



Bill C-314 Stops Expansion of MAID for Mental Illness

This spring, my colleague Conservative MP Ed Fast tabled Bill C-314 to stop the Liberal government's expansion of assisted suicide to vulnerable Canadians with mental illness. Bill C-314 ensures that the term "grievous and irremediable medical condition" contained in Canada's assisted death regime does not include mental disorders. I strongly support this Bill and have added my name to it.

Conservatives will continue to defend those who are left behind by the expansion of assisted death and we will never give up on anyone. As Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre said recently: "When I am Prime Minister, we won't treat mental health by ending people's lives. We will offer help, hope and health."

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Every life has dignity and value. We need to be far better as a nation at communicating to those who need to hear it that we love them and cherish them.

MP Arnold Viersen



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