



Medical Assistance in Dying

walking pastorally with those impacted by it

march 3, 2017

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Invitation to a Journey





The journey to June 17, 2016

- ▶ 1972 – decriminalization of attempted suicide
 - ▶ 1991 – Right To Die Society – Victoria BC – to lobby for legalization of assistance in suicide
 - ▶ 1992 – Sue Rodrigues – MP Svend Robinson introduces private members bill for physician assistance in suicide
 - ▶ 1993 – Sept. 30 Supreme Court 5-4 decision dismisses appeal of Sue R. Concerns of potential abuse and difficulty creating safeguards.
 - ▶ 1994 – Feb. Sue R. was assisted to death by unknown Dr. Witnessed by MP Svend Robinson
 - ▶ 1998 – Quebec – First Dr. sentenced for medically assisting suicide
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- ▶ June 2005 – Quebec MP introduces private members bill C-407 for physician assistance in suicide. Bill did not pass.
- ▶ June 2007 – Dr. from Vernon BC sentenced and lost licence for assisting a 93 year old to die.
- ▶ Dec. 2008 – Quebec Citizen charged for assisting in suicide of sick uncle.
- ▶ 2009 – Quebec MP re-introduces private members bill – again bill did not pass. (MP died 2014 of bone cancer)
- ▶ June 2012 – BC Supreme Court – hears case of ALS patient Gloria Taylor (Kelowna) Justice Lynn Smith declares Canada's law against physician assisted suicide unconstitutional and discriminatory.
- ▶ Many Appeals followed.





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- ▶ Oct 2012 – Gloria Taylor dies of infection.
 - ▶ Many appeals and court cases continue
 - ▶ Sept. 2013 – Debate continues to be ignited by the posthumous video plea of Dr. Donald Low – highly regarded microbiologist. Pleas in video for laws for assisted suicide as he is dying of cancer.
 - ▶ 2014 – Canadian Charity – Dying with Dignity commissioned a poll regarding assisted suicide.
 - ▶ More than 2,500 Canadians were surveyed between August 21 – 29, 2014. 84% agreed ‘ a doctor should be able to help end someone’s life if the person is a competent adult who is terminally ill, suffering unbearably and repeatedly asks for assistance to die’
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- ▶ 2014 – Winnipeg – MP Steven Fletcher introduces private members bills for assistance in dying.
 - ▶ June 2014 – Quebec legislature passes Bill 52, known as the “Dying with Dignity” Law for those with unbearable suffering to have medical aid in dying.
 - ▶ August 2014 – BC Woman Gillian Bennett, with a terminal illness, kills herself by ingesting drugs.
 - ▶ Her public actions reopens debate about assisted suicide.





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- ▶ January 6, 2015 – Supreme Court of Canada hears appeal from BC Civil Liberties Association to overturn the ban on doctor-assisted dying.
 - ▶ February 6, 2015 – Carter vs's Canada Supreme Court of Canada unanimously overturns the legal ban on doctor-assisted suicide – ruling the law should be amended to allow doctors to help in specific situations.
 - ▶ Government given until June 6, 2016 for creation of new law.
 - ▶ June 17, 2016 - Bill C-14 received royal assent to law for amendments to Medical Assistance in Dying.
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▶ Pre-Legislation Terms

- ▶ **PAS** = physician assisted suicide
- ▶ **PAD** = physician assisted death

▶ Legislated Term = **MAiD**

- ▶ **Medical Assistance in Dying**



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