

June 17 to December 31, 2016

PROVINCE	MAiD cases
British Columbia	188
Alberta	63
Saskatchewan	11
Manitoba	24
Ontario	187
Quebec	Not Available
New Brunswick	Not Available
PEI	0
Nova Scotia	16
Newfoundland & Labrador	4



A Pastoral Response



Dr. Gordon Self

▶ Think this through – consider our response

“ ... by imagining what we *WILL* do,
versus simply what we won't ”



Reflection leaves us feeling inadequate, humbled
and at a loss for words





Fear & Hope . . . Your Ministry

“The suffering human being needs a place where he/she can rest, a place which breathes genuine hospitality, where fear and hope are permitted to exist side by side . . . a place where the naked face appeals for compassion and finds response.”



Journeying With



The stages in decision making will include:

- **Pre-Contemplative** – wondering
- **Contemplative** – thinking seriously
- **Determination** – begin the process / assessment
- **Action** - final good byes



- **Support Afterwards** – bereavement / debriefing
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- ▶ **The Emmaus Journey –**
Spiritual Care takes place in the middle of difficult situations –
not beside them but in them.



Bringing our theology to the fear filled and insecure will demonstrate respect & dignity





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- ▶ Assist in processing the decision, the implications and consequences of choosing to end one's life.
 - ▶ Spiritual Wellness Vs's Spiritual Distress
 - ▶ Spiritual Assessment – the individuals sense of meaning, purpose, suffering and hope – and the experience of God in that.



EXPLORATIONS

Suffering – Control – Fear – Burden – Experience

- ▶ Draw family and friends into conversation for both the hearing and telling so that a new narrative can emerge.
- ▶ Have a spiritually focused conversation that can help re-frame hope for today and for eternity.



Reframing the Conversation through Directed Dialogue

▶ 4C's – Dr. David Morrison

- ▶ **Coming** – *How do you feel about coming to this place in your life?*
- ▶ **Coping** – *How are you coping?*
- ▶ **Comfort** – *What are your sources of comfort?*
- ▶ **Community** – *Who are your supports...
Who is standing in this with you?*



COMMITMENT

Chaplain – Pastor – Counsellor
Spiritual / Pastoral Care Provider

Despite the uncertainties and the fear that comes with the decriminalization of MAiD

We Must Continue

to do what we have always done and witness Christ's presence as active to those in need.



Ministry in the Reality

The most pressing questions are practical.

- ▶ **How do we pastorally care for those who are considering or who have chosen MAiD?**
 - ▶ **How do we pastorally care for their families?**
 - ▶ **How do we pastorally care for those in the health system who are impacted by MAiD?**
 - ▶ **How do we pastorally care for our congregations as they grapple with the impact of MAiD?**
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Dr. Mark Wessner

- ▶ As we live in a Canadian world that encourages medical assistance in dying ... how do we care for people who have chosen this path, and how do we care for their families?
 - ▶ For those who have chosen death, we need to show love, compassion and care. The end of a long journey can be lonely, and if ever there was a time to feel the love of Jesus, this is it. As witnesses for Jesus, let's love well.
 - ▶ The same holds true for the families who are in the midst of grief. Now is not the time for solutions, instructions or verbal corrections. Now is the time to put our arms around those in pain (both literally & metaphorically) and just be there with them. Pray for and with them. Love them. And keep loving them in the weeks, months and years that follow. Grief does not have an expiry date.

I think Jesus would want us to talk a little less at times, and simply walk alongside others on their difficult journey.



Interactive Discussion

