



Nova Scotia Provincial Council
Catholic Women's League of Canada
Provincial President Communique #2
Care for Our Common Home

To: Janice MacDougall, Antigonish Diocesan President; Janet Terrio, Halifax-Yarmouth Diocesan President (for distribution to all parish council presidents)

From: Glenda Carson, Nova Scotia Provincial President

Date: January 17, 2020

*Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute.
Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy. (Proverbs 31:8-9)*

Canada's Justice Minister, David Lametti, will be introducing changes to the euthanasia law that will include consideration of expanding Canada's euthanasia law to include people who are unable to consent to die, but had previously consented, and to lowering the eligibility age to 14 years of age. They are also looking to expand populations of people being considered to include those suffering mental illness and those living with disabilities. The federal government is seeking public consultation on the above changes through completion of a survey by January 27, 2020.

While this is such an important issue in which to have a voice, there is a concern with the survey that is important to bring to the attention of members. The questions do not allow an individual completing the survey to indicate whether they support medical assistance in dying (MAID) or agree to it being extended to other populations as described above. Rather it is only asking about safeguards and changing the timing of consent. The nature of the questions, therefore, could lead to an inference that the performance of MAID, consent and its extension to other populations are supported by the person completing the survey. There has been a suggestion that only the comments section be filled out. However, surveys that don't include answers to all questions may be left out of the final analysis because they are incomplete. This could lead to the loss of the information in the comments section. Also, by not completing the questions there may be voices lost in supporting the strictest standards that could be considered by the government as opposed to support for lesser standards desired by the proponents of MAID.

This is a significant issue and reflects a major turn in the legislation regarding euthanasia in Canada. It begs a strong response in numbers to influence the thinking of our politicians. All Nova Scotia CWL members are encouraged to complete the questionnaire as individuals by the deadline of January 27,

2020. The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition and the Coalition for HealthCARE and Conscience are encouraging the completion of all the survey questions. Fr. Patrick O'Neill, our provincial CWL advisor, has also supported that members should consider completing the survey

Following are links for the survey:

- To the consultation webpage: <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/cons/ad-am/index.html>
- To the survey: <https://justice.survey-sondage.ca/f/s.aspx?s=6E6210A5-E100-4201-A55D-CFB52ADA1C0C>
- A copy of the survey that can be printed returned via mail or email is included with this communique. .

In closing, all members please reflect on and consider participating in this survey with the hope that the best safeguards possible will be enacted to protect Canadians from the life limiting consequences of MAID. For more information, please connect with your Provincial and Diocesan Legislation and Christian Family Life committee chairpersons.

God bless,
Glenda