

~~We~~ ~~Jesus~~ ~~had compassion on them and~~ ~~healed~~ ~~their sick.~~ ~~Killed~~
~~Matthew 14:14~~ ~~Early 21st century Canadians~~



February 2016

Dear Friend,

You may be pro-life...but your tax dollars may soon be used to pay for doctor-assisted suicide and euthanasia as routine medical procedures covered under your provincial/territorial health insurance plan.

Our churches may touch upon the sanctity of human life in a few sermons or Bible classes...but all Canadians may soon be bombarded with wide-spread public education messages (in the media and even in our schools) aimed at normalizing assisted suicide and euthanasia.

Our governments may have deemed it wise, for the protection of all, to impose legal age limits to drive or consent to sex...but they may decide not to impose an age limit for doctor-assisted suicide.

There are many who support the right of the terminally ill to “hasten the inevitable” by choosing doctor-assisted suicide. Even some Christians have argued that this is a compassionate response to those on the cusp of death and suffering from pain. But, as the EFC has been fighting for all along, isn’t high-quality palliative care – which eliminates the pain and *not* the person – more compassionate?

And if assisted suicide is being promoted as a “right” to end suffering, how can this right be restricted only to adults, or only to those with terminal illnesses or those nearing death? Shouldn’t this form of “compassion” *also* be extended to ANY child or adult who no longer has the desire to live? After all, any one who wants to die must be suffering “intolerable” pain, whether physically or mentally.

Last February, the Supreme Court of Canada struck down the Criminal Code ban on physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia. It did not limit the ruling to cases of terminal illness, or to people near death; nor was it limited to physical illnesses, diseases or disabilities, and so, includes mental illness. The Court did suspend its decision for one year to give the federal government a chance to amend the law.

Since last February, I have been writing and speaking publicly about some possible horrific ramifications of this decision. A few accused us of fear-mongering.

And yet, in its recent submission to federal health and justice ministers, the Provincial-Territorial Expert Advisory Group on Physician-Assisted Dying (“*Expert Advisory Group*”) recommended that:

- all aspects of physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia (from counselling to assessments and provision) should be publicly funded as insured services under provincial/territorial health plans

over please...

- eligibility should be based on competence rather than age (i.e. children should be eligible)
- a “grievous and irremediable medical condition” should be defined as one that cannot be alleviated by any means acceptable to the patient
- no waiting/reflection period should be prescribed
- all health care providers should be required to inform patients of all end-of-life options, including physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia, regardless of their personal or religious beliefs
- conscientiously objecting health care providers should be required to provide a referral
- there should be public education about physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia

If these recommendations get implemented, your family doctor may soon have to include assisted suicide and euthanasia as treatment options for a child just diagnosed with life-long, insulin-dependent diabetes. And given the research linking juvenile diabetes to depression, the patient may very well choose to end his own life, any other treatment being “unacceptable” to him. Once mental competence has been determined, the deed would be carried out without delay. He knows that public education had taken any stigma out of his decision to end his life. Finally, the cost to end his life would be fully covered by his public health insurance plan.

This could happen to a child you know.

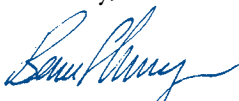
This could be the new normal.

The Supreme Court has granted a four-month extension for Parliament to come up with a new law. This gives us an extremely small window of opportunity to act! Parliament has established a special House-Senate joint committee to consult broadly and to come up with recommendations by March. The government then plans to have a new law crafted, studied, debated and passed by June.

We have to act quickly and *we need your support immediately.* As with the *Expert Advisory Group* (as well as the *External Panel on Options for a Legislative Response* established by the previous federal government), the EFC will prepare a written submission for this committee. Worth noting is that the EFC was the only association of churches and ministries to participate in the consultation by the *Expert Advisory Group*.

We are working to prepare an oral presentation for the 16-member joint committee as well as meeting with MPs and Senators who will be voting on legislation this spring, working with like-minded groups, mobilizing evangelicals, and speaking to the media. *We greatly covet your prayers and your financial gifts at this time.* How will future generations come to view how we value the lives of our society’s most vulnerable? Will we forever be known as the “generation that killed”?

Sincerely,



Bruce Clemenger
President

[Click here to DONATE!](#)

TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE click this button
or call 1-866-302-3362 to donate today.