

August 2016

"...For your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting... from each human being, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of another human being.

...for in the image of God has God made mankind." GENESIS 9:5-6

Dear Friend,

It was only a matter of time.

When people reject the idea that each human life is lovingly created and sustained by God, it's only a matter of time before they embrace the idea that they should decide when a life gets to be brought into the world and when a life gets to be taken out.

Sadly, for most Canadians today, "pro-life" has become an offensive word. The preservation and protection of life has taken a back seat to the right to choose death.

Desirability of life has taken precedence over *sanctity* of life. God's precious gift is welcomed only under certain conditions. When a life is deemed inconvenient or difficult, it has become acceptable to end it.

Abortion was legalized nearly three decades ago. (Currently, approximately 300 abortions occur each day in this country.) And now, despite persistent and impassioned opposition from the EFC and other like-minded individuals and organizations, doctor-assisted suicide and euthanasia is also legal in Canada. On June 17th, the Medical Aid in Dying (MAID) law was enacted by Parliament, lending credence to the notion that it is appropriate to end suffering in life by eliminating that life altogether!

Our hard work has not been in vain, however. The government heeded our grave concerns over the need to protect our society's most vulnerable (Psalm 82:3-4) – minors, the mentally ill, the elderly and the disabled – who, in moments of weakness, may consider or be coerced into ending their lives, even though they are not near death. The new law restricts accessibility only to competent, consenting adults whose deaths are reasonably foreseeable and who are in advanced states of irreversible decline.

But this isn't over!

The B.C. Civil Liberties Association (BCCLA) has already filed a lawsuit in BC Superior Court, arguing that the new law is too restrictive and unconstitutional because they rule out patients who are suffering from chronic and untreatable conditions, but who are not approaching end of life. Specifically, the BCCLA is challenging the requirement that a patient be in an "advance state of irreversible decline in capability" and whose natural death is "reasonably foreseeable."

However, expanding access to any person who is suffering from a chronic and incurable, but not terminal, condition would, by logical extension, expose many individuals, including minors, to serious vulnerabilities.

over please...



In the absence of the current restrictions, adults and minors who are suffering “unbearably” from conditions like chronic depression, loss of limb, blindness, autism, insulin-dependent diabetes, asthma, or *even aging(!)*, would qualify for doctor-assisted suicide and euthanasia. It should be unthinkable to us that MAID be offered as a treatment option to these individuals!

Over the next few years, groups like the BCCLA will continue to try and chisel away at the boundaries set by the MAID law – boundaries that serve to minimize harm to our society’s most vulnerable individuals.

Let what has happened in the Netherlands be a stern warning for us in Canada. In the beginning, euthanasia in the Netherlands was permitted only if patients were conscious, mentally competent, in unbearable pain and suffering from a terminal disease. Now, euthanasia is not restricted to voluntary euthanasia for the terminally ill, but includes non-voluntary euthanasia for “never-competent” adults and minors, the non-terminally ill, the disabled, the depressed and the elderly. Eugenic euthanasia has also become an acceptable practice on disabled newborns.

Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter.
Proverbs 24:11

We simply can’t allow the law to become more expansive. We must continue to pray for righteousness and justice in our legal system, that our laws will uphold the sanctity of human life and protect the vulnerable. And we must continue to faithfully answer God’s call to ensure that the His voice is heard in our governments and in our courts.

Will you stand with the EFC? Lives are literally at stake and your prayers and financial support make a significant difference. We are committed to fighting all the court challenges that the “pro-death” groups plan to launch against the current law to tear down the safeguards that exist to protect the vulnerable. As well, we believe it is critical that the government takes aggressive measures to ensure that high quality palliative care is available to all who need it and that the conscience rights of medical professionals are well protected. Will you help?

Sincerely,



Bruce Clemenger
President

“We must continue to pray for righteousness and justice in our legal system, that our laws will uphold the sanctity of human life and protect the vulnerable.”

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