



June 16, 2016

**Important Message for all MPs in Canada re Bill C-14 and Bill C-277**

Thank you for the difficult work that you are doing to review and vote on the amendments to Bill C-14 that were proposed by the Senate. We commend you for taking this responsibility so seriously, and for ensuring you are well informed before you vote.

On behalf of over 500 palliative care physicians from across Canada, we would like to ensure that all MPs clearly understand that **palliative care consultations do not include assessment for eligibility for Physician-Hastened Death (also termed Medical Assistance In Dying, or MAID).**

The Senate proposed a change to 2(c) line 5 "...assistance in dying after having had a palliative care consultation and having been informed of treatment, technology or support options available to relieve their suffering." This wording puts palliative care programs/services in a position of being gatekeepers. *Access to palliative care consultations is already limited in many parts of Canada, and not all patients are appropriate for, or agreeable to, a palliative care consultation.*

**We respectfully request that the wording be changed as follows:**

**"for people with life limiting illnesses and who are agreeable to a palliative care consultation, palliative care teams will see them, assess and address the root cause(s) of their suffering and hence the cause of their request for Physician-Hastened Death (PHD). A palliative care assessment does not include an assessment of eligibility for PHD."**

**We also request that you vote "Yes" to Bill C-277 "Framework on Palliative Care in Canada Act",** which was introduced by MP Marilyn Gladu on May 30, 2016. Adoption of this Bill would help ensure that access to palliative care is addressed throughout Canada.

Yours truly,

Dr. J. David Henderson  
President, Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians  
Medical Director, Colchester East Hants Palliative Care Program  
Assistant Prof. Dept. of Family Medicine Dalhousie University  
[drj davidhenderson@gmail.com](mailto:drj davidhenderson@gmail.com)  
Administrative Assistant Michelle Veer: [office@cspcp.ca](mailto:office@cspcp.ca)

*Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians*

Suite 584  
1A – 12830 – 96 Avenue  
Surrey, BC V3V 0C2  
T: (604) 341-3174; F: (604) 583-0645