



Catholic Health Alliance of Canada  
Alliance catholique canadienne de la santé

June 30, 2015

Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Mr. Prime Minister

**Re: Physician Assisted Death Legislation and Regulation**

No compassionate being could remain unmoved by the struggles of individuals at the end of life. The Catholic Health Alliance of Canada, while similarly moved to compassion, is deeply concerned with the implications of the February 6, 2015 Supreme Court decision regarding physician assisted death. Our faith, and that of many others, holds life sacred and the deliberate taking of life has deep ramifications for our values as a society.

The Catholic Health Alliance of Canada does believe that supporting individuals in the dying process is our moral obligation. And we believe that professional palliative care makes this possible, not by prolonging life at all costs, but by upholding the rights of patients, and families acting on a patient's expressed wishes, to:

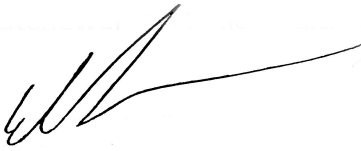
- Make informed decisions about their end of life care.
- Decline or cease life-sustaining interventions they deem overwhelming or too burdensome.
- Receive effective pain management to relieve the pain and other physical symptoms of illness.
- Have access to quality Palliative Care that encompasses support for the spiritual, emotional and psychological dimensions of the end-of-life experience.

The Catholic Health Alliance of Canada, comprised of sponsor organizations overseeing approximately 120 Catholic hospitals, community health centres, nursing homes, and long-term care facilities across Canada, requests:

1. That the Government of Canada consults the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada with regard to creating law and regulation on this matter.
2. That if physician-assisted suicide is accepted into Canadian law, the Government of Canada creates legislation to tightly restrict its use and availability.
3. That the Government of Canada ensures no legal requirement for conscientiously objecting health-care providers and organizations to provide assisted deaths.

Finally, we believe the Government of Canada must work to ensure Canadians have access to high-quality palliative care so fewer people view physician-assisted death as their only option. We are very willing to enter into dialogue and bring whatever knowledge and expertise we have available to this important matter.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DL', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Daniel Lussier, Chair  
Catholic Health Alliance of Canada

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Shea', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael Shea, President and CEO  
Catholic Health Alliance of Canada



Catholic Health Alliance of Canada  
Alliance catholique canadienne de la santé

June 30, 2015

Honourable Peter MacKay  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada  
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. MacKay

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A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes that form a cursive representation of the name Daniel Lussier.

Daniel Lussier, Chair  
Catholic Health Alliance of Canada

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a series of sharp, repetitive peaks and valleys, characteristic of a cursive signature for Michael Shea.

Michael Shea, President and CEO  
Catholic Health Alliance of Canada