**Express your concerns re: MAiD**

Prepared by St. Peter’s CWL Resolution and Legislation Committee

**Template Letter 1**

# 1. List Member of Parliament

* Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, [justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca)
* Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Carolyn Bennett, [carolyn.bennett@parl.gc.ca](mailto:carolyn.bennett@parl.gc.ca)
* Minister of Justice, David Lametti, [david.lametti@parl.gc.ca](mailto:david.lametti@parl.gc.ca)
* Minister of Health, Jean-Yves Duclos, [jean-yves.duclos@parl.gc.ca](mailto:jean-yves.duclos@parl.gc.ca)
* ***Your MP***
* *Find your MP* [*https://www.ourcommons.ca/members/en/search?province=AB*](https://www.ourcommons.ca/members/en/search?province=AB)
* *Using the appropriate stye of address*

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/protocol-guidelines-special-event/styles-address.html#a2>

# 2. Address the letter to

House of Commons,

Ottawa, Ontario

K1A 0Z6

# 3. Opening Salutation

Dear Prime Ministers, Ministers, and \*\*\*

I am writing to express my concern about the revision of Bill C-7 and the extension of MAID eligibility to Canadians with mental illness as the sole condition underlying their request after March 2023.

# 4. Personalize your letter, if possible, handwritten letters are impressive to our representatives

* MAiD is fast becoming the first line of treatment, sometimes without offering alternatives as in the case of……[if possible, tell your own story]
* To be human is to be vulnerable. To be a citizen of Canada with a mental disorder or disability will be dangerous if Bill C-7 amendment is passed. In our family we have a mentally challenged/disabled person with…..[if possible, tell your own story]
* © My son/daughter/niece/nephew, in his/her third year of university became depressed and tried to end his/her life. Now thirty-five (or whatever age) he/she is married with children, a job. A contributing member of society….[if possible, tell your own story]
* If you do not have a specific story – give the reason (morals, faith), lack of time and consideration spent on Bill C-7.

# 5. Include website references if you would like, such as:

* The federal government is developing assessment standards and safeguards during this temporary exclusion. However, the expert panel’s Dr. Mona Gupta does not represent medical consensus on the advisability of MAID for psychiatric illness. She contested the conclusion of Quebec’s *Commission spécial sur l’évolution de la loi concernant les soins fin de vie.* The commission “recommends not expanding access to medical assistance in dying for people whose only medical problem is a mental disorder.” Source: <http://www.assnat.qc.ca/fr/travaux-parlementaires/commissions/cssfv-42-1/index.html>
* Since the legalization of Medical Assistance in Dying in 2016, the number of Canadians accessing MAID has increased significantly. Normalizing euthanasia will reinforce the hopelessness inherent in mental illness and erode the support offered them by the community. Source: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/medical-assistance-dying/annual-report-2020.html#3_1>, accessed February 13, 2022

# 6. Keep your letter respectful, and make a clear request

* **Please reconsider Bill C-7’s extension of MAID eligibility to Canadians whose sole eligibility arises from mental illness.** Thank you for working to support the health care community as they provide compassionate end of life care to all Canadians.

# 7. Closing salutation

Sincerely,

\*\*\**Include your name and address at the end of the email*

*Your postal code is very important as it shows that you are a*

*member of your MP’s constituency, \*\*\**

**Template Letter #2**

# 1. List Member of Parliament

* Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, [justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca)
* Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Carolyn Bennett, [carolyn.bennett@parl.gc.ca](mailto:carolyn.bennett@parl.gc.ca)
* Minister of Justice, David Lametti, [david.lametti@parl.gc.ca](mailto:david.lametti@parl.gc.ca)
* Minister of Health, Jean-Yves Duclos, [jean-yves.duclos@parl.gc.ca](mailto:jean-yves.duclos@parl.gc.ca)
* ***Your MP***
* *Find your MP* [*https://www.ourcommons.ca/members/en/search?province=AB*](https://www.ourcommons.ca/members/en/search?province=AB)
* *Using the appropriate stye of address*

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/protocol-guidelines-special-event/styles-address.html#a2>

# 2. Address the letter to

House of Commons,

Ottawa, Ontario

K1A 0Z6

# 3. Body of Letter

\*\*\*Dear Prime Minister, Ministers, and…\*\*\*

In March, Bill C-7, Medical Assistance in Dying was passed legislating two tracks that persons can access to MAiD. I am writing to express my concern with Track Two.

I am deeply concerned that Track Two will become a legal way for our society to encourage disabled persons to feel compelled to engage in MAiD if their treatment and support systems become too difficult to access, too expensive, or too burdensome on the health care system. MAiD should not be considered a first line of treatment if those are the reasons.

Mr. Prime Minister, is there a price limit Canada puts on the treatment of her vulnerable and disabled?

Loneliness, vulnerability, and the fear of being a burden are just some of the issues that have been brought forward regarding people facing end of life decisions. If those are the reasons a person might no longer want to live, that may be more a reflection on how our disabled persons are treated then the real desire to end their lives. Euthanasia is not a cure for pain, disabilities, mental anguish, or loneliness, it is a death sentence.

I encourage you to take into consideration these concerns, work at protecting the most vulnerable, and work for the common good of all Canadians.

Yours respectfully,

*(Your address and date)*