



## **Parkinson Canada Position Statement on Medical Assistance in Dying (Physician-Assisted Dying)**

Parkinson Canada strongly recommends that the Government of Canada invest in accessible and optimal palliative care for people with advanced neurodegenerative diseases, which includes the best screening and management of pain and depression.

Parkinson Canada calls on the Government of Canada to follow the Supreme Court's direction that specifies that medical assistance in dying (physician-assisted dying) should be available where "grievous and irremediable" medical conditions are present that are causing enduring suffering that the person finds intolerable, and requests that the additional criteria regarding *reasonably foreseeable natural death* be removed.

Parkinson Canada supports the use of advanced consent for medical assistance in dying when suffering becomes intolerable later in the disease course, whether or not the person has competency. Parkinson Canada looks forward to the Government of Canada's independent review to study advance consent for medical assistance in dying that was set to commence within 180 days of the date Bill C-14 received Royal Assent (June 17, 2016).

Parkinson Canada encourages anyone looking for more information about medical assistance in dying to speak to their health care provider about individual options, as well as the specific provincial/territorial professional guidelines that govern the practice of medical assistance in dying for their area.

Supporting documentation for Parkinson Canada's position statement is available.

For more information about Parkinson Canada and its advocacy work, including more information about this position statement, contact [advocacy@parkinson.ca](mailto:advocacy@parkinson.ca)