

# Vulnerable Persons Standard

# Norme sur la protection des personnes vulnérables

Dear Members of Parliament,

We, the undersigned member organizations and allies of the disability rights community, ask the Government of Canada to stop and rethink the radical and highly divisive changes proposed for Canada's medical assistance in dying regime in Bill C-7. Bill C-7 sets apart people with disabilities and disabling conditions as the *only* Canadians to be offered assistance in dying when they are not actually nearing death. This core feature of the Bill is not widely understood, even among Canadian parliamentarians, with the result that many may find themselves supporting a Bill without grappling with its implications.

As it stands, Bill C-7 is dangerous and discriminatory. Three United Nations experts have warned that Bill C-7 will violate international human rights conventions to which Canada is a signatory. Canadian legal experts warn that Bill C-7 will violate the *Charter* rights of persons with disabilities. People with disabilities, including in particular those who are marginalized, Black, Indigenous, racialized and poor, have warned that Bill C-7 will undermine their dignity and put their very lives at risk.

Canadians with disabilities are hearing MPs and Senators arguing that lives just like theirs featuring disabilities just like theirs are not livable. This is harmful and hurtful and stigmatizing.

Parliamentarians have a responsibility to think through the unintended but entirely foreseeable consequences of new legislation, recognizing that people with disabilities face overwhelming barriers to disability support services, mental health care, housing, income security and other means and measures essential to a dignified life. The reality is that for many people with disabilities, dehumanizing long term care homes are the only option. And now MAiD?

It is time for our lawmakers to grapple honestly with ableism and refrain from empty gestures of concern when Canadians with disabilities speak up in desperation. It is long past time for a courageous and comprehensive response to the many ways in which people with disabling conditions are made to suffer unbearable lives. Expanding the availability of medically assisted death for this social group, and only this social group, is not a good faith response to the Québec Superior Court's decision in Truchon. To quote minister Lametti, letting the Truchon deadline lapse may temporarily permit some uncertainty in how the Criminal Code is applied in Québec with respect to medical assistance in dying. While this is, as he acknowledged, "a matter of general concern", it is a matter of far greater concern to pass into law an amendment that authorizes physicians to end the lives of patients who have been denied every opportunity to live decent and dignified lives.

Take your time, start over, and get this right. As you do so, be careful to heed the advice of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: "Listen closely to the most

directly affected. Their antenna is highly attuned to ableism. When they see it, you should pause and reflect before proceeding".

Bill C-7 is not the answer.

Signed by representatives of,

1. [Inclusion Canada](#)
2. [Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association](#)
3. [Canadian Institute for Inclusion and Citizenship](#)
4. [Communication Disabilities Access Canada](#)
5. [The Institute for Research and Development on Inclusion and Society \(IRIS\)](#)
6. [L'Arche Canada](#)
7. [B.C. Aboriginal Network on Disability Society \(BCANDS\)](#)
8. [ARCH Disability Law Centre](#)
9. [Council of Canadians with Disabilities](#)
10. [Toujours Vivant-Not Dead Yet](#)
11. [People First of Canada](#)
12. [The DisAbled Women's Network of Canada / Réseau d'Action des Femmes Handicapées du Canada \(DAWN-RAFH Canada\)](#)
13. [Independent Living Canada - Vie autonome Canada](#)
14. [Muscular Dystrophy Canada](#)
15. [CNIB](#)
16. [Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work \(CCRW\)](#)
17. [Black Health Alliance](#)
18. [Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action \(FAFIA\)](#)
19. [National Association of Women and the Law/Association nationale Femmes et Droit](#)
20. [Accessibility for All](#)
21. [Vivre dans la Dignité / Living with Dignity](#)
22. [Spinal Cord Injury Canada](#)
23. [Refuge Newcomer Health](#)
24. [The Physicians' Alliance against Euthanasia](#)
25. [Canadian Physicians for Life](#)
26. [Euthanasia Prevention Coalition](#)
27. [The Disability Justice Network of Ontario](#)
28. [Reproductive Justice New Brunswick](#)
29. [Inclusion BC](#)
30. [Société québécoise de la déficience intellectuelle](#)
31. [Plan Institute](#)
32. [Tangled Art + Disability](#)
33. [Delta Hospice Society](#)
34. [The Disability Rights Coalition of Nova Scotia](#)
35. [Black Lives Matter Toronto \(BLMTO\)](#)
36. [SURJ \(Showing Up for Racial Justice\) Toronto](#)

37. [Independent Living Nova Scotia](#)
38. [Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion](#)
39. [Choose Life Niagara](#)
40. [Inclusion Lloydminster](#)
41. [Inclusion Foothills Association](#)
42. [Resources Supporting Family and Community Legacies Inc](#)
43. [Families for a Secure Future](#)
44. [Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network](#)
45. [BeConnected Support Services](#)
46. [Family Support Institute of BC](#)
47. [Chilliwack Society for Community Living](#)
48. [The HOME Society](#)
49. [Community Homes Action Group, Nova Scotia](#)
50. [Roman Catholic Archbishop of Ottawa-Cornwall](#)
51. Inclusion Amherst
52. [Le Mouvement Citoyen Handicap-Québec](#)
53. GTA Disability Coalition
54. [BCEdAccess Society](#)
55. Life Changes Coaching
56. [Ocean Ridge Support Services](#)
57. [Gateway Healthcare](#)
58. [Inclusion Powell River](#)
59. [POOF Protecting ODSP OW Funding](#)
60. [Inclusive Design Research Centre, OCAD University](#)
61. [Broadreach Training and Resources](#)
62. Hamilton Catholic Doctors Organization
63. [Toronto Board of Rabbis](#)
64. [Kamloops Pro-life Society](#)
65. [PEI Association for Community Living](#)
66. [Collingwood medical clinic, Vancouver BC](#)
67. Straits Association for Community Living
68. [National Association of Catholic Nurses – Canada](#)
69. [Pei League for Equal Opportunities](#)
70. [Inclusion Selkirk](#)
71. [The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada](#)
72. [Concerned Ontario Doctors](#)
73. [People First Nova Scotia](#)
74. [Canadian Centre for Christian Charities](#)
75. [Empower, The Disability Resource Centre](#)
76. [MSU Student Health Education Centre \(SHEC\)](#)
77. [Black Medical Student Association](#)
78. [Hamilton Community Legal Clinic](#)
79. [No Pride in Policing Coalition](#)
80. DMI Ministries

81. [Pluralie](#)
82. [Schizophrenia Society of Newfoundland & Labrador](#)
83. [Newfoundland and Labrador Association for Community Living](#)
84. [Independent Living Centre London and Area](#)
85. [Bathesda Christian Association](#)
86. [Burnaby Association for Community Inclusion](#)
87. [Christian Legal Fellowship / Alliance des chrétiens en droit](#)
88. [Inclusion Saskatchewan](#)
89. [ARPA Canada](#)
90. [The Poverty and Human Rights Centre](#)
91. [Spring Socialist Network](#)
92. [Fédération des femmes du Québec](#)
93. [Hand Over Hand](#)
94. [Community Living Welland Pelham](#)
95. [The New Brunswick Association for Community Living](#)
96. [Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary](#)
97. [Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy](#)
98. [Muslim Medical Association of Ottawa](#)
99. [ODSP Action Coalition](#)
100. [Pauline Jewett Institute of Women's and Gender Studies](#)
101. [Self Advocates of Semiahmoo](#)
102. [The Richmond Centre for Disability](#)
103. [the Legion of Mary Curia in Calgary](#)
104. Inclusion Calgary
105. [God Squad Canada](#)
106. [Vancouver Rape Relief & Women's Shelter](#)
107. St. Catherine of Siena Chapter of the Lay Dominicans of the Canadian Province
108. [Family Alliance Ontario](#)
109. [Limestone Family Support Group Inc.,](#)
110. [Ontario Disability Coalition](#)
111. Lifetime Circles
112. [Nunavummi Disabilities Makinnasuaqtiit Society's](#)
113. [Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians](#)
114. [The Sacred Arts Guild of Alberta](#)
115. [Inclusion Winnipeg](#)
116. [The Catholic Women's League of Canada and local chapters<sup>1</sup>](#)
117. [Canadian Angelman Syndrome Society](#)
118. The Cooperators of the Heralds of the Gospel – Calgary
119. [Physicians Together with Vulnerable Canadians](#)
120. Platform
121. [Inclusion Alberta](#)
122. Assembly of Women Religious of the Diocese of Calgary

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<sup>1</sup> St. Catherine's, Niagara, Calgary, Grimsby, Crystal Beach, and Sault St. Marie.

123. Inclusion Edmonton Region
124. [Spectrum Society for Community Living](#)
125. [Inclusion Nova Scotia](#)
126. [Community Living Ontario](#)
127. [l'Institut National pour l'Équité, l'Égalité et l'Inclusion des personnes en situation de handicap \(INÉÉI-PSH\)](#)
128. [Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops](#)
129. [L'Arche Halifax](#)