

From: **Marilyn Fischer** _____
Date: Sunday, 31 January 2016
Subject: Physician Assisted Dying Public Meeting Jan. 16 Langley
To: John Aldag <john@johnaldag.ca>, mark.warawa@parl.gc.ca

Good afternoon,

I was one of the speakers who was left on the list at the above event and want to put forward some of my thoughts. Unfortunately, I have not had time to prepare as much as I would have preferred but hope you will be able to include my concerns.

I appreciated the thoughtful and passionate comments of other speakers at the event but I feel it is also important to consider the rights of the many Canadians who have given equal thought and consideration to this challenging question and share a different view.

My mother was diagnosed with probable Alzheimers for 10 years, the last 4 or so spent in facility care. She died suddenly in 1999 of heart related causes and I must admit that I, and my family, were greatly relieved that she was spared the inevitable pain and suffering of the later stage of the disease.

I'm not prepared to comment on the intricacies of any proposed legislation except to say that I am concerned about a requirement for continuing competence once a person has indicated in the prescribed manner their end of life wishes. I hope consideration will be given to a vehicle similar to a Durable Power of Attorney or the Representative Agreement in BC which is written while a person has capacity, which may even be limited in the case of the Rep Agreement, the terms of which will survive a person's slide into incapacity. I'm sure safeguards could be designed that would protect the rights of the person giving over their decision-making right to a chosen friend or relative instead of the person who would be designed decision maker under the Health Care Consent Act of BC or similar legislation in other provinces.

As you probably know, Alzheimers is very often inherited by children. In the event that I am ever diagnosed with Alzheimers or other disease that includes brain dysfunction as it progresses, I am quite sure (though not positive) that I would request Physician Assisted Suicide at a certain stage in the progression of the disease. At least, I want to have that right and don't want my decision questioned if and when I become incompetent.

Kindest Regards,

Marilyn

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