

**From:** Denise Altschul  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 31, 2016 12:00 PM  
**To:** Physician-Assisted Dying Committee Comité Aide médicale à mourir  
**Cc:** [info@dyingwithdignity.ca](mailto:info@dyingwithdignity.ca)  
**Subject:** Dying with Dignity

To: The Special Joint Committee on Physician-Assisted Dying:

From: Denise Altschul

Dear Members of the Committee,

I was born in England in 1929, so will be eighty-seven (87) in October. I came to Canada in 1980, and became a Canadian Citizen.

In England I worked in an orthopaedic hospital for seven years in Occupational Therapy.

Soon after arriving in Canada, I worked for nineteen years at The Riverdale Hospital, in Speech and Language Pathology, working specifically with patients who had suffered stroke or head injury, so have experienced watching many patients die, without dignity.

I joined Dying with Dignity because I strongly objected to the law, at that time, which would put doctors into prison for seven years, if it were discovered that they had assisted the dying patient to end their life peacefully, when their pain was intolerable, and their life expectancy was only a few more months. I saw then, and I see now,

that if a dying patient wishes to end their life, because of the intolerable pain and short life expectancy, and with their own wishes in place, together with the understanding of their nearest family/friends and the knowledge of their family doctor, then it would be humane to allow their wishes for 'doctor assisted suicide' to be carried out, without any 'blame' on the part of the doctor.

I am keeping this letter short, as the computer is not my friend. I thank the Joint Committee for their consideration.

Sincerely,  
Denise Altschul.