

**From:** Perry Lydon

**Sent:** Sunday, January 31, 2016 11:45 PM

**To:** Physician-Assisted Dying Committee Comité Aide médicale à mourir

**Cc:**

**Subject:** Dying with Dignity Canada.

Dear Special Joint Committee on Physician-Assisted Dying, I am very grateful for the opportunity to express my opinion on this matter. I have a great respect for the democratic form of government and I appreciate the difficult decisions facing the Committee.

I am a Medical Doctor and a specialist in Psychiatry and I have been an ardent supporter of "Dying with Dignity" for the past two years. I have been critical of the organization at times when they use terms like "victory" or "winning" in their attempts to achieve their objectives. I believe that the goals of DWD, reflect the sad fact of life, that serious and odious Medical conditions can leave a small number of Canadians with unbearable suffering. Our aim to relieve this pain and disease, is only an act of compassion and caring, and an attempt to prevent further suffering for those who request an end to their unbearable condition. There is no victory here, just an effort to prevent further suffering.

I was raised as a devout Christian and I understand the objections and concerns of those who share such beliefs. However, my main concern, is that individuals with deep religious and moral beliefs, will try to prevent other Canadians from obtaining the right to choose death with dignity, even if they meet the criteria outlined by DWD. This would be a most tragic and regrettable development.

All human beings must face death at some time. In countries that allow Physician Assisted Death (PAD), only 2 -4% of individuals choose this form of death. I, like most Canadians, will elect to die a natural death. However, if I am unfortunate and develop the severe unremitting type of illness, as outlined by DWD, I would expect and request the option, to seek a less painful crippling way of ending my life.

Let 2016 be the year that caring and compassion, together with common sense, is allowed to predominate in these tragic circumstances. To prevent rational Canadians from this option would be shameful and a national disgrace. Please have the courage to take the difficult but right decision in this matter.

I submit this appeal with the greatest respect for your committee.

Yours Sincerely, Dr. Patrick Lydon, Victoria, BC.