

Pat Clay

Dear Special Joint Committee of Physician Assisted Dying:

In my opinion, I do not feel that a list of qualifying conditions would be in the best interest of Canadians who wish to have Physician – Assisted Dying. It would be impossible for you to list all the conditions in which a person may qualify for PAD. It should not be up to others to make decisions for me. I have the right to decide.

If I make my wishes clearly known, either by writing, verbally, speaking to family and friends about my wishes while I am of sound mind, should I then lose the capability to express them, due to brain damage, a stroke or dementia, the advanced request must be honoured.

I agree that it would be nice to have two doctors verify your free and informed consent but there are areas of Canada that do not have a doctor, let alone two of them. Perhaps in this case, a registered nurse or physician's assistant stand in for the second doctor. The nurse or physician's assistance would likely be involved with the patient more than the doctor.

We must not be abandoned by the medical system. The physician is not me. I demand the doctor refer me to another doctor or third party referral. Just because the medical system can keep patients alive, we must not use this as a reason to maintain life for those who choose to have PAD.

In conclusion I want you to listen and understand the importance of this crucial right that every Canadian deserves

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Clay