

Via email: [PDAM@parl.gc.ca](mailto:PDAM@parl.gc.ca)

February 10, 2016

Hon. Kelvin Ogilvie & Hon. Robert Oliphant  
Joint Chairs  
Special Joint Committee on Physician-Assisted Dying  
1 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Honourable Sirs,

**Re: CNPS' Submission Seeking Legislative Clarity for Nurses' Role in Assisted Dying**

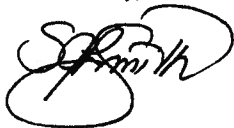
The College of Registered Nurses of Nova Scotia (CRNNS) is a member of the Canadian Nurses Protective Society (CNPS). Pursuant to Nova Scotia's *Registered Nurses Act 2006*, c. 21, s. 1, the mandate of CRNNS includes regulating the practice of nursing in the public interest.

CRNNS reviewed CNPS' written submission to you regarding options for a legislative response to the *Carter v. Canada* decision, dated January 27, 2016. CRNNS agrees with and fully supports CNPS' submission.

In particular, CRNNS supports the request that there be an explicit legislated exemption to clarify that nurses may counsel, support and provide care to patients who are considering or are engaged in the assisted dying process. Given nurses' current scope of practice and involvement in care provided to individuals nearing end of life, we anticipate that nurses will be asked to care for patients seeking medically assisted dying. This care may include: discussing treatment options with patients; monitoring indicators of patients' capacity to make decisions; providing comfort care to patients involved in the dying process; and preparing or otherwise assisting in the administration of the medications used to induce death. These activities should be protected from the risk of criminal prosecution. We believe that a failure to provide a clear exemption for these activities may result in a deterrent effect for nurses, potentially compromising patient care and the patient's right to objective information.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide input into potential legislative changes around assisted dying.

Yours truly,



Sue Smith, RN BN MAOL  
CEO & Registrar

c: Chantal Leonard, CEO of CNPS, via email: [cleonard@cnps.ca](mailto:cleonard@cnps.ca)