

Nursing:
100 Years of Caring

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La profession infirmière :
100 ans de soins

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February 5, 2016

Special Joint Committee on Physician-Assisted Dying
c/o Chantal Leonard
Canadian Nurses Protective Society
510-1545 Carling Avenue
Ottawa, ON K1Z 8P9

Re: Submission to the Special Joint Committee by the Canadian Nurses Protective Society

To Whom It May Concern:

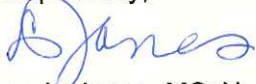
The Nurses Association of New Brunswick (NANB) is a member of the Canadian Nurses Protective Society (CNPS). The mandate of NANB includes regulating the practice of registered nurses and nurse practitioners in order to protect public health and safety.

CNPS has developed a document titled CNPS Submission on Physician-Assisted Death with the intent of submission to your committee for review and consideration. NANB agrees with the information within that document and fully supports this submission of CNPS.

Specifically, NANB supports the request in the submitted document – that there be an explicit legislated exemption to clarify that registered nurses and nurse practitioners may counsel, support and provide care to patients who are considering, planning or engaged in the assisted dying process. Given the scope of practice of registered nurses and nurse practitioners, and their involvement with care provided to individuals nearing end of life, we anticipate that registered nurses and nurse practitioners will be asked to care for patients involved in 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 the opportunity to provide input into potential legislative changes around assisted dying.

Respectfully,


Laurie Janes, MScN
Executive Director

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Nurses Association of New Brunswick
L'Association des infirmières et infirmiers du Nouveau-Brunswick

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