

Author: Keri-Lynn Gibbs, Concerned Canadian Citizen

This briefing contains my opinion and concerns as a single, unmarried woman. I have a number of concerns about the Assisted Dying legislation, but I am highlighting 2 for your consideration.

- 1) The prevention of death tourism and bringing to light ethical issues and plausible abuse of ever using a business service model for the practice of assisted dying.
- 2) The human rights breach caused by the legality of assisted dying making it a presumptive measure of care at every care facility treating dying patients resulting in the elimination of traditional hospice care. This is especially a concern for singles.

Please see the following support for my concerns.

1)

Recently an American friend mentioned a grandmother (also an American), who had been given assisted in dying in Canada. I am concerned about a type of death tourism developing. This neglects the proper checks for number of reasons but also because the primary care provider is not Canadian and not truly familiar with the patient. With same day death this practice could cause severe abuses of vulnerable people being provided almost immediate death with no medical context or frame of reference for ethical patient care.

This concern of death provision as a business is shared by others. For reference please see the following link to the short film “The Interview”, a creative work written and produced by a formerly Albertan filmmaker in 2008 Corri Fox on the subject of Euthanasia. It expresses concern about assisted dying services being introduced as a business.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzVXsNRj6MM&fbclid=IwAR1GcH7d2p5SWVZ99d234dZX7bThG4bz6eA2lCwOHV5m2rUeU9GOePRGM_g&app=desktop

2)

The case of the BC Government against the Delta Hospice Society is of grave concern to me. It is a fundamental human right to have freedom of choice to have actual hospice care provided in the spirit and ethics of hospice to all individuals regardless of their religious affiliation. Currently bullying tactics against private hospices, and misapplications of assisted dying legislation apparently can be used by the Provinces to prevent individuals having the autonomy to choose care that does not include providing death. Provincial requirements as in the case of the Delta Hospice Society prevent a great many patients from having any options where they can protect themselves and control their care environment when they are old or alone with no family to look out for them. Just because assisted dying is legal does not mean every medical facility should be required to provide it.

Not everyone is Catholic and people of other faiths or no faith should not be forced to go to a Catholic hospital or religiously oriented hospice engaging in an unwelcome religious environment just because they do not want to be treated in a place that actively engages in assisted dying, a practice they may consider unethical or that abuses their hope and enjoyment of the life they have left.

Further to this I have also done human rights work with people who become apostate from the religion they were raised in by either changing religions or becoming atheists. They could be especially vulnerable and it is a false assumption that all espousing atheistic beliefs would have no problem with assisted dying being provided by their care facility.

When I am elderly or if I become ill, I want real, positive, humane care, and the right to be able to choose a facility that does not offer assisted dying and where my fellow patients are not being put to death. I want help living until my final breath and not to be hastened on my way. Please help ensure this possibility. Thank you.