



A Special Bulletin

We are a Catholic community empowered to continue Christ's healing ministry

CHAS BULLETIN

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Updates to Bill C-218

On Wednesday the Federal Justice Minister, Sean Fraser, and the Minister of Health, Marjorie Michel, announced the government plans to indefinitely exclude euthanasia for people whose sole underlying condition is mental illness and its decision not to support [Bill C-218](#).

The summary of Bill C-218 says, **"This enactment amends the Criminal Code to provide that a mental disorder is not a grievous and irremediable medical condition for which a person could receive medical assistance in dying."**

We shall see whether "indefinitely exclude" will result in legislation as strongly worded as C-218.

An On-Going Concern

What is of significant concern in the communication about the government's decision, is that it has also signalled its intention to continue

expanding access to euthanasia by legalizing advance requests for MAiD.

Without putting too sharp a point on my commentary, the announcement represents a small win for those who envision a future without euthanasia, yet a **major win** for those who are enthusiasts of medically administered death.

Why?

First, because the rapid expansion of euthanasia in Canada is already unparalleled to any other country in the world!

Second, and more importantly, one of the greatest dangers we face with euthanasia expansion in Canada is the conflation of palliative care with euthanasia. Advance requests for MAiD strongly support a shift toward blending the two.

Euthanasia and Palliative Care are NOT THE SAME!

A palliative approach to care says that hope is not a contingent reality and it does not link hope to our capacity to control our future. Euthanasia says hope is contingent: if I can't control what will happen to me, hope is just an empty promise.

Hope Remains

At times like this, it is helpful to have witnesses who speak to our hope. Amanda Achtman's short film *Remember to Love / Joan's Story* offers a beautiful testament to Christian hope.

Joan, who lives with dementia, is visited by her daughter Jill a couple of times a week. Jill's accompaniment is sprinkled with laughter and warmth, and Joan's spirited responses inspire admiration.



Land Acknowledgement

In the spirit of justice and reconciliation, and remembering the Indigenous lands of our province are shared through Treaty, we acknowledge these lands as the ancestral home of the Plains Cree, Saulteaux, Assiniboine, Sioux, Dene, Chipewyan and Dakota. We also acknowledge this land as the homeland of the Metis Nation.



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