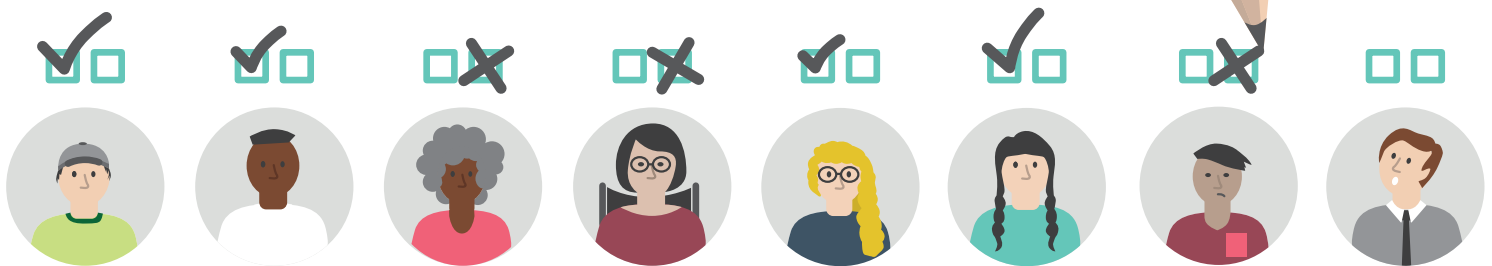


What's with the rapid expansion of assisted suicide?



The slippery slope is real and is happening right now!

Five years ago, assisted suicide was illegal in Canada. In 2016, it became legal in limited circumstances. In 2021, Parliament removed safeguards and expanded eligibility for assisted suicide to patients with disabilities or mental health concerns. Parliament continues to review Canada's assisted suicide laws, considering further expansion even for minors.



Whose suicide should we prevent and whose suicide should we assist?

Assisted suicide is discriminatory:



- > We go to great lengths to **prevent** suicide and provide help for people who are suicidal. But now we **assist** others to commit suicide. All Canadians are valuable and worthy of protection. We should always work to **prevent** suicide, not **assist** it.
- > Assisting those who are very old, sick, or disabled to commit suicide is based on the ableist belief that their lives are no longer worth living.
- > As assisted suicide becomes normalized, those who are sick, disabled, or elderly will begin to feel like a burden, and other people are more likely to view them as such.
- > Treating everyone equally means providing suicide prevention and supportive care for **everyone**.



Assisted suicide is not compatible with good healthcare:

- > We should not offer assisted suicide as a response to suffering. Rather, we should invest in and improve life-affirming treatments like palliative medicine that value the life of everyone.
- > Legalizing assisted suicide sends the message that we don't need to help family and friends find meaning in suffering but that the proper response to suffering is to end your own life.
- > Assisted suicide is the complete opposite to serving someone in life-affirming, dignity-affirming, personhood-affirming ways.

“ As a society, we need to promote supportive care and suicide prevention for all.

SUICIDE IS ALWAYS A TRAGEDY,

even if done via lethal injection by a doctor.”



Questions to ask:



- #1 Do you agree that all Canadians should be provided with suicide prevention and life-affirming care, regardless of age, disability or mental health?
- #2 Why are we splitting Canadians into two groups - those whose suicides you would assist (the elderly, those with disability and mental illness), and those whose suicides you would try to prevent (the able-bodied and young)?
- #3 Assisted suicide laws continue to expand. How will you protect vulnerable people with disabilities and mental health concerns?

For more information on this issue, check out ARPA Canada's policy report on assisted suicide!



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