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We joined DWD because we want our voices to be heard when we can no longer speak for ourselves.

If we're no longer able to take care of ourselves, become a burden to our families, or are in great pain, that - to us - isn't "living".

Linda and Jim LeQuesne

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November 19, 2013

Canadian Doctors Support Bill 52 and Medical Aid in Dying



(Pictured: [Arnaud Painvin](#))

The following media release was sent out in English (below) and **in French** to media in Quebec and across the country earlier today. Our sincere thanks to our Advisory Council of Physicians and the physicians who support our sister organization in Quebec, **AQDMD** for taking a public stand in support of Quebec's Bill 52, *An Act Respecting End-of-Life Care*.

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Position statement issued

MONTREAL, Quebec, November 19, 2013 - Today, the [Association québécoise pour le droit de mourir dans la dignité](#) (AQDMD) and the [Advisory Council of Physicians of Dying With Dignity Canada](#) (DWD) formalized their support for Quebec's medically-assisted dying legislation through a Letter in Support of Quebec's Bill 52, An Act Respecting End-of-Life Care. "Bill 52 is carefully worded proposed legislation and attentive reading will reveal that the necessary safeguards are in place," says [Dr. Dave Lambert](#), a retired orthopaedic surgeon from Sherbrooke, Quebec.

The letter states:

We believe that medically assisted dying should be legal and an option for individuals who are suffering grievously at end of life.

As physicians, we stress these criteria: the individual must be competent and must initiate the request, the illness or condition must be both serious and incurable, and the individual's suffering must be unbearable to them.

We believe that medically-assisted dying is part of good palliative care. But palliative care in itself is often not enough. Not all suffering can be controlled in ways that are acceptable to the patient.

Medically assisted dying is about giving control to the suffering person. Having control brings peace of mind, and sometimes that is all that is needed. In Oregon, where assisted dying is legal, 35% of individuals approved for assisted dying have died of natural causes.

We, as supporters of Association québécoise pour le droit de mourir dans la dignité and members of The Advisory Council of Physicians of Dying with Dignity, believe the Quebec National Assembly was correct in passing Bill 52 on first reading on October 29, 2013.

We look forward to this bill becoming law in Quebec and hope it becomes an example for legislative reform in other provinces across the country.

For more information contact:

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[Dying With Dignity Canada](#)
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Email: wanda@dyingwithdignity.ca

Background Information:

A [2012 Angus Reid poll](#) showed that 80% of Canadians support the right of terminally ill patients to have medical assistance to die. Similarly, an [Environics Institute poll](#) released last month found Quebec residents are more likely than other Canadians to support medically assisted death. The poll found that nearly four in five Quebec residents said they approved of allowing a terminally ill or severely disabled person to end their life.

[Association québécoise pour le droit de mourir dans la dignité](#) (AQDMD) is a Québec organization dedicated to legalizing the option of medical aid in dying for individuals afflicted with unbearable suffering. [Dying With Dignity Canada](#) (DWD) is a Canadian organization devoted to improving quality of dying and expanding end-of-life choices for all Canadians. The physicians who are supporters of AQDMD and the [Advisory Council of Physicians of DWD](#) support [Bill 52, An Act Respecting End-of- Life Care](#).

Signatories to the Letter of Support:

[Marcel Boisvert](#), MD (Palliative Care)
[Marcel Boulanger](#), MD (Anesthesiology)
[Christiane Dauphinais](#), PhD, MD, CCFP (Family Medicine)
[Nacia Faure](#), MD, CSPQ (Endocrinology, Palliative Care)
[Georges Lesperance](#), MD (Neurosurgery)
[Marion L'Espérance](#), MD, FRCSC, FACS (General and Oncological Surgery)
[Jana Havrankova](#), M.D (Endocrinology)
[Dave Lambert](#), MB, BS, MSc, FRCS (Orthopaedics)
[Louis Legault](#), MD (Psychiatry)
[Marie-Josée Marchand](#), M.D (Palliative Care)
[Denise Ouellette](#), M.D. (Thoracic Surgery), FRCSC, FACS
[Arnaud Painvin](#), MD, FRCSC (Cardiac Surgery)
[Michel Therrien](#), M.D, (Palliative Care)
[Dr Simon Tinawi](#), MD, FRCSc, (Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation)
[Gerald Ashe](#), MD, CCFP, FCFP (Family Medicine)
[Joyce Barrett](#), MD (General Medicine)
[Ruth Campling](#), MD (General Medicine)
[John Dale](#), MD (General Medicine)
[James Downar](#), MD, FRCPC (Palliative Care and Critical Care)
[Adrian Fine](#), MD, FRCPC (Nephrology)
[Brian Finemore](#), MD (General Medicine)
[James Goodwin](#), MD, FRCSC, FSOGC (Obstetrics and Gynaecology)
[Anne Kenshole](#), MD (Endocrinology)

Klaus Kuch, MD, FRCPC (Psychiatry)
Robert Langford, MD, CM, DPH (General Medicine)
Ed Najgebauer, MD, MBA (General Medicine)
Gregory Robinson, MD, MHSc, CCFP, FCFP, FRCPC (Public Health)
Derryck Smith, MD, FRCPC (Psychiatry)
John A Thomson, MD, BPHE, DPH (Public Health)

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Susan Wishaw (2 days ago)

This is a most momentous occasion and should be celebrated Canada-wide!!
Heartfelt thanks to all caring doctors and others who support medically assisted dying.

Jean Stephanson (2 days ago)

We need a bill like this passed in Alberta. It should be Canada-wide!

Pat Gough (1 day ago)

I would also add that people should be made aware that having a living will can and should be enacted by all people and family members should be made aware of the individuals wishes. Having such a document can assist in the decision-making process at end-of-life situations.

Diane Richards (1 day ago)

We need this canada wide ! We are kinder to animals ... Human beings should be offered such compassion... And freedom of choice

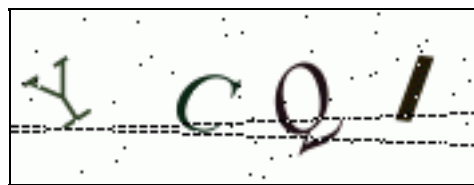
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SUBMIT



Dying With Dignity Canada

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