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***L'Association québécoise pour le droit de mourir dans la dignité – AQDMD (the Quebec association for the right to die with dignity), and the Comité de juristes experts (the Committee of legal experts).***

Further to the January 15, 2013 report presented by the *Comité de juristes experts* regarding the implementation of the Select Commission on Dying with Dignity's recommendations, the AQDMD wishes to state its position.

We are of course keenly interested by this report. It seems apparent that the *Comité* has complied with its mandate to determine the most appropriate way to implement the Select Commission's recommendations within the current constitutional framework whereby a province has jurisdiction in matters concerning health and the application of the law over its territory.

The above-mentioned experts concur with the position of the Collège des médecins du Québec (*College of physicians of Quebec*) and of the Select Commission on Dying with Dignity to the effect that, under certain conditions, medical assistance in dying is within the continuum of end-of-life care.

The AQDMD's position remains clear: individuals have the right to make their own decisions independently and to know that their advance directives will be respected. This is why we continue to carry out legal proceedings in order that the section of the Criminal Code that prohibits any person from assisting another in dying be declared unconstitutional. It is in this spirit that we support Mrs. Ginette Leblanc's cause to be heard this March.

The up-coming Bill would allow the provision of medical assistance in end-of-life or imminent death cases, but would leave unresolved the matter of patients who are living in unbearable physical or psychological pains and are suffering from chronic incurable illnesses, but whose stable state prevent that their stated advanced directives be respected. Safeguards are necessary, but we hope that medical assistance in dying will no longer be considered a crime in Canada. We remain actively engaged in the debate on this key societal issue.

For more information, we invite you to email us at [info@aqdmd.qc.ca](mailto:info@aqdmd.qc.ca) You can also visit our Internet site at [www.aqdmd.qc.ca](http://www.aqdmd.qc.ca)

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January 18, 2013