

QUESTIONNAIRE

General consultation Dying with Dignity

Select Committee on Dying with Dignity

Please fill out this short questionnaire. Just a few minutes of your time will provide the members of the Select Committee with essential information for fulfilling their task.

In December 2009 the members of the National Assembly unanimously decided to study the issue of dying with dignity. The Committee on Health and Social Services subsequently heard testimony from about 30 experts and organizations during the months of February and March, 2010.

The Committee then drafted a consultation document for the purpose of informing the public and facilitating participation in the public consultation held by the Select Committee on Dying with Dignity. In order to elicit the broadest possible response, the consultation will be held online. The exercise you have been invited to take part in is part of this consultation.

The Committee strongly encourages you to read the consultation document on dying with dignity before answering the questionnaire.

Your questionnaire and the information it contains will be sent to Committee members and staff. However, personal information will not be made public by the Committee.

Please note that you must answer all questions.

IDENTIFICATION

Title: Mister Madam

First name: _____

Last name: _____

Organization: _____ (if you represent an organization)

Region:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 01 – Bas-Saint-Laurent | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 - Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 02 - Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean | <input type="checkbox"/> 12 - Chaudière-Appalaches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 03 - Capitale-Nationale | <input type="checkbox"/> 13 - Laval |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 04 - Mauricie | <input type="checkbox"/> 14 - Lanaudière |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 05 - Estrie | <input type="checkbox"/> 15 - Laurentides |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 06 - Montréal | <input type="checkbox"/> 16 - Montérégie |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 07 - Outaouais | <input type="checkbox"/> 17 - Centre-du-Québec |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 08 - Abitibi-Témiscamingue | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 09 – Côte-Nord | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 - Nord-du-Québec | |

Respondent's situation: (check all applicable boxes)

- Citizen with a personal interest in the topic of dying with dignity
- Person with a terminal or degenerative illness
- Friend or relative of a personal with a terminal or degenerative illness
- Person who has accompanied a loved one (friend or relative) in the final stages of life
- Palliative care volunteer
- Healthcare professional (doctor, nurse, orderly, etc.)
- Member of an activist group **in favor** of euthanasia, assisted suicide, or both
- Member of an activist group **opposed** to euthanasia, assisted suicide, or both
- Researcher interested in euthanasia and assisted suicide issues
- Other _____

Respondent's age group:

- Under 18
- 18 to 29
- 30 to 39
- 40 to 49
- 50 to 59
- 60 to 69
- 70 to 79
- 80 and over

Euthanasia is the act of intentionally provoking an individual's death in order to end his or her suffering. Some countries have legalized this practice under certain conditions, but according to the Criminal Code of Canada, euthanasia is a criminal act.

1. Do you agree or disagree with the legalization of euthanasia under certain conditions?

- a) Fully agree
- b) Somewhat agree
- c) Somewhat disagree
- d) Fully disagree
- e) Undecided

Do you have any other comments on this question?

2. Who should be able to request euthanasia, provided they have a valid reason?

	Fully agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Fully disagree	Undecided
Adults capable of deciding for themselves	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minors capable of deciding for themselves	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Families of persons incapable of deciding for themselves	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parents or guardians of a minor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People who make the request in advance in anticipation of incapacity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you have any other comments on this question?

3. In your opinion, in which of the following situations might a euthanasia request be justified?

	Fully agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Fully disagree	Undecided
People with an incurable illness who suffer from unbearable psychological and physical pain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People in the final stages of a terminal illness who know they will experience intolerable pain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People whose death is imminent and inevitable. Though their physical pain is treatable, they no longer wish to live.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People with a degenerative and incapacitating illness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People who are severely handicapped following an accident	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Children with a serious and incurable terminal illness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you have any other comments on this question?

Assisted suicide is the act of intentionally killing oneself with the assistance of another who provides the knowledge, means or both. Some countries and two American states have legalized this practice under certain conditions but it is still considered a criminal act under the Criminal Code of Canada.

4. Do you agree or disagree with the legalization of assisted suicide under certain conditions?

- a) Fully agree
- b) Somewhat agree
- c) Somewhat disagree
- d) Fully disagree
- e) Undecided

Do you have any other comments on this question?

5. Who should be able to request assisted suicide, provided they have a valid reason?

	Fully agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Fully disagree	Undecided
Adults capable of deciding for themselves	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minors capable of deciding for themselves	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you have any other comments on this question?

6. In your opinion, which of the following scenarios might justify a request for assisted suicide?

	Fully agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Fully disagree	Undecided
People with an incurable illness who suffer from unbearable psychological and physical pain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People in the final stages of a terminal illness who know they will experience intolerable pain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People whose death is imminent and inevitable. Though their physical pain is treatable, they no longer wish to live.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People with a degenerative and incapacitating illness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People who are severely handicapped following an accident	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you have any other comments on this question?

7. Those in favor of legalizing assisted death (euthanasia, assisted suicide) typically invoke the arguments below. What is your opinion on each of them?

	Fully agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Fully disagree	Undecided
Palliative care cannot always relieve patients of unbearable pain and suffering. Assisted death may therefore provide a solution.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The fact that assisted death is illegal may encourage artificial prolongation of life.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If euthanasia were legal, there would be less suicide among the elderly.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The current legislative framework does not reflect clinical realities. This causes confusion among healthcare professionals and the public. Changes to legislation are therefore necessary.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Since it is legal for a person to refuse or request an end to treatment, even if it results in death, it should be legal to request assisted death.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People have free will and should ultimately be able to decide when and how to die if their quality of life becomes intolerable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Legal oversight would prevent people from choosing assisted death in secret.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you have any other comments on this question?

8. Those who disagree with legalizing assisted death (euthanasia, assisted suicide) typically invoke the arguments below. What is your opinion on each of them?

	Fully agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Fully disagree	Undecided
Doctors will not do everything possible to keep patients alive.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Legislation is not necessary as only a tiny minority of the ill will request legalized assisted death.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human life is sacred and there is no justification for ending it intentionally.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sick and elderly individuals worried about being a burden to their loved ones may request assisted death.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assisted death legislation may hinder government efforts to provide the necessary level of support to the seriously ill and dying.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The criteria for assisted death requests would not always be respected.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A dying person is incapable of making a free and informed decision.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you have any other comments on this question?

9. If euthanasia or assisted death had to be legalized, which would you choose?

- a) Euthanasia
- b) Assisted suicide
- c) Undecided

Do you have any other comments on this question?

10. Do you think that society as a whole supports or opposes the legalization of euthanasia?

- a) Supports
- b) Opposes
- c) Undecided

Do you have any other comments on this question?

11. In your opinion, should lawmakers take society's views into account when considering the legalization of euthanasia?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Undecided

Do you have any other comments on this question?

12. Do you think that society as a whole supports or opposes the legalization of assisted suicide?

- a) Supports
- b) Opposes
- c) Undecided

Do you have any comments on this question?

13. In your opinion, should lawmakers take society's views into account when considering the legalization of assisted suicide?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Undecided

Do you have any other comments on this question?

14. Have you read the Committee's consultation document on the issue of dying with dignity?

- a) Yes
- b) No

Do you have any other comments on the topic of dying with dignity?

The members of the Select Committee on Dying with Dignity would like to thank you for sharing your opinions through this online consultation. Rest assured that your opinions will be taken into account. Please visit the National Assembly website for information on the Committee's progress.