



**CAMBRIDGE RIGHT TO LIFE**  
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OFFICE HOURS  
Monday – Wednesday 9:30- 2:30  
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January 29, 2016

MPP Kathryn McGarry  
498 Eagle Street North  
Cambridge, ON N3H 1C2

Dear MPP McGarry,

Yesterday marked the 28th anniversary of the day the Supreme Court of Canada struck down Canada's abortion law which took away all legal protection for children in the womb. Although the Court urged politicians to establish a new abortion law to regulate the procedure, no politician or political party has brought forward any such legislation in the past twenty-eight years. **Since then, over two million babies have been killed in the womb as a consequence of this neglect.** This brings the death toll by abortion to a staggering 4.8 million children since 1969 in our country. We mourn the loss of each of these lives and we boldly represent their voices today!

The pro-life movement has long foreseen the effects of abortion on our country and province: any society that kills its most precious resource, its pre-born citizens, is not above killing those whom they deem 'defective', or have no 'quality of life' or who are seen as a 'burden' on the health care system.

As you know, in February of 2015, the Supreme Court of Canada struck down Canada's assisted suicide laws. The Court gave Parliament a year to respond with legislation, which thankfully has been extended another four months.

While these issues are federally mandated, regulatory measures fall under provincial jurisdiction. We believe there is much the provincial government can do to restore a respect for human life and bring dignity to all.

We understand that the Ontario Government established an "expert panel" on euthanasia and assisted suicide in conjunction with many provinces and territories. Notwithstanding of the fact that the panel is biased with assisted death proponents, many pro-life groups have expressed their disappointment with the recommendations of the Advisory Group.

It is particularly concerning that many of the 43 recommendations are similar to the euthanasia laws in countries such as Belgium and the Netherlands. These countries have documented problems with reporting and have expanded their category of patients eligible for assisted suicide or euthanasia to include children and people with non-life-threatening conditions.

We submit to you a list of what we find troubling about these recommendations (**see attached**) which are too lengthy for us to read to you today, not the least of which, include the suggestion that children with disabilities should have access to lethal injection, or that physicians who refuse to kill their patients must refer their patients to another physician, and forcing Ontario tax payers to fund so-called "medical" killing.

It is no accident that the push to offer assisted suicide and euthanasia to the public is occurring at a time when our aging population is struggling to access good-quality home care and palliative care services. The Honorable Health Minister, Jane Philpott recently stated, ***“There is some evidence that only 15 per cent of Canadians have access to high-quality palliative care when they need it.”*** This begs the question whether it is wise to offer assisted suicide and euthanasia to the public when our palliative care system is broken and underfunded.

We are sure that you, as a former nurse, would agree that our focus needs to be on prioritizing palliative care in our province and to implementing regulations and policies that ensure respect for the freedom of conscience of all health-care workers who will not and cannot accept suicide or euthanasia as a medical solution to pain and suffering.

**As our elected representative, we ask you to oppose assisted suicide and euthanasia because it violates the long-standing legal principle that all human life is inviolable and because the dangers to our vulnerable, the elderly, the sick, the dying and Canadians living with disabilities, are too great. We encourage you to demand that the Ontario government ensure Ontarians have universal access to ethical end of life care and pain management, not universal access to doctors willing to kill them or help them commit suicide.**

On behalf of the membership of Cambridge Right to Life, we thank you for meeting with us today.

Yours for Life,

Cambridge Right to Life