



FACT SHEET

Facts on Bill C-14

- Medical assistance in dying (MAiD) describes an instance of a medical or nurse practitioner administering or prescribing a substance to patient with an irremediable illness to cause death.
- Bill C-14 primarily set out to decriminalize medical assistance in dying (MAiD) by amending portions of the Criminal Code that otherwise prohibit it.
- Bill C-14 was an Act to amend the Criminal Code surrounding medical assistance in dying (MAiD)
 - This made specific personnel exempt from the offences of culpable homicide and assisting in suicide
 - These people include patients who meet the criteria for MAiD, medical professionals and pharmacists, and anyone else assisting the patient
- Bill C-14 consists of safeguards to prevent the misuse of medical assistance in dying such as:
 - A person requesting MAiD may withdraw their request at any time
 - There must be 10 clear days between the time that a person requests MAiD and the time that MAiD takes place
 - A person's request for MAiD must be made in writing and signed and dated
 - If they are unable to sign, someone eligible may sign for them
- If a medical or nurse practitioner knowingly fails to comply with the safeguards put in place by Bill C-14, they are guilty of an offence

Eligibility for medical assistance in dying (Section 241.2)

- (1) A person may receive medical assistance in dying only if they meet all of the following criteria:
- a) they are eligible — or, but for any applicable minimum period of residence or waiting period, would be eligible — for health services funded by a government in Canada;
 - (b) they are at least 18 years of age and capable of making decisions with respect to their health;
 - (c) **they have a grievous and irremediable medical condition;**
 - (d) they have made a voluntary request for medical assistance in dying that, in particular, was not made as a result of external pressure; and
 - (e) they give informed consent to receive medical assistance in dying after having been informed of the means that are available to relieve their suffering, including palliative care.



(2) A person has a grievous and irremediable medical condition only if they meet all of the following criteria:

- (a) they have a serious and incurable illness, disease or disability;
- (b) they are in an advanced state of irreversible decline in capability;
- (c) that illness, disease or disability or that state of decline causes them enduring physical or psychological suffering that is intolerable to them and that cannot be relieved under conditions that they consider acceptable; and
- (d) their natural death has become reasonably foreseeable, taking into account all of their medical circumstances, without a prognosis necessarily having been made as to the specific length of time that they have remaining.

Facts on CMHA's Position on Bill C-14

- The bill does not explicitly include or exclude mental illness in the eligibility criteria
- As a recovery-oriented organization, CMHA does not believe that mental illnesses are irremediable, though they may be grievous
- CMHA believes we should assist people to live and thrive before we assist them to die
- CMHA recommends the Government of Canada:
 - Support recovery by ensuring that recovery-oriented practices are implemented within our mental health and addictions system
 - Continue to invest in community mental health and addictions services and supports
 - Develop and fund the implementation of a national suicide prevention strategy
 - Invest in mental health and addictions research