

HISTORIC CARTER DECISION DELAYED

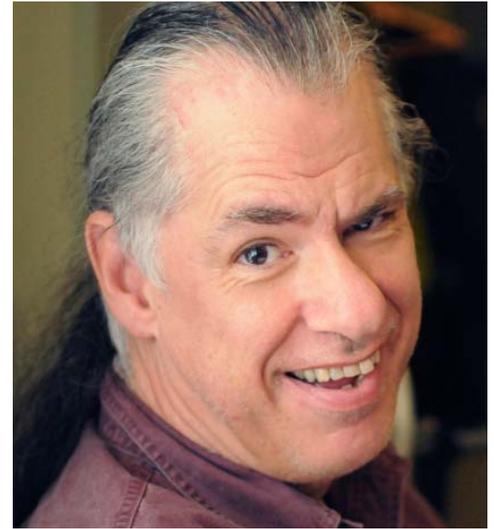
EPC PRESSES BC COURT OF APPEAL TO REVERSE ERRORS

Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (EPC), an intervenor in the assisted suicide case at the BC Court of Appeal, wants the BC Court of Appeal to reverse the errors in law made by Justice Lynn Smith in the *Carter* decision concerning assisted suicide and euthanasia in Canada.

EPC-BC Chair, **Dr Will Johnston**, organized a demonstration on the steps of the courthouse and was available for interviews.

Norman Kunc, a long-time disability rights activist will be speaking out against assisted suicide at Monday's courthouse demonstration.

Kunc has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair. He would like to share his story and his perspective on behalf of *Euthanasia Prevention Coalition*, and explain why 2012's *Carter* case will harm citizens with disabili-



Norman Kunc

See Errors page 4...

The BC Court of Appeal has postponed the Carter appeal due to the illness of the lead Crown lawyer.

The appeal of the *Carter* decision has been delayed for two weeks and will now be heard March 18 - 22.

MORE PHYSICIANS JOIN QUEBEC MOVEMENT AGAINST EUTHANASIA



Dr. Catherine Ferrier Dr. Marc Beauchamps Dr. Patrick Vinay

At the historic Musée des Hospitalières de l'Hôtel-Dieu de Montréal, the **Physicians' Alliance for Total Refusal of Euthanasia** called on their colleagues and the population at large to clearly sensitize them to the dangers of euthanasia and to the frailty of the consensus surrounding the future Quebec draft bill that would create the possibility of "medical aid in dying." The Alliance's declaration

is being broadcast in the news media and through social networking.

According to Dr Patrick Vinay, the director of a palliative care service and spokesperson for the Alliance, "euthanasia through lethal injection is not a form of care, but rather the definitive end of all care. Patients should never be forced to give up their right to be treated and cared for."

Drs Catherine Ferrier and Marc Beauchamp also took the floor, rejecting "a process through which physicians would lose all professional judgment and become legally bound to kill their patients on demand rather than to alleviate their suffering to the best of their abilities."

The Alliance wants to ensure that hospitals remain thoroughly secure healing environments, where no one will fear that their loved ones could be disposed of. The stakes in this draft bill are poorly understood and poorly defined, and they would bring about a substantial loss of rights both for patients and for health care professionals.

The Physicians' Alliance invites its colleagues to sign the declaration and the population at large to support

See Physicians page 4...

Euthanasia deaths in Belgium have increased yet again. The information in this Ins!ght is to be studied in conjunction with the graph at right.

- Recent government statistics indicate that the number of reported assisted deaths increased from 1133 in 2011 to 1432 in 2012, an **increase of 25%**.
- A study of 2007 euthanasia deaths, previously reported in this newsletter, measured the rate of assisted deaths performed without request, and confidently stated that **32% of the assisted deaths in 2007 were done without request**.
- The same studies measured the number of unreported euthanasia deaths, and confidently stated that **47% of the assisted deaths went unreported** that year in the Flanders region of Belgium.
- If the rates of mis-reporting have remained constant, the total number of euthanasia deaths in Belgium could exceed 2800, of which as many as 1000 could be unrequested.
- **“Official” euthanasia now represents 2% of all deaths** in Belgium. If the unreported deaths are as numerous as reported, euthanasia would account for 4% of all deaths.
- the people who died by euthanasia without request were usually: incompetent, did not have cancer, were over the age of 80, and living in a hospital. The same study indicated that these deaths represented “a vulnerable patient group.”
- Those doctors who admit to not reporting assisted deaths also usually do not follow the guidelines of the Belgian law. **73.1 % of the reported assisted deaths followed the guidelines** while only **12.3% of the unreported assisted deaths followed the euthanasia guidelines** in the Belgian law.

Belgian legislators intend to respond to the abuses of the euthanasia law by widening the definitions of the law to include **children with disabilities and people with dementia**. The proposed changes to the Belgium euthanasia law, combined with the lack of attempted prosecutions for abusing the Belgium euthanasia law, in conjunction with the massive increases in the number of euthanasia deaths, indicates that a slippery slope, also known as incremental extensions, has occurred in Belgium. Ins!ght continues on page 4.

Exposing Vulnerable People



to Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide

Alex Schadenberg

Learn more about the current practice and abuses of the Belgian and Netherlands euthanasia laws. This book will prepare you to oppose the legalization of euthanasia and assisted suicide.

The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (EPC) hopes that Belgian legislators reverse direction in their euthanasia experiment. If not, we hope that the rest of the world will recognize how legalized euthanasia and assisted suicide threatens the lives of citizens everywhere.

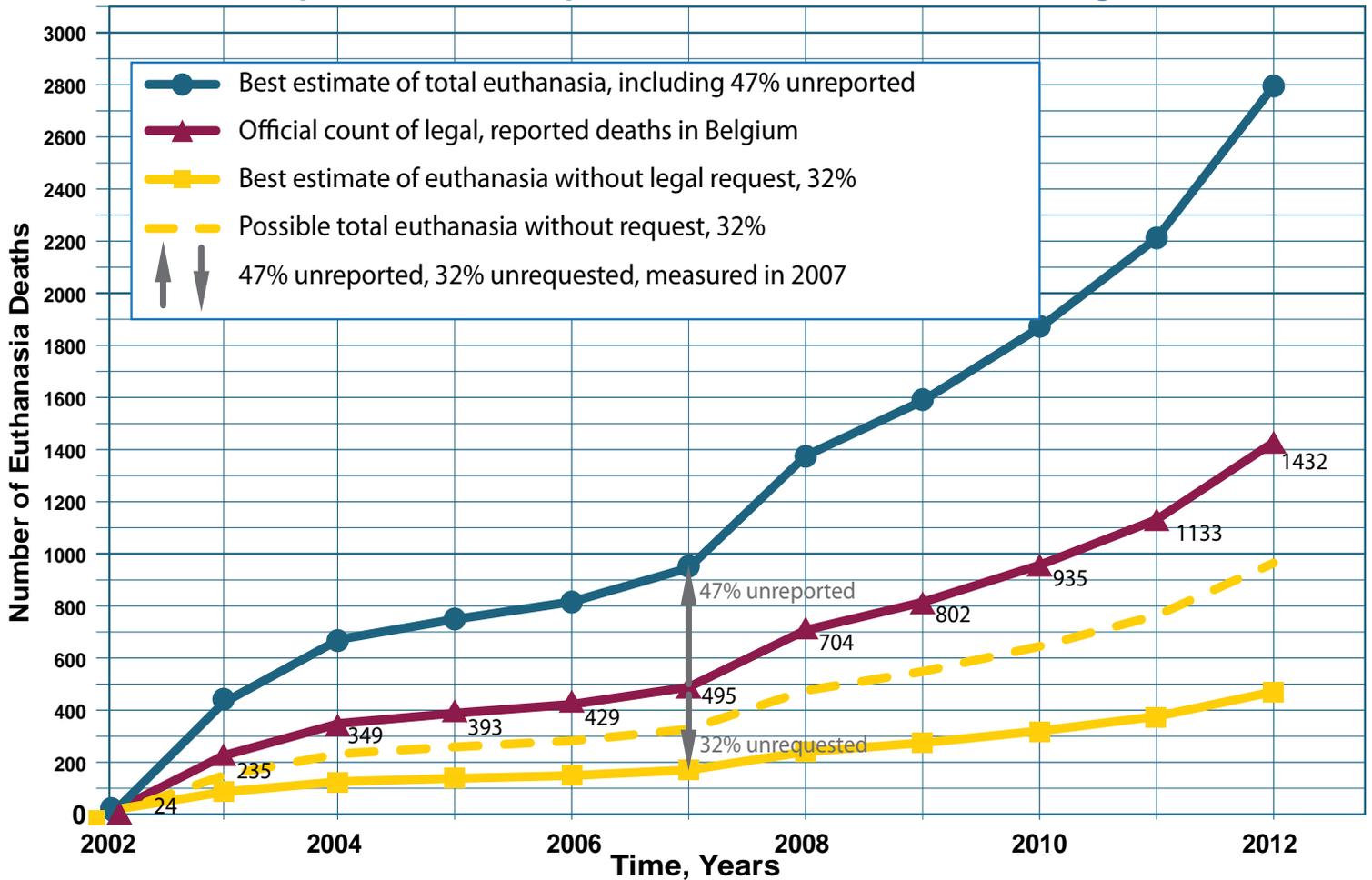
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Order the book today

1-877-439-3348 or email: info@epcc.ca.

\$50 for 3.....\$100 for 8.....\$200 for 20 copies

Reported and Unreported Euthanasia Deaths in Belgium



NEWS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

GREAT VICTORY IN MONTANA!!!

The Montana legislature passed House Bill (HB) 505 at third reading, by a vote of 51 to 46, a bill that clarifies the offense of aiding or soliciting suicide and prevents assisted suicide in Montana. HB 505 will now go to the Montana Senate for approval.

This is an incredible victory for the *Montanans Against Assisted Suicide*. It is also a tremendous victory for every American who cares about protecting vulnerable citizens.

The assisted suicide lobby falsely claimed that the *Baxter* court decision (2009) had legalized assisted suicide in Montana, when in fact it did not.

During the 2011 and 2013 legislative sessions, bills that would have legalized assisted suicide in Montana were defeated.

Bill HB 505 clarifies the offense of aiding or soliciting suicide and it protects people from assisted suicide in Montana.

EPC – EUROPE IS FOUNDED IN ROME.

On February 18, leaders of groups that oppose euthanasia and assisted suicide met in Rome to discuss current directions, to decide on our response to these issues on a world-wide basis and to choose a new leadership team for *EPC – International*.

On February 19, a larger group of similar leaders met to discuss the founding of *EPC – Europe*. They examined strategies to partner with other groups to turn the tide on euthanasia and assisted suicide in Europe.

A partnership between the *Care Not Killing Alliance – UK* and *EPC – International* enabled the group to establish a leadership team and to hire a part-time director.

Kevin Fitzpatrick, a leader of *Not Dead Yet – UK* has agreed to be the director. He has impressive leadership and research skills and is a capable debater.

We will keep you up-to-date on the progress of *EPC – Europe*.

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... Battle from page 1

ties. About one in seven Canadians have a disability.

EPC Executive Director, Alex Schadenberg, stated: "the *Carter* decision erred in several significant areas ... the judge came to her decision by falsely assuming that there is a 'right to suicide' in Canada." Schadenberg further explained: "the *Carter* decision misinterpreted the data from other jurisdictions that have legalized assisted death when it suggested that there is no significant risk to vulnerable patient groups. A recent study found that 32% of all assisted deaths in Belgium were done without request. The same study revealed that incompetent people who are over the age of 80 are vulnerable to dying by

an assisted death without request."

EPC legal counsel, Hugh Scher, stated: "EPC is concerned about the safety, security and equality of people with disabilities and seniors, which is central to the protections set out under our Charter of Rights and Freedoms and our Criminal Code."

EPC-BC chair, Dr. Will Johnston, expressed his concern that legal assisted suicide is already being extended to those who are not terminally ill in jurisdictions where it is practiced. "People have lost months and years of life after being steered to suicide by its availability."

Johnston also stated: "Elder abuse, is already difficult to detect, would be no easier to combat when a suicide offer is always dangling before a vulnerable older person. Giving legal

immunity to those who would provide suicide does not make our loved ones safer."

For more information, contact Alex Schadenberg at 877-439-3348.

... Physicians from page 1

its stance by visiting its Web site, www.caringalways.com.

The Physicians' Alliance for Total Refusal of Euthanasia includes to this day 317 members who consider that any law allowing physicians to intentionally terminate the life of their patients is contrary to the goals of medicine and to patients' well-being. Such legislation puts patients at risk, particularly the weak, the vulnerable and those who cannot raise their voices to defend themselves.

Insight

It is feared that the proposed changes to the euthanasia law may effect the freedom of conscience for health care workers in Belgium. Consider the following: a woman with anorexia nervosa recently died by euthanasia; a man wrote that his depressed mother died by euthanasia; belgian twins who were born deaf were euthanized out of fear of blindness; and Belgium is experimenting with euthanasia/organ donation. A recent 10-year report of the Belgian euthanasia law, done by the European Institute of Bioethics, found:

- While a written declaration of a desire for euthanasia is required, either by the patient or a surrogate, the Commission often waives this obligation.
- Initially, patients requesting euthanasia had to have a life-threatening and incurable illness. Nowadays, the illness need only be serious and debilitating.
- Initially, euthanasia was limited to patients with "unbearable, unremitting and unrelievable" pain. The Commission, says the IEB, has 'decided not to carry out its mission, so central to the law, of verifying the unbearable and unrelievable nature of the suffering'.
- The ambit of 'psychological suffering' is ever-expanding.
- Doctor-assisted suicide is not authorized by 2002 legislation. However, the Commission has ignored this and regularly signs off on such cases.
- For euthanized at home, the doctor is supposed to fetch the lethal medications from a registered pharmacist and to return left-over drugs. In practice, family members often get the drugs; unqualified personnel hand them over; and no checks have ever been made about surplus drugs.'