

QUÉBEC'S EUTHANASIA BILL TEMPORARILY DEAD

Québec's Premier Pauline Marois [called an election](#) for April 7, causing the Québec euthanasia bill to be temporarily dead.

The PQ government currently has 54 of 125 seats in the Québec National Assembly. Recent polls indicate that the Québec separatist government, under Premier Marois, may not do well in this election.

The Québec government had promised to vote on the euthanasia Bill 52 before leaving for their break but the Québec National Assembly left for a break before voting on the euthanasia bill.

- Bill 52 gave Québec doctors the right to lethally inject their patients when they are physically or psychological suffering.
- Bill 52 did not limit euthanasia to terminally ill people. The bill stated that a person must be "at the end of life" but the bill did not define end of life. Bill 52 allowed euthanasia for psychological suffering, which wasn't defined.
- Bill 52 defined killing by lethal injection as "health care" in order to avoid the Criminal Code protections from euthanasia.



- Bill 52 targeted people with disabilities. Bill 52 stated that a person must be in "an advanced state of irreversible decline in capability." Since Bill 52 did not define "end of life," euthanasia could be extended to people with disabilities.

Bill 52 was unconstitutional and would have been challenged in the court.

Bill 52 was imprecise and open to abuse.

Bill 52 was lethal.

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO INCREASING PALLIATIVE CARE TRAINING

The *Pallium Foundation of Canada* received the first installment of a 3-year commitment from the federal government of 3 million dollars per year for palliative care training in Canada.

The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (EPC) supports the goals of the *Pallium Foundation* as essential to building greater access to excellent [palliative care](#) in Canada.

The Hon Rona Ambrose, Minister of Health, stated:

"Our Government understands the very difficult challenges faced by Canadian families when they are caring for loved ones who need palliative care. This federal support will equip more front-line care providers with the knowledge they need to deliver quality palliative care, in a range of settings, so patients can receive the on-going care they need and deserve."

"We will continue to work with the provinces and territories, as well as groups like the Pallium Foundation of Canada, to ensure that Canadians receive the compassionate care they need."

Kathryn Downer, National Director of the *Pallium Foundation of Canada*, stated:

"It is essential that palliative and end-of-life care education be standardized and accessible for all health care providers to increase capacity and to promote a consistent level of quality palliative care throughout Canada"

Dr. Jose Pereira Scientific, Director of the *Pallium Foundation of Canada*, stated:

"This funding will go a long way to improve the quality of hospice and palliative care in Canada."

NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL OVERWHELMINGLY DEFEATED



On March 6, Nancy Elliott, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition - International board member and a former three-term New Hampshire state representative who led the campaign to defeat the assisted suicide bill in New Hampshire, [announced its defeat](#).

Nancy Elliott posted the following message:

“Some of you may have heard that HB 1325 for Assisted Suicide was defeated 219 to 66, by the New Hampshire House of Representatives. It went down in flames. This was the last of three bills and the most direct one promoting assisted suicide. We will continue to be protected from Assisted Suicide in New Hampshire for this session.

I would like to thank the Representatives who helped us, especially Representative Lennette Peterson and

Representative Dan McGuire, who spoke in favor of killing this bill on the house floor.”

This is the third time an assisted suicide bill was defeated in New Hampshire since 2010. On March 16, 2011 HB 513 was defeated by 234 to 99. On January 13, 2010 HB 304 was defeated by 242 to 113.

HB 1325 was overwhelmingly defeated because the talking points were based on the actual language of the bill and because everyone, not just people from New Hampshire, worked together to contact legislators and lobby against the bill.

Thank you to Seattle attorney Margaret Dore, the leader of *Choice is an Illusion*, who helped develop effective talking points based on the language of the bill. Thank you to *Not Dead Yet* and other disability groups for effectively opposing this dangerous bill.

CONNECTICUT ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL LIKELY DEAD



The *Record Journal* in Connecticut [reported](#) on March 18 that the assisted suicide bill is unlikely to go to a vote this year. Rep. David Zoni, D-Southington, a health committee member stated:

“I don’t see a lot of strong support for it.”

“While Zoni received more than 1,000 emails on the issue, he felt the e-mails from bill opponents appeared less manufactured. Emails in support of the “right to die” had similar wording and identical subject lines.”

Rep. Al Adinolfi, R-Cheshire, a certified hospice volunteer, has seen how some families are looking for ailing relatives to die. He said:

“Allowing suicide as an option could be misused.”

“A person could be convinced what the option is by a selfish family.”

“Medication changes every day,” he said. “We could make a mistake and take a life when we shouldn’t.”

The *Hartford Courant* reported that the assisted suicide lobby group, Compassion & Choices, has spent out-of-state money to promote assisted suicide in Connecticut. The article stated:

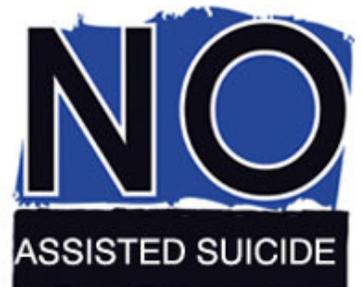
“The national advocacy group Compassion & Choices has enlisted the help of professional organizers, media strategists and lobbyists to marshal public support in Connecticut for the aid in dying movement. The group has spent \$189,593 on lobbying, including \$65,000 on paid media, over the past 14 months, according to a report filed with the Office of State Ethics.”

On March 14, The *Connecticut Mirror* reported that Governor Daniel Malloy is unlikely to support

the assisted suicide bill. Governor Malloy said:

“I then became a little uneasy when it comes to saying that as a matter of state policy, that we’re going to take proactive actions to end life.”

A comprehensive poll on attitudes toward assisted suicide found that the majority of Connecticut residents do not support assisted suicide. The poll of 1000 Connecticut residents that was done March 6 - 9 found that: 55% believe a doctor should not prescribe or provide life-ending drugs, but instead should manage the illness or be allowed to remove a respirator or other medical interventions so nature can take its course.



USA UPDATE

NEW MEXICO

New Mexico Attorney General appealed assisted suicide court decision.

On March 12, after a successful lobbying effort by the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (EPC), Gary King, the New Mexico Attorney General, [appealed the activist lower court decision](#) that undermined protections for New Mexico citizens from assisted suicide.

On, January 13, 2014, Judge Nan Nash of the Second Judicial District in New Mexico legislated from the bench allowing New Mexico doctors to prescribe lethal drugs to assist the suicide deaths of their patients in the case *Morris v. New Mexico*.

Morris v. New Mexico, which was heard December 12 - 13, 2013, should have been dismissed.

The case claimed that “aid in dying,” which is also known as assisted suicide, is not prohibited by New Mexico’s assisted suicide law. The case also argued, that if “aid in dying” is assisted suicide, then New Mexico’s assisted suicide law is unconstitutional because it undermines the right to privacy and autonomy.

But “aid in dying” is assisted suicide and assisted suicide does not constitute medical treatment. Therefore, prohibiting assisted suicide does not undermine the right to privacy or autonomy.

The *Albuquerque Journal* reported on March 13 that Attorney General King was concerned with the integrity of the law. King said:

“Our position is we’re defending the integrity of the statute. If people are interested in changing state law, they should propose new legislation.”

EPC thanks everyone who contacted Gary King by email, phone and through the online petition.

MINNESOTA

Minnesota Supreme Court [upheld ban](#) on assisting suicide but declared ban on encouraging suicide unconstitutional.

Reversing the conviction of ex-nurse William Melchert-Dinkel, for urging two people to kill themselves, the Minnesota Supreme Court on March 19 rejected the state’s ban on “encouraging” suicide but upheld the prohibition on “assisting” suicide.

The court said that the state law’s language prohibiting someone from assisting a suicide doesn’t violate the U.S. Constitution’s free-speech protections.

In 2011, Melchert-Dinkel was convicted of “advising and encouraging” the suicides of a man in England and a teenager in Canada; he had met both online. In finding the “advising and encouraging” language unconstitutional, the state’s high court sent the case back to Rice County District Court.

That court must determine if Melchert-Dinkel can be prosecuted for “assisting” the two suicides, a question it did not rule on previously. Justice Alan Page offered the sole dissent in ruling.

Melchert-Dinkel’s one-year prison sentence had been on hold until the Supreme Court’s the ruling.



Nadia Kajouji

Melchert-Dinkel, 51, was convicted on two counts of aiding suicide in the deaths of Mark Drybrough, 32, of Coventry, England in 2005, and Nadia Kajouji, 18, of Brampton, Ontario, who died in Ottawa in 2008.

Melchert-Dinkel’s attorney argued that the state law, which targets anyone who “intentionally advises, encourages, or assists another in taking the other’s own life,” interfered with free-speech rights.

Prosecutors argued that his speech wasn’t protected and that he played an integral role in the deaths, including giving step-by-step instructions to severely depressed people he sought out online.



MASSACHUSETTS

Assisted Suicide [Bill H1998](#) in Massachusetts appears to be dead.

The *Associated Press* reported on March 18 that:

“The Public Health Committee recommended the assisted suicide bill be sent to a study committee, a common way of essentially ensuring no action will be taken before the end of the formal session.”

On November 6, 2012, Massachusetts’ citizens defeated Ballot Question 2 (assisted suicide) by a vote of 51.1% to 48.9%; a close vote indicated that the majority of Massachusetts citizens oppose the legalization of assisted suicide.



Harry Lamb
Sales Representative
Sutton Group Preferred Realty
London ON • 519-471-8888

Place Your Ad Here
Call Our Office
Reach Our Readers
London ON • 1-877-439-3348

Michael A. Menear, Lawyer
Menear, Worrad and Associates
100 Fullarton Street
London, Ontario • 519-672-7370

First National (USA) Symposium On Euthanasia And Assisted Suicide

The First National Symposium on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide is on **May 2 - 3, 2014** at the **Ramada Plaza Hotel** in **Minneapolis** (\$85 per night - mention Human Life Alliance event, to book a room call 612-331-1990).

American groups and individuals that oppose euthanasia and assisted suicide need to attend this groundbreaking conference.

Speakers include: Bobby Schindler (Life & Hope Network), Nancy Elliott (three-term New Hampshire State Rep), Alex Schadenberg (EPC) and more.

Register online at: www.imposeddeath.org or call **651-484-1040**. May 2-3 Conference: \$50 (begins May 2 at 7 pm). May 2 Leadership Seminar: \$30 or Patient Advocacy Training: \$20 (1-5pm).

Disability Rights Leadership Institute On Bioethics

The Disability Rights Leadership Institute on Bioethics (DRLIB) **April 25-26, 2014** at the **Crystal City Marriott Hotel** in **Arlington, Virginia** (**\$139 per night by calling: (703) 413-5500** by April 3).

Disability rights advocates will gather for two days on learning, discussion and advocacy training on the key bioethics issues facing the disability community.

Speakers include: Dr. Kevin Fitzpatrick (Director, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition - Europe), Diane Coleman (President of Not Dead Yet), Marilyn Golden (Disability Rights Education & Defense) and more.

Registration deadline is March 28. Cost \$175.

Registration and more information online at: www.notdeadyet.org

Australia Judge Decides Man Can't Inherit After Assisted Suicide

On March 21, the **Queensland Australia** Chief Justice, Paul de Jersey, decided that Merin Nielson, convicted of assisting suicide of his friend, Frank Ward, cannot inherit from his will.

Ward died by assisted suicide in 2009. Nielson, who was convicted of assisting the suicide in February 2012, was sentenced to three years but was released in August 2012 after serving 6 months in jail. The *Herald Sun* reported:

"In 2012 ex-teacher Merin Nielsen became the first Queenslander convicted of assisted suicide, for helping his friend Frank Ward, 76, kill himself at Clayfield in 2009."

Mr Ward made Nielsen his executor and sole beneficiary of his estate before committing suicide with a drug Nielsen brought back from Mexico.

Chief Justice Paul de Jersey ordered Mr Ward's estate be distributed to his four surviving relatives, who all live overseas. The *Herald Sun* reported that prior to this decision:

"Only those convicted of murder or manslaughter had previously been barred from benefiting from an estate if named as executors or beneficiaries in their victim's will."

Russia To Ban Child Adoption For Belgians

Russian officials have come up with a proposal to ban **child adoption** by citizens of countries where child euthanasia is permissible. Russian MPs have proposed to put a ban on child adoption by citizens of countries where the euthanasia of underage children is allowed. Larisa Pavlova, the Chairwoman of the board of Directors of the Parents Committee, shares the opinion of the Russian MPs:

"It is high time that we not only make friends but also appreciate the condition of the society we plan to contact with. Therefore, we can say that the society which officially favours murdering of children is unhealthy."

Russia has decided to protect its citizens from euthanasia. People will often adopt children with disabilities. Russia has made a good decision to protect Russian children from being adopted by citizens of countries that allow euthanasia of children.

