



Euthanasia Prevention COALITION

Dear Friends:

July 23, 2014

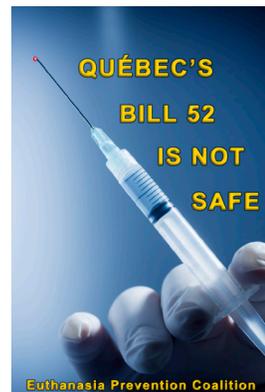
On June 5, the Québec National Assembly passed euthanasia Bill 52 into law. This was a tragic day, but we knew that several legal experts were convinced that Bill 52 was unconstitutional. The battle is not over.

On Thursday, July 17, a legal challenge to the euthanasia provisions in Bill 52 was launched by *Vivre dans la Dignité* (Living with Dignity) and the *Physicians' Alliance Against Euthanasia*. [The legal challenge](#) is based on the following:

1. It is unconstitutional to legalize euthanasia, which is a form of homicide, by defining it as "medical treatment." Homicide, which is part of the Criminal Code, is exclusively a federal matter. The Québec National Assembly does not have the power or jurisdiction to legislate on these matters.
2. The euthanasia provisions in Bill 52, unjustifiably infringe on the right to life and security of the person that is guaranteed by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
3. The provisions in Bill 52 that legalize euthanasia, infringe on the right to the safeguard of the dignity of the person, that is protected by the Québec Charter.

Vivre dans la Dignité and the *Physicians' Alliance* have asked the Québec court for an accelerated management of the case to ensure that a decision is made before the euthanasia law comes into force in Québec.

EPC supports this case and we plan to intervene in the Québec court in this important case.



The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (EPC) was also granted intervener standing in the **Supreme Court of Canada** (Carter) euthanasia case that will be heard on October 15, 2014. We intervened in this case at the lower court level, at the British Columbia Court of Appeal and now at the Supreme Court of Canada.

The Carter case states that the laws that protect Canadians from euthanasia and assisted suicide are unconstitutional because they create an inequality for people with disabilities who are unable to commit suicide without assistance. It would be a very dangerous precedent for the Supreme Court to uphold the lower court decision in Carter.

We estimate that our legal costs for the EPC intervention at the Supreme Court and in the Québec Court (Bill 52 case) in the next few months will be more than \$40,000. [Please consider making a donation to the EPC legal fund.](#)

The **National Euthanasia Symposium 2014** is being held on Saturday, October 4 (9 am - 4 pm) at the *Best Western Plus Ottawa-Gatineau Hotel* (1 km from downtown Ottawa) under the theme: [Uniting to Stop Euthanasia](#).

The speakers include: **Gerbert von Loenen** (Netherlands), author of a book on the Netherlands' euthanasia experience, **Kevin Fitzpatrick** - Not Dead Yet UK, **Amy Hasbrouck** - Toujours Vivant/Not Dead Yet, **Michel Racicot** - lawyer Physicians' Alliance (Québec), **Hugh Scher** - EPC legal counsel, **Nic Steenhout** - Living with Dignity (Québec), **Diana Ford** - who will speak about her father's death, and **Alex Schadenberg**, EPC - Executive Director.

The cost to attend the Euthanasia Symposium 2014 is **\$99** regular or **\$79** for a student or a person with a disability. You can book a night at the Best Western Hotel for \$120 per night by calling: 1-800-265-8550.

Please consider making a **\$79 donation** to enable a student or a person with a disability to attend the **Euthanasia Symposium 2014** at no cost. You can simply indicate that this is a donation on the Symposium registration form.

EPC is working with leaders from the Eastern US, who successfully defeated assisted suicide bills in New Hampshire, Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Jersey, to organize the **East Coast Conference Against Assisted Suicide**.

The conference is on Saturday, November 22 (8 am - 5 pm) at the Hartford Connecticut Double Tree Hotel - Bradley Airport. The conference features: Dr Tom Mortier - Belgium, Wesley Smith, Dr Kevin Fitzpatrick - Not Dead Yet UK, John Kelly - Not Dead Yet, Peter Wolfgang - Connecticut, Nancy Elliott New Hampshire, and more.



The registration fee will be \$99. The debate on the Falconer assisted suicide bill in Britain brought forth a renewed group of opponents to assisted suicide and it galvanized the leadership of the disability groups in the UK under the leadership of Not Dead Yet UK and Dr Kevin Fitzpatrick to staunchly oppose medical killing.

Dr Kevin Fitzpatrick will be speaking at the Euthanasia Symposium 2014 on October 4 in Ottawa-Gatineau.

Paralympian Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson and disability leader Baroness Jane Campbell took the debate to the floor of the House of Lords. Not Dead Yet UK organized a successful rally against the bill on the day of the debate. Several newspapers and media outlets were ignoring the opposition to assisted suicide but filed good reports during the debate.

A few days before the assisted suicide debate in Britain, **Professor Theo Boers**, a long-time supporter of euthanasia and a member of an euthanasia review committee for 9 years, was published in the *Daily Mail* newspaper (UK) titled: **“Don’t Make Our Mistake.”**

I contacted Theo Boers who said that he wrote an article for the *Daily Mail* that they only took quotes from. Boer then agreed to allow us to publish his full article on the [EPC Blog](#) titled: **Dutch Ethicist - “Assisted Suicide: Don’t Go There”** which has received an incredible number of hits and it has been reprinted world-wide.

An assisted suicide poll that was done before the debate in Britain found that, on the surface, 73% support assisted suicide. But after the participants in the poll were given more information about [why people oppose assisted suicide](#), the poll results changed to: 43% supporting assisted suicide, 43% opposing assisted suicide and 14% unsure.

Recent US polls prove that the outcome of assisted suicide polls are contingent on how the question is asked. A Gallup poll, in June 2014, used vague questions and found that 58% of Americans support assisted suicide while a Pew Research survey, in November 2013, used clear questions and found that 47% of Americans support assisted suicide.

Philip Nitschke, Australia’s Dr Death and euthanasia advocate, [lost his medical license](#) after Nigel Brayley (45) who was healthy, suicidal and being investigated for the murder of his wife, was given suicide information by Nitschke.

Last month, EPC was offered a \$2000 donation if we increased our regular monthly donors by \$2000. We have currently received almost \$800 in new monthly commitments. [Please consider becoming a monthly donor.](#)

For monthly donations of \$20 or more or for one-time donations of \$100 or more, EPC will send you (if you want it) a copy (English translation) of the historic German book: ***Allowing The Destruction Of Life Unworthy of Life***, written by Karl Binding and Alfred Hoche and originally published in 1920 that led to the German T4 euthanasia program.

Thank you for your continued support.
Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director / International Chair

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