

## PARLIAMENT HILL RALLY A SUCCESS

The June 1 rally on Parliament Hill was a success with almost 800 participants, excellent speeches and an eventful demonstration.



The rally began at 12:30 pm, after the chimes finished playing.

The rally featured speeches from: Alex Schadenberg—Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, Aubert Martin—Vivre dans la Dignité, Dr Catherine Ferrier—Physicians Alliance Against Euthanasia, Dr Paul Saba—Physicians for Social Justice, Amy Hasbrouck—Toujour Vivant Not Dead Yet, Barbara Dowding—CWL National President, Bishop Noël

Simard—Valleyfield QC, Senator Betty Unger, Senator Norm Doyle, Senator Tobias Enverga, Harold Albrecht MP, Bev Shipley MP, Garnet Genuis MP, Arnold Viersen MP, Peter Vogel—CHP and Nancy Elliott—EPC USA.

The rally was held the day after parliament passed Bill C-14 by a vote of 186 to 137. All of the members of parliament and senators expressed their total opposition to euthanasia and assisted suicide and expressed their support for improving care for all Canadians.

Bill C-14 debate in the Senate of Canada began on June 2. The senators all stated that they will do everything to amend the bill while opposing euthanasia and assisted suicide.

The rally ended with a 15-minute demonstration where more than 250 people joined a “Die-In.” The event was very successful even though the secular media boycotted the event.

## BILL C-14, IN ITS PRESENT FORM, MUST BE DEFEATED

By Alex Schadenberg

The House of Commons passed Bill C-14 on May 31 with a 186 to 137 vote. Canada’s Senate will begin to debate Bill C-14. The Senate has the power to amend and/or defeat the bill.

I appreciate the amendments to Bill C-14, An act to amend the Criminal Code and to make related amendments to other Acts (medical assistance in dying made by the House of Commons).

I recognize that conscience protection language has improved and some of the language of the bill was improved, but the most grievous sections of Bill C-14 were not amended.

If this bill passes, in its current form, the language of Bill C-14 will lead to significant growth of euthanasia. There will be many

stories that people will refer to as a “slippery slope.” Let me tell you now; these stories will not be the result of a “slippery slope” but rather they will be based on the fact that the language of Bill C-14 allowed these acts to occur.

The most grievous sections of the bill were not amended:

1. Bill C-14 continues to allow anyone to cause death by euthanasia or assisted suicide.

- Bill C-14 - Section 227(2) states: No person is a party to culpable homicide if they do anything for the purpose of aiding a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner to provide a person with medical assistance in dying in accordance with section 241.2.

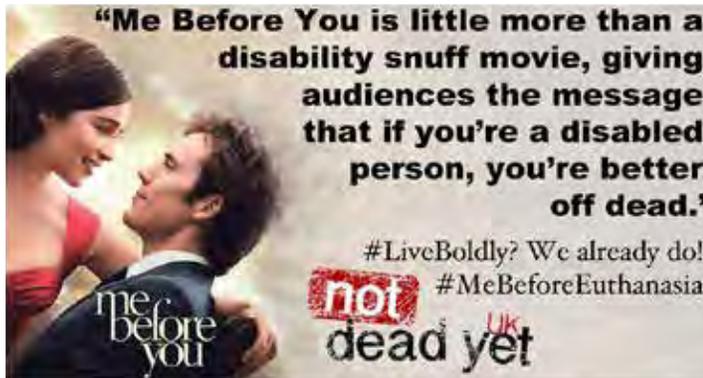
- Bill C-14 - Section 241(3) states: No person is a party to an offence under paragraph



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## PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES COMMENT ON ME BEFORE YOU

*Me Before You* has become one of the most controversial films of this decade, with protests, boycotts and many articles. Not Dead Yet organized protests outside of movie theaters, the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition asked its supporters to boycott the film and not give the makers of this movie our hard earned cash; nonetheless, the clearest voices have been disability leaders and activists world-wide.



John Kelly, the New England Regional Director for Not Dead Yet, who read the book, was reported by the *New Boston Post* as saying:

“After a new injury, people are very vulnerable, because suddenly you become part of a marginalized group,” And in terms of the film, “Only a disabled character could have their suicide presented as noble. Imagine if another character in the movie had killed themselves based on their own internalized depression.”

Dominick Evans was interviewed by Montgomery Jones. Evans is a movie director and critic. Evans stated:

The disability community is really worried about what this is going to say to a newly disabled person. No one is disputing how vulnerable it can be to go from being able to move physically and suddenly being disabled. It is a huge transition, and that is why a lot of rehabilitation centers look for anxiety and depression, because those things need to be treated. If a person is non-disabled and they are suicidal, we do everything in our power to give them a reason to want to live. Why are we not seeing the same level of care and concern for disabled people? Why is it just accepted without question that disabled people should be allowed to kill themselves, and why is there this default belief that disability = suffering? We deserve just as much right to suicide prevention as any other person.

When I was 19 years old because of years of systemic abuse and oppression which I endured from my family, my school, and my community as a disabled person, and as an

LGBT person, I tried to kill myself. I am so grateful today that I did not make it through the process. I hear this over and over from my disabled friends who have tried to kill themselves. Many of us become depressed because of how we are treated by society, especially when it is our families, and other loved ones. That depression needs to be treated, and disabled people are not receiving that kind of care.

Consider the comments by Ella Frech, a soon to be 12 year old who is a wheel chair athlete who wrote an article for *Aleteia.org*. Frech says:

Well, what’s wrong with a life that looks like mine?

My mom says this isn’t the first movie where a handicapped person had to die for being paralyzed. There was one called *Million Dollar Baby* where a woman is a quad and bravely chooses death instead of an imperfect life.

So I’m asking you again, what’s wrong with my life? Why do you think I should want to die?

You sit there with your able bodies, and look at people in chairs and think you feel pity for our sad little lives, but the truth is you’re afraid. You don’t want to imagine that you might be one of us one day. You think you can be perfect, and think you’d rather die than have parts that don’t work right. I think that’s sad.

Legalizing euthanasia and assisted suicide immediately creates a cultural paradigm - whereby some people are deemed worthy of life and others are deemed unworthy.

### ASSISTED SUICIDE LOBBY PUSHES IN MORE STATES

On June 9, assisted suicide officially becomes legal in California. Last year, the assisted suicide lobby was unable to get the assisted suicide bill passed during the regular session, so they took advantage of a “special session” to push assisted suicide through the California House and Senate without requiring the normal process.

In the past few months, the assisted suicide lobby has focused on pushing an assisted suicide bill through the New York legislature.

Seattle lawyer, Margaret Dore, recently analyzed the New York assisted suicide bill and was shocked by how the language of the bill actually reduces patient rights.

## WOMAN IN HER 20'S, WHO WAS SEXUALLY ABUSED, DIES BY EUTHANASIA IN THE NETHERLANDS



The 2015 Netherlands euthanasia report that was recently released states that there were 5561 reported euthanasia deaths in 2015, up from 5306 in 2014, there were 109 reported euthanasia deaths for dementia, up from 81 in 2014, and there were 56 reported euthanasia deaths for psychiatric reasons, up from 41 in 2014.

Shockingly, a woman who died by euthanasia for psychiatric reasons in 2015 was in her 20's and had been sexually abused.

The *Daily Mail* news reported:

*The woman, in her twenties, was given a lethal injection after doctors and psychiatrists decided that her post-traumatic stress disorder and other conditions were incurable.*

*It went ahead despite improvements in the woman's psychological condition after 'intensive therapy' two years ago, and even though doctors in the Netherlands accept that a demand for death from a psychiatric patient may be no more than a cry for help.*

*The woman, who has not been named, began to suffer from mental disorders 15 years ago following sexual abuse, according to the papers released by the Dutch Euthanasia Commission.*

The *Daily Mail* reported that the Netherlands' government released information to prove that the case fulfilled the requirements of the law. According to the *Daily Mail* report:

*The woman had post-traumatic stress disorder that was resistant to treatment. Her condition included severe anorexia, chronic depression and suicidal mood swings, tendencies to self-harm, hallucinations, obsessions and compulsions.*

*She also had physical difficulties and was almost entirely bedridden. Her psychiatrist said 'there was no prospect or hope for her. The patient experienced her suffering as unbearable.'*

However, the papers also disclosed that two years before her death, the woman's doctors called for a second opinion, and on the advice of the new doctors, she had an intensive course of trauma therapy. 'This treatment was temporarily partially successful,' the documents said.

The patient, they said, was 'totally competent' and there was 'no major depression or other mood disorder which affected her thinking.' A final GP's report approved the 'termination of life' order and the woman was killed by an injection of lethal drugs.

In 2010, there were 2 reported cases of euthanasia for psychiatric reasons in the Netherlands and in 2015 there were 56 reported cases.

A recent study examined 66 cases of euthanasia for psychiatric reasons between 2011 and 2014 in the Netherlands.

Canada's Bill C-14, that is being debated in the senate, would legalize euthanasia for physical and psychological suffering. The concept of euthanasia should be disturbing, but the concept of euthanasia for psychiatric reasons should be considered unthinkable.

## EPC-USA LAUNCHED IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Nancy Elliott officially became the Chair of EPC-USA, which was launched at its leaders' meeting in Washington, D.C.

Nancy is a former three-term New Hampshire representative who became a leader in opposing assisted suicide when she led the opposition to a New Hampshire assisted suicide bill.

Catherine Glenn Foster is the acting executive director. Catherine intervened in every assisted suicide court case in the past several years as a lawyer for her previous employer.

The May 23 leaders' meeting featured speakers: Alex Schadenberg, Nancy Elliott, Catherine Glenn Foster, Stephen Mendolsohn, Amy Hasbrouck and Peter Wolfgang.



Catherine Glenn Foster



Nancy Elliott

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(1)(b) if they do anything for the purpose of aiding a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner to provide a person with medical assistance in dying in accordance with section 241.2.

• Bill C-14 - Section 241(5) states: No person commits an offence under paragraph (1)(b) if they do anything, at another person's explicit request, for the purpose of aiding that other person to self-administer a substance that has been prescribed for that other person as part of the provision of medical assistance in dying in accordance with section 241.2.

Nowhere in the world is legal immunity given to anyone who does anything for the purposes of assisted dying. These sections must be struck from the bill.

2. Bill C-14 continues to provide medical practitioners or nurse practitioners total immunity for decisions that contravene Bill C-14.

• Bill C-14 - Section 241.3 states: Before a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner provides a person with medical assistance in dying, the medical or nurse practitioner must: (a) be of the opinion that the person meets all of the criteria set out in subsection (1);



• Bill C-14 - Section 227(3) states: For greater certainty, the exemption set out in subsection (1) or (2) applies even if the person invoking it has a reasonable but mistaken belief about any fact that is an element of the exemption.

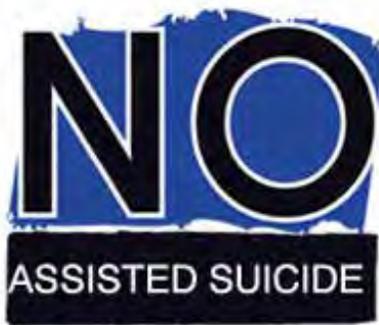
• Bill C-14 - Sections 241.3(a) and 227(3) make it impossible to penalize medical or nurse practitioners for approving or assisting a death that contravenes the law, since the bill only requires them to: "be of the opinion" that the person meets

all of the criteria of the law. This is the lowest possible standard and it protects doctors who approve and kill an incompetent person. Further to that, Bill C-14 provides no effective oversight of the law.

The Supreme Court of Canada in Carter approved assisted death based on: "a competent adult person who clearly consents to the termination of life."

Bill C-14 - Section 241.3(a), does not assure that the person is competent or clearly consents to the termination of life. Therefore Bill C-14 does not respect the language of Carter. Unless Section 241.3(a) is amended to ensure that the person meets all of the criteria set out in subsection (1), Bill C-14 will be struck down by a future court decision. Bill C-14, in its current form, must be defeated.

## HOSPITALS SAYING NO TO EUTHANASIA & ASSISTED SUICIDE



Recently, Covenant Health in Alberta announced that they will not be participating in euthanasia or assisted suicide. The Alberta Ministry of Health has responded by developing a transfer policy for patients at Covenant Health who are seeking death by euthanasia or assisted suicide.

Recently, a California hospital announced that they will not be participating in assisted suicide after June 9 when their assisted suicide law comes into effect. Huntington Memorial Hospital in Pasadena, California voted to not participate in assisting the suicides of their patients.

## ASSISTED SUICIDE THREATENS MILITARY VETERANS

New Hampshire Representative Al Baldasaro gave an impassioned speech on May 11 against a proposed "study committee" to look at "end of life choices." Speaking on behalf of Veterans' PTSD/TBI Commission, he cited the fact that New Hampshire is facing an epidemic of suicides among veterans. Baldasaro said:

"What message are you sending to the community out there and all the good work every one of us has done to protect people from killing themselves? Now we want to make it easy?"

He said that opening the door to such a practice would have grave consequences for veterans at risk for suicide, and that even studying such a bill would threaten efforts to help veterans. He clearly states that euphemisms such as "aid in dying" don't change the fact that such laws promote suicide and threaten efforts to protect people from killing themselves.