



# ARCHDIOCESE *of* KINGSTON

6 November 2020

Dear Monsignor/Father/Deacon/Religious/Staff,

As you are aware, the Government of Canada has introduced legislation, Bill C-7, to expand the criteria for euthanasia, so that even more people will be eligible. This was triggered by a decision by a Quebec judge, who decided that the requirement that death be *reasonably foreseeable* is unconstitutional. If this clause is removed, persons with disabilities will be eligible for euthanasia even in circumstances where death is not *reasonably foreseeable*. The disability community in Canada is very concerned that this change will only add to the public perception that certain people's lives are not worth living. The Bill creates two classes of people in our country, those whose lives are worth living and those whose lives are not.

Secondly, Bill C-7 provides no conscience protection for health care professionals. It is important that we speak out for conscience protection for our doctors, nurses and other health care professionals who in good conscience cannot take any part in Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD).

The Bill received second reading on Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup> and was sent to committee. The committee's work is to decide if emendations should be made to the Bill. The federal government is rushing the process, telescoping the committee work to only three more sessions: one this week; Thursday, November 5, and two next week. Then Bill C-7 will be sent back to Parliament for third, and final reading, and a final vote within the week or two following. This very important issue is extremely time sensitive.

I would ask you to inform your parishioners through your email lists, flocknotes and/or announcements at this upcoming weekend's Masses, Nov. 7/8. On my behalf, please encourage your parishioners to contact their Members of Parliament as soon as possible. Attached please find a proposed draft of a letter which can be used as a starting point. Also attached please find some talking points proposed by Dr. Leonie Herx, the Chair of Palliative Care at Kingston General Hospital and Providence Care, which might assist in creating a more personal, emended letter to their Member of Parliament. This process can be very straight forward by going to [canadiansforconscience.ca/federal\\_government](http://canadiansforconscience.ca/federal_government). Parishioners need simply to type in their postal code. Their Member of Parliament will be filled in automatically. The draft example letter, attached below, will appear. This is an example only. Personalized, handwritten letters, using one or more of the talking points, are most effective. Form letters are often not even seen by Members of Parliament and usually are completely disregarded by them. Thus, I would encourage you and each of your parishioners to compose your own letter and place it in the mail so that the Members of Parliament are made aware of parishioners' stories, fears and opinions.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Michael Mulhall  
Archbishop of Kingston