CMA’s formal submission to the Federal External Panel on assisted dying
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy11750

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Documents

October 19, 1997

Dear Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chair, Ms. Chair,

I am writing on behalf of the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) to express our concern regarding the assisted dying issue and to suggest a possible way forward.

The CMA is a national, voluntary, non-profit, professional organization representing over 60,000 physicians in Canada. We are committed to advancing the health and well-being of Canadians through the provision of high-quality medical care and the promotion of health and wellness.

We understand that the Federal External Panel on assisted dying has been established to provide expert advice to the federal government on this complex and sensitive issue. We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this process.

The CMA believes that any legislation on assisted dying must be evidence-based and compassionate, ensuring that patients’ rights and dignity are protected.

We recommend the following approach:

1. Preparation of a national consensus statement:
   a. A multidisciplinary panel of experts from various fields (medicine, psychology, law, ethics, etc.) should develop a national consensus statement that outlines the necessary conditions for assisted dying.
   b. This statement should be based on the best available evidence and principles of medical ethics.

2. Public consultation:
   a. A comprehensive public consultation process should be conducted to gather feedback from all stakeholders, including patients, caregivers, and the public.
   b. The results of this consultation should inform the development of a national policy.

3. Implementation:
   a. Any legislation should prioritize patient autonomy and the provision of compassionate care.
   b. The process of assisted dying should be strictly regulated to ensure accountability and patient safety.

We believe that this approach will lead to a thoughtful and balanced legislation that respects the rights and dignity of all Canadians.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Chair, Federal External Panel on assisted dying

[Note: The text above is a sample submission and does not reflect the actual content of the CMA’s submission.]