



Life Matters



2016—Issue #1

This is the first issue of **"Life Matters"**. It is a continuation of the *'Life Guard'* Newsletter which brings to the attention of the Knights of Columbus membership and their families current issues that we face in Canada and Ontario surrounding Life matters such as Euthanasia, Abortion and the quality of life we experience during our Life.



Prayer for the Unborn

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
I love you very much. I beg
you to spare the life
of *(baby's name)* the
unborn baby that I have
spiritually adopted who is
in danger of abortion.

Say this prayer every day
for nine months to
save a baby's life!

Prayer of
Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

To help stop the anti-life push in the world at that time, the late Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen encouraged the spiritual adoption of an unborn baby. This is done by praying that one particular but unborn child's life will be spared from abortion and allowed to continue to live. To help accomplish this, it was recommended that an individual say the daily prayer for a period of nine months.

Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Patroness of the Pro-life Movement.

The image of Our Lady, given to St. Juan Diego (whose feast is Dec. 9), shows Mary as pregnant with Jesus.

The Aztec Indians, among whom this image circulated, practiced human sacrifice because they believed the gods were against them.

This image proclaimed the Gospel that "God is with us" (Emmanuel) and that therefore we can have the hope that gives us the courage to say "Yes" to life, just like Mary did.



Our Lady of Guadalupe
as she appeared to Juan Diego
December 9, 1531

It was my great privilege to be present for the Annual March for Life in Ottawa on May 12, 2016. The 4th Degree Knights of Columbus made an impressive statement as well as the large number of youth in attendance. It is encouraging to see young people engaged in these issues; they are our future! These young men may well be our future Knights!



All of these 'Life' groups that come together to give countless hours of their time and talent are to be commended. I urge all Knights to be supportive of these groups as they are the moral voice in our Society.



Alain Cayer, Ontario State Deputy

March for Life 2016 by Christian Elia, Pro-Life Director

As MPs get ready for a final round of debate on the government's proposed new physician-assisted dying law, pro-life supporters converged on Parliament Hill to "demand legal protection for children in the womb" at the annual March for Life Rally on Thursday May 12, 2016.

The event started with a Mass for the Unborn at St Theresa of the Child Jesus Church on Wednesday May 12th followed with a candlelight vigil to the Human Rights Monument which hosted uplifting music by pro-life musicians as well as a personal testimony from the group 'Silent No More Awareness'. It was a moving witness to the harmful effects on women who have had an abortion. If you are interested in having a speaker come to your Church, school, or community, please contact Angelina Steenstra, National Coordinator, Canada on their website www.silentnomoreawareness.org

Seen here in this picture is Supreme Treasurer, Michael O'Connor together with Knights of Columbus Canadian Supreme Directors, Larry Kustra and, Graydon Nichols In front of Parliament Hill addressing the crowd of 22,000 pro-life supporters.



State Deputy, Alain Cayer together with his wife, Sheryl and their four daughters walked in the March, along with a spectacular parade of 4th Degree Knights in their colourful regalia.

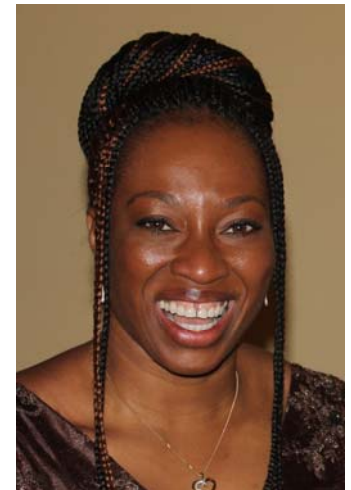


An estimated 22,000 individuals from across Canada took part; many of whom came by buses which had been sponsored by their local Knights of Columbus Councils. It was a great testimony to the conviction of the majority of our Canadian population who wanted to demonstrate their opposition to Abortion, as well as the C-14 Bill on Euthanasia (*more info in the following articles*).



Hundreds of Knights were on hand to volunteer giving their support and assistance to the March organizer, Campaign Life Coalition, by acting as Marshals throughout the event.

The Rose Dinner keynote speaker, Uji Ekeocha, founder and president of Culture of Life Africa spoke on how Canada is imposing a death sentence for Africa by using our tax dollars to fund overseas abortions.



Culture of Life Africa President
Uji Ekeocha



Theme of this year's March for Life
End the Killing

Euthanasia Bill C-14 claims to be strict, but uses meaningless language.

By Alex Schadenberg, - Euthanasia Chairman

Bill C-14, An Act to amend the Criminal Code and to make related amendments to other Acts (medical assistance in dying) was tabled on April 14, 2016 in the House of Commons.

In reality Bill C-14 fails to provide effective oversight of the law or conscience rights for healthcare professionals and provides legal immunity to anyone, who kills another. **There are significant problems with Bill C-14.**

1. **Bill C-14 does not provide effective oversight of the law.** The bill requires approval for euthanasia or assisted suicide by two independent physicians or nurse practitioners, without requiring before the death oversight from a third-party (judge or committee). The bill permits the doctor or nurse practitioners that approve the act to also do the act and then also report the act. There is no effective oversight of the law since the same person approves the death, does the injection and then reports the death.

2. Bill C-14 provides legal immunity to "any person" who directly participates in the act. Section 241(3) provides legal immunity to: *any person who does anything for the purpose of aiding a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner to provide a person with medical assistance in dying.* Section 685(9) provides legal immunity to: *anyone who does 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.* This bill is very dangerous by providing legal immunity to any person who is directly involved with killing another person.

It is unthinkable that legal immunity is given to anyone.

Bill C-14 provides the perfect cover for acts of murder.

3. The bill does not limit euthanasia and assisted suicide to people who are terminally ill. The bill defines terminal as: *their natural death has become reasonably foreseeable, taking into account all of their medical circumstances, without a prognosis necessarily having been made as to the specific length of time that they have remaining.*

What does it mean that natural death has become reasonably foreseeable? How will it be determined that a death is reasonably foreseeable when a prognosis is not necessary?

4. **The "safeguards" are an illusion.** Bill C-14 requires a medical or nurse practitioner to only: *be of the opinion that the person meets all of the criteria.* To "be of the opinion" is a very low standard. It will be impossible to prove that the medical or nurse practitioner was not of the opinion that the person met all of the criteria.

The bill requires a medical or nurse practitioner to only: *be satisfied that the request was signed and dated by the person or by another person under subsection (4).* To "be satisfied" is a very low standard.

When the person is unable to sign the request the bill allows anyone to sign the request. Section 4 states: *anyone can sign the request so long as they are: at least 18 years of age and who understands the nature of the request.*

Bill C-14 is like a Trojan horse because it claims to provide strict guidelines when they are in fact loosely defined.

5. **The bill does not provide conscience protection for medical or nurse practitioners.** Bill C-14 does not provide conscience protection for medical professionals who oppose killing their patients. Section 241.31 involves medical and nurse practitioners in the act by requiring them to: *send requests for euthanasia or assisted suicide to a "designated recipient" or the Minister of Health.*

Conclusion: Bill C-14 does not provide effective oversight of the law, it is not a harm reduction model, it does not provide safe spaces for people who are opposed to being killed by lethal injection and it does not provide conscience protection for medical professionals who oppose killing patients. Bill C-14 provides a cover for acts of murder by enabling "anyone" to directly participate in the act. Bill C-14 is dangerous for Canadians in their time

Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (EPC) is a national organization of groups and individuals who support caring measures while opposing euthanasia and assisted suicide. EPC has more than 25,000 supporters. For more information please contact:

Euthanasia Prevention Coalition - Box 25033, London ON N6C 6A8; Email: info@epcc.ca; Phone: 1-877-439-3348

Founded in 1985 as an independent lay organization the **Catholic Civil Rights League (CCRL)** is a national lay Catholic organization committed to combating anti-Catholic defamation, working with the media to secure a fair hearing for Catholic positions on issues of public debate, and lobbying government and intervening in court challenges in support of law and policy compatible with a Catholic understanding of human nature and the common good. The work of the CCRL is exclusively sustained through donations.

2305 Bloor Street West, Toronto, ON, M6S 1P1, Phone: 416-466-8244

Campaign Life Coalition (CLC) is the national pro-life organization working at all levels of government to secure full legal protection for all human beings, from the time of conception to natural death. We defend the sanctity of human life against threats posed by abortion, euthanasia, doctor assisted suicide, reproductive and genetic technologies, cloning, infanticide, eugenics, population control, and threats to the family. Campaign Life Coalition never compromises on basic principles, and encourages incremental policies that would increase respect and protection for human life.

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Mémoire de la Conférence des évêques catholiques du Canada

au Comité permanent de la justice et des droits de la personne concernant le projet de loi C-14, *Loi modifiant le Code criminel et apportant des modifications connexes à d'autres lois (aide médicale à mourir)*

Comme stipulé dans ses déclarations antérieures sur le sujet, la Conférence des évêques catholiques du Canada désapprouve entièrement et catégoriquement toute tentative de justifier ou d'appuyer le « droit » à l'aide médicale au suicide ou à l'euthanasie. Cette position est fondée sur l'enseignement immuable de notre Église, provenant du Christ lui-même, voulant que cette pratique soit toujours moralement inacceptable (cf. *Catéchisme de l'Église catholique* 2276-79; saint Jean-Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae* n° 66). Pour cette raison, le projet de loi C-14, qui légalise le meurtre de certaines catégories de personnes, est une loi fondamentalement injuste. De la perspective catholique, aucune modification ne pourrait justifier le mal inhérent qui sous-tend la prémisse derrière la législation proposée.

Bien que la législation elle-même soit intrinsèquement et gravement immorale pour les raisons susmentionnées, la version actuelle du projet de loi C-14 contient des caractéristiques particulières qui rendent la législation encore plus nuisible et dangereuse pour la société canadienne. Par exemple, elle ne prévoit aucune protection pour les professionnels de la santé qui refusent de coopérer dans la soi-disant « aide médicale à mourir » ou d'aiguiller demande, ni pour les pour des raisons religieuses ou de ou aux organismes professionnels de pharmaciennes et pharmaciens, de concevoir et d'appliquer de chaotique avec des règlements entraînerait la démission ou le Les hôpitaux sous les auspices de pourraient éventuellement devoir emploient des milliers de d'employés. Alors que notre pas moins, le gouvernement juridictions de second rang de faire consciencieux de leur profession.



refusent de coopérer dans la soi-disant « aide efficacement les patients qui en font la établissements qui refusent d'offrir le service conscience. Laisser aux législateurs provinciaux (p. ex., les collèges provinciaux de médecins, ou d'infirmières et infirmiers) la responsabilité telles protections résulterait en une situation contradictoires entre les provinces et renvoi de plusieurs professionnels de la santé. groupes religieux, la majorité catholiques, fermer leurs portes. Ces établissements médecins et des dizaines de milliers système de santé requiert plus de ressources, fédéral ne devrait pas permettre aux fuir les praticiennes et praticiens de la santé

Il est également déplorable que le vouloir limiter le mal potentiel que suicide, comme dans le critère naturelle d'une personne « est personne qui a réfléchi à son n'est pas seulement raisonnablement prévisible, elle est de fait inévitable. Cette « sauvegarde » ne protégera personne.

projet de loi C-14 échoue dans ses efforts de pourrait causer la légalisation de l'aide au énoncé au paragraphe 241.2(d) (que la mort devenue raisonnablement prévisible »). Toute existence mortelle sait que sa mort naturelle

L'enseignement de l'Église catholique et la position des évêques catholiques du Canada affirment le caractère sacré et la dignité de la vie humaine. Le suicide et l'euthanasie sont contraires à la profonde inclination naturelle de l'être humain de vivre et de préserver la vie. Par ailleurs, ils contredisent la responsabilité fondamentale des êtres humains de se protéger les uns et les autres, et d'améliorer la qualité des soins de santé et des services sociaux que chaque vie humaine mérite, de la conception à la mort naturelle.

Peu importe les modifications qui y seront apportées, le projet de loi C-14 est un affront à la dignité humaine, une érosion de la solidarité humaine, et un danger à toutes les personnes vulnérables – particulièrement les personnes âgées, handicapées, infirmes et malades qui sont souvent isolées et marginalisées. De plus, c'est une violation du sacro-saint devoir des professionnels de la santé de soigner, et de la responsabilité des législateurs et des citoyens de fournir et d'assurer une protection à tous, spécialement aux personnes les plus à risque. L'adoption du projet de loi C-14, déclenchée par la décision défaillante rendue dans la cause Carter, aura des répercussions dévastatrices sur la structure sociale de notre pays que nous ne pouvons prévoir aujourd'hui.

**Brief from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops
to the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights regarding Bill C-14,**

An Act to amend the Criminal Code and to make related amendments to other Acts (medical assistance in dying)

As clearly stated in its previous statements on this issue, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops absolutely and categorically disagrees with any attempt at justifying or supporting a “right” to assisted suicide or euthanasia. This is based on the unchanging teaching of our Church, derived from the teaching of Christ himself, that these practices are always inherently wrong (cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2276-79; St. John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae* n. 66). For this reason, Bill C-14, which legalizes the killing of certain categories of persons, is a fundamentally unjust law. From the Catholic perspective, no amendments could legitimate the inherent evil in the premises behind the proposed legislation.

While the legislation is itself intrinsically and gravely immoral for the reasons stated above, there are particular characteristics of the current draft of Bill C-14 which make it even more damaging and dangerous to Canadian society. For example, it contains no protections for health care workers who refuse to cooperate in so-called “medical assistance in dying” or to give an effective referral, nor to service for religious or conscientious reasons. Leaving such protections to provincial legislators or professional organizations (such as provincial colleges of physicians, pharmacists, or nurses) would result in a chaotic situation with conflicting rules between provinces and would effectively prompt the resignation or removal of many health care professionals. It could also potentially force the closure of hospitals operated under religious auspices, most of which are Catholic. These institutions employ thousands of physicians and tens of thousands of staff. At a time when our health care system requires more resources, not less, the federal government should not allow lower jurisdictions to drive health care practitioners from their professions.



It is also regrettable that Bill C-14 to limit the potential harm in the criterion enunciated in “natural death has become who has reflected on their own mortal existence knows that their own natural death is not only reasonably foreseeable, but indeed inevitable. This “safeguard” will protect no one.

fails in what appears to be an attempt caused by legalizing assisted suicide, as section 241.2(d) (that a person’s reasonably foreseeable”). Every person

The teaching of the Catholic Church and the stance of the Catholic Bishops of Canada affirm the sacredness and dignity of human life. Suicide and euthanasia are contrary to the most profound natural inclination of each human being to live and preserve life. Furthermore, they contradict the fundamental responsibility that human beings have to protect one another and to enhance the quality of health and social care which every human life deserves, from conception to natural death.

Bill C-14, no matter how it may be amended, is an affront to human dignity, an erosion of human solidarity, and a danger to all vulnerable persons – particularly the aged, disabled, infirm and sick who so often find themselves isolated and marginalized. Moreover, it is a violation of the sacrosanct duty of healthcare providers to heal, and the responsibility of legislators and citizens to assure and provide protection for all, especially those persons most at risk. The passage of Bill C-14, occasioned by the seriously flawed Carter decision, will have devastating effects on the social fabric of our country that cannot be predicted today.