

**From:** Ainslie, Peggy (HC/SC)

**Sent:** 2025-04-14 2:41 PM

**To:** Lebel, Melissa (HC/SC)

**Cc:** Lemaire, Jacquie (HC/SC); Kusch, Karen (HC/SC)

**Subject:** FW: For ADM approval: Media request for Canadian Affairs & Globe and Mail: MAID and mental illness

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Unclassified / Non classifié

I dug out the line. See the below email with the content. This was later refined to: Additionally, the Government of Canada recently undertook a national conversation on advance requests, with a summary report of the key outcomes planned for publication in spring/summer 2025.

@Lebel, Melissa (HC/SC), can you save this email chain with both versions of the line in our folder with media lines please?

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**From:** Harper, Sharon (HC/SC) <sharon.harper@hc-sc.gc.ca>

**Sent:** 2025-03-27 1:26 PM

**To:** Lawley, Sarah (HC/SC) <sarah.lawley@hc-sc.gc.ca>

**Cc:** Munro, Andrew (HC/SC) <andrew.munro@hc-sc.gc.ca>; Ainslie, Peggy (HC/SC) <peggy.ainslie@hc-sc.gc.ca>

**Subject:** FW: For ADM approval: Media request for Canadian Affairs & Globe and Mail: MAID and mental illness

Unclassified / Non classifié

Proposing this to address Cathy's points and speak specifically to both advance requests and mature minors. See highlighted section below.

Sharon

**Questions from Canadian Affairs:**

*The United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities just issued its concluding observations after Canada appeared before the committee earlier this month. The committee writes that it is "extremely concerned" about Track 2 MAID in Canada. It calls on Canada to repeal Track 2 MAID and the 2027 planned legalization of MAID when the sole medical condition is a mental illness. It also calls on Canada to not pursue MAID for mature minors as previously recommended or advance request for MAID as is being considered. Further, it calls on Canada to "establish and resource a federal independent oversight mechanism to monitor, regulate and handle complaints in relation to MAID."*

**Questions from Globe & Mail:**

*I'm writing on this new report today and was hoping Health Canada has comment on the findings of the attached report? Namely, will Canada repeal Track 2 for MAID? If not, why not?*

**Response for both outlets:**

Medical assistance in dying (MAID) is a matter of shared jurisdiction with provinces and territories. While the federal government sets the legal framework for MAID through the *Criminal Code*, provinces and territories are responsible for the management and delivery of health care in their jurisdiction, including end-of-life services such as MAID. Provinces and territories are also responsible for ensuring compliance with the requirements of the *Criminal Code* through oversight. Since the legalization of MAID in 2016, the majority of provinces and territories have developed their own oversight mechanisms suited to their local needs and delivery systems.

The legal framework for MAID, including Track 2, has been designed with safeguards to affirm and protect the inherent and equal value of every person's life. Every person requesting MAID must meet the strict legislative eligibility criteria outlined in the legislation, including having a serious and incurable medical condition, being in an advanced state of irreversible decline in capability and experiencing enduring and intolerable suffering related to their medical condition. Enhanced safeguards are in place for individuals who request MAID under Track 2 to provide additional protection. These include that the person must be informed of available and appropriate means to relieve their suffering, including counselling services, mental health and disability support services, community services, and palliative care, and must be offered consultations with professionals who provide those services. The person and the practitioners must have discussed reasonable and available means to relieve the person's suffering and agree that the person has seriously considered those means.

MAID is not currently legally permitted in Canada for persons whose sole underlying medical condition is a mental illness. On February 29, 2024, the Government of Canada passed legislation that provided an extension, until March 17, 2027, to the temporary exclusion of eligibility in circumstances where a person's sole underlying medical condition is a mental illness.

MAID is a complex and sensitive issue and people in Canada hold a broad range of perspectives, including on advance requests. That is why a national conversation was held from November to February 2025 to engage with patients, provincial and territorial governments, First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples, providers, stakeholders, and the public on advance requests for MAID, to hear their views and discuss advance requests using international and domestic research, studies, and examples. A report on the national conversation is expected in the coming months. There are no commitments to allow advance requests for MAID.

Canada's law on MAID requires that applicants must be 18 years of age or older in order to be eligible. There are no commitments to expand eligibility for MAID to mature minors.

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**From:** Harper, Sharon (HC/SC)  
**Sent:** 2025-03-27 12:44 PM  
**To:** Lawley, Sarah (HC/SC) <[sarah.lawley@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:sarah.lawley@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Ainslie, Peggy (HC/SC) <[peggy.ainslie@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:peggy.ainslie@hc-sc.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Munro, Andrew (HC/SC) <[andrew.munro@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:andrew.munro@hc-sc.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: For ADM approval: Media request for Canadian Affairs & Globe and Mail: MAID and mental illness

Thanks Sarah!

We are aiming to keep the response as factual as possible. As you point out, talking about the how the UN observation will be used would bring in either the 2026 Parl review and/or could make it look like we are binding a future government in other ways.

We will add something about the advance requests and about a report being expected in the coming months.

I don't advise that we add anything about mature minors that could even vaguely seem like that path is being considered, because the UN report observation erroneously suggests there is a proposal to expand MAID for mature minors (as well as advance requests). I suggest a final sentence that indicates: Other than eligibility for individuals whose sole underlying condition is mental illness, there are no commitments to expand eligibility for MAID.

I will send a revised version to show what it would look like.

Sharon

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**From:** Lawley, Sarah (HC/SC) <[sarah.lawley@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:sarah.lawley@hc-sc.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** 2025-03-27 12:22 PM  
**To:** Ainslie, Peggy (HC/SC) <[peggy.ainslie@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:peggy.ainslie@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Harper, Sharon (HC/SC) <[sharon.harper@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:sharon.harper@hc-sc.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Munro, Andrew (HC/SC) <[andrew.munro@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:andrew.munro@hc-sc.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: For ADM approval: Media request for Canadian Affairs & Globe and Mail: MAID and mental illness

Unclassified / Non classifié

I know this is back with you. I am not sure we want to say much about how it will be used because then we are talking about the 2026 parl review that may or may not happen depending on an incoming government.

S

**Sarah Lawley** (she/her/elle)

Assistant Deputy Minister | Sous ministre adjointe  
Health Policy Branch | Direction générale des politiques de santé  
Health Canada | Santé Canada  
613-323-5288

My working hours and your working hours may be different. Please do not feel obliged to reply outside your normal working hours.

Mes heures de travail et vos heures de travail peuvent être différentes. Veuillez ne pas vous sentir obligé de répondre en dehors de vos heures de travail normales.

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**From:** Jarbeau, Tammy (HC/SC) <[tammy.jarbeau@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:tammy.jarbeau@hc-sc.gc.ca)> **On Behalf Of** CPAB MEDIA RELATIONS / RELATIONS AVEC LES MEDIAS DGCAP (HC/SC)  
**Sent:** 2025-03-27 12:01 PM  
**To:** ADMO CPAB / BSMA DGCAP (HC/SC) <[admocpab-bsmadgcap@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:admocpab-bsmadgcap@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Allison, Catherine (HC/SC) <[catherine.allison@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:catherine.allison@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Lawley, Sarah (HC/SC) <[sarah.lawley@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:sarah.lawley@hc-sc.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** LeBlanc, Karine (HC/SC) <[Karine.LeBlanc@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:Karine.LeBlanc@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; SCD DGO / BDG DCS (HC/SC) <[scddgo-bdgdc@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:scddgo-bdgdc@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Magee, Heather (HC/SC) <[heather.magee@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:heather.magee@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Laforge, Ricky (HC/SC) <[Ricky.Laforge@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:Ricky.Laforge@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Johnson, Mark (HC/SC) <[mark.johnson@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:mark.johnson@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Ghergari, Kori (HC/SC) <[Kori.Ghergari@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:Kori.Ghergari@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Marsaw, Meghan (HC/SC) <[meghan.marsaw@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:meghan.marsaw@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Kenney, Katie (HC/SC) <[katie.kenney@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:katie.kenney@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; HC.F HPB-ADMO-BSMA F.SC <[hpb-admo-bsma@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:hpb-admo-bsma@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Jarbeau, Tammy (HC/SC) <[tammy.jarbeau@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:tammy.jarbeau@hc-sc.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: For ADM approval: Media request for Canadian Affairs & Globe and Mail: MAID and mental illness

Unclassified / Non classifié

Thanks Brooke.

I have asked program for the additional input and will send it to you early this afternoon.

Tammy

**Tammy Jarbeau**

She, her / elle

Senior Media Relations Advisor | Communications and Public Affairs Branch  
Serving Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada | Government of Canada  
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Conseillère principale des relations avec les médias | Direction générale des affaires publiques et de communications

Au service de Santé Canada et de l'Agence de la santé publique du Canada | Gouvernement du Canada

tammy.jarbeau@hc-sc.gc.ca / Tél : 343-999-6334

**From:** Bryce, Brooke (HC/SC) <Brooke.Bryce@hc-sc.gc.ca> **On Behalf Of** ADMO CPAB / BSMA DGCAP (HC/SC)  
**Sent:** 2025-03-27 11:35 AM  
**To:** CPAB MEDIA RELATIONS / RELATIONS AVEC LES MEDIAS DGCAP (HC/SC) <cpab.media.relations-relations.avec.les.media.sdgcap@hc-sc.gc.ca>; Allison, Catherine (HC/SC) <catherine.allison@hc-sc.gc.ca>; Lawley, Sarah (HC/SC) <sarah.lawley@hc-sc.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** LeBlanc, Karine (HC/SC) <Karine.LeBlanc@hc-sc.gc.ca>; SCD DGO / BDG DCS (HC/SC) <scddgo-bdgdcs@hc-sc.gc.ca>; Magee, Heather (HC/SC) <heather.magee@hc-sc.gc.ca>; Laforge, Ricky (HC/SC) <Ricky.Laforge@hc-sc.gc.ca>; Johnson, Mark (HC/SC) <mark.johnson@hc-sc.gc.ca>; Ghergari, Kori (HC/SC) <Kori.Ghergari@hc-sc.gc.ca>; Marsaw, Meghan (HC/SC) <meghan.marsaw@hc-sc.gc.ca>; Kenney, Katie (HC/SC) <katie.kenney@hc-sc.gc.ca>; ADMO CPAB / BSMA DGCAP (HC/SC) <admocpab-bsmadgcap@hc-sc.gc.ca>; HC.F HPB-ADMO-BSMA F.SC <hpb-admo-bsma@hc-sc.gc.ca>; Jarbeau, Tammy (HC/SC) <tammy.jarbeau@hc-sc.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: For ADM approval: Media request for Canadian Affairs & Globe and Mail: MAID and mental illness

Unclassified / Non classifié

Hi Tammy,

Cathy has reviewed. I think we need to say something about what we will do with the UN's observation – I don't think we can just not acknowledge it or dismiss it. Will we be considering this at all? Can HPB please confirm on this and provide some appropriate language, if required? Also, the questions from the reporter also touch on mature minors and advance requests. Please include text in the response about the recently completed consultation on advance requests and note that a report will be issued in the coming months. I've also added some possible language re: minors to the response below, but again, would defer to HPB on the correct text.  
 Can we see a revised please, once HPB has weighed in?

**Questions from Canadian Affairs:**

***The United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities just issued its concluding observations after Canada appeared before the committee earlier this month. The committee writes that it is "extremely concerned" about Track 2 MAID in Canada. It calls on Canada to repeal Track 2 MAID and the 2027 planned legalization of MAID when the sole medical condition is a mental illness. It also calls on Canada to not pursue MAID for mature minors as previously recommended or advance request for MAID as is being considered. Further, it calls on Canada to "establish and resource a federal independent oversight mechanism to monitor, regulate and handle complaints in relation to MAID."***

**Questions from Globe & Mail:**

***I'm writing on this new report today and was hoping Health Canada has comment on the findings of the attached report? Namely, will Canada repeal Track 2 for MAiD? If not, why not?***

**Response for both outlets:**

Medical assistance in dying (MAID) is a matter of shared jurisdiction with provinces and territories. While the federal government sets the legal framework for MAID through the Criminal Code, provinces and territories are responsible for the management and delivery of health care in their jurisdiction, including end-of-life services such as MAID. Provinces and territories are also responsible for ensuring compliance with the requirements of the Criminal Code through oversight. Since the legalization of MAID in 2016, the majority of provinces and territories have developed their own oversight mechanisms suited to their local needs and delivery systems.

The legal framework for MAID, including Track 2, has been designed with safeguards to affirm and protect the inherent and equal value of every person's life. Every person must meet the strict legislative eligibility criteria outlined in the legislation, including having a serious and incurable medical condition, being in an advanced state of irreversible decline in capability and experiencing enduring and intolerable suffering related to their medical condition. Enhanced safeguards are in place for individuals who request MAID under Track 2 to provide additional protection. These include that the person must be informed of available and appropriate means to relieve their suffering, including counselling services, mental health and disability support services, community services, and palliative care, and must be offered consultations with professionals who provide those services. The person and the practitioners must have discussed reasonable and available means to relieve the person's suffering and agree that the person has seriously considered those means.

MAID is not ~~currently~~ legally permitted in Canada for persons whose sole underlying medical condition is a mental illness. On February 29, 2024, the Government of Canada passed legislation that provided an extension, until March 17, 2027, to the temporary exclusion of eligibility in circumstances where a person's sole underlying medical condition is a mental illness. <Can we say something here about whether or not the UN observation will be considered etc?>

The reporter also asked about advance requests and mature minors : Please include something in the response about the recently completed consultation on advance requests and note that a report will be issued in the coming months.

Also, is there anything to say on minors? *Perhaps:*

*Canada's law on MAID requires that applicants must be 18 years of age or older. In many jurisdictions across Canada, mature minors already have the right to make important decisions regarding their health care. This includes the right to consent to or refuse lifesaving medical treatment.>*

**Brooke Bryce (she/elle)**

Senior Advisor, Office of the Assistant Deputy Minister  
Communications and Public Affairs Branch (CPAB), Health Canada and the Public Health Agency  
of Canada

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*Working from the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishnaabeg people | Travaillant à partir du territoire traditionnel non cédé du peuple algonquin Anishnaabeg*

**From:** Jarbeau, Tammy (HC/SC) <[tammy.jarbeau@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:tammy.jarbeau@hc-sc.gc.ca)> **On Behalf Of** CPAB MEDIA RELATIONS / RELATIONS AVEC LES MEDIAS DGCAP (HC/SC)  
**Sent:** 2025-03-27 10:42 AM  
**To:** Allison, Catherine (HC/SC) <[catherine.allison@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:catherine.allison@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Lawley, Sarah (HC/SC) <[sarah.lawley@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:sarah.lawley@hc-sc.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** LeBlanc, Karine (HC/SC) <[Karine.LeBlanc@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:Karine.LeBlanc@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; SCD DGO / BDG DCS (HC/SC) <[scddgo-bdgdc@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:scddgo-bdgdc@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Magee, Heather (HC/SC) <[heather.magee@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:heather.magee@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Laforge, Ricky (HC/SC) <[Ricky.Laforge@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:Ricky.Laforge@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Johnson, Mark (HC/SC) <[mark.johnson@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:mark.johnson@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Ghergari, Kori (HC/SC) <[Kori.Ghergari@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:Kori.Ghergari@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Marsaw, Meghan (HC/SC) <[meghan.marsaw@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:meghan.marsaw@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Kenney, Katie (HC/SC) <[katie.kenney@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:katie.kenney@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; ADMO CPAB / BSMA DGCAP (HC/SC) <[admo\\_cpab-bsmadgcap@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:admo_cpab-bsmadgcap@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; HC.F HPB-ADMO-BSMA F.SC <[hpb-admo-bsma@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:hpb-admo-bsma@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Jarbeau, Tammy (HC/SC) <[tammy.jarbeau@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:tammy.jarbeau@hc-sc.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** For ADM approval: Media request for Canadian Affairs & Globe and Mail: MAID and mental illness

Unclassified / Non classifié

Good morning,

We have received two media requests regarding the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities' concerns about MAID and mental illness.

The response is DG and CPAB approved.

If you could let me know of any concerns by 1 PM, it would be appreciated.

Thank you,

Tammy

**Media / Reporter:** Canadian Affairs / [REDACTED] **AND** Globe & Mail [REDACTED]

**Date Received:** March 26

**Deadline to reporter:** March 27, 5 PM

**Impact:** MOYEN (2)

**Complexity:** MOYEN (2)

**Background/Context:**

Nil.

**Questions from Canadian Affairs:**

*The United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities just issued its concluding observations after Canada appeared before the committee earlier this month. The committee writes that it is "extremely concerned" about Track 2 MAID in Canada. It calls on Canada to repeal Track 2 MAID and the 2027 planned legalization of MAID when the sole medical condition is a mental illness. It also calls on Canada to not pursue MAID for mature minors as previously recommended or advance request for MAID as is being considered. Further, it calls on Canada to "establish and resource a federal independent oversight mechanism to monitor, regulate and handle complaints in relation to MAID."*

**Questions from Globe & Mail:**

***I'm writing on this new report today and was hoping Health Canada has comment on the findings of the attached report? Namely, will Canada repeal Track 2 for MAiD? If not, why not?***

**Response for both outlets:**

Medical assistance in dying (MAiD) is a matter of shared jurisdiction with provinces and territories. While the federal government sets the legal framework for MAiD through the Criminal Code, provinces and territories are responsible for the management and delivery of health care in their jurisdiction, including end-of-life services such as MAiD. Provinces and territories are also responsible for ensuring compliance with the requirements of the Criminal Code through oversight. Since the legalization of MAiD in 2016, the majority of provinces and territories have developed their own oversight mechanisms suited to their local needs and delivery systems.

The legal framework for MAiD, including Track 2, has been designed with safeguards to affirm and protect the inherent and equal value of every person's life. Every person must meet the strict legislative eligibility criteria outlined in the legislation, including having a serious and incurable medical condition, being in an advanced state of irreversible decline in capability and experiencing enduring and intolerable suffering related to their medical condition. Enhanced safeguards are in place for individuals who request MAiD under Track 2 to provide additional protection. These include that the person must be informed of available and appropriate means to relieve their suffering, including counselling services, mental health and disability support services, community services, and palliative care, and must be offered consultations with professionals who provide those services. The person and the practitioners must have discussed reasonable and available means to relieve the person's suffering and agree that the person has seriously considered those means.

MAiD is not currently legally permitted in Canada for persons whose sole underlying medical condition is a mental illness. On February 29, 2024, the Government of Canada passed legislation that provided an extension, until March 17, 2027, to the temporary exclusion of eligibility in circumstances where a person's sole underlying medical condition is a mental illness.

**Approved by:**

Peggy Ainslie, ED, HCPPD (approved)  
Sharon Harper, DG, HCPPD (approved)  
Mark Johnson, CE, CPAB (approved)  
Kori Ghergari, Director, CPAB (pending)  
Meghan Marsaw, CE, CPAB (pending)  
Ricky Laforge, Director, CPAB (approved)  
Katie Kenney, ED, CPAB (pending)  
Heather Magee, DG, CPAB (approved)  
**Cathy Allison, ADM, CPAB (pending)**  
**Sarah Lawley, ADM, HPB (pending)**  
DM (pending)

**Tammy Jarbeau**  
She, her / elle

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[tammy.jarbeau@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:tammy.jarbeau@hc-sc.gc.ca) / Tel: 343-999-6334

Conseillère principale des relations avec les médias | Direction générale des affaires publiques et  
de communications  
Au service de Santé Canada et de l'Agence de la santé publique du Canada | Gouvernement du  
Canada  
[tammy.jarbeau@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:tammy.jarbeau@hc-sc.gc.ca) / Tél : 343-999-6334

**From:** Lafreniere, Sharlene (HC/SC)

**Sent:** 2025-03-20 3:32 PM

**To:** Robert, Julie (HC/SC)

**Cc:** Kusch, Karen (HC/SC)

**Subject:**

RE: URGENT FOR REVIEW: CRPD Concluding Observations

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Unclassified / Non classifié

Super – thank you kindly ladies 😊

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**From:** Robert, Julie (HC/SC)

**Sent:** 2025-03-20 3:18 PM

**To:** Lafreniere, Sharlene (HC/SC)

**Cc:** Kusch, Karen (HC/SC)

**Subject:** FW: URGENT FOR REVIEW: CRPD Concluding Observations

Unclassified / Non classifié

Hi Sharlene,

Please see our review on the request. Thanks to Karen for the undertaking.

Julie

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**From:** Kusch, Karen (HC/SC) <karen.kusch@hc-sc.gc.ca>

**Sent:** 2025-03-20 3:13 PM

**To:** Robert, Julie (HC/SC) <julie.robert@hc-sc.gc.ca>

**Cc:** Lemaire, Jacquie (HC/SC) <jacquie.lemaire@hc-sc.gc.ca>

**Subject:** Re: URGENT FOR REVIEW: CRPD Concluding Observations

Unclassified / Non classifié

Hi Julie,

What format do they want input in. I will note that the language used in the document with respect to MAiD is generally inflammatory, however, the following clauses are factually incorrect:

19. (c) Evidence from the Ontario Office of the Chief Coroner and federal government data indicating that Track 2 MAiD is disproportionately accessed by women with disabilities and persons with disabilities in marginalised situations,

and there is an upward trajectory of persons with disabilities killed through Track 2 MAiD;

Proposed response:

- The findings presented above are inaccurate. The Ontario 2024 MAiD: Marginalization Data Perspectives (using 2023 data) did an overall analysis of marginalization quintiles for people with disabilities which included all MAiD provisions, without separate Track 1 and Track 2 analyses. Analysis of disability, marginalization and MAiD were not undertaken at the federal level.

- The Fifth Annual Report on MAiD, which captures all requests for and cases of MAiD shows that Track 2 recipients experienced less Economic Dependency, and Less Situational Vulnerability than both Track 1 MAiD recipients and all reported deaths in 2024 in Canada. However, Track 2 MAiD recipients were found to be more likely to be renters, live alone, and live in neighbourhoods with less stability.

- The report also found that while Track 2 provisions grew from 2.2% of all MAiD provisions in 2021 to 3.5% in 2022, and 4.1% in 2023. The increase from 2022 to 2023 was less than from 2021 to 2022.

- There is no available evidence to indicate that the number of persons with disabilities receiving MAiD through Track 2 are increasing over time. It would therefore be inaccurate to say that there is an upward trajectory of persons with disabilities "killed through Track 2"

19. (d) The expansion of Track 2 MAiD in 2027 to persons whose "sole underlying medical condition is a mental illness" and the proposed expansion of MAiD to include "mature minors" and advance requests for MAiD;

Proposed response:

- The Government has always taken a cautious approach to expansion of MAiD given the significant life or death implications. There is no further expansion planned other than the inclusion of mental illness in 2027. Any further considerations will involve comprehensive and open dialogue with a

number of health care stakeholders including PTs, medical professionals, experts and Canadians.

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**From:** Robert, Julie (HC/SC)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 20, 2025 12:53 PM  
**To:** Kusch, Karen (HC/SC)  
**Cc:** Lemaire, Jacquie (HC/SC)  
**Subject:** FW: URGENT FOR REVIEW: CRPD Concluding Observations

Unclassified / Non classifié

Hi Karen – Sorry to task this one on the eve of your leave. I believe this one was with you before now and you are well verse in the matter. If I am wrong and this should go to Jacquie for review, please flag.

Its only on the facts (like the “proposed expansion to mature minors” which to my knowledge, there is none. Same as for Ars. No proposed anything at this time.

Happy to discuss if we need to tackle this diff.

j.

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**From:** Lafreniere, Sharlene (HC/SC) <[sharlene.lafreniere@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:sharlene.lafreniere@hc-sc.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** 2025-03-20 11:57 AM  
**To:** Rivest, Francois (HC/SC) <[francois.rivest@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:francois.rivest@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Robert, Julie (HC/SC) <[julie.robert@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:julie.robert@hc-sc.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Ainslie, Peggy (HC/SC) <[peggy.ainslie@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:peggy.ainslie@hc-sc.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: URGENT FOR REVIEW: CRPD Concluding Observations

Unclassified / Non classifié

Hi folks,

We need an urgent review of paragraph 19 for MAID and paragraph 49 for SRH. ESDC is only looking for a review of the factual information in the paragraph, not comments on the merits of the arguments presented.

This is due by 11AM tomorrow.

Kind regards,

Sharlene

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**From:** Ringrose, Julian (HC/SC) <[julian.ringrose@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:julian.ringrose@hc-sc.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** 2025-03-20 11:49 AM  
**To:** Lafreniere, Sharlene (HC/SC) <[sharlene.lafreniere@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:sharlene.lafreniere@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Ainslie, Peggy (HC/SC) <[peggy.ainslie@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:peggy.ainslie@hc-sc.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Nock, Michelle (HC/SC) <[michelle.nock@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:michelle.nock@hc-sc.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: URGENT FOR REVIEW: CRPD Concluding Observations  
**Importance:** High

Unclassified / Non classifié

Hi there.

MAID related OIA request to review para. 19 of the attached UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities report.

Due tomorrow before 11:00 AM.

... J

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**From:** Lee, David KW (HC/SC) <[david.kw.lee@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:david.kw.lee@hc-sc.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** 2025-03-20 11:27 AM  
**To:** Ringrose, Julian (HC/SC) <[julian.ringrose@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:julian.ringrose@hc-sc.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Mackay, Madeline (HC/SC) <[Madeline.Mackay@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:Madeline.Mackay@hc-sc.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: URGENT FOR REVIEW: CRPD Concluding Observations  
**Importance:** High

Unclassified / Non classifié

Hi Julian,

Can the MAID team look at para. 19 of the attached UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities report on Canada? ESDC is only looking for a review of the factual information in the paragraph, not comments on the merits of the arguments presented.

OIA is requesting input by 11 am on Friday.

Thanks

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**From:** Verhoeve, Francesca (PHAC/ASPC) <[francesca.verhoeve@phac-aspc.gc.ca](mailto:francesca.verhoeve@phac-aspc.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** 2025-03-20 11:16 AM  
**To:** HC.F HPB-ADMO-BSMA F.SC <[hpb-admo-bsma@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:hpb-admo-bsma@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; hpcdp / pspmc (PHAC/ASPC) <[hpcdp-pspmc@phac-aspc.gc.ca](mailto:hpcdp-pspmc@phac-aspc.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Lee, David KW (HC/SC) <[david.kw.lee@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:david.kw.lee@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Upper, Dylan (PHAC/ASPC) <[dylan.upper@phac-aspc.gc.ca](mailto:dylan.upper@phac-aspc.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** FW: URGENT FOR REVIEW: CRPD Concluding Observations  
**Importance:** High

Unclassified / Non classifié

Good morning,

OIA has received the attached Advance Unedited Version of the Concluding Observations adopted by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities based on Canada's March 10-11 appearance. ESDC has requested a review of the document to ensure there are no factual errors related to our area(s) of work.

Grateful for a quick review by 11 AM tomorrow March 21 of the following paragraphs:

- 'Right to Life' - para 19
  - o related to MAID
- 'Health' - para 49
  - o related to access to health care, dementia, and SRHR

Thank you,

Franca

Francesca Verhoeve

Multilateral Relations Division

Office of International Affairs for the Health Portfolio

Government of Canada

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**From:** Therrien, Mariejosee MJ [NC] <[mariejosee.therrien@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca](mailto:mariejosee.therrien@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca)>

**Sent:** 2025-03-20 10:45 AM

**To:** [ian.brown@pch.gc.ca](mailto:ian.brown@pch.gc.ca); [sara.zavodnik@pch.gc.ca](mailto:sara.zavodnik@pch.gc.ca);  
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[neil.mcvicar@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:neil.mcvicar@sac-isc.gc.ca); [morgan.kenny@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:morgan.kenny@sac-isc.gc.ca); [celine.hurtubise@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:celine.hurtubise@sac-isc.gc.ca); [Marie.palmer@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:Marie.palmer@sac-isc.gc.ca); Verhoeve, Francesca (PHAC/ASPC) <[francesca.verhoeve@phac-aspc.gc.ca](mailto:francesca.verhoeve@phac-aspc.gc.ca)>; Hurley, Shannon (PHAC/ASPC) <[shannon.hurley@phac-aspc.gc.ca](mailto:shannon.hurley@phac-aspc.gc.ca)>; [julia.tallmeister@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca](mailto:julia.tallmeister@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca);  
[susan.wallace@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:susan.wallace@statcan.gc.ca); [Laura.Berger@justice.gc.ca](mailto:Laura.Berger@justice.gc.ca); [Remi.Calbry-Muzyka@justice.gc.ca](mailto:Remi.Calbry-Muzyka@justice.gc.ca); [HRLS\\_SDP@justice.gc.ca](mailto:HRLS_SDP@justice.gc.ca); [Ariane.Brule@fin.gc.ca](mailto:Ariane.Brule@fin.gc.ca);  
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[Madeline.Girard@cic.gc.ca](mailto:Madeline.Girard@cic.gc.ca); [Brigitte.deblois@csc-scc.gc.ca](mailto:Brigitte.deblois@csc-scc.gc.ca); [Intergov-intergouv.GEN-NHQ@CSC-SCC.GC.CA](mailto:Intergov-intergouv.GEN-NHQ@CSC-SCC.GC.CA); [natasha.pateman@infcc.gc.ca](mailto:natasha.pateman@infcc.gc.ca);  
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 <julia.seferovic@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** Cornette, Paulette P [NC] <paulette.cornette@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** URGENT FOR REVIEW: CRPD Concluding Observations  
**Importance:** High

Dear colleagues,

Further to my heads-up email of March 18, please find attached the **Advance Unedited Version of the Concluding Observations** adopted by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with regards to Canada's March 10-11 appearance.

Please review the document to ensure there are no factual errors related to your area(s) of work. **Please limit your input to only factual changes or corrections.** Note also that this is not an exercise to provide additional information or to comment on the merits of the concluding observations as the Committee will not accept any other comments.

Please provide your input to me and [paulette.cornette@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca](mailto:paulette.cornette@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca) no later than **noon, tomorrow, Friday, March 21.** This is a hard deadline as the Committee has given us until 1:00 p.m. on Monday, March 24, 2025, to provide them with our response. We must coordinate federal, provincial and territorial input and seek appropriate approvals before this deadline.

Once this advance draft is revised by the Committee, the Concluding Observations will be posted on the Committee's webpage. We will share the link as soon as possible.

As we come closer to the end of this process, we appreciate your ongoing understanding and support.

Thank you,

Marie-Josée Therrien

Manager

Partnerships and Engagement

Office for Disability Issues

Employment and Social Development Canada

**From:** Ainslie, Peggy (HC/SC)  
**Sent:** 2025-03-26 4:00 PM  
**To:** Jarbeau, Tammy (HC/SC)  
**Cc:** Kenney, Katie (HC/SC); Laforge, Ricky (HC/SC); Lemaire, Jacquie (HC/SC); Harper, Sharon (HC/SC); Lafreniere, Sharlene (HC/SC)  
**Subject:** FW: For HCPPD input and approval: Media request for Canadian Affairs ([REDACTED]): MAID and mental illness

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Unclassified / Non classifié

Here's a proposed response. I added one line at the end to note that the report is an advance version. Feel free to strike it though if it is too adversarial.  
Peggy

***Q. The United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities just issued its concluding observations after Canada appeared before the committee earlier this month. The committee writes that it is "extremely concerned" about Track 2 MAID in Canada. It calls on Canada to repeal Track 2 MAID and the 2027 planned legalization of MAID when the sole medical condition is a mental illness. It also calls on Canada to not pursue MAID for mature minors as previously recommended or advance request for MAID as is being considered. Further, it calls on Canada to "establish and resource a federal independent oversight mechanism to monitor, regulate and handle complaints in relation to MAID."***

Response:

MAID is a matter of shared jurisdiction with provinces and territories. While the federal government sets the legal framework for MAID through the Criminal Code, provinces and territories are responsible for the management and delivery of health care in their jurisdiction, including end-of-life services such as MAID. Additionally, provinces and territories are responsible for ensuring compliance with the requirements of the Criminal Code through oversight. Since the legalization of MAID in 2016, the majority of provinces and territories have developed their own oversight mechanisms suited to their local needs and delivery systems.

The legal framework for MAID has been carefully designed with safeguards to affirm and protect the inherent and equal value of every person's life. Having a disability in and of itself does not automatically make one eligible for MAID. A person must meet the strict legislative eligibility criteria outlined in the legislation, including having a serious and incurable medical condition, being in an advanced state of irreversible decline in capability and experiencing enduring and intolerable suffering related to their medical condition. Several enhanced safeguards are in

place for individuals under Track 2 to provide additional protections. People who receive MAID under Track 2 continue to make up a small minority of people who receive MAID in Canada. Based on data from the [Fifth Annual Report on MAID in Canada](#), in 2023, 95.9% of MAID cases (n=14,721) were individuals whose death was reasonably foreseeable (Track 1) and 4.1% (n=622) were individuals whose death was not reasonably foreseeable (Track 2). Between 2021 and 2022, the number of Track 2 MAID provisions doubled, from 223 provisions in 2021 to 463 provisions in 2022. The increase between 2022 and 2023 was comparatively smaller, with 34% more Track 2 MAID cases reported.

MAID is not currently legally permitted in Canada for persons whose sole underlying medical condition is a mental illness. On February 29, 2024, the Government of Canada passed legislation that provided an extension, until March 17, 2027, to the temporary exclusion of eligibility in circumstances where a person's sole underlying medical condition is a mental illness. Important progress has been made to prepare for MAID eligibility for persons whose sole medical condition is mental illness, including ongoing provincial and territorial work to improve access to mental health services in their jurisdictions. However, provinces, territories, and key service delivery partners are at varying stages of readiness, and so the three-year extension provides provinces and territories and practitioners with more time to prepare. Additionally, the law requires that a joint parliamentary committee undertake a comprehensive review relating to the eligibility for MAID of persons suffering solely from a mental illness by February 28, 2026. This review could further serve to examine progress made in achieving overall health care system readiness, and to study whether Criminal Code amendments are needed.

Given the significant life-or-death implications, a cautious approach is warranted to expanding MAID eligibility. The federal government has **not** made any commitment to expanding eligibility for MAID beyond eligibility for individuals whose sole underlying condition is mental illness. Comments in the Advance Unedited version of the Concluding Observations of the UN Committee on Persons with Disabilities about proposed expansion beyond this are inaccurate.

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**From:** Ainslie, Peggy (HC/SC) <[peggy.ainslie@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:peggy.ainslie@hc-sc.gc.ca)>

**Sent:** 2025-03-26 12:21 PM

**To:** Lemaire, Jacquie (HC/SC) <[jacquie.lemaire@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:jacquie.lemaire@hc-sc.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** Robert, Julie (HC/SC) <[julie.robert@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:julie.robert@hc-sc.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** FW: For HCPPD input and approval: Media request for Canadian Affairs [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]: MAID and mental illness

Unclassified / Non classifié

Can you take a look at the proposed response and advise? Also, as you saw, I've sent out feelers for the report.

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**From:** Jarbeau, Tammy (HC/SC) <[tammy.jarbeau@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:tammy.jarbeau@hc-sc.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** 2025-03-26 12:10 PM  
**To:** Ainslie, Peggy (HC/SC) <[peggy.ainslie@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:peggy.ainslie@hc-sc.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Kenney, Katie (HC/SC) <[katie.kenney@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:katie.kenney@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Lafreniere, Sharlene (HC/SC) <[sharlene.lafreniere@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:sharlene.lafreniere@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Robert, Julie (HC/SC) <[julie.robert@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:julie.robert@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Laforge, Ricky (HC/SC) <[Ricky.Laforge@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:Ricky.Laforge@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Marsaw, Meghan (HC/SC) <[meghan.marsaw@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:meghan.marsaw@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Lemaire, Jacquie (HC/SC) <[jacquie.lemaire@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:jacquie.lemaire@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Mohninger, Blaine (HC/SC) <[blaine.mohninger@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:blaine.mohninger@hc-sc.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** For HCPPD input and approval: Media request for Canadian Affairs [REDACTED]: MAID and mental illness

Unclassified / Non classifié

Hi Peggy,

We have received the below media request from Canadian Affairs.

I am including below the approval tree a previously approved response from April for reference.

If you could provide input by 3 PM, that would be fantastic.

Please let me know if more time is required.

Thank you,

Tammy

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**Media / Reporter:** Canadian Affairs / [REDACTED]  
**Date Received:** March 26  
**Deadline to reporter:** March 27, 5 PM  
**Impact:** MOYEN (2)  
**Complexity:** MOYEN (2)  
**Background/Context:**  
Nil.

**Questions and answers:**

*The United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities just issued its concluding observations after Canada appeared before the committee earlier this month. The committee writes that it is "extremely concerned" about Track 2 MAID in Canada. It calls on Canada to repeal Track 2 MAID and the 2027 planned legalization of MAID when the sole medical condition is a mental illness. It also calls on Canada to not pursue MAID for mature minors as previously recommended or advance request for MAID as is being considered. Further, it calls on Canada to "establish and resource a federal independent oversight mechanism to monitor, regulate and handle complaints in relation to MAID."*

**Approved by:****Peggy Ainslie, ED, HCPPD (pending)**

Sharon Harper, DG, HCPPD (pending)

CPAB approvals (pending)

Cathy Allison, ADM, CPAB (pending)

Sarah Lawley, ADM, HPB (pending)

DM (pending)

**Previous response for BBC, April 2024:****Q1. Why did the government decide to delay the introduction of the new law until 2027?****Q4. You have stated publicly that you agree with the committee's conclusion that Canada is not yet ready. When will it be ready? What safeguards or guarantees would you want to see in place?**

Medical assistance in dying (MAID) is a complex and deeply personal issue. The Government of Canada is committed to ensuring our laws reflect Canadians' needs, protect those who may be vulnerable, and support autonomy and freedom of choice.

MAID is not currently legally permitted in Canada for persons whose sole underlying medical condition is a mental illness.

On February 29, 2024, the Government of Canada passed legislation that [provided an extension](#), until March 17, 2027, to the temporary exclusion of eligibility in circumstances where a person's sole underlying medical condition is a mental illness.

Important progress has been made to prepare for MAID eligibility for persons whose sole medical condition is mental illness. However, provinces, territories, and key service delivery partners are at varying stages of readiness. They have clearly said they need more time to get this right. The Special Joint Committee on MAID (AMAD)'s report [MAID and Mental Disorders: The Road Ahead](#) also recognized that while considerable progress has been made in preparing for the expansion of eligibility for MAID to persons suffering solely from a mental illness, it should not be available in Canada until the health care system can safely and adequately provide MAID in these cases.

A three-year extension provides provinces and territories with more time to prepare their health care systems, for example, through the development of additional resources such as standards, policies, and guidance. The extension will also provide practitioners with time to participate in training and become familiar with available resources.

Additionally, the new law requires that a joint parliamentary committee undertake a comprehensive review relating to the eligibility for MAID of persons suffering solely from a mental illness within two years of the Act receiving royal assent. This review could further serve to examine progress made in achieving overall health care system readiness, and to study whether *Criminal Code* amendments are needed.

**Q2. For those who were considering applying for MAID due to mental illness, they have told us they feel betrayed and that the decision sends the message that their mental suffering will never be seen as equal to those suffering physically. What is your response?****Q3. Will the expanded eligibility for MAID, to include mental illness as a sole underlying condition, ever pass in Canada? Or will there be further delays, or even total rejection of this ever being passed?**

The government recognizes that the suffering caused by a mental illness is on par with that of a physical illness, and has no plans to permanently prohibit or further delay allowing MAID for persons with a grievous and irremedial mental illness. However, it is important to ensure that practitioners are prepared to appropriately evaluate these requests, and health systems are prepared to manage them.

The Government of Canada is committed to a measured, thoughtful and compassionate approach to ensure Canada's MAID system meets the needs of people in Canada, protects those who may be vulnerable, and supports autonomy and freedom of choice of individuals. Setting the expiry of the exclusion clause in three years is important to provide predictability for Canadians, including those with mental illness as a sole underlying condition, and setting a clear milestone to which all partners can work towards.

For more information, please refer to the [Charter Statement](#) prepared for former Bill C-62 which received Royal Assent on February 29, 2024.

**Tammy Jarbeau**

She, her / elle

Senior Media Relations Advisor | Communications and Public Affairs Branch  
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**From:** [Ainslie, Peggy \(HC/SC\)](#)

**Sent:** 2025-05-21 3:39 PM

**To:** [Johnson, Mark \(HC/SC\)](#)

**Cc:** [Kusch, Karen \(HC/SC\)](#); [Ratneswaran, Kajan \(HC/SC\)](#); [Lebel, Melissa \(HC/SC\)](#); [Lemaire, Jacquie \(HC/SC\)](#); [LeBlanc, Karine \(HC/SC\)](#); [Marsaw, Meghan \(HC/SC\)](#); [Aylward, Brett \(HC/SC\)](#)

**Subject:** FW: FOR INPUT - Media request on MAID access for mature minors (Canadian Press)

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Unclassified / Non classifié

Hi Mark and fellow CPABers -

Below is our suggested response.

Also, moving forward, can you make sure I'm added to the approvals chain? I don't seem to be on the version you are using.

Thanks

Peggy

Peggy Ainslie

*She/elle*

Executive Director | Directrice exécutive  
Care Continuum, Aging and Equity Directorate /  
Direction du continuum des soins, du vieillissement et de l'équité  
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---

**From:** [Johnson, Mark \(HC/SC\)](#) <[mark.johnson@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:mark.johnson@hc-sc.gc.ca)>

**Sent:** 2025-05-21 9:01 AM

**To:** [Kusch, Karen \(HC/SC\)](#) <[karen.kusch@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:karen.kusch@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; [Mohninger, Blaine \(HC/SC\)](#) <[blaine.mohninger@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:blaine.mohninger@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; [Lebel, Melissa \(HC/SC\)](#) <[melissa.lebel@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:melissa.lebel@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; [Lemaire, Jacquie \(HC/SC\)](#) <[jacquie.lemaire@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:jacquie.lemaire@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; [Ainslie, Peggy \(HC/SC\)](#) <[peggy.ainslie@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:peggy.ainslie@hc-sc.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** [LeBlanc, Karine \(HC/SC\)](#) <[Karine.LeBlanc@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:Karine.LeBlanc@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; [Marsaw, Meghan \(HC/SC\)](#) <[meghan.marsaw@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:meghan.marsaw@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; [Aylward, Brett \(HC/SC\)](#) <[brett.aylward@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:brett.aylward@hc-sc.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** FOR INPUT - Media request on MAID access for mature minors (Canadian Press)

Unclassified / Non classifié

Good morning,

Please see the media request below, from Canadian Press. Like yesterday's NYT request, this one is of a fact checking nature.

We have a proposed response below, using pre-approved materials. For your review/editing as needed.

If we could get a version back, approved by Peggy, by 3pm, that would be appreciated.

Thanks!

**Media/Reporter:** Canadian Press / [REDACTED]

**Deadline to reporter:** ASAP this week

**Impact:** MOYEN (2)

**Complexity:** MOYEN (2)

**Questions:**

We are looking at claims about a pamphlet referencing MAID access for mature minors. Some of the social media claims attached to the pamphlet include a belief MAID either currently is or soon will be available for children (specifically in 2027 when the exclusion for mental illness is set to end) and that it will be available for children experiencing mental illness.

For the fact check I'm wondering if you could answer the following:

Q1) Is MAID currently available to minors (I know it's not, but for the sake of thoroughness)?

Q2) Did the government respond to or accept the AMAD committee's recommendations specifically about mature minors from its [2023 report](#) (Report 2)?

Q3) What is the status of the consultation process for mature minors accessing MAID? Is this something that could be available to minors in 2027 as some social media posts claim?

**RESPONSE:**

Health Canada is aware that there is misinformation being shared on social media about MAID. Health Canada is also aware that other people are taking efforts counter this misinformation (see for example, [Another Day, Another Manufactured Outrage About MAiD?](#)).

The pamphlet in question shared on social media appears to be part of one such misinformation campaign. The social media posts do not include the full pamphlet; had

they done so, it would have been clear that the pamphlet was a publication of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada and was providing information against MAID: [https://files.evangelicalfellowship.ca/si/Euthanasia/Euthanasia-Update-Brochure\\_2024.pdf](https://files.evangelicalfellowship.ca/si/Euthanasia/Euthanasia-Update-Brochure_2024.pdf).

In response to the reporter's questions related to MAID and mature minors:

Q1:

- The eligibility criteria set out in the Criminal Code require – among others - that a person must be a minimum of 18 years of age and capable of making decisions with respect to their health. This means that minors **cannot** be assessed for nor receive MAID. The Government of Canada is not considering any legislative changes to this requirement.

Q2:

- Over 2021-2023, the Special Joint Parliamentary Committee studied a number of issues related to MAID, including the issue of MAID for mature minors. In their review, they heard a mix of views about whether MAID should be made available to those under the age of 18. In its 2023 report, the Committee recommended that mature minors should have access to MAID under track one and that Health Canada support research on the views and experiences of minors on MAID. The Government's response indicated the importance of finding a balance between freedom and personal autonomy and keeping minors safe from harm. The response highlighted that Budget 2021 provided funding to support research in areas that focus on MAID and the experiences of marginalized groups, which could include mature minors.
- Young people in Canada may be exposed to death of friends or loved ones during their formative years (elderly relatives or friends and family with terminal illnesses). However, there are significant gaps in understanding the experiences and documenting the views of youth regarding end-of-life care, including palliative care and MAID. Accordingly, the Government of Canada is providing almost \$550,000 in funding over four years (2023-2027) to Dalhousie University for their research project: *Engaging Young People in Policy-Making around End-of-Life Care (including pediatric palliative care and medical assistance in dying (MAID))*. This research project is engaging with youth on these issues, with the aim of providing a report on youth perspectives on end-of-life health services.

Q3:

- The Government of Canada is not undertaking any consultations regarding MAID for mature minors, nor is it aware of other consultation processes on this issue in Canada.
- In March 2027 the temporary exclusion of MAID eligibility for those whose sole underlying condition is mental illness is slated to be lifted. There will be no change in the age requirement for eligibility for MAID however. This

means that, following the lifting of the temporary exclusion, minors will remain ineligible for MAID.

**APPROVALS:**

Peggy Ainslie for Sharon Harper, HPB DG (pending)  
Mark Johnson, Manager, Media Relations, CPAB (pending)  
Kori Ghergari, Dir CPAB (pending)  
Meghan Marsaw, CPAB (pending)  
Ricky Laforge, Dir, (pending)/  
Heather Magee, DG CPAB (pending)  
Cathy Allison, ADM, CPAB (pending)  
Sarah Lawley, HPB ADM (pending)  
DM (pending)  
MinO (pending)

**Mark Johnson**

He/him/lui

Manager, Media Relations and Media Monitoring and Analysis | Gestionnaire, relations avec les médias et surveillance et analyse des médias  
Serving Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada | Au service de Santé Canada et de l'Agence de la santé publique du Canada  
Government of Canada | Gouvernement du Canada  
[mark.johnson@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:mark.johnson@hc-sc.gc.ca) | Tél: 343-574-5019

***N'hésitez pas à me répondre dans la langue officielle de votre choix / Please feel free to reply in the official language of your choice***

**From:** Ratneswaran, Kajan (HC/SC)  
**Sent:** 2025-05-21 11:57 AM  
**To:** Ainslie, Peggy (HC/SC)  
**Cc:** Kusch, Karen (HC/SC); Lemaire, Jacquie (HC/SC)  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT - Media request on MAID access for mature minors (Canadian Press)

---

Hi Peggy – as discussed, please see some additional lines up front re misinformation campaign and minor tweaks to the original lines. In red below.

---

**From:** Kusch, Karen (HC/SC) <karen.kusch@hc-sc.gc.ca>  
**Sent:** 2025-05-21 10:23 AM  
**To:** Ainslie, Peggy (HC/SC) <peggy.ainslie@hc-sc.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** Lebel, Melissa (HC/SC) <melissa.lebel@hc-sc.gc.ca>; Ratneswaran, Kajan (HC/SC) <kajan.ratneswaran@hc-sc.gc.ca>; Lemaire, Jacquie (HC/SC) <jacquie.lemaire@hc-sc.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT - Media request on MAID access for mature minors (Canadian Press)

Unclassified / Non classifié

Hi Peggy,

I am in back to back meetings all day - Kajan has graciously agreed to lead on this one.

---

**From:** Ainslie, Peggy (HC/SC) <peggy.ainslie@hc-sc.gc.ca>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 21, 2025 9:49 AM  
**To:** Marsaw, Meghan (HC/SC) <meghan.marsaw@hc-sc.gc.ca>; Lebel, Melissa (HC/SC) <melissa.lebel@hc-sc.gc.ca>; Johnson, Mark (HC/SC) <mark.johnson@hc-sc.gc.ca>; Kusch, Karen (HC/SC) <karen.kusch@hc-sc.gc.ca>; Mohninger, Blaine (HC/SC) <blaine.mohninger@hc-sc.gc.ca>; Lemaire, Jacquie (HC/SC) <jacquie.lemaire@hc-sc.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** LeBlanc, Karine (HC/SC) <Karine.LeBlanc@hc-sc.gc.ca>; Aylward, Brett (HC/SC) <brett.aylward@hc-sc.gc.ca>; Gillies, Ian A (HC/SC) <ian.a.gillies@hc-sc.gc.ca>; Harper, Sharon (HC/SC) <sharon.harper@hc-sc.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: FOR INPUT - Media request on MAID access for mature minors (Canadian Press)

Unclassified / Non classifié

Hi - I forwarded an analysis to Karen of what appears to be a misinformation campaign related to the pamphlet (from the Evangelical Association). We need to be more strategic in our response given that this appears to be part of a deliberate attempt to mislead the public. Karen, can you take a swing at adding some lines in this regard? I can then review.

Peggy

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** Marsaw, Meghan (HC/SC) <[meghan.marsaw@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:meghan.marsaw@hc-sc.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 21, 2025 9:26 AM  
**To:** Lebel, Melissa (HC/SC) <[melissa.lebel@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:melissa.lebel@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Johnson, Mark (HC/SC) <[mark.johnson@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:mark.johnson@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Kusch, Karen (HC/SC) <[karen.kusch@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:karen.kusch@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Mohninger, Blaine (HC/SC) <[blaine.mohninger@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:blaine.mohninger@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Lemaire, Jacquie (HC/SC) <[jacquie.lemaire@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:jacquie.lemaire@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Ainslie, Peggy (HC/SC) <[peggy.ainslie@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:peggy.ainslie@hc-sc.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** LeBlanc, Karine (HC/SC) <[Karine.LeBlanc@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:Karine.LeBlanc@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Aylward, Brett (HC/SC) <[brett.aylward@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:brett.aylward@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Gillies, Ian A (HC/SC) <[ian.a.gillies@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:ian.a.gillies@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Harper, Sharon (HC/SC) <[sharon.harper@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:sharon.harper@hc-sc.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT - Media request on MAID access for mature minors (Canadian Press)

Unclassified / Non classifié

Looping in Sharon Harper who was involved with the Dalhousie project – fell more under palliative care.

---

**Meghan Marsaw**

Communications Executive, Health Policy | Gestionnaire des communications, Politique de santé

Communications and Public Affairs Branch (CPAB) | Direction générale des communications et des affaires publiques

Health Canada | Santé Canada

343-573-4130

---

**From:** Lebel, Melissa (HC/SC) <[melissa.lebel@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:melissa.lebel@hc-sc.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** 2025-05-21 9:08 AM  
**To:** Johnson, Mark (HC/SC) <[mark.johnson@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:mark.johnson@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Kusch, Karen (HC/SC) <[karen.kusch@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:karen.kusch@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Mohninger, Blaine (HC/SC) <[blaine.mohninger@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:blaine.mohninger@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Lemaire, Jacquie (HC/SC) <[jacquie.lemaire@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:jacquie.lemaire@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Ainslie, Peggy (HC/SC) <[peggy.ainslie@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:peggy.ainslie@hc-sc.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** LeBlanc, Karine (HC/SC) <[Karine.LeBlanc@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:Karine.LeBlanc@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Marsaw, Meghan (HC/SC) <[meghan.marsaw@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:meghan.marsaw@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Aylward, Brett (HC/SC) <[brett.aylward@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:brett.aylward@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Gillies, Ian A (HC/SC) <[ian.a.gillies@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:ian.a.gillies@hc-sc.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR INPUT - Media request on MAID access for mature minors (Canadian Press)

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Peggy/Karen,

Just confirming that the information about the Dalhousie project and funding amount is accurate. We had developed anticipatory media lines for this project, which is where the language below has been taken from.

Also to note, we received a similar correspondence from an individual about this same “pamphlet” that is being circulated. **See attached screen shot** provided by the person. We will ensure to use the same response that is approved for this media response. @Johnson, Mark (HC/SC) – can you please ensure to send us back the approved response.

Melissa Lebel (she / her / elle)  
Health Canada / Santé Canada  
[Melissa.lebel@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:Melissa.lebel@hc-sc.gc.ca)

---

**From:** Johnson, Mark (HC/SC) <[mark.johnson@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:mark.johnson@hc-sc.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** 2025-05-21 9:01 AM  
**To:** Kusch, Karen (HC/SC) <[karen.kusch@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:karen.kusch@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Mohninger, Blaine (HC/SC) <[blaine.mohninger@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:blaine.mohninger@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Lebel, Melissa (HC/SC) <[melissa.lebel@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:melissa.lebel@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Lemaire, Jacquie (HC/SC) <[jacquie.lemaire@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:jacquie.lemaire@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Ainslie, Peggy (HC/SC) <[peggy.ainslie@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:peggy.ainslie@hc-sc.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** LeBlanc, Karine (HC/SC) <[Karine.LeBlanc@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:Karine.LeBlanc@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Marsaw, Meghan (HC/SC) <[meghan.marsaw@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:meghan.marsaw@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; Aylward, Brett (HC/SC) <[brett.aylward@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:brett.aylward@hc-sc.gc.ca)>  
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Q3) What is the status of the consultation process for mature minors accessing MAID? Is this something that could be available to minors in 2027 as some social media posts claim?

**RESPONSE:**

The sharing of the pamphlet on social media appears to be part of a deliberate misinformation campaign. The social media posts do not include the full pamphlet, with the front cover left out which would have provided the original source of the pamphlet (i.e., The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada). The post creates the impression that this was a pamphlet being distributed by a health clinic. See for example efforts by some to counter this misinformation: [Another Day, Another Manufactured Outrage About MAiD?](#)

To be clear, the current eligibility criteria to request medical assistance in dying (MAID) requires that a person must be a minimum of 18 years of age and capable of making decisions with respect to their health. The Government of Canada is not considering new legislation to change this requirement.

That said, there are currently gaps in understanding the experiences and documenting the views of youth, including those perceived as vulnerable, regarding end-of-life care, palliative care, and MAID as few clinical studies have focused on the health issues of youth.

The Government of Canada is providing almost \$550,000 in funding over four years (2023-2027) to Dalhousie University for their research project: *Engaging Young People in Policy-Making around End-of-Life Care (including pediatric palliative care and medical assistance in dying (MAID))*.

This study will engage with youth, including those with an underlying illness, mental health conditions, disabilities, and Indigenous youth, and their caregivers, parents, and health care providers through focus groups, individual interviews, and arts-based methods.

This research will result in a report on youth perspectives on end-of-life and palliative care. ~~that could inform future health care decision-making involving youth end-of-life and palliative care.~~

**APPROVALS:**

Peggy Ainslie for Sharon Harper, HPB DG (pending)  
Mark Johnson, Manager, Media Relations, CPAB (pending)  
Kori Ghergari, Dir CPAB (pending)  
Meghan Marsaw, CPAB (pending)  
Ricky Laforge, Dir, (pending)/  
Heather Magee, DG CPAB (pending)  
Cathy Allison, ADM, CPAB (pending)  
Sarah Lawley, HPB ADM (pending)  
DM (pending)  
MinO (pending)

**Mark Johnson**

He/him/lui

Manager, Media Relations and Media Monitoring and Analysis | Gestionnaire, relations avec les médias et surveillance et analyse des médias  
Serving Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada | Au service de Santé Canada et de l'Agence de la santé publique du Canada  
Government of Canada | Gouvernement du Canada  
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