

Statement on Medical Assistance in Dying

Background

The Alberta Hospice Palliative Care Association (AHPCA) is a charitable organization that serves as the voice for hospice, palliative, and end-of-life care in Alberta. For over 30 years, AHPCA has promoted, supported and advocated for comprehensive, equitable and quality end of life care for all Albertans.

AHPCA's mission is based on the definition of hospice and palliative care as “an approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families facing the problems associated with life-threatening illness, through the prevention and relief of suffering by means of early identification and impeccable assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, physical, psychosocial and spiritual.”ⁱ

Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) has been legally available to Canadians since June of 2016.ⁱⁱ

Statement

AHPCA recognizes that every person has different needs and hopes for their end of life experience.

AHPCA recognizes that some people will request and complete MAiD.

AHPCA recognizes that palliative care efforts must recognize and successfully address each person's needs and hopes. This includes using the full spectrum of palliative care resources that are available, including the desire to learn about, access and complete MAiD in a supportive, respectful and dignified setting.

ⁱ Sepúlveda, C., Marlin, A., Yoshida, T., and Ullrich, A. (2002). Palliative Care: The World Health Organization's Global Perspective. *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*, Vol. 24 (No. 2), 91-96.

ⁱⁱ Supreme Court of Canada. (2015). *Carter v. Canada (Attorney General)*, 2015 SCC 5, [2015] 1 S.C.R. 331. Docket: 35591.

This updated statement was approved by AHPCA board of directors on June 8th, 2024