

Federal elections

The AQDMD calls on parties to take a stand on medical assistance in dying

Montreal, August 20, 2021 • The Association québécoise pour le droit de mourir dans la dignité (AQDMD) asked that federal parties express their stance on medical assistance in dying before the federal elections. The request was sent to party leaders in a letter mailed on August 18. Responses are expected.

The AQDMD calls on federal parties state their position

With a federal election process underway, the AQDMD deemed it necessary to **inform citizens about the positions held by each party, regarding medical assistance in dying**, a key issue that fuelled debates in Parliament last year (Bill C-7) and that will require further discussion in the coming months.

The AQDMD asked Justin Trudeau (Liberal Party), Erin O'Toole (Conservative Party), Jagmeet Singh (New Democratic Party), Yves-François Blanchet (Bloc Québécois) and Annamie Paul (Green Party), to explain the positions of their respective parties on the following issues:

- Medical assistance in dying.
- Expanding medical assistance in dying to include advance requests for people who have been diagnosed with cognitive neurodegenerative conditions like Alzheimer's disease.
- Access to medical assistance in dying for mature minors.
- Access to medical assistance in dying for people whose sole medical condition is a mental illness.

The AQDMD asks federal parties for their commitment

The AQDMD also asked each of these parties to commit, if elected, to respecting the deadlines set by the Department of Justice and Health Canada in March 2021:

- Over the next 8 months: furthering discussions about access to medical assistance in dying through advance requests, in the Criminal Code.
- Over the next 8 months: furthering discussions about access to medical assistance in dying for mature minors.
- By March 17, 2023: respecting the sunset clause of the Criminal Code relating to mental illness and establishing effective guidelines before the deadline.

“These three points represent crucial issues to come, for medical assistance in dying in our country,” said Doctor Georges L’Espérance, president of the AQDMD and a medical assistance in dying practitioner.

Responses or refusals to state a position will be communicated on the AQDMD website and on social media.

About the AQDMD

Founded in 2007, the Association québécoise pour le droit de mourir dans la dignité (AQDMD), works to ensure that legislation allows every citizen to choose and receive end-of-life care that includes medical assistance in dying, in accordance with their personal concept of dignity. For more information: <https://aqdmd.org/>

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Sources:
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