In June 2016, the federal government passed historic federal legislation de-criminalizing medical assistance in dying within certain parameters. The CMA was significantly involved in this issue, including the development of this legislation in consultation with its membership.

**OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS**

- **REPORTING AND OVERSIGHT MECHANISMS**
  The CMA is currently participating in national discussions on developing reporting and oversight mechanisms.

- **CENTRAL REFERRAL AND COORDINATION SYSTEM**
  While legislation allowing medical assistance in dying is in place, there is a (?) need for a central end-of-life care referral and coordination system. Such a system would ensure:
  1. All Canadians, no matter where they live, would have access to all end-of-life care options;
  2. Physicians would be able to adhere to their moral commitments without discrimination, respecting both conscientious participation and conscientious objection.

- **ADVANCE REQUESTS; MATURE MINORS; MENTAL ILLNESS AS SOLE MEDICAL CONDITION**
  At the end of 2016, the Council of Canadian Academies was asked by the federal government to review the possibility of broadening eligibility to medical assistance in dying for mature minors, in advance requests, and where mental illness is the sole underlying medical condition.

**THE CMA’S RESPONSE**

The CMA’s involvement in this issue has been extensive:

- In 2014, we led a national consultation on end-of-life care, holding town hall meetings with the public and physicians.
- The CMA was an intervener in the Supreme Court of Canada case that led to the 2015 Carter v. Canada decision.
- We surveyed our members and discussed the issue at our General Council & Annual Meetings.
- We developed Principles-based Recommendations for a Canadian Approach to Assisted Dying to guide our position development and discussions with the Government of Canada.
- Consultations with government include submissions and appearances before the:
  - Federal External Panel on Options for a Legislative Response to Carter v. Canada
  - Parliamentary Special Joint Committee on Physician-Assisted Dying
  - Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
- We recently developed a new policy on medical assistance in dying.
TALKING POINTS – MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN DYING

- The CMA is continuing to contribute to the discussion on whether to broaden eligibility for medical assistance in dying for the three types of complex requests.
- We are also contributing to the development of reporting and oversight mechanisms and offering online education courses for physicians.