

# Canada Watch

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## Help stop MAiD for mental illness: 15 minutes can make a difference



It's time to act if we want to protect people with mental illness from euthanasia.

Canadians will be eligible for euthanasia on the basis of mental illness alone in just over a year and a half, unless a bill is passed to stop the expansion.

Canada Watch readers know euthanasia has expanded rapidly in recent years. Many have supported us as we have spoken out against euthanasia and in favour of protecting the sacredness of life – and for this we profoundly thank you.

We need your help again. This is a critical window for action. A 2021 law that expanded eligibility for medical assistance in dying allows Canadians to be eligible on the basis of mental illness alone – however that provision had a built-in delay.

Two bills have been passed since to delay it further, but MAiD for mental illness alone will now take effect on March 17, 2027. That's now only 19 months away.

To pass legislation often takes months to years. If we want to stop MAiD for mental illness alone, we

must ask for change now.

Before the House of Commons rose for the summer, a new bill was introduced to repeal MAiD on the basis of mental illness alone, Bill C-218. If this bill passed, it wouldn't just delay MAiD for mental illness further, it would stop it altogether. But private member's bills like this one only pass with broad public support, so your email or phone call in support of Bill C-218 is needed.

Our voices matter! MPs care about what their constituents think. Fifteen minutes of your time can make a difference.

Voicing support for C-218 can be simple and quick. You can find your MP's name and contact information at [ourcommons.ca/members](http://ourcommons.ca/members). You can call, write or visit your MP to ask them to stop MAiD for mental illness

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## Together for Canada Sunday in your church?

Your congregation is invited to join EFC affiliates across Canada on a November Sunday of your choice to celebrate our shared mission.

This new initiative is called Together for Canada: An EFC Sunday for Prayer and Partnership in the Gospel.

"The impact of our unity in following Christ in Canada is amazing – even in this so-called post-Christian era," asserts David Guretzki, the EFC's president and resident theologian. "It's deeply encouraging that more of us realize this and celebrate it together."

Details will come in the EFC weekly newsletter ([TheEFC.ca/Update](http://TheEFC.ca/Update)). Turn to page 2 to learn more.



**Centre for Ministry Partnership  
and Innovation**

Convening and collaborating to support  
the evangelical church in Canada  
FAMILY & COMMUNITY CARE FOR THE VULNERABLE



**Centre for Research on  
Church and Faith**

Connecting research with ministry



**Centre for Faith and  
Public Life**

Faithful witness through thoughtful,  
constructive engagement in public life

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from taking effect. You could even leave a voicemail message after hours if you're nervous about speaking to your MP or the MP's office staff.

Your message can be short and simple: "My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I live in your riding. I am really concerned about MAiD for mental illness taking effect in 2027. I'd like you to stop that from happening. Please support Bill C-218."

EFC staff are ready to equip you to speak with your MP. We have resources such as sample wording you can personalize for an MP email/letter, a petition you can print and circulate and more at [TheEFC.ca/C218](http://TheEFC.ca/C218).

We're grateful that so many Canada Watch readers support our ministry bringing biblical principles to bear in public policy. Thank you again for that. Would you also consider contacting your MP on this issue before it's too late?

Thank you for partnering with us to protect those who are vulnerable and to uphold the dignity and value of every life, regardless of age, illness or ability.

## New weekly video summaries

The EFC's weekly email newsletter has been experimenting with adding a one-minute headlines video with each issue.

These videos help supporters stay in the know about the three top headlines at the EFC from the previous week.

Host Karen Fishwick, the EFC's vice-president of administration and finance, delivers it all with unhurried words and a kind smile.

Check out the latest at [TheEFC.ca/Update](http://TheEFC.ca/Update).



**TOGETHER  
FOR CANADA:  
An EFC Sunday for  
Prayer and Partnership  
in the Gospel**

To register  
[TheEFC.ca/TogetherForCanada](http://TheEFC.ca/TogetherForCanada)

## Setting a special November Sunday

**T**he EFC's new Together for Canada Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate Christian engagement in Canadian society – the difference Christians are making in loving our neighbours and living out our calling across all parts of society – and encourage more of it on a November Sunday.

Church congregations, groups and individuals are invited to make use of the EFC's new resources designed for this purpose. Find them at [TheEFC.ca/TogetherForCanada](http://TheEFC.ca/TogetherForCanada).

One of the major items there is the Faith Matters video series. These six videos, roughly 10 minutes each, walk through how we can live out principles from Scripture around:

1. valuing of human life,
2. loving our neighbours,
3. stewarding religious freedom,
4. making peace,
5. working for right relationships, and
6. faithful parenting.

Members of EFC affiliate organizations also have access to a set of supplementary aftershow videos featuring one-on-one discussions with Canadian experts that go deeper into each topic.

Other resources being developed include:

- Highlighting one prayer need for each week in November, to focus our prayers for the Canadian Church and across broader Canadian society
  - Materials that can be used in a worship service or other gathering (text, video, slides)
  - Newsletter/website text that can help communicate the vision to all church members
- Browse the resources, plan how you might use them, and register your participation at [TheEFC.ca/TogetherForCanada](http://TheEFC.ca/TogetherForCanada).





## A note from EFC President David Guretzki

After a summer of rest and renewal, staff here at the EFC are anticipating a full fall season. A mere 18 months from now, medical assistance in dying (MAiD) for those with mental illness alone will become legal in Canada unless new legislation is passed.

This hit home afresh when I witnessed one of our denominational affiliates pass strong resolutions on MAiD at their annual meeting. These included a clear theological stand opposing MAiD and pastoral sensitivity in recognizing the ripple effects among us from deaths by euthanasia.

So this fall we need to speak with grace and urgency. Your support on such crucial EFC work is deeply appreciated and needed. Let me echo Paul's words from Philippians 1 - "I thank my God every time I remember you, because of your partnership in the gospel."

## Congregation blesses local MP

Did you notice a congratulations postcard in the previous issue of *Canada Watch*? Woodvale Church in Ottawa sure did.

EFC staff designed this simple card so any believer could sign it and send it to their member of Parliament. The idea was to congratulate and bless MPs of all parties after the recent election.

The postcard lets MPs know that Christian constituents are praying for them as they begin their work in the new session of Parliament.

Staff from Woodvale Pentecostal Church reached out to the EFC's Ottawa office to ask if there was a way to provide more of these cards to their congregants. Woodvale already has a gathering two evenings per month where people can come to pray for Canada. So it was no stretch for them to invite their members to send a card to their MP.

In response to Woodvale's request, the EFC developed a simple webpage where anyone in Canada can email a digital version of the card to their MP.

The church shared the page with its members. Your church can do the same and encourage members from every riding to bless their MP at [TheEFC.ca/Congrats](http://TheEFC.ca/Congrats).

If members of your church reached out in some way to your MP this summer, or are developing such plans for this fall, please tell us about it. Thank you.

**CONGRATULATE AND ENCOURAGE YOUR LOCAL MP THIS SUMMER.**



## Updating you on Canada's most immediate issues

■ **Religious freedom:** A court in Quebec will hear the Harvest Ministries case this fall. It's about a rental contract cancelled by a provincial cabinet minister because of the beliefs of the ministry. The EFC is co-intervening with the Canadian Centre for Christian Charities and a Quebec evangelical network.

■ **Prostitution:** A decision is expected soon in the *Kloubakov* case. The EFC and ARPA co-intervened at the Supreme Court last November in support of Canada's prostitution laws and its premise prostitution is inherently exploitative. The case challenges the constitutionality of two provisions in the current laws..

■ **Charitable status for advancing religion:** The EFC wrote to the new finance minister June 3 asking for confirmation that his government does not plan to follow a recommendation by the House of Commons finance committee to remove "advancement of religion" as a charitable purpose.

■ **Reconciliation with Indigenous communities:** The EFC, in partnership with the Seven Commitments Working

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Group, wrote to the minister of energy and natural resources June 20, saying it's essential the government work in nation-to-nation partnership with Indigenous peoples, ensuring a seat at the table in all decisions that impact their rights, interests, communities and lands.

■ **MAiD brochure goes viral:**

The EFC's brochure *Euthanasia in Canada* received significant attention on social media this year ([TheEFC.ca/HaltMAiD](http://TheEFC.ca/HaltMAiD)). This brochure highlights our concerns with Canada's euthanasia laws and proposals for further expansion. Social media comments confirm our concerns many Canadians aren't aware of these developments.

■ **Blessing MPs:** The EFC is encouraging prayer for MPs and has developed an e-postcard to send and let them know we are praying for them, at [TheEFC.ca/Congrats](http://TheEFC.ca/Congrats).

■ **Euthanasia for mental illness alone:** MP Tamara Jansen has introduced Bill C-218 which would reverse the law allowing medical assistance in dying for mental illness alone. The EFC supports Bill C-218 and has resources to equip you to contact your local MP at [TheEFC.ca/C218](http://TheEFC.ca/C218). Please call or write your MP today.

## Pastors Day comes to Ottawa Oct. 23

Last year the EFC launched a new annual event called Pastors Day. The idea is to create a space for region-wide networking and sharing among a diverse group of pastors – and for EFC leaders to offer them encouraging interactive presentations tailored to their work and ministry.

Part of the day includes joint sessions with both congregational pastors and the presidents of various EFC affiliate denominations and organizations, and part is pastors only.

The inaugural event in Toronto in 2024 included updates from the three EFC centres – the Centre for Faith and Public Life, the Centre on Research on Church and Faith, and the Centre for Ministry Partnership and Innovation – as well as an address by President David Guretzki.

There were also unhurried times for networking, lunch, discussion and small-group interaction and prayer. Attendees came from big and small congregations, urban and rural, across dozens of denominations.

If you're a pastor (or you support a pastor) who can be in Ottawa Oct. 23, you'll want to save the date. Details will be shared by email to pastors of EFC affiliate churches and other pastors in the region and be posted at [TheEFC.ca/PastorsDay2025](http://TheEFC.ca/PastorsDay2025).



## Faith Matters comes to Calgary Sept. 20


A workshop featuring EFC President David Guretzki on the topic of MAiD in Canada is coming to Calgary on Sept. 20.

Participants are taught how the laws around MAiD have evolved, what Scripture says about this issue and how we can respond. A similar workshop was held in Winnipeg in June and in Moncton in May. Register at [TheEFC.ca/CalgaryEvent25](http://TheEFC.ca/CalgaryEvent25).

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The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (*Alliance évangélique du Canada*) is the national association "uniting Evangelicals to bless Canada in the name of Jesus." Since 1964 the EFC has provided a national forum for Evangelicals, fostered ministry partnerships, conducted research on religious and social trends and provided a constructive voice for biblical principles in life and society.



RELIGIOUS FREEDOM



SANCTITY OF LIFE



CHURCH & MISSION



FAMILY & COMMUNITY



CARE FOR THE VULNERABLE