

Mission: Assistance in Living (MAiL)

Coming out of the pandemic, we've learned so much about how fragile our social response is to mental health issues, addictions, seniors at risk and about the huge impact of loneliness and isolation.

Right now an increasing number of Canadians see a rush to provide wider access to MAiD (Medical Assistance in Dying) for people in despair instead of advocating for universal access to mental health supports, housing, or social assistance.

If MAiD becomes the default solution for suffering that's caused by social circumstance or lack of access to services we've failed as a society.

Canadians still do not have universal access to mental health or to quality palliative care—or the many other programs and supports Canadians are entitled to under the Human Rights Act which include an adequate standard of living, housing, healthcare and accessible services.

Where is the movement, our collective mission, for assistance in living?



Canada needs to re-ignite a life-affirming approach to the care and wellbeing of all Canadians based in shared values of the dignity of the human person.

- Expanding access to MAiD challenges us all to examine our deeply held values and concepts of autonomy, self-determination, equality and suffering.
- As MAiD becomes more intertwined with our care systems, these complex issues will continue to take their toll on families, caregivers and care communities.
- As Canada contemplates the expansion of MAiD for reasons of mental illness, we are at a crucial point with enormous social consequences.
- Experts have raised concerns about the lack of safeguards, data collection, and oversight of MAiD in the health care system.
- We need comprehensive approaches to addressing suffering.
- How to support those suffering and struggling to live in our country should be the focus of our full attention.

Call to Action

- We need a social justice response to better support living in Canada. One that takes collective, intentional vision and action aimed at supporting the person in all dimensions... physical, social, psychological, emotional, spiritual.
- We need a new movement...a new acronym... **MAiL**... **M**ission : **A**ssistance **i**n **L**iving.
- We are looking for others who have the same conviction...or questions or concerns.

Bill C-314

We support the enactment of Bill C-314 which amends the Criminal Code to provide that a mental disorder is not a grievous and irremediable medical condition for which a person could receive medical assistance in dying.

MAiL Values

These principles ground us and drive us forward:

- The value and dignity of every human life
- Loving-kindness and respect
- Responsibility for each other
- Social justice
- The common good
- The power of community

Let's Connect

If you are interested in exploring the idea of MAiL or learning more about our reflection on the issues covered here, we would love to connect.

Please contact: Julie Turenne-Maynard at 204-202-7544 or admin@cham.mb.ca

Together, we CAN make a difference



CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA
ASSOCIATION CATHOLIQUE MANITOBAINE DE LA SANTÉ
МАНІТОБСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА АСОЦІАЦІЯ ЗДОРОВ'Я

Catholic Health Association of Manitoba (CHAM)

We are a voluntary, provincial association dedicated to our healing ministry and mission of compassionate concern and respect for all persons through education, health care, ethics, spiritual care, social justice. Our members span the continuum of social services, long term and continuing care, acute care, and seniors' services across Manitoba. These organizations do not provide MAiD. They work with a wide range of partners to serve Manitobans, often at the most vulnerable times of their lives.