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## **Canadians Should not be Provided Public Support to Kill Themselves**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Toronto and Winnipeg**  
**September 18, 2014**

“It’s not worse than death, and people who are misled into believing it will be should not be offered public support to kill themselves”, say two leading disability rights organizations who will be opposing attempts to strike down statutory provisions designed to prevent counseling or assisting anyone, disabled or not, to die.

The Supreme Court of Canada will hear a case October 15th in which it is being asked to strike down these protections, but only for disabled people. The Council of Canadians with Disabilities (CCD) and the Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL) are the organized voice of Canada’s citizens with disabilities. They will be appearing in court

to oppose efforts to legalize assisted suicide and euthanasia (AS/E).

“Nobody in Canada needs to be left to face death in pain, nor should they have to feel their lives are a burden for others”, says Rhonda Wiebe of CCD. “People with disabilities should be joining with the Canadian Medical Association and many others and demanding adequate end of life care instead of putting resources in an AS/E program!”

In jurisdictions where AS/E is legal the leading reasons given for dying are “losing dignity and autonomy” and “becoming burdensome for family and friends”. “These initial fears are normal but are based on conditions that over time become routine aspects of life for disabled people”, says Catherine Frazee, former Chair of the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

“We are concerned that countries such as Belgium and the Netherlands see nothing wrong with euthanizing children and people with developmental or cognitive disabilities”, said Laurie Larson, President of CACL. “We are also concerned that the year over year growth in death rates in these countries are increasing by an average of 48 and 64% respectively with no end in sight to these increases”.

CCD/CACL want the public to understand the concerns of the community AS/E is said to benefit. To learn more you can access the CCD/CACL factum submitted to the Supreme Court, at [www.ccdonline.ca](http://www.ccdonline.ca) or [www.cacl.ca](http://www.cacl.ca) or contact: Laurie Beachell, National Coordinator, CCD at: 204 947 0303 or Michael Bach, Executive Vice-President, CACL at: 416 209 7942

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For the full story go to [cacl.ca](http://cacl.ca)

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