

The Special Committee on Dying in Dignity

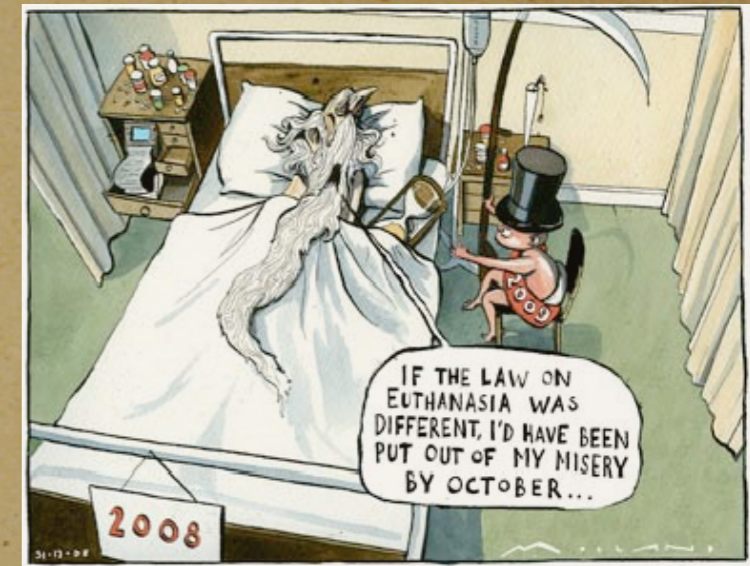
What does it mean to die in dignity?

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Purpose of the committee:

The committee on dying in dignity was created in 2009 by the Quebec National Assembly. Their goal is to receive feedback from Quebecers and determine if the general population is interested in decriminalizing euthanasia and assisted suicide. The committee is mostly made up of MP's and continues to hold sessions where the public is welcome. It is the most serious move that any Canadian government has taken in addressing the issue of dying in dignity.



British Cartoon on euthanasia law



Demonstrations against Euthanasia in Belgium

Goal of the project:

My research focus was on analyzing the transcript documents of the Quebec National Assembly's website. These transcripts provided the voices of many Quebecers with various views on dying in dignity. In order to simplify these testimonies for Professor Gandsman, who is doing research on dying in dignity, the accounts would be summarized and the most important details would be highlighted.

The list on the right shows all the individuals whose accounts were examined. It was important to classify the speakers in order to be able to see the entirety of the project. It also makes it easier for Professor Gandsman to reference the accounts, if necessary.

People	Position Pro/Ar	Motivation fom reasoning	Organization affiliation	Category
Nicole Bourgouin	Pro	Autonomy of the individual; mostly towards women's choice	Association féminine d'éducation et d'action sociale régionale Montréal-Laurentides-Outaouais	Personal/Ethical
Dr. Patrick Vinay	Against	Euthanasia will create social problems	Vivre dans la dignité	Medical
Linda Couture	Against	Scared of elder abuse	Vivre dans la dignité	Medical
Dr. André Bourque	Against	Believes in advancements in palliative care	Vivre dans la dignité	Medical
Dr. Marc Beauchamp	Against	Euthanasia is the devaluation of human life	Vivre dans la dignité	Medical
Sylvie Colombe	Pro	Husband was refused euthanasia so he shot himself	Famille Rouleau	Personal/Religious
Dacha Rouleau-Dumont	Pro	Father had to sneak around like a thief in order to end his life	Famille Rouleau	Personal/Religious
Janine Rouleau-Auger	Pro	Father was refused Euthanasia led to him shooting himself	Famille Rouleau	Personal/Religious
Dr Ramona Coelho	Against	Economic/elder abuse as reasons against euthanasia	The English Speaking Catholic Council	Religious-Catholic
Martin P. Murphy	Against	Natural death is dignified. Euthanasia is an illusion of control	The English Speaking Catholic Council	Religious-Catholic
M.Lincoln	Against	Had severely son who lived until age 42 having a profound impact on many	The English Speaking Catholic Council	Religious-Catholic
Nicole Gladu	Pro	Has post-Polio. Has been trying for euthanasia for years	Individual	Personal/anti-Church
Monique David	Against	Father did not commit E. Quebec is compassionate=no E	Euthanasia Prevention Coalition	Personal-Father
Catherine Ferrier	Against	Doctors are losing authority, insurance companies stand to profit from euthanasia	Association des médecins catholiques de Montréal	Medical/Religious
Lorette Noble	Against	Scared that doctors will be killing patients	Individual	Personal/ Fear of death
Prof. Roger Millaire	Against	Compares the Shoah to potential mass killings with euthanasia in Quebec	Individual/ SECOR	Ideological
Laurence Normand-Rivest	Against	Autonomy used to kill another imposes on the liberty of another.	Individual/UofM medical student	Ethical/Medical
Maximilian Zucchi	Against	Claims that sometimes the sick need accompaniment to death, not a forced death.	Individual/McGill Physiotherapy student	Ethical/Medical
Angelo Zanchette	Against	Family support is what is needed not Euthanasia	Individual/Real estate agent	Ethical/Religious
Prof. John Zucchi	Against	Euthanasia goes against human societal solidarity	Professeurs de L'Université McGill contre L'euthanasie et le suicide assisté	Ethical
Dr. Gerald Batist	Against	Giving doctors the right to kill is too big of a risk	Professeurs de L'Université McGill contre L'euthanasie et le suicide assisté	Ethical/Medical
Laurier Thériault	Pro	Him and his wife went on final date before she was unplugged from respirator and died. Surro	Individual	Personal
Hélène Bolduc	Pro	Respect the autonomy of each individual, sister is in palliative care	Association Québécoise pour le droit de mourir dans la dignité	Religious/Personal-Sister
Francis Boudreau	Pro	Euthanasia can be an act of compassion	Individual/Philo prof	Ethical/Philosophical
Sara Susan Raphals	Pro	Husband had parkinsons and committed suicide by overdosing on pills	Individual	Religious/Personal/Ethical
France Maxant	Against	Claims mother was killed by passive euthanasia	Individual	Personal-Mother
François Lehmann	Against	A patient wanting Euthanasia needs sympathy not death	Group of five doctors	Medical
Joseph Ayoub	Against	Stresses the humanization of medicine;therefore against euthanasia	Group of five doctors	Medical
Inés Maria Tillard	Against	Decriminalizing Euthanasia would lead to an unsafe society	Individual	Personal/Ethical
Caroline Girouard	Against	Against doctors killing patients	Médecins et infirmières soignant les patients atteints du cancer contre l'euthanasie et le suicide assisté	Medical/Ethical
Dr.Cristiano Ferrario	Against	Against commercialization of medicine, for compassion	Médecins et infirmières soignant les patients atteints du cancer contre l'euthanasie et le suicide	Medical/Ethical
Dr. Mark Basik	Against	Strong supporter of palliative care treatments	Médecins et infirmières soignant les patients atteints du cancer contre l'euthanasie et le suicide	Medical/Ethical
Dr. Helen Deutsch	Against	Allowing euthanasia will satisfy few, but put many at risk	Médecins et infirmières soignant les patients atteints du cancer contre l'euthanasie et le suicide	Medical/Ethical
Anne Falcimaigne	Pro	Not enough funding for palliative care, E allows for death in dignity	Association québécoise de défense des droits des personnes retraitées et préretraitées, section	Ethical
Dalphon-Guiral Madeleine	Pro	Euthanasia is as natural as prolonging life with drugs	Association québécoise de défense des droits des personnes retraitées et préretraitées, section	Ethical/Political
Élizabeth Beauchesne	Against	Civilized society must protect the weak, not kill them	Individual/CHUM	Medical/Ethical
Paul Marchand	Against	Body is a temple of God and therefore cannot be euthanized	Individual	Religious
Teresa Doyle	Against	Scared that Euthanasia mentality will shift like Nazism	Individual	Fear
Prof. Marie-Michelle Poisson	Pro	Individuals should have the liberty to take their lives	Individual/Philo prof	Ethical/Philosophical
Patrick St-Onge	Against	From poem "allowing death is stopping the love"	Individual/Poet	Ethical
Dr.Ouanessa Younsi	Against	Fear of doctors taking advantage of Euthanasia	Individual/Doctor	Medical/Philosophical
Julie Bélanger	Against	Reads letter from deceased Aunt. Death is important and needs to be lived through	Individual	Personal/Ethical
Élizabeth Verge	Against	People need to die naturally, links Euthanasia and suicide together	Individual/Pharmacist	Medical
Dennis Stimpson	Against	Euthanasia can be seen as a form of tyranny	Individual	Ethical
André Dagenais	Against	According to him: as a society our first concern is preservation of life, second is quality	Individual/ Engineering student	Ethical
Paule Savingna	Pro	We need to respect the rights of people to my their own decisions	Individual	Ethical/Philosophical
Don Ivanski	Against	Mother refused treatment, advocates for more safeguards to provide patient safety	Individual	Personal-Mother
Total: 47 people	13 Pro-euthanasia	34 against Euthanasia/assisted suicide		

List and categorization of accounts