

# *Soci t  Alzheimer Society*

C A N A D A

February 17, 2023

## **Alzheimer Society of Canada Statement on latest federal MAID report**

On February 15, 2023, Parliament’s Special Joint Committee on Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) released [its second report on MAID](#), providing additional insight and recommendations on requests in complex circumstances, including for advanced requests.

After hearing from Canadians, the committee has recommended to the House of Commons that advance requests be permitted following a diagnosis of a serious and incurable medical condition, disease or disorder leading to incapacity.

- The Alzheimer Society of Canada **applauds the committee’s recommendation that advance requests be permitted** as part of end-of-life care planning under certain circumstances.
- We believe and continue to support that **people living with dementia should have the right to choice in their advance care planning**, and we believe this committee recommendation will help support that.
- We recognize that planning for a medically assisted death **must be a free and informed choice**. Our federal, provincial and territorial **governments must ensure access to high-quality community and home care, long-term care and palliative care**, so that a person living with dementia has access to a full range of quality care options for end-of-life care planning.
- End-of-life and care-planning decisions are **deeply personal**, and reflect the unique perspectives, experiences and values of an individual. There are a diverse range of perspectives on advance requests and medically assisted death among people living with dementia. **Each person living with dementia should be afforded the right to plan for what feels right for them.**
- The Alzheimer Society of Canada **supports a person’s individual and unique values when it comes to their own care planning.**
- We look forward to engaging with the federal government on the next steps in the availability of advance requests for MAID expansion in complex circumstances, including involvement with people living with dementia and caregivers.
- Any laws, policies or processes developed from these recommendations **must be made with the involvement of people living with dementia**. The current round of consultations did not include many of their voices, and that omission should not be repeated.
- **Expansion of MAID** to permit advance requests in complex circumstances **will require greater clarity** as to how such requests will be applied, **including safeguards for vulnerable people**. Diverse populations of people living with dementia must be engaged in the identification of such safeguards.
- We welcome the federal government’s plan to support clinicians through education and training in the ethical and thoughtful application of MAID and end-of-life care planning; we believe this will help to support people living with dementia.
- We encourage the federal government to **quickly move to legislate** and implement the report’s recommendations on advance requests. We also encourage **provinces and territories to work quickly and collaboratively to implement and enact the legislation.**