

## CFPC ePanel #02, 2015: Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted Suicide Survey

---

Thank you for agreeing to be part of the ePanel of the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC). Your comments will help guide policies and decisions adopted by your college. As you know, the assisted suicide doctor / physician assisted dying and euthanasia are subjects of lively discussion among health professionals and the public. At present, we have more questions than answers about the effect of this important issue in family medicine. To help us make our decisions related to this complex issue, we ask you to answer the following questions:

**1. Do you agree with the recent Supreme Court of Canada decision that struck down sections of the Criminal Code that prohibit physicians from helping patients die?**

- Yes
- No
- I don't know enough about the Supreme Court of Canada's decision to answer

**2. Would you help a competent, consenting dying patient end her/his life if requested?**

- Never
- If appropriate and rigorous checks and balances are in place
- Yes – it's the patient's choice

**3. CFPC is looking to focus its efforts around this important topic. From the list below please select what would be meaningfully beneficial to you as a family physician. Please check all that apply.**

- Guidance on ethical approaches and considerations to physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia
- Summary of legislation and its implications for family physicians

- Suggested actions in response to patient requests for your assistance to help them die
- Education and CPD – what does this mean for my profession and practice
- The CFPC collaborate with other organizations to influence federal legislators
- A forum (eg web-based) for discussing difficult cases with family physician colleagues
- None of the above

#### **4. Thinking about the deliverables you identified as beneficial in Q3 – which would be the one most important and beneficial to you as a family physician?**

- Guidance on ethical approaches and considerations to physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia
- Summary of legislation and its implications for family physicians
- Suggested actions in response to patient requests for your assistance to help them die
- Education and CPD – what does this mean for my profession and practice
- The CFPC collaborate with other organizations to influence federal legislators
- A forum (eg web-based) for discussing difficult cases with family physician colleagues
- None of the above

#### **5. What kind of role do you see for family physicians in assisting patients who wish to die?**

- No role – no health professionals should take part
- No role – this should be provided by other existing health professionals
- No role – this should be provided by a newly created health profession specifically trained for this
- Limited role – in collaboration with other health professionals
- Primary role – family physicians are in best position to provide medical aid in dying

#### **6. Do you do palliative care as part of your practice?**

- No palliative care
- Some palliative care (<20% of services provided)
- Special interest in palliative care (20-50% of practice is palliative care)
- Practice focused on palliative care (50%+ is palliative care)

**7. Please feel free to share your thoughts on this issue.**