On March 17, 2021, changes to Canada’s new medical assistance in dying (MAID) law came into force. This marks a significant milestone for Canada. The new law responds to feedback from over 300,000 Canadians, experts, practitioners, stakeholders, Indigenous groups, and provinces and territories, provided during the January and February 2020 consultations. The revised law is also informed by the testimony of over 120 expert witnesses heard throughout Bill C-7’s study by the House of Commons and the Senate.

These changes to the Criminal Code now allow MAID for eligible persons who wish to pursue a medically assisted death, whether their natural death is reasonably foreseeable or not. The new law will reduce unnecessary suffering in Canada. It also supports greater autonomy and freedom of choice for eligible persons, and provides safeguards to protect those who may be vulnerable.

To support health care practitioners and sustain pan-Canadian cooperation on the implementation of the new MAID law, the Government of Canada will continue to work with provinces and territories, health care practitioners and regulatory bodies on best practices, clinical guidance, training, monitoring and reporting.

For more detailed information on the changes to Canada’s MAID law that came into force on March 17, 2021, please consult the Medical Assistance in Dying webpage on justice.gc.ca.