On February 24, 2020, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada introduced a bill, which proposes changes to the Criminal Code’s provisions on medical assistance in dying (MAID). The proposed changes follow consultations with Canadians, experts, practitioners, stakeholders, Indigenous groups, provinces and territories, and an online questionnaire that received over 300,000 responses.

This Bill would amend the Criminal Code to allow MAID for eligible persons who wish to pursue a medically assisted death, whether their natural death is reasonably foreseeable or not. The proposed changes will reduce unnecessary suffering in Canada. They will also support greater autonomy and freedom of choice for eligible persons, and provide safeguards to protect those who may be vulnerable.

CURRENT LEGISLATION
PASSED IN 2016

REQUEST FOR MAID

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
• HAVE A GRIEVOUS AND IRREMEDIABLE MEDICAL CONDITION
• NATURAL DEATH MUST BE REASONABLY FORESEEABLE

SAFEGUARDS FOR ALL ELIGIBLE PERSONS

FINAL CONSENT TO BE PROVIDED BEFORE ADMINISTRATION OF MAID

PROPOSED CHANGES TO LEGISLATION
INTRODUCED ON FEBRUARY 24, 2020

REQUEST FOR MAID

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
• HAVE A GRIEVOUS AND IRREMEDIABLE MEDICAL CONDITION
• *REASONABLE FORESEEABILITY OF NATURAL DEATH CRITERION REPEALED
• ELIGIBILITY FOR PERSONS SUFFERING SOLELY FROM MENTAL ILLNESS IS EXCLUDED

EXISTING & EASED SAFEGUARDS
FOR ELIGIBLE PERSONS WHOSE DEATH IS REASONABLY FORESEEABLE

NEW & STRENGTHENED SAFEGUARDS
FOR ELIGIBLE PERSONS WHOSE DEATH IS NOT REASONABLY FORESEEABLE

FINAL CONSENT OR POSSIBLE WAIVER OF FINAL CONSENT FOR ELIGIBLE PERSONS UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES

FINAL CONSENT TO BE PROVIDED BEFORE ADMINISTRATION OF MAID

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN DYING

To support health care practitioners and sustain pan-Canadian cooperation on the implementation of medical assistance in dying, including the changes to the regime proposed in this Bill, the Government of Canada will work with provinces and territories, health care practitioners and regulatory bodies on best practices, clinical guidance, training, monitoring and reporting.

FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION, PLEASE CONSULT THE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN DYING WEBPAGE ON JUSTICE.GC.CA