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## Christian Family Life

During the 95th annual national convention in Vancouver in August 2015, a motion was approved to add the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition as a temporary national voluntary fund.

The motion is as follows:

**That the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition be added as a temporary national voluntary fund for a term not exceeding five years.**

The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition is a nonprofit organization with the following purpose, beliefs and aims. More information may be found on its website [www.epcc.ca](http://www.epcc.ca).

### PURPOSE

- To preserve and enforce legal prohibitions and ethical guidelines prohibiting mercy killing.
- To increase public awareness of hospice/palliative care.
- To promote improvement in the quality and availability of hospice/palliative care, and effective methods of controlling pain and suffering.
- To develop and build compassionate care community services as alternatives to “mercy killing.”
- To educate the public on the harm and risks associated with the promotion of euthanasia and assisted suicide through the use of pamphlets, information seminars, media campaigns and research articles.
- To co-ordinate and disseminate research and information on issues related to euthanasia and assisted suicide.
- To represent the vulnerable and where appropriate, advocate before the courts on issues related to euthanasia and assisted suicide.

### BELIEFS

- **Euthanasia** is the deliberate killing of someone by action or omission, with or without that person's consent, for what are claimed to be compassionate reasons.
- **Assisted Suicide** is counselling, abetting, or an act of aiding someone to kill himself or herself.
- **Hospice/Palliative Care** is the active total care of patients whose prognosis is limited due to progressive, far-advanced disease; its purpose is to alleviate pain and other distressing symptoms and to enhance the quality of life, not to postpone or hasten death. (World Health Organization)
- **The members of the Coalition believe** that euthanasia and assisted suicide should continue to be treated as murder/homicide, irrespective of whether the person killed has consented to be killed.

- **The present law in Canada** does not distinguish between euthanasia, assisted suicide and other forms of murder. The key consideration is the intention to cause death. Consent or motive – even one of compassion – does not change the reality of killing a human being.

## AIMS

Assisted Suicide would alter the trust relationship that exists between the medical professional and their patient. At what point will people fear for their life when they are in need of help?

- **To present a united voice in presentations** to governments or other organizations with respect to issues related to euthanasia and assisted suicide.
- **To network and exchange information** between members and concerned people.
- **To develop and promote pamphlets, information sheets, books, and a website** for educating the public on issues related to euthanasia, assisted suicide, and hospice/palliative care.
- **To build a research team** for collecting and assessing information.
- **To organize events** and promote quality speakers who can address issues related to euthanasia, assisted suicide, and hospice/palliative care.
- **To create the opportunity for informative debate.**
- **To establish and build compassionate care community services** as an alternative to “mercy killing.”

Judy Lewis

*National Chair of Christian Family Life*

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An update on Euthanasia Prevention Coalition — they are currently working on 2 important projects:

1. A broadcast-quality educational video about euthanasia and assisted suicide;
2. A new media advertising campaign.

The video will be designed for Canadian and international use, and as a media campaign for Canada.

Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director and International Chair for the *International Euthanasia Prevention Coalition*, will make presentations if you are interested. Contact ...

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Nancy Morley

*Diocesan Chair of Christian Family Life*