



Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough

March 11, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ in the Diocese of Peterborough,

As Catholics, we are called to protect the most vulnerable members of our society and to see the inherent value of every person, made in the image of God. Recent trends in our nation and province should be of great concern for us as we strive to uphold the dignity of every person.

The Federal Government is on the verge of expanding assisted dying in Canada. Passing Bill C-7 will mean expanding access to euthanasia and assisted suicide to the disabled, those with mental illness and those who have an advanced directive. Many Canadians are alarmed at the implications of Bill C-7 and have contacted their Federal Member of Parliament to express their concerns.

We need to be equally concerned about a related issue and that is conscience rights for healthcare workers. Many healthcare professionals have moral convictions that do not allow them to participate in assisted dying. They are being pushed out of their professions by provincial health regulators that insist healthcare providers must participate in MAID. No one should be forced to go against their conscience, even by making an effective referral, in ending the lives of patients.

Ontario needs legislation to protect doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and others. In Ontario, you can support both healthcare providers and vulnerable patients by contacting the Ontario government, especially your local MPP, and ask that legislation be introduced to protect the conscience rights of healthcare workers. The government may listen on this matter if enough people speak.

I invite you to act by calling, e-mailing, or mailing a letter to the Ontario government through your own MPP. Consider a visit to the following site, www.canadiansforconscience.ca/ontario, where you can learn more about this critically important issue and through their site send an email directly to the Ontario government. Conscience rights must be protected in legislation for the sake of all.

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You can also find links to this site and further information on the Diocesan web site at www.peterboroughdiocese.org.

The Catholic response to human suffering is proper healthcare, prayer, and accompaniment. Let us pray for all healthcare providers and for those who are sick, vulnerable and alone. Let us work together to speak for healthcare providers and their vital conscience rights.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ Daniel Miehm". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

†Most Reverend Daniel J. Miehm
Bishop of Peterborough

†DJM/dlt