

# Update for Health Practitioners

## Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID)

### Saskatchewan Activities

May 25, 2016

Saskatchewan's goal is to ensure a balanced framework is in place for medical assistance in dying, with appropriate safeguards for vulnerable individuals and with respect for the wishes and personal convictions of health care practitioners.

- Work is being done to establish **standard provincial processes** to assist health regions and health care practitioners with service delivery. This includes development of tools, forms and resources, and consideration of credentialing and patient flow processes.
- **Stakeholder engagement sessions** were held. Participating organizations included regulatory bodies, provider groups, community organizations, Indigenous representatives, and faith-based organizations.
- Details about access to MAID in Saskatchewan are still being determined. As plans are made, information will become available to the public, RHAs, and provider organizations.
- **Roles and responsibilities** are under discussion. Saskatchewan's process will ideally be consistent with approaches in other provinces. We expect that physicians, nurse practitioners and pharmacists would be the practitioners most directly involved with medical assistance in dying. Other health professionals providing support could include registered nurses, social workers, psychologists, and spiritual care and palliative care providers.
- Health care practitioners' **personal beliefs on this issue will be respected**. Saskatchewan health practitioners and care providers will be free to follow their personal convictions with respect to providing medical assistance in dying.
- **Contact points** are being identified with health regions, professional associations and partner organizations. These key contacts will help streamline information sharing, and facilitate requests for services.
- Some planning decisions have to wait until the federal legislative process is resolved. Until Bill C14 is passed, physicians are the only provider group expressly referenced to provide MAID, under the Supreme Court's decision. Even so, until June 6<sup>th</sup>, MAID is only available through a court order.
- Watch your **professional association's website**. Further information will be shared across the health system in the coming weeks.