



Supreme Court Decision – Physician-Assisted Dying

Message to physicians and the public

SASKATOON, February 6th, 2015

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan acknowledges the Supreme Court decision to strike down the current law on Physician-Assisted Dying. In this regard, we feel it is important to remind physicians and the public of the following:

- The law will have a suspended declaration of invalidity of 12 months, in which case the current law prohibiting assisted dying remains in effect, unless the Federal Government passes a new law.
- Assisting dying remains illegal until either the declaration of invalidity takes place, or new legislation is passed to address the issue. In either case, it will remain illegal for some time for physicians to assist patients to commit suicide and we expect physicians to follow the law and not perform illegal acts.
- Until the College has an opportunity to review and consider the implications of the decision it will not be in a position to decide what, if any, action to take in response to the decision.

*The mission of the **College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan** is to serve the public by regulating the practice of medicine and guiding the profession to achieve the highest standards of care. It currently issues licenses to more than 2,500 physicians and surgeons in the province, as well as over 1,500 corporate permits.*

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