



The Catholic Women's League of Canada
ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

ONE HEART
VOICE
MISSION

October 14, 2016
Premier Rachel Notley
Office of the Premier
premier@gov.ab.ca

Dear Premier Notley,

I am writing to you as the president of the Alberta Mackenzie Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada. I have been instructed by our membership of almost 10,000 women to urge the Provincial Government to petition our provincial/territorial premiers and appropriate ministers to request that freedom of conscience of healthcare professionals be protected. We also urge the assurance of the same protection for healthcare institutions when either they or individuals within them refuse to participate in medically assisted death or refuse to make direct referrals for patients who request medically assisted death, and that provincial councils petition the provincial/territorial colleges and/or associations of healthcare professionals urging them to recognize and respect their members' right to freedom of conscience.

League members throughout Alberta support physicians, health care workers, pharmacists and institutions' efforts to promote services that respect the dignity of the patient and the rights of healthcare professionals and institutions not to risk becoming complicit in acts that are morally wrong.

Physicians who provide palliative and hospice care, and who choose not to end their patients' lives, must be respected. There must be no coercion of patients or physicians to participate in physician assisted death. This also means that physicians who are opposed to ending the lives of their patients with physician assisted death must not be required to facilitate, either by referral or other forms of participation, in the process. "Our worth as a society is measured by the support we give to the vulnerable," said says Larry Worthen, Executive Director, Canadian Medical and Dental Society. "We need increased access to palliative care, chronic disease and mental health services to help individuals who are suffering across the country." Coalition for HealthCARE and Conscience (<http://goo.gl/wFrDym>)

I await your response.

For God and Canada,

Cathy Bouchard, President,
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council,
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

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[addressed to Premier McLeod for NWT]

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