



COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

Court ‘erred grievously’ in removing protections for vulnerable

Lack of adequate palliative care at root of desire for assisted suicide: Archbishop Miller

VANCOUVER (Feb. 6, 2015) – Vancouver Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, today issued the following statement in light of the Supreme Court of Canada’s Carter decision on assisted suicide.

“Today the Supreme Court of Canada erred grievously in stripping Canadians of the protection that the law afforded them against assisted suicide.

I am deeply troubled by the Court’s decision to overturn the law, and I call on Catholics to join with other advocates for vulnerable persons to respond with urgency.

Until today, Canadian legislation has been designed to protect those inclined toward ending their lives. That protection has now been eliminated.

At the root of the desire for assisted suicide is the fact that adequate palliative care is often unavailable, which can lead to thoughts of suicide. In order to provide hope for those who suffer, we call on all levels of government, the healing professions, and hospitals and care facilities to ensure truly equal and inclusive access to such care. We have the technology to control pain, and we have the ability to overcome loneliness and despair.

We call upon the federal government to enact legislation which will provide all possible legal safeguards for those who are vulnerable to suicide.”

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