



Citizens With Disabilities – Ontario
www.cwdo.org

“Together We Are Stronger”

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FACING A FUTURE WITH ASSISTED SUICIDE

A Citizens With Disabilities – Ontario Webinar

While the public continues to debate whether assisted suicide should ever be allowed, the real questions we now need to answer have changed.

As a result of the Supreme Court of Canada decision in the *Carter* Case, we now know assisted suicide will be legal for what is agreed will be a very small group of people, but remain a criminal act for everyone else.

- **Criteria:** How will that small group of people be clearly and consistently identifiable?
- **Prevention:** How will the vulnerable be protected and alternatives, such as effective palliative care, be made available?
- **Physicians:** Apart from assisting death to ultimately occur, what is the appropriate and necessary role for physicians in the process?
- **Safeguards:** Should the review process take place before or after death?
- **Federal Role:** Since assisted suicide will remain subject to criminal sanction, is a federal law required?
- **Provincial Role:** What obligations do the provinces have to provide alternative treatments and services, to fund physician assistance, and establish the review process?

PRESENTERS

These questions will be addressed by CWDO's expert panel of disability rights lawyer **David Baker**, and health law expert **Gilbert Sharpe** in a webinar to be held October 4, 2015 at 2:00 pm Eastern Daylight Time.

More information and links to presentation documents can be found at the Bakerlaw website.

CWDO is honoured to have Eric Wasylenko as the Moderator for this Canada Wide Webinar. He is well known to medical audiences, credible with the media and is knowledgeable about disability issues.

Eric Wasylenko is a palliative care physician in the Calgary area, and a clinical ethicist with the Health Quality Council of Alberta. He is a member of the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre at the University of Alberta, and a Clinical lecturer at the University of Calgary. He chairs the Public Health Ethics Consultative Group of the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Note: A representative from the federal government's External Panel on Options for a Legislative Response to *Carter v. Canada*, will attend as an observer.

Location: This Canada-wide webinar will take place in CWDO's Accessible **Online** Conference Centre in Auditorium 1.

Who should attend? Persons with disabilities, organizations of people with disabilities, media, family members and caregivers, political representatives, members of the medical profession, clergy, etc.

AGENDA

12:00 pm – Auditorium 1 opens

2:00 pm – Webinar begins

3:00 pm – Discussion

4:00 pm – Simultaneous Events:

(1) Media News Conference with David Baker and Gilbert Sharpe (stay in Auditorium 1)

(2) Break Out Discussions by Topic and/or Province (online conference rooms to be assigned)

(All times are Eastern Daylight Time)

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Attendance is free, but please register to attend this webinar.

www.cwdo.org/d/content/webinar-registration-form-assisted-suicide.

Here are instructions to join our online webinar:

www.cwdo.org/d/content/how-join-our-webinar.

Technical problems cannot be solved during the webinar. Therefore, Auditorium 1 is open for participants to prepare themselves and equipment at the following times:

- Thursday evening, October 1, 7:00 to 9:00 pm
- Friday evening, October 2, 7:00 to 9:00 pm
- Saturday morning, October 3, 11:00 am to noon
- Saturday afternoon, October 3, 4:00 to 6:00 pm
- Saturday evening, October 3, 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Note: all times are Eastern times.

Remember: Check the CWDO website at www.cwdo.org before October 4th for more webinar information.

Please join us!

Together we are stronger.

THANKS TO

Citizens With Disabilities–Ontario gratefully acknowledges:

- Bakerlaw
- Council of Canadians with Disabilities
- Canadian Association for Community Living
- Independent Living Canada
- Technical support provided by Talking Communities and IDEAL Group

For More Information Contact:

Pat Seed, Chairperson

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