

## A crucial time to act

The law currently limits medical assistance in dying (MAiD) to those who are 18 years and older.

A group of MPs and Senators recommends making mature minors eligible for MAiD. This would effectively take away the minimum age so that children and teens could be eligible for euthanasia or assisted suicide. They suggest MAiD be limited to mature minors who are nearing death, whose death is "reasonably foreseeable."

A *mature minor* is a child or teen who is deemed capable of making a decision for MAiD.

**MAiD was initially limited to adults who are nearing death, but was quickly expanded to those who are not dying.**

The law sets an age for significant decisions, such as voting. It is appropriate and reasonable that a decision to end one's life by MAiD has a similar age limit.



The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada

*Founded in 1964, the EFC unites evangelical denominations, post-secondary institutions, organizations and congregations to bless Canada in the name of Jesus. The EFC fosters ministry partnerships, conducts research on religious and social trends and provides a constructive voice for biblical principles in life and society.*

**Toll Free 1-866-302-3362**

### **EFC Scarborough Office**

10 Huntingdale Blvd  
Scarborough, ON M1W 2S5  
Toronto local: 905-479-5885  
EFC@theEFC.ca

### **EFC Ottawa Office**

130 Albert Street, Suite 1810  
Ottawa, ON K1P 5G4  
Ottawa local: 613-233-9868  
ottawa@theEFC.ca

### **EFC Quebec Office/L'Alliance Évangélique du Canada - Quebec**

12868 rue du Parc-Marchand  
Québec (Québec) G2A 1E6  
Tel: 418-922-8817  
quebec@laec.ca

**TheEFC.ca**

# EUTHANASIA FOR YOUTH

**What's happening with medical assistance in dying (MAiD) and what you can do**



RELIGIOUS  
FREEDOM



SANCTITY  
OF LIFE



CHURCH &  
MISSION



FAMILY &  
COMMUNITY



CARE FOR THE  
VULNERABLE



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## MAiD for children and teens

A parliamentary committee recommends the final decision for medical assistance in dying (MAiD) be left to minor children. If this were adopted, parents may not be consulted and wouldn't need to consent to their child's death via MAiD.

The part of the brain that assesses risks isn't fully developed in teens and children. That doesn't happen until around age 25.

Children are easily influenced and may be pressured by adults in numerous ways.

**If MAiD is offered to mature minors who are nearing death, how long will that limit last? It is likely to be expanded to minors who are not dying or who suffer from mental illness alone.**

## Contact your MP

Contact your local MP to ask them not to allow MAiD for children and teens.

Write, call or meet with your MP to explain your concerns. To have a greater impact, contact your MP in more than one way – for example, write and call.

Make sure all your communications are respectful and courteous.

It is part of an MP's job to represent constituents. It's a good idea to be informed about the issue, but you don't have to be an expert to share your concerns with your MP.

Find your MP's contact information at [ourcommons.ca/members](https://ourcommons.ca/members).



## You can make a difference

A committee report can prompt the government to change the law.

**Now is the time to tell MPs that children and teens should not be eligible for MAiD.**

Share your concerns with your family and friends.

An MP takes note when a constituent contacts them, even if they respond with a standardized reply.

See [TheEFC.ca/TakeActiononMAiD](https://TheEFC.ca/TakeActiononMAiD) for more information and resources.

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**Children are uniquely vulnerable. Canada's first priority must be to provide high quality medical care for children.**