

## A crucial time to act

Medical assistance in dying (MAiD) for mental illness will take effect on **March 17, 2024**.

A law allowing hastened death when mental illness is a person's only medical condition was passed in 2021. A delay was built into the bill so that it would not take effect until March 2023. That has been extended by one year.

**There are no new safeguards for MAiD for mental illness in the law.**

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As a society, we must support Canadians to live in their most vulnerable moments, not facilitate their death.



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.*

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# EUTHANASIA AND MENTAL ILLNESS

**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



**EFC** The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada



# MAiD and mental illness

Hopelessness and a desire to end one's life can be a symptom of some mental illnesses

Many Canadians struggle with their mental health. There are long waiting lists for treatment and it can be expensive.

One in 10 people will wait more than 4 months for counselling. The waiting period for MAiD is only 3 months.

**We are already hearing about people asking for MAiD because they do not have the support needed to live.**

Experts agree that it's difficult, if not impossible, to predict who will recover from a mental disorder.

## Contact your MP

Contact your local MP to ask them to stop to MAiD for mental illness.

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.

Remember to be respectful and gracious.

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

If nothing changes, the law allowing MAiD for mental illness will take effect in 2024.

**We must act now if we want change.**

It will take a widespread response to bring about changes to the law. 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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**It is unconscionable that in Canada it may be easier to access hastened death than to access treatments and supports to live.**