



Tuesday, March 15th, 2016

OVER 35 NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL ORGANIZATIONS NOW ENDORSING THE VULNERABLE PERSONS STANDARD

Over thirty-five national and provincial organizations from across Canada have now formally endorsed the Vulnerable Persons Standard. Recent organizations who have joined the call to Parliamentarians to ensure that federal legislation regulating physician-assisted death incorporate these important safeguards include:

- School of Disability Studies at Ryerson University
- Citizens with Disabilities Ontario
- Communication Disabilities Access Canada
- Canadian Down Syndrome Society
- Canadian Physicians for Life

The Vulnerable Persons Standard was developed by over 40 advisors with expertise in medicine, ethics, law, public policy and needs of vulnerable persons. In addition to wide organizational endorsement, many individuals from across Canada are signing on in support of the Standard, including prominent Canadian Margaret Norrie McCain.

"I am pleased to endorse the Vulnerable Persons Standard. The breadth of possibilities for taking advantage of people in the most vulnerable stage of their life is enormous. Great care and thought must be given in the development of legislation to ensure the most vulnerable are protected. We owe Canadians this peace of mind."

**Margaret Norrie McCain, CC ONB
Canadian philanthropist and former Lieutenant Governor of New**

Brunswick

The Vulnerable Persons Standard balances equitable access to physician-assisted dying with important safeguards to protect vulnerable people. To learn more about the Standard, please visit us at www.vps-npv.ca.

DID YOU KNOW:

The Vulnerable Persons Standard is not only required for 'vulnerable groups', like people with disabilities. While some identified social groups, like people with disabilities, frail seniors, and other marginalized communities are less well served by the social safety net and therefore more likely to be vulnerable, psychosocial factors such as grief, abandonment and fear of being a burden can affect people from every demographic group, as do coercion and undue influence. The Vulnerable Persons Standard protects potentially everyone, by ensuring that physician-assisted death meets the stringent requirements called for by the Supreme Court.

IN THE NEWS:

Three commentaries published by Vulnerable Persons Standard advisors:

[Dangers of a Lax Assisted Death Regime](#), by Trudo Lemmens (LicJur, LL.M bioethics, DCL), Professor and Scholl Chair in Health Law and Policy, Faculty of Law, University of Toronto

[Balancing Love, Vulnerability and the Right to a Doctor Assisted Death](#), by Donna Thompson, Disability and family caregiving activist, consultant and author; Consultant to Saint Elizabeth Health Care, The Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario

[When Einstein's Scared I'm Scared](#), by Al Etmanski (OC), Co-Founder of PLAN - Planned Lifetime Advocacy Networks; Co-founder of Social Innovation Generation (SiG) and BC Partners for Social Impact

The Vulnerable Persons Standard is a series of evidence-based safeguards intended to protect the lives of Canadians. These safeguards will help to ensure that Canadians requesting assistance from physicians to end their life can do so without jeopardizing the lives of vulnerable persons who may be subject to coercion and abuse.

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Stay up to date with the Vulnerable Persons Standard:

