



Friday, June 2nd, 2017

The Vulnerable Persons Standard: New Tools Coming Soon

Dear Friends;

Last year we worked together to develop and promote the Vulnerable Persons Standard, a tool that has helped guide law and policy reform about medically-assisted death in Canada.

Together, we succeeded in seeing several safeguards from the Vulnerable Persons Standard incorporated into Canada's new law on medically-assisted death, which was passed last spring. Yet that legislation also includes grounds for real concern regarding the protection of vulnerable persons across our country.

One year on, the policy landscape continues to evolve. In late April, the federal government released its first [interim report](#) about the number and profile of medically assisted deaths in Canada. Last month, the Council of Canadian Academies appointed the [Expert Panel on Medical Assistance in Dying](#). And last week, the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association announced that a second plaintiff would join its court challenge to the requirement of "reasonably foreseeable natural death" in the current law.

In the coming months, the Vulnerable Persons Standard team will be undertaking a new wave of efforts to help Canada develop and promote robust safeguards that will ensure that vulnerable persons are protected.

Our website, www.vps-npv.ca, will be receiving a substantial update. We hope for it to continue serving as a valuable resource and a platform for coordinated information sharing and advocacy. Included in that update will be a line-by-line assessment of the ways that Canada's legislation complies, and fails to comply, with the Standard. We look forward to sharing this refreshed website with you in coming weeks.

As we move forward together, we encourage you to connect with us and with each other through our twitter account - do follow us and tweet our way [@vps_npv](#).

Thanks to each of you for your own efforts to promote and protect the rights of vulnerable persons across the country and around the world.

With great hope for what we will continue to accomplish together;

Catherine Frazee and Michael Bach, VPS Advisors

The Vulnerable Persons Standard was developed by a group of more than forty advisors with expertise in medicine, ethics, law, public policy and needs of vulnerable persons. The Standard is a series of evidence-based safeguards intended to help 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.

To learn more about the Standard and the many Canadians and organizations endorsing the Standard, please visit us at www.vps-npv.ca.

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Stay up to date with the Vulnerable Persons Standard:

