

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR IN REVIEW 2022



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MAiDHouse

MAiDHouse: Growing Community Based Supports for MAiD

When people think about medical assistance in dying (MAiD), they often think about it from a legislative or healthcare perspective. Yet our experience at MAiDHouse has taught us that MAiD is so much more than a medical practice. It is a social and emotional experience that impacts people in a variety of ways and makes the vital need for community-based support and services clear.

Home is not always an option, and many people who choose MAiD don't wish to die in an institutional setting such as a hospital. Without community-based support in place, people eligible for MAiD can struggle to find a place to have their provision. We are a group of doctors, nurse practitioners, ethicists, and advocates who believe in choice, tranquility, and dignity at the end of life for those eligible for MAiD and those who support them. This passionate and dedicated group of people came together and formed MAiDHouse to address the gap in our current system.

In 2022, MAiDHouse expanded our understanding of what community-based support can offer to MAiD recipients and their supporters, and in turn we used those lessons to increase the impact of our support and services. As we evolve and adapt to the needs and wishes of those eligible for MAiD, we remain passionately committed to providing a caring and respectful option.

MAiDHouse is more than just a physical space. MAiDHouse wraps around you with physical and emotional support, a professional respectful presence, and resources for clients and their loved ones.



Challenges and Successes

MAiDHouse enhancing end of life experiences

Our biggest challenges and successes have been in the area of our **access to space program**.

In the first part of the year, MAiDHouse had the exciting opportunity to set up our new space in the vision of its founders. MAiDHouse opened its doors in April and having this comforting space allowed us to further enrich the end-of-life experience.

MAiDHouse is a beautiful, welcoming space — created through the tireless efforts of Mona Kornberg and Anna Ballon. When people arrive at MAiDHouse for the day, the stress and strain leave their faces when they realize how warm of a space it is. Upon leaving, people often share how peaceful they found the space.

Accessibility continues to be an issue across Canada, and MAiDHouse has been fielding requests from organizations in other cities who share the same challenges of accessing physical space. Current real estate markets can make finding that space difficult and costly, but MAiDHouse is rising to the challenge to develop and evolve our programs so that they can be a model for other communities.

Programming

We continue to invest in our three streams of programming to better support those we serve. Our three programs are:

- access to space
- grief and bereavement resources and support
- a centre of excellence for research, education and training.

As part of our centre of excellence and with the support of the Canadian Association of MAiD Assessors and Providers (CAMAP) Knowledge Transfer Grant, we were able to publish our first peer-reviewed article, [Grief and bereavement of family and friends around medical assistance in dying: scoping review | BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care](#).

This critical research has shaped the nature of the support we provide on the day of the provision.

Our grief and bereavement support isn't only about traditional counselling. It's also about the understanding that planning, clear communication, and streamlined logistics all have an impact on grief and bereavement. Follow-up contact ensures loved ones are aware of the resources and bereavement support to help them afterwards. Our research shows us that the people we serve and their supporters want resources that explain the process. This language goes beyond a medical-only perspective, and now demonstrates the assistance everyone involved needs as well.

After one of her oldest friends discovered MAiDHouse, Noni knew it was the right place for her procedure. "I would be able to make my exit in a way that was far more representative of who I am. Made it a celebratory thing I was able to share with others," she said. She's still working out the details of what she wants to happen on the day, but knows one thing for sure: she wants to hear her favourite song, Love Train by the O'Jays. "As it turns out, it's really suited to what's happening with MAiD. I sort of feel like I'm boarding the love train," she said.

[MAiD Journey: Winona — MAiDHouse](#)

Events

MAiDHouse continued to host virtual events that were well attended and well-received. The events highlighted the continued need for fact-based information as well as the opportunity to discuss many diverse aspects of MAiD with a focus on community-based supports.

Now, with the possibility of meeting in person again, MAiDHouse did a variety of presentations at international conferences. This was an opportunity to learn from global experiences as well as to share our learnings.

Thanks to Angela Colterjohn and her Dream Team, MAiDHouse was able to host our first in-person fundraising salon. This was an opportunity to educate and share stories about community-based MAiD provision as well as to raise funds to support our community programs. This year's insight was to truly understand and elevate the support we offer as both the individual eligible for MAiD and those that support them go through the planning process.

Impact

By the end of 2022, 125 people (supporters and eligible patients) used our space at MAiDHouse. This is a significant increase from last year, which has deepened our commitment to ensure that our support and services meet the needs of those who are having MAiD and those who are accompanying them.

Our resources and events are encouraging people to have conversations about the importance of a variety of supports throughout the entire process of MAiD, and other factors that can impact grief and bereavement.

Irene found MAiDHouse upon a doctor's referral. She and her husband did not want the procedure done in their home, as he will continue to live there, and neither liked the idea of a hotel. The hospital looked like the only choice, until Irene learned about MAiDHouse's home-like space.

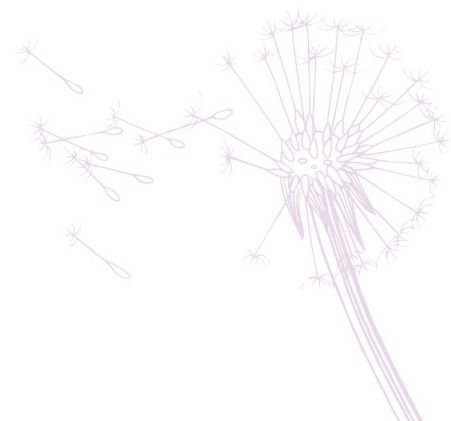
[MAiD Journey: Irene — MAiDHouse](#)

Financial

MAiDHouse has completed our audited financial statements.

When Margaret receives MAiD she suspects family and friends will be there... She is calm and happy; at peace with her choice. Her mind is on how she lived her life...

[MAiD Journey: Margaret — MAiDHouse](#)



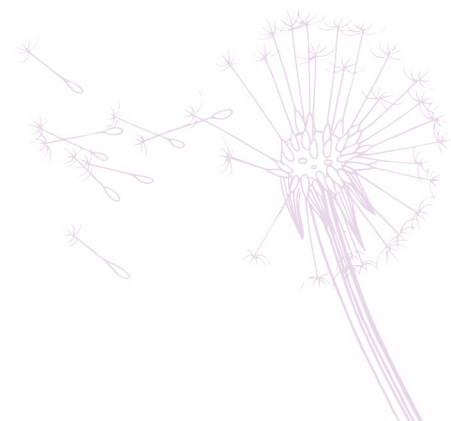
Gratitude

MAiDHouse is grateful to those who honour their own beliefs and wishes by choosing us for such a profound moment. We truly appreciate the opportunity to provide support and resources to those who accompany and support those receiving MAiD at MAiDHouse. And of course, we are grateful for all our supporters who share our work, volunteer their time and expertise, and provide financial support. Our work is richer and more impactful because of **you**.

— **Tekla Hendrickson**, Executive Director

Barbara's MAiD journey wasn't a simple one. But by the time her family and friends were able to gather around her at the MAiDHouse space in Toronto to say goodbye, her family knew she felt comfort and peace with her decision....Barbara ultimately chose to use the MAiDHouse space for her procedure. Having a team of professionals to guide them was comforting for everyone, and with the plan finally in place, her mother was "relieved and elated," said Cynthia. "This gave Mum some time to enjoy calls, gatherings and outings with her loved ones to say goodbye." Barbara was so grateful about her request being acknowledged..."

[MAiD Journey: Barbara — MAiDHouse](#)



Message from the Chair

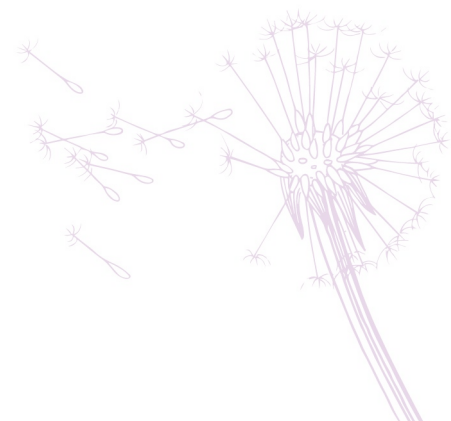
I remember hearing at some point in my youth that it takes 5 years to get a new business off the ground. I reminded myself of that often, both at the outset of meetings to establish MAiDHouse in 2017 and as we struggled to get off the ground. Now that we are going on 5 years and counting, I see a vibrant organization with excellent leadership and prospects.

There is still much to be done to solidify the future of MAiDHouse, and much to do to facilitate the experience of MAiD for the people we serve, but we have a solid foundation, and a good plan. We are known and respected, not just in Toronto, but in the MAiD landscape across the country and beyond. I am confident that MAiDHouse will not only endure, but thrive.

Thank you to those who signed on at the beginning, to those who joined along the way, to those who do the work now, and, in advance, to those who will continue long after we are gone. Thank you to our donors, who believe in our mission and without whom we would get nowhere. While I am retiring from my active role as chair, I want you, in particular, to know that you are in good hands with Tekla Hendrickson, her staff and volunteers, and the MAiDHouse Board of Directors. And I will continue to cheer on MAiDHouse from the sidelines!

Warmest regards,

Chantal



Looking ahead

We believe that it's important that people know that MAiD is an option so that they can decide if the choice is appropriate for them. MAiDHouse is committed to providing an option for location and space to complement the decision to receive MAiD.

MAiDHouse is committed to ensuring an enhanced experience for those who choose our space. In 2023, MAiDHouse will continue to provide a beautiful space and engage in ongoing discussions with other communities to help fill the gap in more places.

MAiDHouse will be piloting a new program which will enable volunteers to support patients and loved ones on the day of the procedure at MAiDHouse. This pilot project will serve as a template that can be used across the country.

MAiDHouse continues to reflect on our practice to learn and enrich the services and supports we provide.

Our long term goal is to establish MAiDHouses across Canada to ensure we continue to strive to meet the MAiDHouse Vision of a community where everyone eligible has equal access to a place for MAiD.

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