

Minister of Justice
and Attorney General of Canada



Ministre de la Justice
et procureur général du Canada

The Honourable / L'honorable Peter MacKay, P.C., Q.C., M.P. / c.p., c.r., député
Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H8

AVR 07 2015
APR 07 2015

The Right Reverend Charlie Masters
Anglican Network in Canada
P.O. Box 1013
Burlington ON L7R 4L8

Dear Reverend Masters:

Thank you for your correspondence of March 20, 2015, sent on behalf of the Anglican Network in Canada, concerning euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide.

Please be assured that I understand how strongly you feel about this issue. Today, many Canadians are concerned with this complex ethical, legal, and medical matter as it has the potential to impact lives. The Government recognizes that people have divergent and strongly held views on this.

As you know, on October 15, 2014, the Supreme Court of Canada heard the appeal in *Carter v. Canada (Attorney General)*. In February 2015, the Court rendered its decision and found that the *Criminal Code* provisions prohibiting assisted suicide are constitutionally invalid. However, the Court has ordered that these provisions remain in force for one year in order to give Parliament time to consider how to address this very complex matter.

The Government of Canada is currently reviewing the decision. We remain committed to the protection of all Canadians, and in particular, the most vulnerable members of our society. The Government will take the time necessary to consult and consider all aspects of this sensitive question in order to adopt the most appropriate response.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts. I always appreciate having the views of Canadians brought to my attention.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. MacKay', written over a horizontal line.

The Honourable Peter MacKay

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