

Killing Canadians

By Remi Tremblay

British police are currently investigating the deaths of 88 people in the U.K. who bought products from Canada-based websites offering lethal substances to people wishing to commit suicide. A man named Kenneth Law is responsible for some of these websites which offer sodium nitrite to people wishing to end their lives. He may be connected to another 21 suicides in Canada and others in at least 40 countries (including the U.S.) where he shipped his products.

Law's products are not legal: in Canada, euthanasia is legal, but Kenneth Law's pills fall outside the realm of the law since euthanasia is considered to be a medical act requiring health professionals. So even in the leftist *la-la* land of Trudeau's Canada, poisoned pills are not yet legal, unless prescribed by a physician. But it may simply be a matter of time.



Just as Trudeau's legalization of marijuana paved the way for legalizing other drugs -- supposedly for "*therapeutic purposes*" -- medical assisted suicide could eventually lead to the legalization and common practice of *general* assisted suicide. That scenario may seem farfetched, but since its legalization in 2016, medical assisted suicide has followed a slippery slope and its restrictions have consistently fallen, one after another. The laws governing it have become increasingly lax each year, exactly as its early opponents had warned.

In February 2015, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that the Criminal Code needed to change to satisfy the ***Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms***. The parts that prohibited **medical assistance in dying** (MAID) were alleged to be "*discriminatory*," so in June of 2016, Bill C-14 was adopted. As in other countries where euthanasia is legal, adults suffering from "***grievous and irremediable medical conditions***" and whose "***natural death has become reasonably foreseeable***," were eligible for MAID.

A few years later, the Canadian Supreme Court judged the law too restrictive so a new bill was passed. In March of 2021, Bill C-7 expanded eligibility to MAID for those individuals whose death is **NOT** *reasonably foreseeable*.

The eligibility date for persons whose only underlying medical condition is a mental illness has been postponed to March 17, 2024. On that date, persons suffering solely from a mental illness will become eligible for euthanasia. Eventually, it may also become legal for minors, as some are advocating. In an Orwellian twist, Jean-Yves Duclos, *Minister of Health*, claimed that the government's purpose in loosening restrictions was "***...protecting the most vulnerable while supporting their autonomy.***"

But one may wonder what it means. In June 2019, Alan Nichols, 61, was hospitalized for suicidal thoughts. Although he did not suffer any

unbearable pain, he complained about a hearing loss. He previously refused to use the prescribed medication and his implant to alleviate his condition. Still, the practitioners agreed to his request for MAID and put him to death within a month.



Likewise, Roger Foley is a Canadian patient in London, Ontario's **Victoria Hospital**. He alleges that he is being encouraged to commit suicide by its staff, and as a result has filed a lawsuit against them because he does not wish to die. According to Roger Foley, some practitioners try to convince patients that euthanasia may be the simplest way to ease their pain.

And, of course, it's the *cheapest* one, as well. At first, when the law was adopted, physicians were forbidden to offer it, but along the way that provision was also removed and they can now offer it among "*other care options*." Some veterans have been offered MAID as an option to end their post-traumatic stress disorder.

Quebec, where life used to be considered sacred, has become the world's champion of euthanasia. From 63 cases in 2015-2016, it has now reached more than 5,000 a year and is responsible for 5% of all deaths in that province. Moreover, unassisted suicide rates have remained stable.



The UN's Special Rapporteurs Gerard Quinn and Olivier De Schutter expressed serious concerns when C-7 supplanted C-14. They sensed that disabled people could be targeted and that their very right to life was being threatened. Trudeau nevertheless ignored the criticisms and went *full-speed-ahead*. Just how far he will go down that dark road remains to be seen.

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