

Several Cases of concern:

Medical Assistance in Dying & the Inducements of Social Deprivation

### 1. Chris Gladders



- Chris, was suffering from a rare disease and died with medical assistance.
- He was battling Fabry's disease, a genetic condition which affects the body's ability to break down a specific fatty acid and causes a number of side-effects.
- He had two daughters Hailee, 13, and Savannah, 5.
- His brother reported that at the time of his assisted death "The bedding hadn't been changed for weeks. There was feces on the bed. There was urine on the bed. There was urine and feces on the floor, the room was absolutely disgusting ... it's time for someone to take over." And that the day before his death ""He pulled the call bell beside his bed. I was on the phone with him for 40 minutes and nobody answered that bell. That was his last night,"

Source: [Niagara MPP calls for province to take over 'disgusting' Greycliff Manor after 35-year-old dies | CBC News](#)

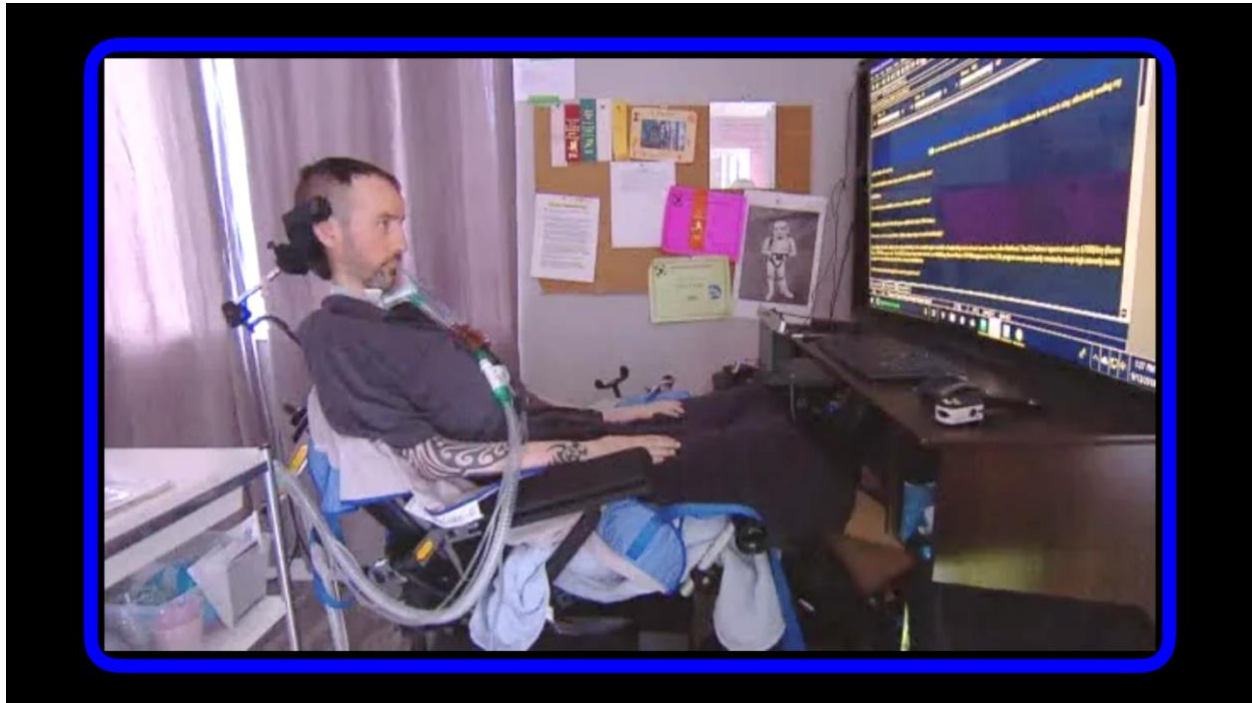
## 2. Archie Rolland



- Eighteen months before his death by MAiD, Archie Rolland was transferred against his will from a residence that provided highly specialized care to a geriatric long-term care facility in Lachine Québec.
- Without staff adequately trained to communicate with him and provide essential care, he spent the remaining days of his life documenting the suffering that this caused and advocating for humane and capable care.
- When he began to lose hope and found continued life under these conditions intolerable, he made his request for MAiD, which was readily approved.
- At the time, Rolland told the Montreal Gazette that “it wasn’t the illness that was killing him. He was tired of fighting for compassionate care.”

SOURCE: <https://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/life-in-long-term-hospital-unbearable-montreal-man-with-als> and <https://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/saying-goodbye-to-archie-rolland>

### 3. Sean Tagert



- A devoted father, Sean Tagert had pieced together suitable care arrangements in his own home, including extensive personal supports and highly sophisticated communications technology.
- Although he required 24-hour care, he received only 15 hours of care daily from Vancouver Coastal Health. This left him with a shortfall of \$263.50 daily, and a “constant struggle and source of stress”.
- Once his personal savings were exhausted, Tagert’s only option was to move to a Vancouver residential care facility, more than 4 hours away from his home in Powell River. Such a move would have required him to leave much of his communication technology behind, and effectively curtailed his relationship with his 10-year-old son, who spent weekends with him in Powell River as part of a shared custody arrangement.
- In 2019, exhausted from years of battling to secure funding for life-sustaining home care, Tagert chose to die by MAID.
- In a final Facebook post chronicling his struggle Tagert wrote: “I know I’m asking for change. I just didn’t realize that was an unacceptable thing to do. Hundreds of British Columbians are dying horribly every year.” He described the funding decisions and institutional offerings advanced by the local health authority as “a death sentence.”

SOURCE: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/als-bc-man-medically-assisted-death-1.5244731> and <https://bc.ctvnews.ca/we-need-a-public-outcry-b-c-father-with-als-ends-life-after-struggle-to-stay-at-home-1.4543983>

#### 4. Alan Nichols



- Alan Nichols was admitted to Chilliwack General Hospital in June, suffering from acute dehydration and malnourishment.
- While in hospital for treatment, Nichols was approved for and received MAID.
- Nichols' family members were notified of the scheduled procedure four days before it took place.
- Aware that their brother had a history of intermittent severe depression and knowing that his patterns of behaviour during these episodes included failing to eat and care for himself, the family protested, demanding that the hospital provide Alan with the care he actually needed.
- Because Nichols had been deemed capable and eligible for MAID, his family was unable to intervene to save his life.

SOURCE: <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/family-says-b-c-man-with-history-of-depression-wasn-t-fit-for-assisted-death-1.4609016>

And <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/advocates-urge-better-safeguards-after-medically-assisted-death-of-b-c-man-1.4610949>

## 5. Mother of Jennifer Turton-Molgat



- In a Facebook post written in August 2020, Jennifer Turton-Molgat wrote: “My mom, the most positive, resilient, loving person I know has requested an assisted suicide. She wants to end her life, not because she is in pain or intolerable discomfort, but because she is being held prisoner in her long-term care home and has lost her will to live.”
- Prior to the severe Covid-era restrictions in her long-term care home, Turton-Molgat wrote that her mother’s “only enjoyment in life was feeling the sunshine and fresh air on her face and spending time with her family. And that was enough for her. Despite [her significant disabilities] she would often say, ‘I’m so lucky’.”

SOURCE: <https://www.facebook.com/jturtonmolgat/posts/1015723622225925>



## 6. Raymond Bourbonnais



- When Raymond Bourbonnais was no longer able to manage all his personal care needs at home, he was relocated to a Québec nursing home. During the 13 months that he lived in this facility, he filed multiple complaints about inadequate staffing, unbearable temperatures due to a lack of proper ventilation or air conditioning, and stressful and unwelcome interactions with older residents with dementia with whom he could not avoid contact.
- With conditions in his residence only deteriorating and his complaints seeming to go unheard, Bourbonnais hoped for a cure for his disease. When a physician confirmed that no cure was possible, she broached the subject of MAID, and Bourbonnais is reported to have “jumped at the chance”.
- In a farewell video in which he recorded a final “crie de coeur”, Bourbonnais spoke of a “constant degradation of services” at his long-term care facility, and pleaded for others to “do everything possible to put pressure on the government” to address the deplorable conditions in these facilities.
- Before dying by MAID, Bourbonnais said that he was “very happy to forget this bad part of my life”.
- Raymond Bourbonnais died by MAID in December 2019.

SOURCE: <https://www.latribune.ca/actualites/denoncer-avant-de-mourir-video-6b5b5b9901c42d9660ec5ba19a0eda78?fbclid=IwAR0y-ihHsHkge1fONPqix2QxteOYXzNWxu3MWqH7csvoz3FFyegEtCUI6e0> And <https://youtu.be/fyAIPID7c40>

## 7. Roger Foley



- Roger Foley is 42 years old and has significant disabilities that require 24-hour care. He seeks to receive that care at home, rather than in a London Ontario hospital where he has lived for at least 2 years.
- Foley has advocated forcefully that his discharge from hospital must be to his home environment, with a commitment to provide the care that he requires in his home.
- Foley has said that he is “always thinking I want to end my life” because his demands for appropriate care at home have been denied. He asserts that he is being pressured to end his life.
- Foley publicly released audio recordings of hospital staff offering him an assisted death and outlining how much it costs to keep him in hospital instead of getting the home care he desires and requires.
- His case attracted the attention of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Cataline Devandas Aguilar, when she visited Canada in spring 2019. Following her visit to Canada, she issued a statement that she had "received worrisome claims about persons with disabilities in institutions being pressured to seek medical assistance in dying." She urged the federal government to investigate and prevent such cases.

SOURCE: <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/chronically-ill-man-releases-audio-of-hospital-staff-offering-assisted-death-1.4038841>

And <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/barely-hanging-on-to-life-roger-foley-shares-his-fight-for-home-care-with-un-envoy-1.4378334>

## 8. To Phat “Tommy” Sec



- Tommy Sec was 41 years old and had been living his life from bed for several years, stuck in a nursing home. His wife had divorced him, and he had lost custody of his only child.
- Increasingly isolated from family and friends, he described himself in an autobiographical film as being “in a rage”, feeling “hatred towards everyone”.
- Alert and articulate but with significant physical and sensory impairments, Sec described his life as “like being trapped in a coffin and buried alive”. Although he was able to communicate through his computer, he said that “no one listens”.
- Sec was informed of his eligibility for MAID in May 2019.
- After media attention to his plight, Sec began to have more visitors from local Vietnamese and Cantonese communities, and according to a reporter who helped bring his story into the public domain, this social contact elevated his spirits.
- In November he was reported to be demanding to be moved out of his nursing home into a private residence with a live-in caregiver. As well, he was taking steps to repair his relationship with his estranged family, particularly his teenage son.
- Tommy Sec’s current status is unknown.

SOURCE: <http://jane-finch.com/articles/whyamistillalive.htm>

And <https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2019/11/18/confined-to-a-toronto-nursing-home-bed-24-hours-a-day-tommy-sec-wants-to-die.html>



## 9. Jonathan Marchand



- Jonathan Marchand is 43 years old and fiercely independent but forced to live in a nursing home for the elderly in Québec. Because he relies upon a ventilator to breathe, he requires 24-hour care. With no appropriate supports available in the community, a long-term care facility was his only choice.
- Marchand describes a satisfying life with good relationships and personal and professional success until he “hit the wall” of requiring government-funded assistance to support his life.
- Marchand argues that “increasingly, euthanasia is offered as a solution to institutionalization. The idea is that if you don’t want to die slowly in a long-term care facility, we are going to help you kill yourself.”
- By his own account, Marchand had friends who killed themselves rather than go into long-term care. He “decided that I would not go ahead with euthanasia, but I would fight to get out of this place.”
- To draw attention to his circumstances, and to force the government to provide the support that he needs to live independently in the community, Marchand set up a large cage outside the Québec legislature, where he lived for 5 days and 5 nights, in protest of the intolerable conditions of his life.
- As a result of this extraordinary effort and the significant media attention that it attracted, the Québec government set up a “working group” to advise on alternatives to institutionalization.
- Jonathan was told he’d be part of a new pilot project that would provide for the support necessary to move out of long-term care and live in community. However, when he that this pilot project was a group home, he resisted and the project was cancelled.

SOURCE: <https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-15/clip/15793158?fbclid=IwAR2pDbx4bjRpVXtLLC7WLweoYvYUQrQrhfTr6DsaX-Mc6rI3JcPyVXAG30A&share=true>  
 And [https://youtu.be/MLvMh45I\\_Zc](https://youtu.be/MLvMh45I_Zc) And <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/1856420419644> And <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/quebec-abandons-pilot-project-blue-chsld-1.6119581>

## 10. Candice Lewis



- Candice Lewis is a 25-year-old woman with significant disabilities who lives in Newfoundland with her mother, Sheila Elson.
- Elson reported that when Candice was receiving emergency medical treatment in hospital in 2017, a doctor approached her to propose MAiD for her daughter.
- According to Elson, when she firmly stated that she would not consider MAiD for Candice, the doctor accused her of being selfish.
- Candice recovered from her acute illness and was discharged home from hospital. However, both Candice and her mother were traumatized by this encounter. Elson spoke out about this experience publicly because, in her words “We don’t want it to happen to anybody else.”

SOURCE: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/doctor-suggested-assisted-suicide-daughter-mother-elson-1.4218669>

And <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/medical-assisted-dying-disability-reaction-1.4222833>

## 11. Kim, and countless other ODSP recipients



- Kim has significant disabilities and lives in a rented 300 square-foot RV in Ontario. She has received notice of eviction. She relies upon ODSP payments for the necessities of her life.
- In a recent investigation of how Covid 19 affects people with disabilities, Kim declared “It’s like I’m being punished for being born disabled, like I committed some kind of crime.”
- Kim has considered applying for MAiD. She says “I have no dignity left... I don’t feel like I’m worth anything to anyone anymore.”
- Kim reports knowing of many people in similar circumstances who have applied for MAiD, and has personally “lost six friends to suicide since [the beginning] of COVID.... They don’t want to live this way anymore, there is no safety net at all for people that are disabled.”
- The same investigation described how others in similar circumstances have sought MAiD for relief from intolerable poverty. A Twitter posting from one woman read “I’ve enrolled in MAiD, seeing as I can no longer afford to live, nor can I afford the food & medicine I need to get better.”

SOURCE: <https://toronto.citynews.ca/2020/09/02/odsp-covid19-pandemic/>

**CityNews** **TWITTER**

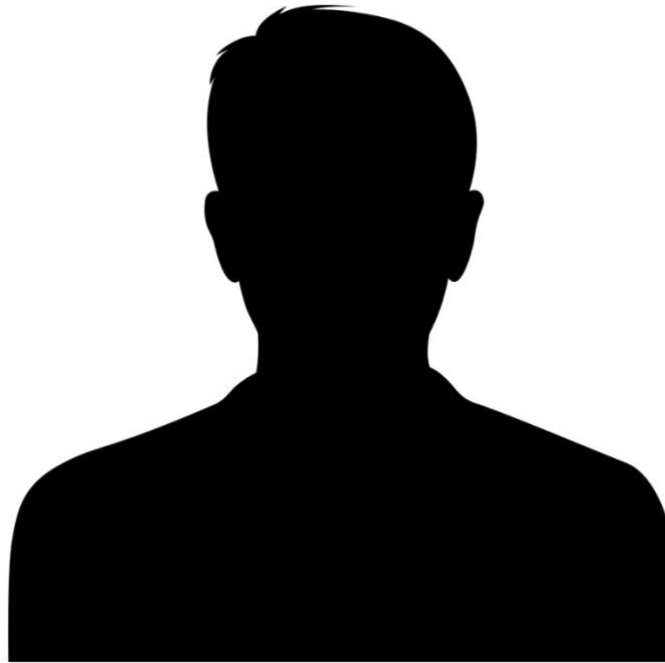
**@ALYSM745**

“I’ve enrolled in MAiD, seeing as I can no longer afford to live, nor can I afford the food & medicine I need to get better. @fordnation is killing me slowly, but not just me, which is why I had to wait over an hour the first time I called.  
@OntHumanRights #ODSP #ODSPoverty”

**COVID-19 PANDEMIC**
**FEARS ODSP RECIPIENTS ARE TURNING TO ASSISTED DYING**
WED 26°

## 12. Mr. X

www.pdgraphics.com



- A man in his 80s with chronic shortness of breath causing extreme fatigue wished to die by MAID because he was no longer able to perform the activities that are important to him. He reported that he had “lost his sense of purpose”.
- Referred to as “Mr. X” in court hearings related to his approval for MAID, he had seven different MAID Assessors review his application. Some of these Assessors raised concerns of anxiety, depression, and dementia.
- “Mrs. Y”, his wife of 48 years, sought to intervene, asserting that he lacked capacity to make this request and did not know what he was doing due to his mental illness.
- Mrs. Y’s effort to stop her husband from receiving MAID ultimately was heard by the Court of Appeal for Nova Scotia, which ruled in favour of proceeding with Mr. X’s approved MAID.

SOURCE: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/nova-scotia-medical-assistance-in-dying-supreme-court-injunction-1.5691456>

And <https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2020/09/04/nova-scotia-woman-fails-to-win-stay-as-husband-seeks-medically-assisted-death.html>



### 13. Natalie Jarvis



- Jarvis has antisynthetase syndrome with interstitial lung disease, a rare auto-immune condition.
- When her Halifax specialist informed her that her only chance to survive would be a double-lung transplant. It wasn't the surgery that scared her. Or the lengthy recovery. It was the cost.
- Natalie would have to move to Toronto to await her surgery.
- "Ten grand may not sound like a lot to some people, but when you're living paycheque to paycheque and you need at least \$10,000 to get you started to live somewhere else, it's a lot."
- While Jarvis desperately wanted a lung transplant, the stress on her family financially was becoming too much. It's then that she started thinking about palliative care.
- She found a former university residence, where she now shares a room with her mother. There's a kitchenette within arm's reach of her bed. But she's not complaining: it's only \$2,000 a month. In the end, her employer and friends chipped in, raising \$7,000 to help her start paying rent.
- While Natalie changed her mind received her transplant, she said that two other patients that year made that decision [to die] and didn't change their minds. It is unclear whether they died by MAiD.

SOURCE: [https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/lung-transplants-atlantic-canada-toronto-financial-cost-1.5047818?fbclid=IwAR14RO7LQqKbp0mQDeJPI6yax5228hiQxDSgJppL8Qs8AaygEhe7\\_c2us-Y](https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/lung-transplants-atlantic-canada-toronto-financial-cost-1.5047818?fbclid=IwAR14RO7LQqKbp0mQDeJPI6yax5228hiQxDSgJppL8Qs8AaygEhe7_c2us-Y) AND <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/lung-transplant-organ-donation-natalie-jarvis-1.5106606>

### 13. "Susan"



- Multiply disabled but none of her diagnoses are terminal.
- She says she has dietary restrictions making food banks an inaccessible option, and a livable income is literally a matter of life and death.
- A victim of a violent assault.
- Like many disabled Canadians forced into poverty by insufficient income support, Susan exists in a space between not wanting to die and not wanting to live the life she is currently living.

Source: [Dying for the right to live - Macleans.ca](#)

#### 14. "Madeline"



- Madeline faces the decision, each month, to either accrue more debt or go into rapid deterioration and escalating pain.
- In order to stretch her funds, Madeline is only doing about half of the therapies recommended so she can stretch her quality of life as long as possible.
- When her credit runs out she will have to stop taking supplements, receiving physiotherapy and intravenous naturopathic treatments she says are finally helping her find balance.
- She says she's already isolated and alone
- Madeline is facing a painful deterioration or even an untimely death, so she's seeking medically assisted dying.

SOURCE: <https://www.citynews1130.com/2020/07/27/vancouver-woman-disabilities-medically-assisted-dying/>

## 15. Anonymous @ALYSM745

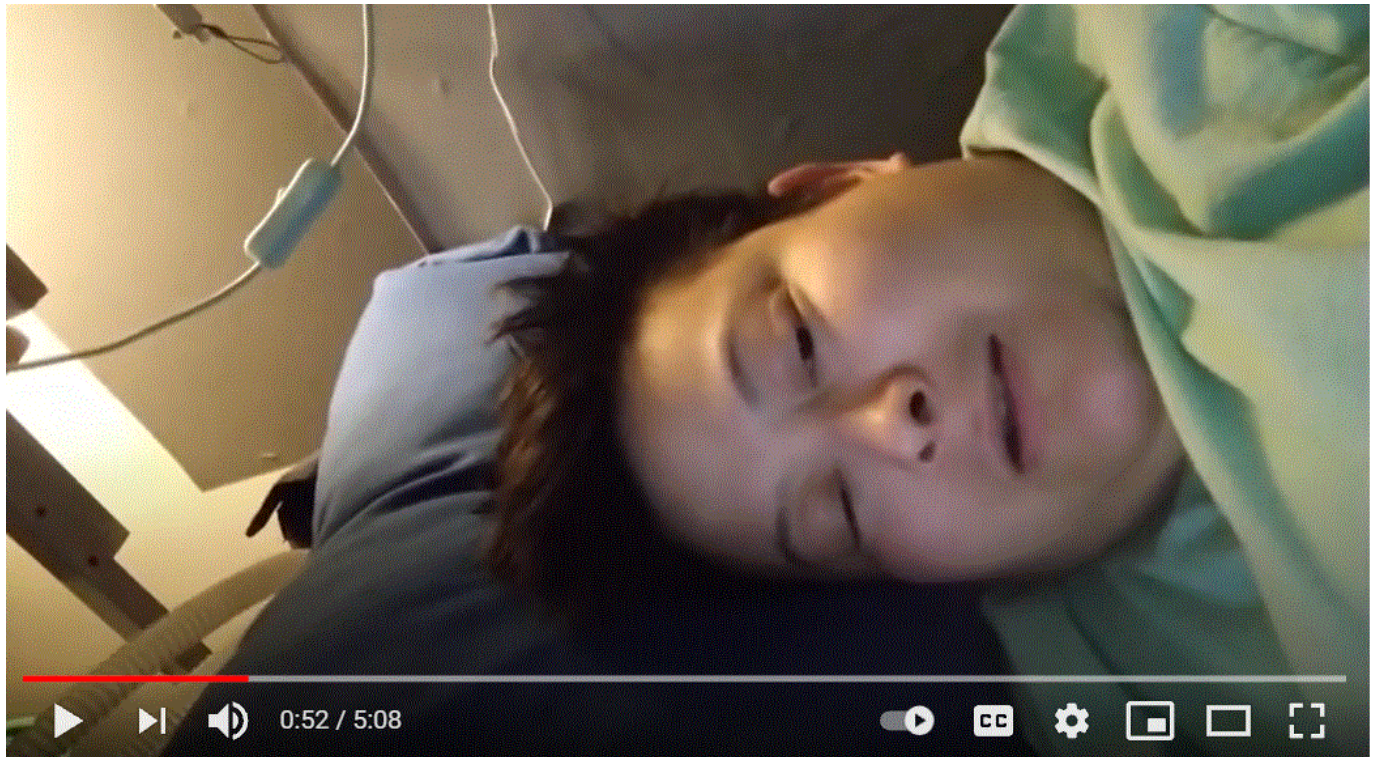


- Anonymous @ALYSM745 spoke at a webinar called Death by Coercion. They said “[Choosing to access MAiD] truly was a matter of pure mathematic fact that I just simply could no longer afford to live. I started getting really sick about a year and a half ago and on Ontario Disability I can’t even afford to get an ear or tooth ache. Pre pandemic I was struggling to get by on \$1.50 or less per day. The pandemic would have me attempting to exist on less than \$1 per day if not for my food intolerances and need for over the counter medicines because most drugs are no longer covered under Ontario Drug Benefit. Needing to purchase over the counter medications, coupled with my food intolerances maxed out my \$2000 limit credit card and drove me deeper into my overdraft until I hit my limit so that when my \$800 disability cheque arrives its only for \$300 because the rest is in overdraft. I was in danger of my account being closed and therefore not able to purchase medications and food that somewhat help prevent bouts of cyclical vomiting. With those guardrails removes I would be ten times as sick and I didn’t want to suffer for months waiting to get approved. The math was clear that the time to start the assisted suicide process was now, especially with no sign of hope for increases coming down the line.”

SOURCE: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZYPLoWVRIQ>



## 16. Rosina Kamis



- In a series of YouTube video, Rosina shares why she sought MAiD. “Anything can happen from this moment until the euthanasia date that could cause me to change my mind. From physicians deciding to provide adequate pain relief to friends deciding to step up and help me and so on. [Applying for MAiD] is also a way of saying to the doctors ‘hey the law has changed and now I have this option of ending it all. But I have this much time, so get moving’.”
- Rosina lived in isolation. She explained that “When a person is suffering, you don’t leave them alone, with nobody at all! When someone is suffering, you don’t lock them up in a home or a psychiatric facility for life! Sometimes all the pain will go away just by having another human being here. Let me go through it with them.”
- She was not cared for, living in poverty, and avoiding institutionalization. “In Canadian society, we have a culture of killing instead of caring... Nobody is holding my hand... If I were to die, nobody is going to grieve. The government doesn’t give you enough money to survive. I don’t want to accept institutionalization”
- Rosina recorded a virtual appointment with her doctor and two friends whom she trusted to join her on the call. One of those friends on the call brings up the issues of poverty and uncontrolled pain affecting her quality-of-life.
- Rosina died by MAiD in Sept 2021.

SOURCE: [\(184\) Why did I apply for euthanasia? - YouTube](#) AND [\(184\) Is euthanasia the only solution? - YouTube](#)

## 17. "Ruth"



On November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020, DAWN Canada's Bonnie Brayton told Canada's Justice Committee about a woman named Ruth:

"We will also forward, with her permission, the story of a strong, brave woman named Ruth, a fierce advocate, whose situation is the reason you must pause. In a different Canada, Ruth would receive the support she needs to have a life that has meaning, including dignified housing that keeps her safe and alive. She is intelligent, articulate and would be a good mentor and counsellor to anyone who lives with environmental sensitivities. She knows the ropes, but instead, in her own words:

*My doctors are well aware of my thoughts about MAiD, and have been trying to find me a new home, so that I WOULDN'T resort to using this process. But again, there is no SAFE (smoke-/scent-free), affordable housing for people with ES/MCS who are on ODSP. While I don't really want to go through with MAiD (I had to euthanize my cat on October 4, 2019, just before I was sealed into my enclosure, and it was a TRAUMATIC experience, since she had a bad reaction to the meds), I cannot continue to live in these conditions forever.*

You see, Ruth, like so many other people with disabilities, has lost hope. She is not dying, but she meets the new criteria for MAiD."

SOURCE: <https://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/43-2/JUST/meeting-7/evidence>

## 18. Arleen Reinsborough



- Arleen is 75 years old and her fear of nursing homes has her more determined than ever to seek assisted suicide.
- Her fear of long-term care doesn't qualify her for MAiD. She is confident her unbearable pain will.
- Reinsborough says "It isn't depression that makes me want to die, it's the fear of living with inhumane, overcrowded conditions, loneliness and lack of hope... I'm trying to do all I can to prevent going to long-term care"
- She says that all the homes she can afford are "worse than living on the street or living at all."
- Reinsborough cites other serious senior problems that spur her desire for assisted dying. They include small pensions, medical services that OHIP won't pay for, and prescriptions not covered by the Ontario Drug Benefit program.
- She also says it is impossible to get into senior (affordable, accessible) housing.

SOURCE: <https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2019/01/20/hamilton-senior-in-unbearable-pain-wants-assisted-dying-to-save-her-from-nursing-home.html>



## 19. Yvan Tremblay



- For over a decade, Yvan Tremblay lived independently in his own apartment with many customized adaptations to accommodate his significant disability.
- When new fire regulations deemed that he could not be safely evacuated from his apartment, he received notice of eviction.
- With his alternative housing options extremely limited and certain to curtail his independence and quality-of-life, he made multiple attempts to protest this judgement and retain his apartment.
- When these attempts failed, Tremblay committed suicide in September 2014. Although it was not an option at the time, under the proposed amendments to the current law, Tremblay would be eligible to receive MAiD.

SOURCE: [https://plus.lapresse.ca/screens/8d84a4bb-79fd-4cef-9a87-f8311d3a3160%7C\\_0](https://plus.lapresse.ca/screens/8d84a4bb-79fd-4cef-9a87-f8311d3a3160%7C_0)  
and <https://www.lavoixdelest.ca/actualites/ils-lui-ont-tout-enleve-en-une-journee-b3e3846d3a221c56fa4c7cc5a8bbdbdf>

See also: Beaudry, Jonas-Sébastien, The Way Forward for Medical Aid in Dying: Protecting Deliberative Autonomy is Not Enough (June 30, 2018). First published in the Supreme Court Law Review, Second Series, Vol. 85., Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3189417>



## 20. Gabriel Bouchard



- Gabriel Bouchard was a 57-year-old man with lifelong disabilities. As his disabilities progressed in late adulthood, he found it necessary to resign from his employment as a social service professional that had been a great source of pride and satisfaction for 35 years.
- He then faced an existential question: “Would you prefer to leave this life as a man who gladly, proudly gave 35 years to social service? Or after another 15 or 20 years, leave a life of degradation? I have no one in my life, no family, I’m alone, I would have ended up on welfare. I would have ended up in a nursing home, and I had no desire to do that, I know too well the quality of life in there — or the lack of quality! Or to go out with the memory of a job well done. The choice was easy for me.”
- Bouchard chose to die by voluntary starvation, while being provided comfort care in hospital.
- When asked in a video recorded interview what might have made his life worth living, he responded “If I had good service, a livable income – welfare is not livable... Yes, if it were possible, but it’s a dream!” He explained that he had declined provincially available services “because although the people were good, they weren’t paid fairly.”
- At the end of his interview, he muses “People with disabilities are costly, right? I’ll be one less expense, right?”

SOURCE: <https://youtu.be/duEC3TqpsV4>

