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## Developing a Nursing Position or Policy Statement on Medical Assistance in Dying in regards to people who struggle with mental health issues, mature minors, and those who have Advanced Directives

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### To the ARNBC

Amendments to Bill C-14, Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD), are currently being debated in the legislature with the intention that Bill C-14 comes into effect on June 6, 2016 as per the directions of the Supreme Court of Canada. The legislation tabled in by the Liberal government on April 14<sup>th</sup> 2016 extends participation in Medical Assistance in Dying to Nurse Practitioners and those who help them<sup>1</sup>. Eligibility to access MAiD has been limited to mentally competent adults capable of making a health care decision that have a grievous and irremediable health condition<sup>1</sup>.

**Whereas** Bill C-14 includes NPs and nurses; and

**Whereas** it is debatable that the narrow parameters of the legislation fulfills the intention of the Supreme Court decision<sup>2</sup>; and

**Whereas** Bill C-14 may face a court challenge based on it being in violation of “the Charter of rights of suffering Canadians<sup>2</sup>; and

**Whereas** in anticipation of a court challenge the federal government has proposed one or more independent bodies to study the issues of MAiD related to people who struggle with mental health issues, mature minors, and advanced requests; therefore be it

**Resolved** that the ARNBC will take proactive measures to establish a position or policy statement on MAiD based on nursing values and nursing practice; be it

**Resolved** that the ARNBC will establish a subcommittee that will explore MAiD in the context of nursing values and nursing practice; be it

**Resolved** that the subcommittee will study the issues of MAiD in relation to people who struggle with mental health issues, mature minors, and those who have Advanced Directives in the context of nursing of values and nursing practice; be it

**Resolved** that in consultation with NPs and Registered Nurses in British Columbia the subcommittee will produce a draft of a position or policy statement to be voted on at the 2017 ARNBC AGM

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/cj-jp/ad-am/legis.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://bccla.org/2016/04/assisted-dying-bill-suffering-canadians-left-behind/>