



Communication to all Members of Parliament in the Archdiocese of Toronto

20 April 2026

Dear Member of Parliament,

Be assured of my prayers for you and your family, mindful of the many sacrifices made to serve your constituents and our country. As Archbishop of Toronto, I serve as the spiritual leader for close to two million Catholics in the Archdiocese of Toronto, an area that includes your constituency.

I am deeply concerned about the rapid expansion of Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) in Canada. As you likely know, our Catholic faith opposes the taking of any human life, and it is tragic that MAiD has expanded at an alarming pace since legislation was passed in 2016. Many Canadians are increasingly uneasy about the speed and scope of these developments, particularly the inevitable harmful effects on vulnerable individuals who may feel pressured to seek assisted death — whether subtle or overt — during moments of profound suffering, isolation or despair.

A society is rightly judged by how it cares for its most vulnerable members. There is growing anxiety that the normalization and expansion of assisted suicide risks undermining a culture of compassion, weakening funding for palliative support, and diminishing the collective commitment to accompany those who are suffering. Euthanasia and assisted suicide are indeed contrary to the dignity of the human person. As a civilized and caring country, we are called to protect those experiencing mental illness, not hasten death.

Currently before Parliament is Private Members' Bill C-218 – *An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (Medical Assistance in Dying)* – which would restrict the expansion of MAiD for those whose sole underlying condition is mental illness. As you consider this legislation, I respectfully urge you to vote according to your conscience. This bill raises profound questions of moral and ethical principles that transcend party lines and touch on deeply held convictions regarding the sanctity of life.

I also encourage you to advocate for policies that prioritize investments in palliative care, mental health supports, and resources for individuals who are increasingly marginalized or isolated, particularly seniors and Canadians living with disabilities, rather than efforts to further expand access to assisted suicide. I ask you to choose life and not death; to vote in favour of Bill C-218 and to help build a civilization that cares for those suffering and does not eliminate them, but instead surrounds them with dignity, compassion, and love.

I reiterate my prayers for you and all who serve in public office, that your decisions may be guided by wisdom, courage, and a steadfast commitment to the common good.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Cardinal Leo
Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto