



DIOCESE OF LONDON

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

1070 WATERLOO STREET
LONDON, ONTARIO N6A 3Y2
CANADA
519-433-0658
FAX: 519-266-4353

February 18, 2016

The Honourable Diane Finley
Member of Parliament
76 Kent Street South
Simcoe, ON N3Y 2Y1

Dear Ms. Finley:

Following the decision last year of the Supreme Court in *Carter vs. Canada*, our country is facing a critical juncture. Along with many other Canadians, I am deeply concerned about the negative consequences of this decision, particularly for the sick, the vulnerable, the handicapped, and those suffering from mental illness.

As the spiritual leader of the Diocese of London, I speak officially on behalf of over 400,000 Catholics, many of whom are your constituents. It is in this role that I urge you to do everything within your power to limit the social and moral harm of the *Carter vs. Canada* ruling.

The issues before you in this matter are complex. For this reason, I ask you to consider the following points as you prepare to make your position known relative to any forthcoming legislation:

- If there is not a sustained effort by all of us and by each generation to uphold and protect the inalienable dignity of human life, society suffers devastating consequences.
- Implementation of the Court's decision would have drastic negative effects in our country. Killing a person will no longer be treated as a crime but as a form of health care. The best option would be to invoke the not-withstanding clause, as provided by Section 33 of the Canadian Charter of Human Rights.
- Section 7 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees the right to life, liberty and security, but the ruling in *Carter v. Canada* focuses principally on liberty at the cost of life and security.
- The experience of the few nations which have legalized euthanasia and assisted suicide indicate that efforts to limit assisted suicide and euthanasia to particular cases are inevitably challenged and rejected in favour of more liberal and widespread access. The so-called "right" to euthanasia and assisted suicide very quickly and easily turns into a "duty" to die. This is particularly worrisome in our country's context of a universal health care system servicing a rapidly aging population and entirely dependent on a shrinking tax base.

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- The Canadian Medical Association has estimated that two-thirds of physicians in this country do not wish to be involved in providing so-called "medical aid in dying", with the overwhelming majority of palliative care centres similarly opposed.
- Rather than offering access to euthanasia and assisted suicide, our country needs to uphold human dignity by implementing the 2011 report of the Parliamentary Committee on Palliative and Compassionate Care, *Not to be Forgotten*, in order to: 1) prioritize palliative and home care; 2) strengthen national strategies to prevent suicide; and 3) provide funding for further research and education in pain relief.
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Yours sincerely,



Most Rev. Ronald Fabbro, C.S.B.
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February 18, 2016

Mr. Peter Fragiskatos
Member of Parliament
885 Adelaide Street North
London, ON N5Y 2M2

Dear Mr. Fragiskatos:

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February 18, 2016

Ms. Irene Mathysen
Member of Parliament
1700 Dundas Street, Unit D
London, ON N5W 3C9

Dear Ms. Mathysen:

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Yours sincerely,

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Most Rev. Ronald Fabbro, C.S.B.
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Ms. Kate Young
Member of Parliament
390 Commissioners Road West, Suite 200
London, ON N6J 1Y3

Dear Ms. Young:

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Mr. Bev Shipley
Member of Parliament
380 Albert St.
Strathroy, ON N7G 3J1

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February 18, 2016

Ms. Karen Vecchio
Member of Parliament
750 Talbot Street, Suite 203
St. Thomas, ON N5P 1E2

Dear Ms. Vecchio:

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Ms. Karen Vecchio
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February 18, 2016

Mr. Ben Lobb
Member of Parliament
30 Victoria Street
Goderich, ON N7A 2R6

Dear Mr. Lobb:

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February 18, 2016

Mr. John Nater
Member of Parliament
59 Lorne Avenue East, Unit A
Stratford, ON N5A 6S4

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Yours sincerely,



Most Rev. Ronald Fabbro, C.S.B.
Bishop of London



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February 18, 2016

Mr. Dave MacKenzie
Member of Parliament
208 Huron St., Unit #4
Woodstock, ON N4S 7A1

Dear Mr. MacKenzie:

Following the decision last year of the Supreme Court in *Carter vs. Canada*, our country is facing a critical juncture. Along with many other Canadians, I am deeply concerned about the negative consequences of this decision, particularly for the sick, the vulnerable, the handicapped, and those suffering from mental illness.

As the spiritual leader of the Diocese of London, I speak officially on behalf of over 400,000 Catholics, many of whom are your constituents. It is in this role that I urge you to do everything within your power to limit the social and moral harm of the *Carter vs. Canada* ruling.

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Mr. Dave MacKenzie
February 18, 2016
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February 18, 2016

Mr. Dave Van Kesteren
Member of Parliament
48 Centre Street
Chatham-Kent, ON N7M 4W2

Dear Mr. Van Kesteren:

Following the decision last year of the Supreme Court in *Carter vs. Canada*, our country is facing a critical juncture. Along with many other Canadians, I am deeply concerned about the negative consequences of this decision, particularly for the sick, the vulnerable, the handicapped, and those suffering from mental illness.

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February 18, 2016
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February 18, 2016

Ms. Tracey Ramsey
Member of Parliament
316 Talbot Street North
Essex, ON N8M 2E1

Dear Ms. Ramsey:

Following the decision last year of the Supreme Court in *Carter vs. Canada*, our country is facing a critical juncture. Along with many other Canadians, I am deeply concerned about the negative consequences of this decision, particularly for the sick, the vulnerable, the handicapped, and those suffering from mental illness.

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February 18, 2016
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Most Rev. Ronald Fabbro, C.S.B.
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February 18, 2016

Ms. Marilyn Gladu
Member of Parliament
1000 Finch Drive, Unit 2
Sarnia, ON N7S 6G5

Dear Ms. Gladu:

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Ms. Marilyn Gladu
February 18, 2016
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February 18, 2016

Ms. Cheryl Hardcastle
Member of Parliament
9733 Tecumseh Road East, Suite 2
Windsor, ON N8R 1A5

Dear Ms. Hardcastle:

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Ms. Cheryl Hardcastle
February 18, 2016
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Bishop of London



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February 18, 2016

Mr. Brian Masse
Member of Parliament
1398 Ouellette Avenue, Suite 2
Windsor, ON N8X 1J8

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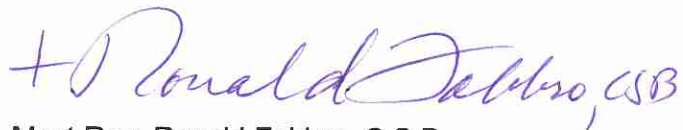
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