On March 17th of 2023 Canada will legalize MAiD for Mental Illness.

**What’s happening?**

* Last year, when Canada made changes to assisted dying laws through Bill C-7, the Senate asked for a last minute amendment. The amendment is called a “sunset clause.”
* The sunset clause made it so that **if nothing is done to change courses**, MAiD for mental illness will automatically become legal on March 17th of 2023.
* Just to clarify, we’re not talking about people with a mental illness having equal access to MAiD if they are dying of cancer. We’re talking about MAiD ***because*** of mental illness.

**What has Canada done to prepare?**

* First, they struck the Expert Panel on MAiD and Mental Illness. In May of 2022, the Expert Panel released their recommendations for how to “safely implement” MAiD for mental illness.
* These recommendations were presented to the Special Joint Committee on MAiD, a group of Senators and MPs. In June of 2022, part way through study on all things MAiD, the Special Joint Committee released an “interim report” that supported the recommendations of the Expert Panel.
* In October of 2022, the Minister of Health responded to the Special Joint Committee’s report. The Minister said that Canada is implementing the recommendations of the Expert Panel.

**Okay, so what exactly is the problem? The Expert Panel recommended that:**

* + No new safeguards should added to the law. We won’t get further consultations, debate, or even votes on MAiD for Mental Illness. **It’s just happening - quietly.**
  + The medical profession should self-regulate MAiD for mental illness using the current law. **This gives the medical profession way too much power.**
  + MAiD should be available to people “in situations of involuntariness” like prisons or psychiatric facilities. **This is coercive.**
  + MAiD should be available through a supported decision maker. **Without clear limits in place, this will be really dangerous.**
  + The recommendations should apply to all cases of MAiD for people who are not terminally ill. **This puts people with intellectual and other disabilities at risk.**