

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Position Paper on
Euthanasia

The Catholic Women's League of Canada, representing 116,000 members from all provinces and territories, reaffirms its respect for the gift of human life and its support for allowing people to die a natural death.

The League believes human beings are stewards of their bodies and of their lives, from birth until natural death. The League believes that the natural process of dying is the final step in living out our human life.

The League is opposed to any deliberate killing of another human being. This includes euthanasia, doctor-assisted suicide or killing people out of a spirit of compassion when their condition is judged to be hopeless or lacking in quality of life.

The League supports all those in the health care profession who offer compassionate and competent palliative care services for the dying, their families and friends. We encourage the formation of palliative care teams in communities across Canada.

The League believes each member of society is unique, including the underprivileged, disabled, sick or infirm. Their dignity needs to be honoured, respected and protected as we are not isolated individuals, but rather a part of the human community.

We urge all Canadians to reflect deeply on the consequences and dangers of giving individuals the right to take the life of another person.

We support laws which offer protection for human life, from conception to the time of natural death and all stages in between. Therefore, we call upon the Government of Canada to join with The Catholic Women's League of Canada to demonstrate that compassion compels the human community not to abandon the sick and dying and to respect the dignity of human life.

Accepted by motion at the national executive meeting of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada, March 5, 1994.