

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE in DYING – (MAiD)

Independent Living Canada stands for choice, autonomy and living a good life in community. As many of you are aware, the Federal Government is currently debating Bill C7, Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD). This Bill has been created to give people choice to end their life at a time of their choosing IF death is imminent. This is the case for all Canadians, EXCEPT people with disabilities. Recent changes to the legislation will allow people with disabilities to die at a time of their choosing, even if death is NOT imminent. This change is sending a chill through the disability community and many disability advocates are raising their voices and are imploring government to listen to the lived experiences of people with disabilities who are asking Why Us? Why are the lives of people with disabilities of less value? Why is the ableist view so strongly entrenched that so many people believe that living life as a person with a disability is not worth living. In many cases, people with disabilities are choosing MAiD, because they are not being provided with accessible, affordable housing, attendant care supports and other disability related supports to live full lives in community with their family and friends.

Independent Living Canada is joining our partners in the disability community condemning this change and urge the government to listen to the lived experiences of people with disabilities.

There is a Facebook page called Why Us? Project Value. You can add your voice to ask the question Why Us? Many people are taking pictures of themselves or loved ones and posting them with the hashtag, #Why Us? <https://www.facebook.com/whyuscanada/>