



LIVING WITH DIGNITY

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

Abridged version, June 2021

OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR

The past year has seen the greatest expansion of euthanasia in Canada since its legalization in Quebec (2015) and Canada (2016). We refuse to give up however, and the period covered by this report (June 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021) illustrates more than ever the relevance of an organization like ours in the Quebec and Canadian landscape.

The pandemic and the confinements have forced us to creatively review our ways of doing things and to better coordinate our actions with those of our allies across the country.

That being said, our battle is still like David versus Goliath.

Opinion polls show widespread public support not only for euthanasia (called Medical Assistance in Dying or MAiD), but for its expansion. In Quebec, no provincial parliamentarian is prepared to address head-on the many sources of abuse associated with the increasing availability of euthanasia.

Organizations involved in promoting the right to medical assistance in dying have access to a host of resources and even receive government subsidies to which we are not entitled. As you will see in this report, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) has

refused to grant us registered charity status, which would have allowed us to issue charitable receipts.

In the face of this injustice, we have chosen to roll up our sleeves as our President Alex King has expressed in response to the passage of Bill C-7, opening the door to euthanasia for the suffering who are not at the end of life:

We cannot leave the field open to promoters of medical aid in dying as a solution to the physical and psychological suffering of patients. Already, some people consider “tiredness of living” as a sufficient reason to ask for this so-called “end of life care”.

We must work to promote real care which is adapted to all types of suffering. To achieve this, our governments will need to work hard to improve mental health care, support for people with disabilities (employment, housing, etc.), support for people with chronic illnesses of all ages, home-based care and support for caregivers.

There is no shortage of challenges!

Excerpt from the joint press release of Living with Dignity and the Physicians Alliance against Euthanasia, March 19, 2021 <https://vivredignite.org/en/2021/03/reaction-to-c7-adoption>

Promoting “the protection of life, the inherent dignity of life, and support for people made vulnerable by illness, old age, or disability” is a noble cause that we have been committed to for more than 11 years now (our foundation was on May 19, 2010). We are very proud to present our accomplishments from the past year and to look forward to all that awaits us in the coming months.

GOVERNANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

Board of Directors

We are pleased with the stability of our Board of Directors over the past few years. The year 2020-2021 has allowed us to further enhance the group while passing the torch of its presidency.

Here is its composition as of May 31, 2021

1. Mr. Alex King – President
2. Ms. Michèle Boulva – Vice-Presidente
3. Ms. Odile Marcotte – Secretary-treasurer
4. Dr. Patrick Vinay
5. Dr. Catherine Ferrier
6. Dr. Paola Diadori
7. Ms. Marie Bourque
8. Mr. Cory Andrew Labrecque

Two changes have occurred in the past year.



A) Dr. Patrick Vinay has given up his position as Chairman of our Board to Mr. Alex King, who had been serving as Secretary-Treasurer for a few months. Under the circumstances, Ms. Odile Marcotte has accepted to temporarily take over the position of Secretary-Treasurer. We are very grateful to Dr. Vinay for remaining on our Board despite his many volunteer and community commitments.



B) We also welcomed a new and wonderful resource to our team of directors, Mr. Cory Andrew Labrecque. M. Labrecque, PhD, is an Associate Professor of Bioethics and Theological Ethics in the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies at Université Laval (Quebec City), where he is Vice-Dean, Director of Graduate Studies in Theology, and the inaugural Chair of Educational Leadership in the Ethics of Life. Previously, Dr Labrecque was the Raymond Schinazi Scholar in Bioethics and Religious Thought as well as the Director of Graduate Studies in Bioethics at the Emory University Center for Ethics in Atlanta. Educated at

McGill University, his training is multidisciplinary: he holds a BSc in Anatomy and Cell Biology, a MA in Bioethics and Religious Studies, and a PhD in Religious Ethics. Dr Labrecque is Vice-President of the National Committee on Ethics and Ageing (Quebec) and is a corresponding member of the Pontifical Academy for Life.

Coordinator

This first year of work by our new coordinator, Jasmin Lemieux-Lefebvre, has confirmed without a doubt that the Board of Directors made a great decision in inviting him to join the LWD team. His immense talent as a communicator and his countless media and communications contacts are already benefiting the LWD citizen network, as is his uncanny ability to connect with individuals and groups engaged in the same struggle as LWD.

As mentioned in our 2019-2020 report, Jasmin has a bachelor's degree in public communication from Laval University (1999). He began his career at the communication agency QuébecComm, as project manager for multiple clients and communications manager for the Festival d'humour de Quebec. After years in Toronto (World Youth Day, Salt + Light Television), he returns to Quebec City as Director of Communications for the Archdiocese of Quebec. During this period, he became known in the media as a figure of dialogue. He has taken an interest in end-of-life issues by volunteering over the years to support the Rassemblement québécois contre l'euthanasie and the Physicians Alliance against Euthanasia. The

accompaniment of two of his grandparents at the end of their lives (involving a cancer for his maternal grandfather and Alzheimer’s disease for his paternal grandmother), remains a key moment that urges him to promote quality palliative care for all.

A warm, caring, dynamic and insightful man, Jasmin not only has an in-depth knowledge of our issues, but also of social media, which he uses effectively and discerningly to reach an ever-growing audience.

Financial Challenges

After months of waiting, we finally received the response from the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) to our application for charitable status. Dated February 18, 2021, the CRA's refusal was very upsetting. According to the CRA, our *charitable purposes* would not be sufficient and would leave too much room for *political purposes*. This is a great frustration for our organization since *Dying with Dignity Canada* applied for and obtained this status even though their mission is similar to ours, but at the opposite pole. It is interesting to note the financial power of this activist organization, which is chaired by a Canadian Senator, Mr. James S. Cowan. Senator Cowan, of course, voted for the expansion of euthanasia in Canada (Bill C-7) in 2021.

REVENUES For the year ended December 31	2020	2019
Donations	1,285,557	1,074,666
Bequests	176,826	3,970,500
Contributions in kind	59,120	55,661
Miscellaneous	6,242	10,548
Interest	126,930	135,382
CEWS/CERS	222,710	0
\$ TOTAL	1,877,385	5,246,757

EXPENSES For the year ended December 31	2020	2019
Advertising and promotions	517,035	427,020
Amortization of property and equipment	6,308	6,367
Bank charges	29,163	19,934
Computer	57,814	44,632
Financial support	47,627	35,526
Insurance	6,078	6,808
Meetings	6,521	63,512
Office and general	40,717	48,597
Professional fees	66,353	162,182
Professional services	108,427	101,877
Rent and occupancy	159,567	98,540
Salaries and benefits	983,970	1,129,978
Telecommunications	18,895	21,074
Travel	910	26,574
\$ TOTAL	2,049,385	2,192,621

Image from Dying with Dignity Canada's 2020 Annual Report

<https://tinyurl.com/483tj3x2>

We are preparing to launch a fundraising campaign in October 2021 in an effort to boost our finances in view of the struggle ahead. More specifically, we will be:

1) Sharing all of our accomplishments over the past few months, including the launch of our new palliative care video and our presentation at the Commission on End-of-Life Care Law Evolution public hearings in August (both of which are discussed later in the report).

2) Highlighting the first decade of Living with Dignity's history.

3) Denouncing the injustice of the CRA's refusal to grant us charitable status, unlike our Canadian opponent Dying with Dignity.

4) Pointing out that unlike our Quebec pro-euthanasia counterpart, we do not receive government funding. The *Quebec Association for the Right to Die with Dignity* has received a substantial grant of \$123,545/year for 3 years, from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2023, from the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity, Mr. Jean Boulet.

We are supported in this process by a fundraising expert who is urging us to continue our search for a dedicated resource for our fundraising efforts. We hope to find one among our allies in the coming year.

Federal Bill C-7:

When euthanasia is no longer just an end-of-life issue

As we mentioned in our 2019-2020 annual report, “On September 11, 2019, Justice Christine Baudouin of the Quebec Superior Court declared the eligibility criteria for medical aid in dying (MAiD) to be discriminatory and too restrictive, both in the Quebec and Canadian legislative regimes. In Quebec, the law requires that the person be "at the end of life", whereas in Canada death must be "reasonably foreseeable". ” (...) “By not challenging this ruling, Quebec simply declared the end-of-life criterion inoperative, while Ottawa decided to amend the Criminal Code.”

After several months of study and debate in the Canadian Parliament and Senate in the fall of 2020 and winter of 2021, this amendment to the Criminal Code finally came to fruition in March with the adoption of Bill C-7.

Originally, this bill was intended to allow a person with a serious and incurable disease or condition, with an advanced and irreversible decline in capacity, or living with a disability, to obtain medical assistance in dying if they are not at the end of their life, for only 90 days following their request. But pro-euthanasia advocates also succeeded in including in the Bill a clause allowing for the expansion of MAiD within the next two years to people with mental illnesses only.

Along with all the opponents of this legislation, we can be thankful that MAiD in cases of incapacity was at least defeated, although we know full well that its proponents will not give up easily and will be back promoting it again soon.

Official interventions of Living with Dignity

We are proud to have been the most active group in Quebec in opposing the expansion of the MAiD.

Below is a chronology of our principal interventions and actions (links to the press releases in the media section of our annual report):

- October 6 - Press release in reaction to the re-introduction of Bill C-7
- November 10 - Presentation of our brief to federal MPs on the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights, by Me Michel Racicot
- November 25 - Presentation to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, by Mr. Alex King.

Link to both presentations: <https://vivredignite.org/en/2020/11/submission-c7>

- December 4 - Press release in response to the first vote in the House of Commons on C-7
- January 26 - News release in response to the UN Rapporteur's statement sharing his concern about opening the MAiD to persons with disabilities
- March 19 - Press release in response to the Senate vote to pass Bill C-7

In addition, we broadcast 22 mass emails, each calling for our network to mobilize and take action (see media section).

Unofficial interventions of Living with Dignity

Throughout the various debates, we have strategically supported like-minded allies across the country.

Some of these efforts include, but are not limited to, the following :

➤ **Support for the Physicians Together with Vulnerable Canadians initiative**

We helped a group of physicians opposing C-7 to collect 1482 signatures. We lent our coordinator Jasmin Lemieux-Lefebvre (at their expense) to help them with their communications and to translate their content into French, see <https://maid2mad.ca>

(Medical Assistance in Dying becomes Medically Administered Death).



➤ **Support to various groups of people with disabilities**

We contacted and supported several disability advocacy groups including the *Why Us?* movement, the advocacy work of activist Jonathan Marchand and the Disability Filibuster initiative.



Vivre dans la Dignité / Living with Dignity @Vivredi... · 11 nov. 2020 ...
#BillC7 On November 10, we shared our testimony at the #JUST @HoCCommittees next to other experts such as @CatherineFrazee, @DrHeid & Taylor Hyatt. Thank you to our spokesperson **Michel Racicot**. To read our submission & watch the 🗣️ of the session vivredignite.org/en/2020/11/sub... #cdnpoli



Source : <https://twitter.com/Vivredignite/status/1326554537759440901>

➤ **French translation for various speeches**

Canadian organizations opposed to C-7 that did not have French-speaking resources called on LWD, which is recognized as a good resource to assist them. One example among many, the French translation of a letter from Canadian Aboriginal leaders:

<https://twitter.com/Vivredignite/status/1359626795390296065>



Vivre dans la Dignité / Living with Dignity

@Vivredignite

...

#C7 Nous vous partageons ce message de plusieurs leaders autochtones, reçu ajd.

"Les peuples autochtones ne devraient pas être contraints de fournir ou de faciliter

#aidemédicalemourir"

Merci de votre prise de parole à tous les signataires (voir ) #polcan @BCANDS1 @VulnerablC7

February / Février 2021

Les peuples autochtones ne devraient pas être contraints de fournir ou de faciliter l'aide médicale à mourir

Sénateurs, élus fédéraux et provinciaux, régulateurs.

En tant que peuples autochtones du Canada, nous sommes très préoccupés par les conséquences du projet de loi C-7 sur nos communautés.

L'extension de l'« aide médicale à mourir » (AMM) au-delà de ceux dont le décès est prévisible aura un impact durable sur nos populations vulnérables. Non seulement la consultation de nos dirigeants sur le projet de loi C-7 a été insuffisante, mais elle n'a pas pris en compte les disparités existantes en matière de santé et les inégalités sociales auxquelles nous sommes confrontés par rapport aux non-autochtones.

En tant que nations souveraines au Canada, nous avons le droit de déterminer

Texte non cédé de Wikkensoong, Ontario

February / Février 2021

pratiquer nos propres traditions et coutumes lorsqu'il s'agit de soutenir les mourants, sans discrimination dans le système de soins de santé.

SIGNATAIRES

Tyler White

Directeur général

Services de santé Siksika, Nation Siksika

Membre de la Confédération des Peuples Noirs et du Traité n°7 de l'Alberta

L'honorable Graydon Nicholas

Ordn du Nouveau Brunswick

Premier lieutenant-gouverneur autochtone du Nouveau Brunswick

Ahí, nation Squamish

Bénévole au Lionsgate Hospital for Squamish People

Select Committee on the Evolution of the Act respecting end-of-life care

On March 31, 2021, the Quebec government announced the creation of a special commission to study the potential expansion of medical assistance in dying to people who are incapacitated (caused by a neurodegenerative disease such as Alzheimer's) and to those whose only medical problem is a mental disorder.

During the first phase of the public hearings, we were able to network with the majority of the those who spoke against the proposed expansion. We brought them together in two working groups (advance directives / mental disorders). We were able to coordinate our efforts by email and by organizing Zoom meetings.

We also provided them with an updated media digest throughout the work of the Committee.

We have already been invited to participate in the second round of public hearings on August 9, 2021 and are preparing a brief for that occasion.



VIDEO PRODUCTION: THE TREASURE OF PALLIATIVE CARE

After the success of the web series “Because Life is Worth Living” launched in June 2020 (<https://vivredignite.org/en/2020/06/press-release-a-new-web-series-from-the-living-with-dignity-citizen-network>), we decided to produce our next video on the topic of palliative care. We hope to counter the efforts of groups that seek to associate hospice palliative care with euthanasia under the banner of “end-of-life care”.

This time we have asked a talented young videographer, Mr. Bruno Olivier, to produce a video in French and English that briefly answers the most important questions about palliative care. We also took the opportunity to record long answers for those who wish to go deeper into the topics discussed.

In the midst of the pandemic, it was not easy task to recruit hosts, experts and extras, and to complete the filming. But we rose to the challenge.

We are proud to have a former Radio-Canada (Public Television) journalist, Ms. Claudette Lambert, as host of the French version. For the English version, the role was given to a young nurse working in neurology, Ms. Angela Barrett, whose talent as a communicator is undeniable.



The guest experts for the video are Dr. Golda Tradounsky and Dr. Patrick Vinay, two outstanding resources who did a wonderful job to convey clearly and succinctly the essence of palliative care.

In the introduction, the video mentions the contribution of Dr. Balfour Mount, the great pioneer of palliative care in Canada. We contacted him for archival photos and shared a draft version of our videos. We are pleased to report that he described them as “excellent”.

After considering the best time to launch this video package called “The Treasure of Hospice Palliative Care”, we decided to align it with our intervention August 9, 2021 at the public hearings of the Quebec Select Committee on the Evolution of the Act respecting end-of-life care.

<https://vivredignite.org/treasure>



ONLINE PRESENCE

Our *popular education* mission could not continue in person in this year due to the pandemic. We therefore doubled our efforts to offer a diversified online presence by focusing on a highly interactive presence on our social networks.

Website

We regularly update our website www.vivredignite.org/en, both in French and English. We published thirteen articles in French and eleven in English (most of our papers are available in both languages) for a total of 24. In addition to sharing our news releases, briefs and newsletters, we put forward content on issues that few are willing to address directly, such as Dr. Joel Zivot's concern that assisted dying can be extremely painful and akin to drowning. While the American public network NPR shares the studies of this brilliant research scientist from Manitoba, Canada (<https://www.npr.org/2020/09/21/793177589/gasping-for-air-autopsies-reveal-troubling-effects-of-lethal-injection>), the Canadian media (apart from a brief news item from the Canadian Press), chose to ignore his call for caution. We took the time to communicate with him and to share the fruits of his investigative work <https://vivredignite.org/en/2021/02/maid-peaceful-or-painful>.

Medical aid in dying: a peaceful or painful experience?

Based on his study of autopsies of criminals executed by lethal injection in the United States, Dr. Joel Zivot has stated that an assisted death "could be extremely painful and more akin to drowning".



Mass emails

We only distributed our e-newsletter three times this year, in June, September and April. Instead, we sent out weekly *calls to action* during key moments of the debate surrounding Bill C-7. For the period before the vote in the House of Commons, we sent out communications for five consecutive weeks (November 18 to December 19). Before the Senate vote, we sent action alerts on February 5 and 20, and March 10 and 19. In total, we sent out 30 mass email blasts (15 in French, 15 in English).

Social Media

As mentioned in the introduction to this section, we are using social networks more and more and not just to interact with our allies; we are also using social media to connect with journalists, politicians and, sometimes, even with our opponents.

Here are some statistics on our use of these great communication tools:

Twitter (the numbers in parentheses (x, y, z) refer to the mode of communication, either an original post (x), a retweet/repost of an external post (y) or a reply (z).

September 2020 :	FR 21 tweets (13, 4, 4) + EN 3 tweets (2, 1, 0)	= 24.
October 2020 :	FR 16 tweets (10, 2, 4) + EN 2 tweets (2, 0, 0)	= 18.
November 2020 :	FR 23 tweets (15, 2, 6) + EN 9 tweets (3, 6, 0)	= 32.
Décember 2020 :	FR 26 tweets (18, 5, 3) + EN 11 tweets (7, 4, 0)	= 37.
January 2021 :	FR 17 tweets (12, 2, 3) + EN 6 tweets (1, 5, 0)	= 23.
February 2021 :	FR 68 tweets (51, 9, 8) + EN 32 tweets (12, 19, 1)	= 100.
March 2021 :	FR 62 tweets (51, 7, 4) + EN 17 tweets (2, 15, 0)	= 79.
April 2021 :	FR 6 tweets (5, 1, 0) + EN 1 tweet (0, 1, 0)	= 7.
May 2021 :	FR 62 tweets (21, 9, 1) + EN 5 tweets (2, 3, 0)	= 67.

Facebook

In parentheses (x, y, z), publications in French (x), English (y) and bilingual (z).

September 2020 : 13 posts (12, 0, 1)
October 2020 : 9 posts (8, 0, 1)
November 2020 : 12 posts (7, 3, 2)
December 2020 : 16 posts (12, 1, 3)
January 2021 : 12 posts (9, 1, 2)
February 2021 : 22 posts (24, 4, 5)
March 2021 : 9 posts (8, 5, 0)
April 2021 : 5 posts (8, 5, 0)
May 2021 : 13 posts (8, 5, 0)

This does not take into account our habit of regularly writing in the comments section of media articles about palliative care or MAiD. When we do this, we are often one of the only voices bringing another perspective to the debate. We refer readers to resources that can help break the mold of so much of the narrow minded, one-track thinking on these critically important issues.

ICI.RADIO-CANADA.CA
La Maison Michel-Sarrazin offre maintenant l'aide médicale à mourir

J'aime Commenter Partager

Claudette Vallières et 651 autres personnes

Les plus pertinents

Vivre dans la Dignité / Living with Dignity
Cette nouvelle sera vécue comme une déception pour tous ceux et celles qui voyaient en la Maison Michel-Sarrazin un havre de paix pour les soins palliatifs, une grande famille qui choisit en conscience de ne pas offrir l'aide médicale à mourir pour le bien des personnes accueillies. Ce choix est permis par la loi et l'information a toujours été transmise en transparence.

Une déception d'autant plus vive que nous admirons tout le travail des artisans de la Maison Michel-Sarrazin.

Rappel de la prise de parole de la Maison Michel-Sarrazin à ICI Québec Radio-Canada Information en 2014: « Si une personne souhaite recourir à cette voie pour elle-même au moment de faire une demande, elle doit considérer un choix différent que la Maison Michel-Sarrazin. »
<https://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/671253/michel-sarrazin-aide-medicale-mourir>

ICI.RADIO-CANADA.CA
La Maison Michel-Sarrazin dit non à l'aide médicale à mourir

20 sem J'aime Répondre 22

Writing such commentaries allows us to present our message in a very targeted way to people who are interested in human dignity. For example, here is our quick reaction to the announcement that the legendary Michel-Sarrazin hospice (Quebec City) was opening its doors to the MAiD after years of opposing it.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/iciquebec/posts/3906310832760141>.

Interactions based on a principle of care and respect

We are committed to communicating in a caring manner in all of our social media interactions. We believe this is one of the best ways to advance our cause. Here are a few examples to illustrate our attitude:

1) Ms. Sandra De Montigny's appearance on Radio-Canada's flagship public television show, *Tout le monde en parle*, caused a stir. She has early-onset Alzheimer's disease and is campaigning for the right to sign advance directives that would allow her to obtain MAiD if she becomes incapacitated one day. We responded to her, the show's team and its host with links to another testimony, that of Ms. Blandine Prévost who suffers from the same disease as Sandra, but who has a very different attitude. We have shared her testimony in multiple comments and on all our social networks:

<https://www.facebook.com/vivredignite/posts/3264139307018972>

<https://twitter.com/Vivredignite/status/1363939257623187456>.

← Tweet

Tout le monde en parle @OFF_TLMEP · 22 févr.
Émouvant témoignage de @SDemontignyAlz , 41 ans, atteinte d'une forme précoce de la maladie d'Alzheimer. Elle milite pour avoir accès à l'aide médicale à mourir. #tlmep

Sandra Demontigny : l'heure des choix | Segment | Tout le monde en parle | ICI Radio-Canada.ca
ici.radio-canada.ca

7 20 176

Vivre dans la Dignité / Living with Dignity @Vivredignite · 22 févr.
@guyalepage Un témoignage touchant qui nous rappelle une autre présence à #TLMEP d'une personne atteinte d'#Alzheimer précoce, Blandine Prévost & son mari Xavier (9 ans déjà!) youtube.com/watch?v=d8TKay... Approche empreinte d'espérance en des soins appropriés jusqu'à la fin de vie. 1/

1

Vivre dans la Dignité / Living with Dignity @Vivredignite

En réponse à @Vivredignite, @OFF_TLMEP et 2 autres

Mme Prévost est intervenue en 2020 lors d'un forum @sante_qc sur directives anticipées #AMM. Nous partageons sa crainte "qu'un élargissement de l'AMM entraîne le sentiment d'être un fardeau chez les gens atteints d'alzheimer qui choisiront de vivre." ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/14958... 2/

2) On February 17, 2021, we took the time to highlight Senator Chantal Petitclerc's (former Paralympic athlete) admirable life story, even though she was the government's voice in promoting the C-7 bill. Our personalized posts don't always get a response, but this time we got one:

<https://twitter.com/CPetitclerc/status/1362020250749988865>.



Vivre dans la Dignité / Living with Dignity @Vivredignite · 17 févr.

Même si nous ne partageons pas le même point de vue au sujet du projet de loi C-7, il est important de rappeler le témoignage de vie admirable de la sénatrice Chantal Petitclerc @CPetitclerc. #polcan #PLC7 @SenatCA #SenCa

Raymonde St-Germain @SenSaintGermain · 17 févr.

@CPetitclerc : un modèle, à tous égards.

#C7 #SenCa



1

1

2



Chantal Petitclerc

@CPetitclerc

En réponse à @Vivredignite et @SenatCA

Merci @Vivredignite pour ce commentaire respectueux de nos différences de points de vue. Très apprécié. 🙏

13:45 · 17 févr. 21 · Twitter for iPad

Translation :

@vivredignite : While we do not share the same views on Bill C-7, it is important to recall the admirable life story of Senator Chantal Petitclerc.

@CPetitclerc : Thank you @Vivredignite for this comment, respectful of our different points of view. Much appreciated.

3) Sometimes we translate in French publications that deserve a wider distribution. The word-for-word description of the reaction to the adoption of C-7 by two allies with disabilities, Mr. Jonathan Marchand and Ms. Catherine Frazee, seemed to us important to relay in this way:



Source : <https://twitter.com/Vivredignite/status/1370385577972019206>

4) Without any expectation, we also take the initiative to react in a few words when public personalities experience events that affect our mission, like on September 3, 2020 with the anchor of Radio-Canada's *Téléjournal* (Public television's flagship newscast, Ms. Céline Galipeau.



Source : <https://twitter.com/Vivredignite/status/1301530911201202176>.

Translation of LWD's answer: Thank you for accompanying your mother. Our sincere condolences, on behalf of our entire team.

MEDIA

During this year, Living with Dignity sent out five press releases. For comparison, we released two in 2019/2020 and none in 2018/2019. Here is the list:

- June 15, 2020 – A new web series from the Living with Dignity citizen network
<https://vivredignite.org/en/2020/06/press-release-a-new-web-series-from-the-living-with-dignity-citizen-network>

- October 6, 2020 – Bill C-7: we must take into account the lessons of the pandemic!
Let's take care of vulnerable persons before we think of offering them “medical assistance in dying” <https://vivredignite.org/en/2020/10/press-release-bill-c-7-we-must-take-into-account-the-lessons-of-the-pandemic>

- December 4, 2020 – MPs Vote in Favour of Bill C-7 – Where do we draw the line now? <https://vivredignite.org/en/2020/12/pressrelease-c7-december4>

- January 26, 2021 – Living with Dignity welcomes the intervention of UN experts
“Disability is not a reason to sanction medically assisted dying”
<https://vivredignite.org/en/2021/01/lwd-welcomes-un-experts-260121>

- March 19, 2021 – Reaction to the adoption of Bill C-7
Following this cold shower, reasons to stay mobilized
<https://vivredignite.org/en/2021/03/reaction-to-c7-adoption>

We also produced an open letter, shared in French with the media, “Autonomy, Dignity and the New Bill on Aid in Dying”, signed by Dr. Paola Diadori, on October 9, 2020. Since the no Quebec daily newspapers deemed it worthy of publication, we shared it on October 14 on all our digital platforms (<https://vivredignite.org/2020/10/lettre-ouverte-autonomie-dignite-et-le-nouveau-projet-de-loi-sur-laide-a-mourir>), with this mention:

*We strongly encourage you to contact your favourite media outlets (letters, comments, etc.).
The volume of communications may encourage them to give voice to dissenting voices on Bill C-7.*

IMMEDIATE FUTURE

In the face of the expansion of euthanasia in Quebec, Canada and around the world, we must continue to raise awareness of the abuses associated with this practice, one for which future generations will pay the price. We will continue to work with all groups and individuals who share our convictions.

At our April 24, 2021 board meeting, we discussed the possibility of greater collaboration between our citizen network Living with Dignity and the Physicians Alliance against Euthanasia. After 11 and nine years of existence respectively, LWD and the Alliance remain relevant on the Quebec and Canadian scenes. Each still has an important role to play, and our organizations have expressed an interest in collaborating more closely to become ever more effective.

The experience of the informal working groups we created at the time of the Select Committee on the expansion of the MAiD in Quebec allowed us to meet new and dynamic allies who were not always with us when we first fought against the legalization of euthanasia. We plan to continue this formula of building a broader alliance by including new voices that will be heard in the second phase of the Committee's public hearings.

The launch of the English and French versions of the “Treasure of Palliative Care” video in August will not be limited to Canada. We hope that our tools can be of service to our allies in French and English-speaking countries around the world. We will be contacting

them personally, which will give us the opportunity to explore further avenues of cooperation.

In Quebec, the video will be shared with all our allies, with a special focus on the 18 hospices (out of 37) that still courageously refuse to offer euthanasia under their roof. We had them in mind when preparing this production and we look forward to a fruitful exchange with their leadership.

Our September mailing will be coupled with an internet offensive to launch our annual contribution campaign and to solicit donations to enable us to continue our mission.

Based on the funds raised, we will determine what projects we can undertake in the coming months.

It is important to remember that we currently have only one permanent paid resource, our Coordinator, and for only 15 hours a week (!). All the rest of our work is done on a volunteer basis by our board members and valuable collaborators. We are deeply grateful to them. With these limited resources, we are truly proud of what we have accomplished over the past year and we now know that we can continue to do so effectively. With increased financial resources, we would have no shortage of ideas to enable our citizen network to have a stronger voice in future public debates.

Thank you to all those who believe in our Living with Dignity citizen network to advance palliative care and to fight the trivialization of death caused by euthanasia.

We deserve so much better!

Confident in the vital importance of our mission, we keep moving forward.



LIVING WITH DIGNITY