

The Anglican Church of Canada



L'Église anglicane du Canada

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Office of the Primate

3 February 2016

The Honourable Kelvin Ogilvie and
Mr. Robert Oliphant, M.P.,

Joint Chairs of the Special Joint Committee on Physician-Assisted Dying
Parliament of Canada
Ottawa, Canada

Dear Senator Ogilvie and Mr. Oliphant,

I commend to you the submission of The Anglican Church of Canada for consideration by all members of the Special Joint Committee on Physician Assisted Dying.

For over fifty years, our Church has been engaged in close study and reflection on end of life issues. The seriousness of our efforts in theological-ethical thinking during these recent decades have been built upon millennia of Christian and Jewish pastoral experience in accompaniment with the sick and the dying.

Most recently, we commissioned a special task force within our national structures. Its mandate is to produce resources to assist pastors, patients, and families in end of life care, now within the changed circumstance inaugurated by the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in the Carter case. Conversations within that task force laid the ground for the paper we now submit for your deliberations.

As has always been our practice, we continue to hold in our prayers the government of Canada, its parliamentary leadership and hard working committees. Please know of our prayers for you in the serious, challenging and important work now before this committee.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Fred Hiltz". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

The Most Reverend Fred Hiltz, Archbishop and Primate of Canada