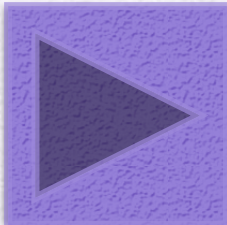




CHOICES IN DYING VICTORIA

ADVOCATING FOR MEDICALLY ASSISTED DYING
CANADA

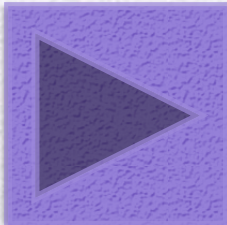
Email: choicesindying@shaw.ca
Webiste: www.choicesindying.com



CHOICES IN DYING VICTORIA

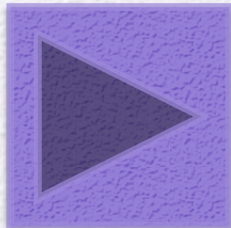
OUR MISSION

Through education, advocacy and compassionate support, we are committed to creating a society in which individuals, in dignity and without suffering, have the legal right to choose the manner and timing of their death.



CHOICES IN DYING

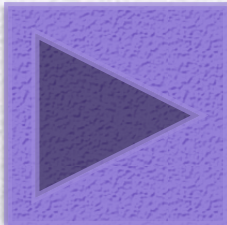
VICTORIA: Our Heroes



SUE RODRIQUEZ

August 2, 1950 – February 12, 1994

- lived in Victoria BC
- 1991 developed ALS disease (motor-neuron disease; chronic; destroys nerves coming from the spine; leads to paralysis)
- 1993 Applied to Supreme Court of Canada to have medically assisted dying;
- 1994 Supreme Court heard the case
- Decision 5-4 against
- 1994 Sue Rodriguez took her own life

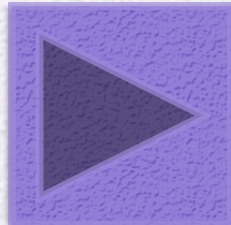


SUE RODRIQUEZ

“Whose life is this anyway?
Mine? Or the governments?”



- Sue Rodriguez and then NDP MP Svend Robinson after the Supreme Court of Canada turned down Rodriguez's plea for doctor-assisted t. 30, 1993)

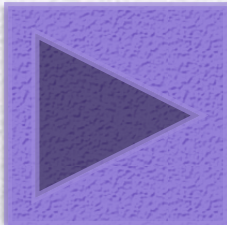


EVELYN MARTENS

1931 – 2011



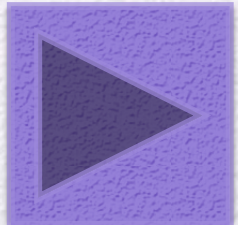
- Lived in Kelowna, Victoria and Duncan BC
- Became regional advisor of the Right-to-Die society after the ‘bad death’ of brother, Cornelius from cancer. Cornelius lingered for 2.5 years.
- 1997 began sitting with those choosing suicide over life in intolerable conditions; unbearable pain
- 2002 charged in the deaths of Monique Charest and Leyanne Burchell.



EVELYN MARTENS



- 2003 Preliminary inquiry bound over for trial
- 2004 Found not guilty of assisting a suicide
- HAD SHE BEEN FOUND GUILTY???
- Could have gone to jail for up to 14 years
- Clarified that mere compassionate presence at suicide is not a crime in Canada.



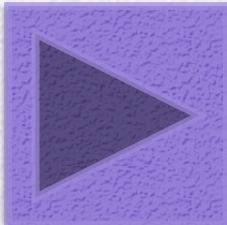
Dr. Donald Low

May 2, 1945 - September 18, 2013



“I know I’m going to die, what worries me is how I’m going to die,” the 68-year-old Low says in the video.

- Canada’s SARS doctor
- Kept the country calm during the epidemic in 2003
- 2013 diagnosed with incurable brain cancer
- “I’m just frustrated with not being able to have control of my own life, not being able to make the decision myself when enough is enough.”



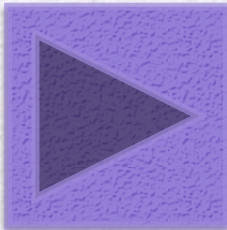
Susan Griffiths chooses Dignitas....



Susan Griffiths spends a moment with her daughter leading up to her death in Switzerland on Thursday. (Donna Carreiro/CBC)

"We want the law to change. We want there to be a choice at the end of your own life," she said. "We need a law to say we can choose our own death."

- Aged 72, diagnosed with multiple system atrophy, an incurable disease; bodily functions shut down
- Chose Dignitas so that she had control of the method and timing of her death
- Dies 2013 Surrounded by her family they sang her on.....
Row row row your boat..

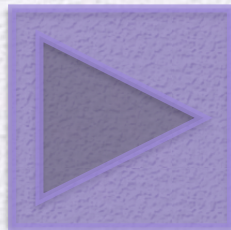


Nagui Morcos, Toronto



- Toronto College Professor
- 1988 His father dies of Huntington's disease
- Undergoes genetic screening ; learns he carries the gene
- 2004 Diagnosed with Huntingtons: plans his death
- Commits suicide 2012

"In deciding on the timing for hastening my death, and to stay within the current laws, I had to do this myself and couldn't get any help. It was a precarious balance between doing it too early and missing out on my rich life, and doing it too late when I was no longer capable."

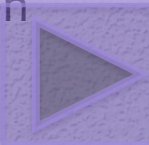


Margot Bentley



“I direct that I be allowed to die and not be kept alive by artificial means or ‘heroic measures,’” she wrote eight years before her diagnosis. She also specifically stated that her caregivers should dispense “no nourishment or liquids” if she was in a condition where it was clear there was no reasonable chance of recovery.

- Retired nurse, Abbotsford, BC
- 1991 Wrote living will specifying “no nourishment or liquids ..
- 1999 Diagnosed with Alzheimers Disease
- 2011 Stage Seven of Alzheimer /out of seven: vegetative state
- Being force fed in Fraser Valley Health Authority. Family sued to have living will enforced
- Lost the Case. Feeding and hydration are part of “personal care” not health care
- Margot was opening her mouth when prompted, discriminating over food offered; still decision making



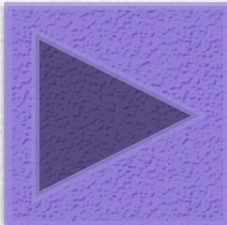
Gillian Bennett, clinical psychotherapist chooses to end life



Gillian with her cat, Cosmos

“Every day I lose bits of myself, and it’s obvious that I am heading towards the state that all dementia patients eventually get to: not knowing who I am and requiring full-time care.”

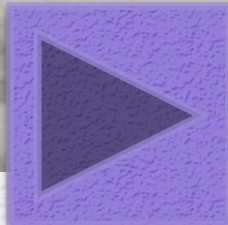
- 2011 Diagnosed with dementia, age 81
- Committed suicide at her favorite viewing spot August 2014 on Bowen Island
- Determined to choose the timing of her death, before she became a ‘carcass’ physically alive; but mentally dead.



GLORIA TAYLOR

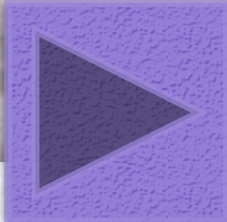
1948 - October 4, 2012

- Lived in Kelowna BC
- Developed ALS disease
- Lead plaintiff in current Taylor/ Carter et al case
- Granted an exemption by Supreme Court of BC
- BC Appeals Court overturned Verdict



GLORIA TAYLOR

- “I was in this to do this for everybody”
- Died of an infection in 2012
- Decision now rests with the Supreme Court of Canada

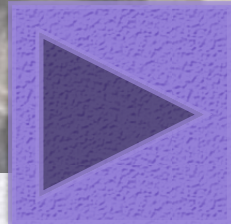


KAY CARTER, CARTER VS SUPREME COURT

The doctor said I would end up flat in a bed, unable even to blow my nose,” Kay dictated in an August 2009 letter to Dignitas. “This deterioration has progressed up to my neck and chin and downward to my feet. I cannot eat by myself, cannot move by myself and am incontinent ... Each day it gets worse. Because of this I request the right to die with dignity and that Dignitas prepare an accompanied suicide for me.”



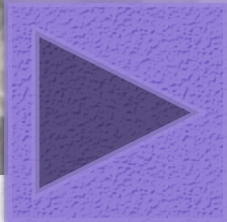
- Diagnosed with spinal stenosis
- Living in residential care in North Vancouver
- Determines to end her life on her terms



Kay Carter Versus the Supreme Court of Canada

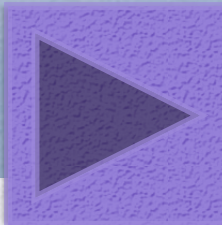
“I and I alone made the choice to pursue this path. My journey to Zurich ... was filled with laughter and fond reminiscing.”

- Travels to Dignitas, with family to Zurich Switzerland
-



DIGNITAS, SWITZELAND

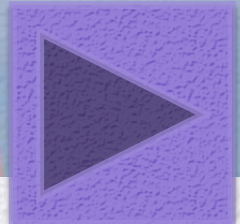
- Switzerland Study, 2009-2012
Examined 611 Assisted suicides
Switzerland Study, 2003–2008
followed 5 million people; 1301 chose
assisted suicide
- Leading Cause for requests:
neurological issues: motor neuron,
ALS, Parkinsons, MS
cancer
respiratory issues
rheumatoid diseases



DIGNITAS, SWITZERLAND

Who Chooses Assisted Suicide?

- Higher socio economic status
- Higher education levels
- Women over men
- People living alone
- Urban people over rural
- No religious affiliation

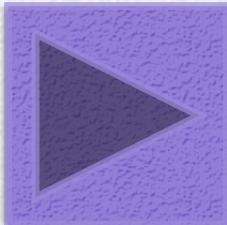


IPSOS REID POLL

ON MEDICALLY ASSISTED DYING 2014

KEY FINDINGS

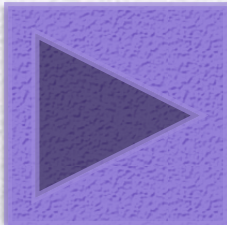
- 84% of Canadians say doctors should be able to help someone end their life if asked.
- 85% of regulated Health Care professionals support a physician's ability to assist in dying should someone be terminally ill and be suffering unbearably.
- 85% of people with disabilities support a physician's ability to assist in dying should someone be terminally ill and suffering unbearably.



CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Position: Medical aid in dying

- *“The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) supports the right of all physicians, within the bounds of existing legislation, to follow their conscience when deciding whether to provide medical aid in dying as defined in CMA’s policy on euthanasia and assisted suicide.”*
- Passed with 91% approval, August, 2014



Choices in Dying Victoria Actions

Formation

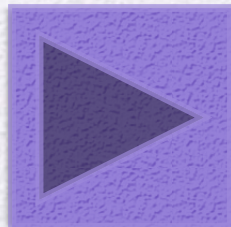
March 2013

Rallies

- March 2013 Victoria Legislature: The Gloria Taylor/Carter Case
- March 2013 BC Supreme Court Gloria Taylor/Carter Case
- November 2014 : World Right to Die Day BC Legislature, Victoria
- Flash Mob: October 15th 2014 to mark hearing at Federal Supreme Court, Ottawa: Carter et al. vs Supreme Court

Information Sessions:

- General Information Sessions for Members March, April, June, August 2013;
- Senior Health Expo: March 2014 Pearkes Arena
- TV Interview : Shaw Cable September 10, 2014

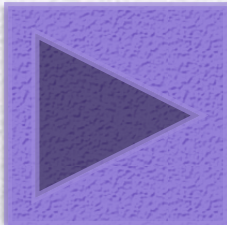


Choices in Dying Victoria Actions

- **Advance Care** Planning Sessions March 2014
Island Health
April 2014 : 2 Follow Up Sessions
- **Enduring Power Of Attorney** Session April 2014 : Robert Salmond,, Attorney
- **Website** :Developed : June 2014
www.choicesindying.com

Ongoing / Proposed Plans:

- **Meeting with NDP** MLAs: leader, Health Critic and Spokesperson
October 2014
- **Presentations:** Service Clubs: Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis , Senior Centres, Senior Advocate
- **Information Table:** March 2015 Senior Health Expo, Pearkes Arena
- **Right-to-Die: A dialogue** to be organized once the Supreme Court has ruled.



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Join Choices in Dying Victoria
Email: choicesindying@shaw.ca
Web: choicesindying.com
- Join Dying with Dignity Canada
Web: dyingwithdignity.ca
- Write your MP with your concern: Decriminalize medically assisted dying
- Ensure your Advance Care Directive complies with the 2011 changes in BC
- Write a letter to the editor
- Have your voice heard.. Speak Up..Speak OUT

