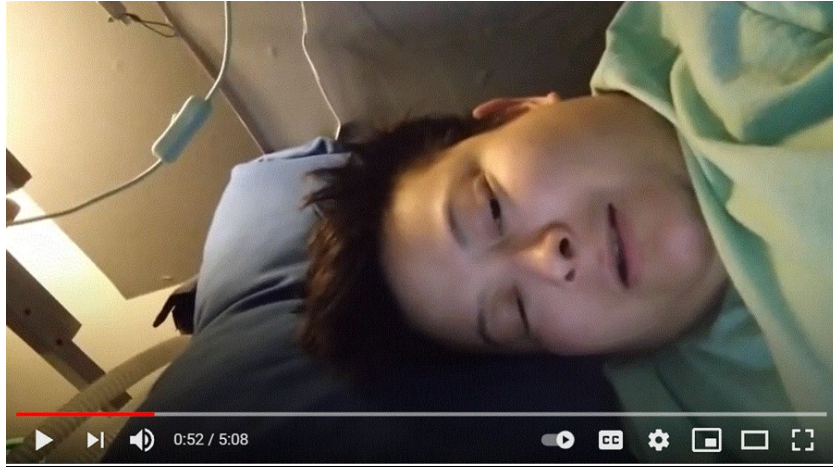


Cases of Concern: Track Two MAiD (Death Not Reasonably Foreseeable)

1. Rosina Kamis



Rosina died by MAiD in Sept 2021.

In a series of YouTube videos, Rosina shared why she sought MAiD. “Anything can happen from this moment until the euthanasia date that could cause me to change my mind. From physicians deciding to provide adequate pain relief to friends deciding to step up and help me and so on.”

Rosina lived in isolation. She explained that “When a person is suffering, you don’t leave them alone, with nobody at all! When someone is suffering, you don’t lock them up in a home or a psychiatric facility for life! Sometimes all the pain will go away just by having another human being here. Let me go through it with them.”

She was living in poverty, and avoiding institutionalization. “In Canadian society, we have a culture of killing instead of caring... Nobody is holding my hand... If I were to die, nobody is going to grieve. The government doesn’t give you enough money to survive. I don’t want to accept institutionalization.”

Rosina recorded a virtual appointment with her doctor and two trusted friends. One of those friends brought up the issues of poverty and uncontrolled pain affecting her quality-of-life.

SOURCE:

[\(184\) Why did I apply for euthanasia? - YouTube](#) AND [\(184\) Is euthanasia the only solution? - YouTube](#)

2. “Madeleine”



Madeline has Myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome. She estimates that the supports she needs to live “not in agony” cost about \$100,000 per year.

Madeleine faces the decision, each month, to either accrue more debt or go into rapid deterioration and escalating pain. She is now in a position to access support because of donations to a GoFundMe page. However, in order to stretch her funds, Madeline was doing about half of the therapies recommended so she could stretch her quality of life as long as possible.

Madeleine knows that when her credit runs out she will have to stop taking supplements, receiving physiotherapy and intravenous naturopathic treatments she says are finally helping her find balance. She says she’s already isolated and alone.

Madeleine says “I want to live, and with more support I can... I shouldn’t have to beg for my life.” Madeleine is seeking medically assisted dying.

SOURCE: <https://www.citynews1130.com/2020/07/27/vancouver-woman-disabilities-medically-assisted-dying/>

<https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2021/07/05/i-shouldnt-have-to-beg-for-my-life.html?rf>

3. «Sophia »



Sophia died by MAiD on February 22, 2022.

In a video filmed 8 days before her death, Sophia stated that, ““The government sees me as expendable trash, a complainer, useless and a pain in the a**.”

Sophia suffered from a chronic condition known as multiple chemical sensitivities (MCS). She chose medically assisted death after her two-year search for safe and affordable housing failed.

Symptoms of MCS worsen when cleaning chemicals and cigarette smoke are present in a person’s environment. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its restrictions, both indoor smoking and heavy cleaning practices increased, sending fumes through the vents of Sophia’s apartment building. As a result, Sophia was confined to her bedroom, where the vents were sealed to keep the fumes out.

Four Toronto-based doctors who were aware of Sophia’s case, wrote letters to the federal housing and disability government officials on her behalf, imploring that the government help to find or build a chemical-free residence. Sophia’s friends even set up a fundraiser to try to help her get better housing, where they raised approximately \$12,000.

There was no response from any officials and no housing had turned up before Sophia’s appointment for medically-assisted dying. She had a way out. She didn’t have to fight anymore.

SOURCE:

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/mobile/health/woman-with-chemical-sensitivities-chose-medically-assisted-death-after-failed-bid-to-get-better-housing-1.5860579>

4. “Denise”



Update: Denise received support from the community when her MAiD request was made public earlier this year. However, the funds she received are running out and she is now in the final stages of a MAiD application. “Funeral arrangements have been made.”

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Denise lives with a chronic condition called Multiple Chemical Sensitivities (MCS) and has been wheelchair bound since suffering a spinal cord injury six years ago. MCS can cause difficulty breathing, rashes, and hemiplegic migraines that cause temporary paralysis.

Denise is seeking to move to an apartment that has cleaner air and is wheelchair accessible. Her only income is from the Ontario Disability Support Program, where she receives a total of \$1,219 a month. She applied for MAiD due to abject poverty.

Denise and her supporters had called several housing agencies in Toronto in an attempt to find housing she can afford, but her searches up until now had failed. The application process for MAiD, on the other hand, had been much easier.

Denise was conditionally approved for MAiD.

SOURCE:

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/woman-with-disabilities-nears-medically-assisted-death-after-futile-bid-for-affordable-housing-1.5882202>

<https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/toronto-woman-in-final-stages-of-maid-application-after-nearly-a-decade-long-search-for-housing-1.6145487>

5. Richard Ewald



Richard has chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), stage four liver disease, and lives with chronic pain and depression. He receives a total income of \$1,169 per month through the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP).

Richard has announced that he will apply for medically-assisted death if his situation worsens. When speaking to CityNews he said “I wouldn’t be doing it if I wasn’t so stuck in this situation with ODSP.”

Richard says that his disabilities make it impossible for him to work. His monthly ODSP payments are not liveable. He would rather die by MAiD than struggle to live on ODSP.

Richard says he has suffered enough and he does not want to suffer past a certain point.

SOURCE:

<https://bit.ly/3MRjH93>

6. Alexis Wilson



Alexis lives with numerous conditions including bipolar disorder, PTSD, arthritis and other physical disabilities that limit her mobility.

Alexis receives an income of \$1,169 each month from the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). This is her only income as she is unable to work with her several health conditions. After paying her rent and bills, she is left with exactly \$125 for food each month.

Alexis is fearful for the day that her mother eventually passes away. Alexis's mother, a senior with a limited income, provides her with some food and other supports. Even with her mother's help, Alexis often skips meals because she cannot afford to feed herself.

If the ODSP rates don't improve, then Alexis says she will have to seriously consider applying for medically-assisted death.

SOURCE:

<https://bit.ly/3vIZ4q0>

7. Randy



Randy has suffered from a string of medical issues that have left him in need of constant in-home care.

Over a decade ago, Randy endured an injury that put him off work for the past 10-15 years, and for which he has been receiving compensation. Now, Randy is experiencing heart and lung problems, leaving him unable to do much.

Most recently, Randy had to have a catheter inserted to help with gallstone issues. With no family, and his care worker retiring, Randy doesn't know what he will do for care.

Care workers have tried to convince Randy to enter a care home, but he just wants to stay in his own home, where he can die peacefully. Some care providers have even suggested placing Randy in palliative care or signing him up for medically-assisted death.

Vince Campbell, Randy's friend and neighbour, says he can't bear to watch Randy suffer. He can't believe the way in which Randy is being treated by health care providers.

SOURCE: <https://www.richmond-news.com/highlights/bc-man-exasperated-as-elderly-friend-struggles-to-receive-healthcare-at-home-5434889>

8. “Kat”



Update: Kat died by MAiD on October 23rd 2022.

About a decade ago, Kat received a diagnosis of Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (EDS). EDS is a disease that weakens the connective tissues of a person’s body. Kat is suffering from organ failure as a result of complications with EDS. Her body is shutting down.

Struggling to access healthcare, Kat decided to look into getting end-of-life care. While she was hoping to get access to palliative care, she instead found herself being approved for MAiD.

Kat says that she cannot afford the resources and supports that would help improve her quality of life. It is her disability and poverty that led her to MAiD.

SOURCE: <https://bc.ctvnews.ca/easier-to-let-go-without-support-b-c-woman-approved-for-medically-assisted-death-speaks-out-1.5937496>

9. Rosie Ashcraft



Rosie, a mom from BC living with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (EDS), is considering applying for medical assistance in dying. EDS is a disorder that affects connective tissue.

As a result of EDS, Rosie has to wear a neck brace to keep her neck stable. She is in constant pain and spends most of her days at home in a medical bed.

Rosie wants to get surgery to help stabilize her neck, as her condition is getting worse, but she has been waiting almost four years to see a neurosurgeon. She has looked into getting the surgery in the U.S. but the cost is around \$100,000.

Rosie has been considering MAiD as she feels she has been left with no other options to alleviate her suffering.

Her family has insisted that what she desperately needs is help.

SOURCE: <https://bc.ctvnews.ca/after-years-waiting-for-surgery-b-c-woman-considering-medically-assisted-death-1.5922445>

10. Donna Duncan



Donna Duncan died by MAiD on October 29, 2021.

The medically-assisted death of Donna Duncan is being investigated by police, as her daughters have claimed that she should not have been approved for the procedure given the state of her mental health.

In February 2020, Donna was in a car accident and suffered a concussion. Due to the onset of COVID-19 restrictions, her rehabilitation and medical care were cut back and she did not receive treatment for months. In the summer of 2020 she was diagnosed with post-concussion syndrome. According to Donna's family, she had been acting very out of character. Medical records from her family physician reveal that she had anxiety and depression, likely linked to the car accident.

Donna was rapidly losing weight, weighing just 82 pounds. She was in constant pain. She refused to take any medications for her mental health, claiming they didn't work. Donna asked her family physician to grant her approval for medically-assisted death, but he declined and referred her to a psychiatrist. The psychiatrist's assessment of her revealed that he believed her depression was related to her physical illness and pain.

Donna ended up going to Fraser Health to get MAiD where she was assessed and approved. When her daughters heard of this they obtained a court injunction to halt the procedure, and were granted a mental health warrant. Donna was taken to the hospital where she received a psychiatric consult which found her to be competent to make the choice for MAiD.

After being sent home that night, Donna's partner found her on the floor with a lacerated wrist. She received another psychiatric evaluation which found that she was depressed and had little insight into her problem. She was transferred to another hospital where she was assessed again and was again found to be competent.

After being released from the hospital, Donna went home and received medically-assisted death that night.

SOURCE: <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/police-investigating-medically-assisted-death-of-b-c-woman-1.5877288>

11. Tracy Thompson



Tracy has Long COVID. A year after Thompson became ill, [MAiD legislation was revised](#) in Canada. Tracy has begun the process of applying for MAiD. She says that “[MAiD] is exclusively a financial consideration,”

After 26 months of lost income since the onset of symptoms, no foreseeable ability to work and an absence of support, Thompson said she expects to run out of money in about five months.

Since Thompson’s illness is not clearly outlined in the [Ontario Disability Support Program](#) (ODSP) eligibility, which currently grants a single applicant a maximum amount of \$1,169 a month, she believes it could take years to qualify – something that many Ontarians who’ve applied to the program say is not uncommon. Even if Thompson did qualify, she says the whole sum of the monthly support would, at best, cover her rent.

So far, Thompson has sought one doctor’s approval for MAiD and is waiting to hear back from a second specialist.

SOURCE: <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/ontario-woman-enduring-effects-of-long-covid-begins-process-for-medically-assisted-death-1.5976944>

12. **Eric Coulam**



Coulam has been living with an undiagnosed gastrointestinal condition which has led to multiple hospital stays, liver and kidney disease, and severe chronic pain. He has visited countless doctors and endured many months in hospitals but has yet to get a diagnosis.

After struggling for almost a decade, Coulam, who now lives in Fort St. John, B.C., has decided to get medical assistance in dying, known also as MAID. He is 20 years old.

Coulam said that while in hospital, one of the other patients in his room was provided MAID. He asked his doctor what that entailed, and after doing research and speaking to specialists, he decided it was the best option for him.

Eric says he will ultimately decide when to officially end his life. He has not chosen a specific date and it will be his choice when he has done certain things and seen specific people before saying his final goodbye.

SOURCE:

<https://vancouversun.com/news/eric-coulam-medically-assisted-death>
<https://www.cjdctv.com/it-was-hard-to-tell-everyone-else-20-year-old-from-fort-st-john-makes-decision-to-get-medical-assistance-in-dying-1.5906159?cache=yes%3FclipId%3D375756>

13. Gwen



“It’s eugenics, because they don’t want us to be properly supported and be OK. And if we don’t have family to take care of us, it’s ‘Please just go and die,’” said Gwen.

Gwen has Hypermobile Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome and Autism. After her back was injured in a 2013 car accident, Gwen developed chronic intolerable pain. She uses a walker for mobility and will soon have a wheelchair after a two-year wait.

She cannot access essential treatment for her chronic pain and disabilities, which make it impossible at times to eat, sleep, move or play with her child. Gwen says she fears losing custody if her pain worsens or her support network falters.

Gwen receives \$1,694 per month in provincial disability assistance, which barely covers rent and food for her and her daughter, let alone accessibility improvements such as a ramp she needs to get into housing.

Gwen said ICBC and the province have both declined to pay for a treatment course recommended by her doctors that would help desensitize her central nervous system and bring her pain to a more manageable threshold so that she can get surgery for her back injury.

SOURCE:

<https://bc.ctvnews.ca/medically-assisted-death-needs-to-be-a-good-choice-not-a-choice-of-last-resort-1.6006282>

14. Amir Farsoud



Farsoud currently lives with never-ending back pain that allows him to qualify for MAiD. He already had one doctor sign off and was waiting for the allotted 90 days before having a second doctor approve his application when his story was shared.

The building he lives in was up for sale, and with no affordable housing options available to him, he feared becoming homeless. He knew he would not be able to manage his pain when unhoused.

Farsoud is not opposed to MAiD per se, but is concerned that his housing situation is what is prompting his application for MAiD. “It took me a while to get my doctor on board,” he said.

“He knows physically I qualified, but he was quite hesitant because I told him the straw that broke the camel’s back, in this instance, was my impending homelessness.”

For now, Farsoud has been able to put off his MAiD death because of donations to a GoFundMe page in his name.

SOURCE:

<https://www.stcatharinesstandard.ca/news/niagara-region/2022/10/21/st-catharines-man-facing-homelessness-considers-assisted-death-an-option.html>

<https://ottawa.citynews.ca/local-news/ontario-man-not-considering-medically-assisted-death-anymore-after-outpouring-of-support-6114759>

15. Les Landry



Les Landry lives with severe chronic pain. He uses a wheelchair. He's planning to die by MAiD because he's living in poverty. Les' decision to apply for MAiD is prompted largely because he lost disability benefits when he turned 65 and was transitioned off of disability income supports and on to income supports for seniors.

Landry got by for years — just barely — on disability payments and timely donations solicited on Twitter. He also received a few extra benefits available under Alberta's disability program. Then, he turned 65, and actually lost benefits.

"What I lost is the disability benefits — service dog allowance, special diet allowance, transportation allowance," he says. "I am no longer a person with a disability. I'm a senior citizen in poverty."

"I don't want to die. I don't want to die. I just can't see me living like this for the rest of my life."

SOURCE:

<https://bridgecitynews.ca/medicine-hat-senior-considering-a-medically-assisted-death/>

<https://globalnews.ca/news/9176485/poverty-canadians-disabilities-medically-assisted-death/>

16. Jacques Comeau



Jacques Comeau lives with paralysis and uses a wheelchair. He acquired his disability as a young person.

Jacques requires home care support to live well. He has long relied on the same group of support staff who became familiar with his needs and preferences. Now, changes have been made and he's receiving care from staff he doesn't know - who are unfamiliar with his needs.

He asked for his new support staff to be trained by his previous staff and this suggestion was rejected. He says his dignity and autonomy have been stripped away.

"The biggest problem is, I get up in the morning, I don't know who's coming, how it's going to go. So I'm constantly on edge wondering what's happening."

He is now seeking an assisted death.

SOURCE:

<https://montreal.ctvnews.ca/i-can-t-live-that-way-montreal-man-seeking-medically-assisted-death-due-to-home-care-conditions-1.6090165>

17. Sathya Dhara Kovac



Sathya died by MAiD in the fall of 2022.

Sathya said “Ultimately it was not a genetic disease that took me out, it was a system. There are not enough supports and services promoting quality of life and Independence for those who are not healthy and able-bodied. Look to unhealthy societal structures and government. There is desperate need for change. That is the sickness that causes so much suffering. Vulnerable people need help to survive. I could have had more time if I had more help.”

SOURCE:

<https://voyagefuneralhomes.com/sathya-dhara-kovac/>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/sathya-dharma-kovac-als-medical-assistance-in-death-1.6605754>

18. Kiano Vafaeian



Kiano Vafarian is 23 years old. He has type one diabetes that has recently been well managed and is adapting to new partial vision loss. His mother, Margaret Marsilla learned that her son had applied and been approved for MAiD.

Marsilla was alarmed because she understood her son to be experiencing a mental health crisis and to be having difficulty adapting to his new disabilities. Marsilla said “To all parents, remember diabetes is a disease our children can live with, not the reason to want to die”

Kiano’s MAiD provider, from MAID House, withdrew Kiano’s MAiD eligibility following pressure from the public.

SOURCE:

Mother’s facebook post.

19. Multiple Anonymous Veterans

A veterans affairs case worker has been suspended for recommending MAiD - unprompted - to a number of veterans.

Source:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/veterans-maid-rcmp-investigation-1.6663885>

- a) A Canadian Forces veteran seeking treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder and a traumatic brain injury was shocked when he was unexpectedly and casually offered medical assistance in dying by a Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) employee.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/9061709/veteran-medical-assisted-death-canada/>

- b) Bruce has PTSD and experiences suicidal thoughts. He is employed by the military and was hoping for support. Instead he was suggested MAiD by a caseworker.

<https://nationalpost.com/news/second-canadian-forces-member-alleges-veterans-canada-offered-medically-assisted-death-during-support-call>

20. Christopher Lyons 'Father



Christopher Lyons 'father died by MAiD in the summer of 2022.

He was not terminally ill. He had arthritis, diabetes, and chronic pain. He was in the process of being assessed for track two MAiD (for people who are not terminally ill), but was transferred to track one (for people who are terminally ill) because he had stopped eating.

Christopher says: "Two or three days after that, he fell, during a heat wave that overtaxed local ambulances and paramedics. As a result, he was left on the floor of his apartment for six or seven hours before an ambulance could reach him, and the staff had a 'no lift 'policy. He was incensed. The first time my family and I heard from his MAiD Provider was at this time – forty-eight hours before death...

The provider told me that he was track-moved because a) he started refusing solid food (but not, as we discovered, caloric liquids), and b) that his elevated white blood cell count indicated an infection that he did not immediately want to investigate. Apparently, those fugitive choices were the basis for labelling his death as fixed and foreseeable. Yet it was never explained to me how either choice was irremediable or constituted imminent death or loss of capacity...

In the months before he applied for MAiD, Dad was acutely suicidal. He cited the suicides of people like Robin Williams and Ernest Hemingway as inspirations – men who "just knew when it was their time to go". He said he looked up ways to kill himself, online, such as starvation. Other times, he would say things like "ashes to ashes" and "we are dust in the wind," as in previous bouts. "

SOURCE:

https://christopherlyon.substack.com/p/dying-indignity?utm_source=direct&utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=web

21. Michael Fraser



Michael Fraser died by Track 2 MAiD on July 2, 2022 as reported in the Toronto Star.

“Michael [Fraser] was not terminal. But a constellation of factors – intractable disease, poverty, childhood sexual trauma, mental health challenges and the option of an assisted death – made him question whether his life was one worth continuing to live. For Fraser, death was ultimately preferable.”

Fraser was poor and lonely. “He hadn’t been outside for five weeks because he couldn’t navigate stairs and there was no elevator in his building.

Michael had reported in a conversation with his doctor that, “The voices [in my head] are saying, ‘you don’t belong here...You’re a dirty little boy, you always have been,’” Fraser said. “After a while, you start taking it to heart.” The voices belonged to his childhood abusers.

“The [assessing] physicians concluded Fraser qualified for MAiD based on his liver failure, physical decline and degree of suffering. But the stark economic realities undermining his mental health and quality of life were deeply woven into Fraser’s reasoning”, said Persaud (his family physician). “Some of the struggles he talked to me about was this feeling of not being worthy, that he was a burden on society, a feeling that he didn’t belong. ... There’s a social aspect to poverty, a hierarchy, that affected his psyche. He told me that it did.”

SOURCES:

<https://www.thestar.com/2022/assisted-death.html>

<https://www.thestar.com/opinion/star-columnists/2022/11/18/were-all-implicated-in-michael-frasers-decision-to-die.html>