

May 2024

To: Honourable Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia - premier@novascotia.ca
Honourable Michelle Thompson, Minister of Health - health.minister@novascotia.ca
Karen Oldfield, Interim CEO, Nova Scotia Health - karen.oldfield@nshealth.ca
Dr. Gus Grant, Registrar and CEO of the College of Physicians and Surgeons
of Nova Scotia - publicinquiries@cpsns.ns.ca

As you know, the number of Nova Scotians waiting for a family doctor is more than 150,000. That number could quickly skyrocket if a policy proposed by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia goes forward as currently written.

In its draft *Professional Standard Regarding Conscientious Objection* policy, the College is proposing an effective referral policy for all physicians who have patients seeking MAiD. For physicians a referral is a recommendation that a patient explore a certain treatment.

Many cannot recommend a procedure that they feel will harm their patient. No medical regulator in any other province has included language in their policies like this because they know that it will mean they will lose doctors at a time when they need more.

There are simple solutions in place across Canada. Eight provincial Colleges have found creative solutions to ensure all doctors can keep caring for their patients. Alberta has developed an innovative approach which should be explored for Nova Scotia.

If changes are not made to the College's policy, at least 30 physicians across the province – in rural and urban areas – will be forced to move or retire early. Please don't let that happen. Please meet with these physicians and convene a meeting of the parties to find a workable solution to this problem. I want to have a doctor who will be committed to helping me live rather than offering me a way to die.

Sincerely:

SIGNATURE:

NAME (Please print):

POSTAL CODE:

EMAIL:

To connect with the concerned physicians, please contact Larry Worthen at lworthen@cmdacanada.org.