

Engagement on Indigenous Perspectives on Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID)

What is MAID?

Medical assistance in dying (MAID) is a process that allows someone who is found eligible to be able to receive assistance from a practitioner (a doctor or nurse practitioner) in ending their life. The federal law permits this to take place only under very specific circumstances and rules. Anyone requesting MAID must first meet specific eligibility criteria in order to be eligible.

Who can administer MAID?

Eligibility for MAID can only be determined by a doctor or nurse practitioner based on criteria set out in federal law. Two practitioners (either a doctor or nurse practitioner) must confirm an individual is eligible for the purpose of providing MAID. Any practitioner who assesses or administers a medically-assisted death to an individual must satisfy a series of safeguards set out in the federal law. A practitioner can either administer an injection or prescribe a drug for the individual to take on their own. Most provinces and territories have created additional rules or policies about the provision of MAID that must also be followed.

Who is eligible to receive MAID?

To be eligible for MAID, an individual must meet all of the following criteria. They must:

- be eligible for health services funded by a province or territory, or the federal government
- be at least 18 years old and mentally competent (capable of making health care decisions)
- have a grievous and irremediable medical condition
 - This means they must:
 - have a serious and incurable illness, disease or disability
 - be in an advanced state of decline that cannot be reversed
 - have unbearable physical or mental suffering from the illness, disease, disability or state of decline that cannot be relieved under conditions the person considers acceptable
- make a voluntary request for MAID (the request cannot be the result of outside pressure or influence)
- give informed consent to receive MAID

An individual does **not** need to have a fatal or terminal condition to be eligible for MAID. However, requests by these individuals are assessed with additional requirements and safeguards.

www.mahihkan.ca/maid



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Canada

For more information on MAID in Canada, please visit:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/health-services-benefits/medical-assistance-dying.html>

For information about resources related to MAID in your province or territory, please visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/health-services-benefits/medical-assistance-dying/supports-resources.html>

Why is Health Canada engaging Indigenous Peoples on MAID?

Medical assistance in dying, or MAID, is a deeply personal issue, with sometimes very polarized views about whether it should be available and under what circumstances. Health Canada wants to hear from Indigenous Peoples to help support the inclusion of their perspectives and experiences in federal policy on MAID and end-of-life care.

What is the purpose of Health Canada's Dialogue Sessions?

Health Canada is hosting a series of dialogue sessions across the country to create a space to hear the unique and diverse views and perspectives of First Nations, Inuit and Métis on end-of-life care and MAID.

The dialogue sessions are part of Health Canada's broader engagement with Indigenous Peoples on MAID. Health Canada has also partnered with a number of Indigenous organizations who are leading their own engagement initiatives to gather and mobilize the voices of community members on MAID, and Health Canada is supporting an [online survey](#) welcoming Indigenous stories and perspectives, which will close on **June 30, 2024**.

What will happen with the information learned at the dialogue sessions?

The feedback from all engagement activities, including the dialogue sessions, will inform a *What We Heard* report that will highlight Indigenous perspectives, recommendations and reflections on end-of-life care and MAID, to be completed in 2025. This report will help to guide culturally safe and informed MAID policy and planning at all levels of government and respect the diverse views of Indigenous Peoples.

Mental Health Support

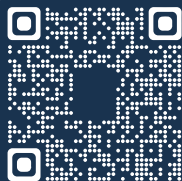
We recognize that conversations on end-of-life and dying may be sensitive, triggering or difficult to deal with emotionally. An Indigenous facilitator and trauma counsellor will be present during each dialogue session to enable a culturally safer and respectful environment. We also encourage you to take time to care for your mental and emotional well-being. Confidential mental health and crisis intervention supports are available at the links below.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/mental-health-services/mental-health-get-help.html>

<https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1576088923626/1576088963494>

More about Mahihkan Management

Mahihkan Management is assisting Health Canada in the planning and coordination of the dialogue sessions. Mahihkan Management is an Indigenous-owned business that specializes in designing and delivering Indigenous engagements and events. For more information, visit mahihkan.ca.



For a full list of dialogue sessions, dates and locations, and for instructions on how to register, please visit our website here:

www.mahihkan.ca/maid

Any questions? Contact Mahihkan via email: events05@vgnresources.ca