

ASSISTED SUICIDE LEGISLATION ON THE BRINK OF BEING REVISTED

The issue of assisted suicide has been a subject of debate for many years in Canada. Given the recent court ruling in the case of Evelyn Martens and her involvement with two women who committed suicide, the subject may become an intense matter of debate once again.

On November 5, 2004, two not guilty verdicts were issued in the case of Evelyn Martens who was charged with assisting in the suicide of two women, Monique Charest and Leyanne Burchell. Charest, a former nun, died on January 7, 2002, in her apartment in Duncan, B.C, while Burchell, died on June 26, 2002 in her home in Vancouver. Martens had visited the homes of both of these women on the day of their deaths.



In a reference to assisted suicide, Justice Minister Irwin Colter, stated, "It is time to go back to the drawing board in light of recent high profile assisted suicides in Quebec and British Columbia." He went on to say, "I think we could

benefit from a take-note, informed debate and discussion." He further noted, "Among the population there is this division. People believe this is a matter of the right of personal choice and the right to die in dignity.

Others feel we've got to protect the rights of the disabled, and this may be prejudicial."

The reason this case has so much relevance is that it may serve as the impetus upon which the laws prohibiting assisted suicide are re-examined in Canada.

Yes ___ No ___

Should Parliament re-examine laws prohibiting assisted suicide?

Y

Yes ___ No ___

Should there be a relaxing of the existing law preventing assisted suicide?

Yes ___ No ___

Response and comments attached to questions raised with respect to agriculture.

Please note any brief comments or suggestions below:
