



CANADIAN
UNITARIAN
COUNCIL

CONSEIL
UNITARIEN
DU CANADA

Resolution on Choice and the Act of Dying

BECAUSE the principles of Unitarian Universalism affirm the worth and dignity of every person, the right of conscience, and the justice, equity and compassion in human relations; and
BECAUSE a substantial majority of Canadian Unitarians polled advocated the right of terminally or irreversibly ill persons to choose the manner of their dying; and

BECAUSE a substantial majority of those polled approve the increasing public involvement of the Canadian Unitarian Council in the debate concerning the right to die, and

WHEREAS serious widespread national debate of the issues surrounding the control of dying is growing; and

WHEREAS this debate is revealing the ever-increasing complexity of these issues, demonstrating that a single all-encompassing response to death issues is not likely to be adequate;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Unitarian Council adopt a policy that advocates the legalization of the rights of mentally competent, terminally or irreversibly ill persons to determine the manner of their dying; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Canadian Unitarian Council support efforts to increase the availability of palliative care so that terminally ill patients will be better supported as they make their individual choices about dying; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CUC Board will create an ongoing national committee mandated to act upon the policy recommendations included in the report “Death Decisions: A Unitarian Response,” which include: keeping the issue before Canadian Unitarian congregations; serving as a clearing house for educational resources concerning all aspects of the debate; preparing and presenting legislative briefs as required that reflect Unitarian principles and views; engaging in the national public debate as committee members are able; presenting action options to local congregations as appropriate; and joining in appropriate coalitions, with Board approval, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CUC will provide sufficient funding to cover the communication costs between committee members and between the committee and the member societies.



CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL - CONSEIL UNITARIEN DU CANADA
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Canadian Unitarian Council