

May 17, 2016

The Honorable Bob Runciman, Chair
Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
The Senate of Canada
40 Elgin Street, Room 1057
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A4
lcjc@sen.parl.gc.ca

Honorable Chair and members of the Standing Committee:

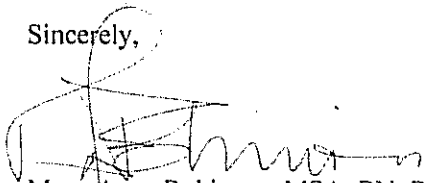
RE: Bill C-14

CARNA has reviewed the submissions of the CNPS in respect of Bill C-14 and would like to offer the following additional comments.

As the organization responsible for the regulation of the nursing profession for the protection of the public, CARNA supports clarity in the requirements that must be met to be able to invoke the exemption from criminal prosecution, so that we may, in turn, establish clear guidelines and standards for our registrants. For that reason, we also support the request that the permitted role of the registered nurse in the provision of medical assistance in dying be clarified, specifically with respect to the following question: can a registered nurse administer the substance prescribed by a physician or nurse practitioner to bring about the patient's death or does Bill C-14 require that the physician or nurse practitioner be present at the patient's bedside and personally administer the substance?

While we agree with the notion that any professional intervention should be provided in accordance with best practices as reflected in the standards of practice, it concerns us greatly that pursuant to paragraph 241.2(7), any breach of those standards could invalidate the exemptions contained in Bill C-14. The content of our standards is determined by reference to known best practices and the protection of the public. They are developed to enhance nursing practice and as a basis to assess the overall quality of nursing care. While they are important in the clinical context, standards are not developed as a basis to assess what constitutes criminal conduct. We wish to reassure the committee that where interventions are not provided in accordance with the standard of care, we have the authority to discipline registrants and to apply a sanction that is commensurate with that breach, including withdrawal of a licence to practice, if appropriate. For that reason, the [name of organization] also supports the recommendation that the reference to provincial standards of practice in paragraph 241.2(7) be removed.

Sincerely,



Mary-Anne Robinson, MSA, BN, RN
Chief Executive Officer
College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta

Celebrating 100 Years of Expert Caring: 1916 – 2016



College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta

780.451.0043
1.800.252.9392
Fax: 780.452.3276

11620 – 168 St NW
Edmonton, Alberta
T5M 4A6

nurses.ab.ca

