

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN DYING

PUSHBACK ON MAID



Jeff J Mitchell / Getty Images  
Demonstrators who oppose assisted dying gathered while the Scottish Parliament was holding a final vote on the issue.

COMMENT

Embrace capitalism and save Canada

We're losing entrepreneurs at a scary rate

ROSS SIMMONDS

Canada is losing its entrepreneurial soul. The country has 100,000 fewer entrepreneurs than two decades ago despite adding 10 million people, its provinces rank below all 50 U.S. states on economic freedom, and the middle class is drowning in record household debt while government expands at twice the rate of the private sector.

Here's the reality: The C-Word ... capitalism needs to be embraced. Not rejected by Canadians.

That drop of 100,000 entrepreneurs from 20 years ago happened even as the population grew 28 per cent. The new entrepreneur rate has been cut in more than half. It went from three per 1,000 Canadians annually in 2000 to just 1.3 per 1,000 in 2022. Business Development Bank of Canada Chief Economist Pierre Cl  roux warned in 2023 that this "Simply can't be ignored, because new businesses are responsible for almost all net new job creation in this country."

Unfortunately, the trend may be accelerating. Statistics Canada payroll data for December should wake everyone up. Almost every industry is seeing significant job losses except for health care and construction. Through October 2025 the business opening rate dropped to 4.5 per cent while closures rose to 4.9 per cent, though it rebalanced the following month.

Total employment declined by 84,000 (-0.4 per cent) in February and the employment rate fell 0.2 percentage points to 60.6 per cent.

See SIMMONDS on A11

Dear PM: the convoy was not sedition

JOSH DEHAAS  
Comment

There was never any question what Prime Minister Mark Carney thought about the Freedom Convoy protesters in Ottawa. In a Globe and Mail op-ed published on Feb. 7, 2022, the "Ottawa resident and former governor of the Bank of Canada and the Bank of England" wrote that the convoy was "terrorizing" people, that women were being forced to "flee abuse," and that the elderly were "afraid to venture outside their homes." He accused the organizers of "blatant treachery" and "sedition," and proposed the government respond by "choking off the money."

A week later, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau followed Carney's advice, invoking the Emergencies Act for the first time in history to create shocking regulations that banned funding of or travelling to protests and ordered financial institutions to search for and seize bank accounts of suspects without warrants.

See DEHAAS on A10

Scotland rejects assistance in dying bill in emotional vote

JILL LAWLESS

LONDON • Lawmakers in the Scottish Parliament, some fighting tears, rejected legislation that would have made Scotland the first part of the United Kingdom to legalize assisted dying for the terminally ill.

Members of the Edinburgh-based legislature voted 69 to 57 against a bill that would have let people in Scotland with six months or less to live seek a doctor's help to end their life. There was one abstention.

It came after an emotional debate that lasted around three hours and saw lawmakers tear up and applaud as they took turns to express their views on the issue.

Lorna Slater, the former Green co-leader who has spoken publicly of her father's "beautiful" assisted death in Canada, fought tears as she recounted his last moments, according to the BBC.

"We should all have the right to choose," she told her fellow Member of the Scottish Parliament.

The MSPs had been given a free vote on the assisted dying bill, which meant they could decide according to their consciences, rather than along party lines.

See SCOTLAND on A9

Alberta bill would limit access to terminal cases

Aims to turn euthanasia clock back to 2016

RAHIM MOHAMED

OTTAWA • Alberta is proposing sweeping restrictions to medical assistance in dying (MAID) that would prohibit doctor-assisted suicide in cases where death isn't reasonably foreseeable, as well as for minors.

A government bill tabled in the Alberta legislature on Wednesday would, if passed, end so-called "Track 2" MAID in the province, which would prevent Albertans living with non-terminal medical conditions from accessing euthanasia.

The bill effectively turns back the clock to when MAID was first legalized in Canada for terminal condi-

tions in 2016, and ignores a 2019 Quebec court decision striking down the requirement for a "reasonably foreseeable" natural death to qualify for MAID, which was followed by a subsequent 2021 loosening of federal restrictions.

Alberta Justice Minister Mickey Amery said in a media briefing that the Quebec MAID ruling had no bearing on the province.

"The Quebec challenge was a decision in Quebec. It is not binding on Alberta," said Amery, adding that the bill embodied a made-in-Alberta approach to navigating the moral and ethical dilemmas of MAID.

"We think that this bill finds the appropriate balance between allowing people who are eligible for the original intention of MAID to be able to seek that, but also to find a balance in protecting our vulnerable, as well," said Amery.

See MAID on A7



David Bloom / Postmedia News  
Premier Danielle Smith on Tuesday.

Alberta to MDs: Don't talk about MAID until patients do

'Don't want anyone to be counselled prematurely': Smith

SHARON KIRKEY

Alberta doctors will be explicitly banned from raising assisted death with a patient without the person first bringing it up, according to a new bill tabled in the province on Wednesday.

The goal is to ensure the potentially life-ending decisions are

"initiated and driven" by people themselves.

Some critics argue that it's "mind boggling" that, across Canada, medical assistance in dying (MAID) is being presented as a care option. The fear is that initiating a discussion about MAID risks unduly influencing someone to choose it, given doctor-patient power dynamics.

However, Canada's MAID providers argue that doctors have a duty to disclose "all available treatment options," including, when appropriate, MAID.

Among other changes, Alberta's proposed Safeguards for Last Resort Termination of Life Act

would, if passed, restrict all regulated health professionals, including doctors and nurse practitioners, from bringing up MAID unless the person raises it.

That fits with most jurisdictions in the world with legalized euthanasia: The suggestion must come from the person.

"We don't want anyone to be counselled to end their life prematurely if they do not have a terminal illness," Alberta Premier Danielle Smith said at a news conference Wednesday.

"If we have to make that clear in law, we'll make it clear in law."

See EUTHANASIA on A2

NP nationalpost.com

But there is a danger (Wab) Kinew is taking a sledgehammer to crack a walnut.

JOHN IVISON, ON THE POTENTIAL UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES OF MANITOBA'S PLAN TO PREVENT RETAILERS FROM USING PERSONAL DATA TO SET HIGHER INDIVIDUALIZED PRICES. A3

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