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MAiD Death Review Committee

Call for Members

The Office of the Chief Coroner (OCC) is establishing a Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) Death Review Committee (MDRC) in response to increasing health, social, and intersectional complexities identified through the MAiD oversight and review process.

The MDRC will provide independent expert review of MAiD deaths to assist in evaluating potential public safety concerns and providing insights that may inform broad system improvements. Acknowledging there is public discourse regarding MAiD practices and circumstances, the MDRC will increase public transparency of the MAiD oversight and review process.

The OCC has an established process for selecting members for expert death review committees. This includes defined expectations and deliverables for its membership to ensure maximum benefit to the MAiD review process in Ontario. The varied and unique nature of each MAiD death requires legal, medical, and interprofessional expertise for enhanced review. Certain specialized experience, including lived experience, may be given greater weight during the selection process.

The OCC expects to have 10-12 *per diem* members join the committee for up to three-year-terms. Applications will be retained and assessed as vacancies arise.

Background

Under the *Coroners Act*, physicians and nurse practitioners who provide MAiD are required to notify the OCC of the death and provide relevant information to support MAiD oversight and Health Canada mandatory reporting requirements. Ontario has an established team of highly skilled nurse coroner investigators (MAiD Death Review Team) who review every reported MAiD death in Ontario. A structured approach is followed to respond to concerns with statutory requirements, regulatory policies, and/or professional practice when identified during the review process. Further investigation is undertaken as required in accordance with the *Coroners Act* and with the Chief Coroner.

Reflecting the more mature state of MAiD practice, in January of 2023, the OCC

modernized its approach to MAiD death review and oversight. The updated approach optimizes the digital process for submissions to the OCC for MAiD oversight and review and provides for the expanded mandatory Federal reporting data requirements.

Through the modernization process the OCC review and oversight model is evolving to include, when indicated, enhanced expert review to respond to increasing social and systemic complexities within the circumstances surrounding MAiD practice and legislation. Ontario is the first province in Canada to develop a multi-disciplinary expert death review committee to provide enhanced evaluation of MAiD deaths and to explore end-of-life complexities that have systemic and practice implications. Ontario continues to set the standard for high-quality and innovative MAiD death oversight and review.

Commitment

The MDRC will meet 10 times per year with meeting duration between four and five hours. The MDRC anticipates reviewing approximately 25 complex cases per year, in addition to providing expertise to the review of identified systemic issues and/or MAiD trends. Members are expected to attend all meetings and contribute to reviews and reports.

Qualifications

The goal of membership is to establish a broad perspective and create a foundation of medical, legal, ethical, and practice experts to participate in the review of MAiD deaths and systemic trends. The OCC is recruiting membership from diverse professional backgrounds, including medicine (various specialities – e.g., palliative care, physiatry, psychiatry, geriatrics, critical care, etc.), nursing, social work, ethics and law. The OCC is also prioritizing the recruitment of persons with experience working with vulnerable and marginalized groups (e.g., persons living with a disability). The OCC invites a person with lived experience from participation in the MAiD process (e.g., family member of a person who has accessed MAiD) to contribute their expertise and perspectives.

Members will be selected with consideration for:

- Demonstrated medical/nursing/health, social, legal, or ethical expertise with significant contributions to MAiD practice and/or related professional practice (e.g., end-of-life care, psychiatric care, or care for persons with disability), MAiD legislation and interpretation, and/or research.
- Significant experience working with persons accessing MAiD and persons involved in the MAiD process. Familiarity with Ontario's MAiD program.
- Demonstrated understanding of key intersectional and systemic issues that influence MAiD practice and oversight.
- Ability to efficiently summarize relevant facts, conduct complex analyses, make strategic recommendations, and prepare persuasive and accessible reports.

- Demonstrated effective oral and written communication and presentation skills.
- Ability to process and synthesize information from a variety of sources.
- Reflective professional practice allowing for consideration of expansive viewpoints.
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively in a deadline-sensitive manner.

Compensation

Members of the MDRC are compensated \$750 for the preparation of a report and \$300 for attendance at a meeting. These amounts may be pro-rated to reflect the complexity of some cases, extended meeting duration, and more extensive reviews.

Recruitment Process

Individuals interested in this opportunity are invited to complete and submit an **Application for Membership to the Office of the Chief Coroner Expert Death Review Committees**. Select “MAiD Death Review Committee” when completing the form. Please email a curriculum vitae to: **occ.deathreviewcommittees@ontario.ca** with “MDRC – Call for Members” in the subject line. The deadline to apply is **Friday, October 6, 2023, 11:59 pm EDT**.

Applications will be retained by the OCC for future vacancies and/or special projects or reviews that might benefit from the applicant’s area of expertise.

Our recruitment process is intended to ensure that the committee best represents Ontario’s diverse population.

We thank all applicants; however, only those selected to move forward with next steps in the process will be contacted.