

Religious leaders from many faiths, including the Catholic Church have called on the Canadian government to strike down a new policy that forces organizations seeking summer jobs grants to accept the pro-abortion policies of the Liberal Party.

**SUMMER JOB GRANT  
PROGRAM  
LEND YOUR VOICE!**

The following is an excerpt from their letter which was printed in its entirety in last weekend's bulletin. You can view the entire letter and the names of those who signed the letter on our website at [procathedral.ca](http://procathedral.ca) under BULLETIN

#### Re. Changes to the Canada Summer Jobs Grant Program

We the undersigned leaders of diverse faith communities and organizations in Canada, call on the Prime Minister and the Government of Canada to amend the Canada Summer Jobs guidelines and application process so that it does not compel agreement or belief, and allows religious organizations to stay true to their communal identity and beliefs. The new application requires each organization to give non-negotiable and unqualified affirmation of certain beliefs held by the current government.

Canada has a long history of cooperation and collaboration between religious organizations and governments in our health care and social welfare systems, and in many other areas of life. Faith-based organizations wish to continue to partner with the federal government in delivering programming and services to vulnerable members of their local communities, including children and youth, newcomers to Canada, and people experiencing poverty and homelessness.

However, with the changes to the Canada Summer Jobs guidelines, many organizations will be deemed ineligible because they are unable or unwilling to attest that their "core mandate" and beliefs align with the current government's position. These groups are being denied equal access to a government benefit solely because of their religious beliefs or conscientious objection.

**Please help by asking our Prime Minister and Minister of Employment to strike down this policy. You may write to them at the following addresses:**

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Patricia A. Hajdu  
Minister of Employment, Workforce Development & Labour  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

**Help Protect our Healthcare  
Workers from Choosing  
between Career and Conscience**

**From Our Bishop's Letter Inserted in Last Weekend's Bulletin – see full letter on our website under BULLETIN**

In 2017, many Churches across the province were involved in the "Call for Conscience" campaign to advocate for the protection of conscience rights of doctors, nurses and other health care professionals who are asked to participate in assisted suicide/euthanasia. Despite more than 30,000 letters sent to Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP's), this campaign did not achieve its desired goal: legislation that would protect health care workers from being forced to participate in causing the death of their patients. Health care workers in Ontario are being forced to choose between their careers and their conscience. Re: Call for conscience campaign

Ontario remains one of the few jurisdictions in the world without adequate protection for conscientious objectors. As a provincial election will be held this June, we need your help to highlight this issue for MPP's and those seeking office. The 2018 Call for Conscience campaign pursues the following goals:

1. To renew the call to protect the right of health care professionals to abstain from any involvement in causing the death of their patients.
2. To provide protection for faith-based facilities that do not wish to participate in assisted suicide/euthanasia.
3. To ask elected Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP's) and those seeking office to increase access and funding for palliative care in Ontario.

**I encourage you to participate in this campaign by contacting MPP's and candidates in your riding, as well as leaders of the Parties, to express your concern.**

**A sample letter is found on the reverse side of this document.**

**Copies of this letter (with blank side) may also be found on the bookcases behind the last pews.**

Dear MPP:

As Ontario prepares for an election shortly and as my current MPP (or candidate in my riding), I would like to ask for your commitment to protecting the rights of health care professionals and facilities in our province. I am also deeply concerned about the most vulnerable among us, in light of the legalization of assisted suicide in Canada in June 2016.

Specifically, the conscience rights of health professionals need to be protected through provincial legislation. The current care coordination service operated in Ontario, unlike those in other jurisdictions, still forces doctors to provide referrals, thus participating in the procedure. Five doctors are currently challenging the policies of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario that require them to choose between their conscience and their careers. We should be protecting these physicians rather than forcing them to fight for rights guaranteed in the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

Advocates of euthanasia/assisted suicide are lobbying strongly to force any publicly funded health care facility to offer euthanasia/assisted suicide. While no medical procedure is offered in every facility across the province, proponents are demanding this of facilities that have deeply rooted principles that will not allow them to kill their patients.

Finally, with only 1/3 of Canadians having access to quality palliative care, we should not be surprised to see a dramatic increase in euthanasia/assisted suicide cases. Studies show that people are fearful of pain and loneliness. Both of these issues can be directly addressed by palliative care. I believe that if all Ontarians had access to quality palliative care, many would not pursue assisted death.

Your position and that of your party will have a direct impact on my vote this June. I am respectfully asking you the following:

1. Will you support legislation to protect doctors, nurses and other health care providers who are being forced to participate in assisted suicide/euthanasia through making a referral?
2. How will you protect facilities from being forced to offer euthanasia/assisted suicide on their premises?
3. How does your party plan to address the lack of quality palliative care in our province?

I appreciate you addressing these concerns directly and look forward to your reply. Know that I very much respect the important role that our elected officials play in serving the citizens of our province.

Thank you.