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ATTN: NEWS / CITY / HEALTH EDITORS / PALLIATIVE CARE

Delta Hospice Society holds historic Annual General Meeting vote

Super-majority of members endorse traditional palliative care, reject Medical Assistance in Dying

Delta, BC, April 4, 2022 — A leader in authentic palliative care for over 30 years, Delta Hospice Society (DHS) completed its virtual Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday, April 2, 2022, after adjourning on March 26 after meeting for three hours.

Delta Hospice Society is pleased to announce that an *overwhelming majority* of members—76%—endorsed the new constitution and bylaws while returning all 10 life-affirming directors to the Board, protecting Delta Hospice Society’s right to reject Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) advice and activities within its private national organization.

“Committed to a traditional understanding of palliative care”

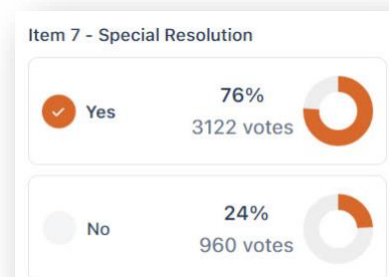
On April 2, Delta Hospice Society members voted on critical constitutional and bylaw amendments to eliminate further governance disputes:

“Delta Hospice Society is committed to a traditional understanding of the principles of palliative care, which excludes Medical Aid in Dying (MAiD), prohibiting the Society from engaging in any MAiD-related activities, and requiring all new applicants and renewing members to demonstrate a commitment to this traditional understanding of the principles of palliative care.” (AGM meeting package.)

Of DHS’s over 14,000 members, **3,122 (76%) voted in favour** while only 960 (24%) voted against. This resounding victory for authentic palliative care definitively concludes over two years of legal disputes to the services that Delta Hospice Society provides.

“Today marks a historic day for our Society and for all Canadians who endorse life-affirming palliative care,” remarks Angelina Ireland, President, Delta Hospice Society.

“Despite unfounded criticisms, tremendous antagonism, and attacks from multiple fronts,” Ireland continues, “our members delivered a *strong mandate* to provide *only* true palliative care and to pursue our vision for creating hospice sanctuaries free from euthanasia.”



Bringing DHS in line with the CHPCA and CSPCP

The constitutional changes bring Delta Hospice Society into alignment with the official positions of the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association (CHPCA) and the Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians (CSPCP)—that palliative care and Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) are “*fundamentally different practices*” and that “*MAiD is not part of the practice of hospice palliative care*” (CHPCA and CSPCP ‘Joint Call to Action,’ 2019).

“We are extremely grateful to our informed members for understanding the fundamental issue—that MAiD is the direct opposite of true palliative care,” says Ireland.

“Throughout our over two-year struggle for authentic palliative care at DHS,” she continues, “MAiD supporters refused to engage the fundamental issue of what constitutes true palliative care.”

New slate of DHS Board of Directors affirms life

Delta Hospice Society is pleased to share that the following members have been appointed to the Board of Directors:

Angelina Ireland	President
Rev. Danielle Martell	Vice President
Mark Ruelle	Treasurer
Jim Canil	Secretary. Retired educator
Kathlyn Palafox	Director. Nurse emeritus, Canadian Nurses Association
Jim Taggart	Director. Retired business professional
Dr. Richard Smyth	Director. Retired surgeon
Alexander Schadenberg	Director. Executive Director, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition
Elizabeth Lawson	Director. Retired teacher
Lorena Angus	Director. Retired teacher

Delta Hospice Society wishes to thank all its members for participating in Saturday's Annual General Meeting.

About Delta Hospice Society:

Delta Hospice Society was incorporated in July 1991 in the province of British Columbia as a non-profit organization, governed by a volunteer board of directors, and dedicated to helping families and individuals experiencing life-threatening diagnoses, advanced illness, or bereavement to live a life of meaning, comfort, dignity, and hope. Delta Hospice Society is actively involved in promoting authentic, life-affirming palliative care locally, provincially, and nationally.

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