

June 9, 2016 – For immediate release

Medical associations encourage swift passage of Bill C-14

Saskatoon, Sask. – The Saskatchewan Medical Association and the Canadian Medical Association strongly support a robust federal role in the implementation of medical assistance in dying, including both a legislative and non-legislative response to the Supreme Court of Canada’s decision in *Carter v. Canada*. The federal government has achieved an appropriate balance in its overall response to the *Carter* decision; therefore, the SMA and the CMA strongly recommend that Parliament advance the enactment of Bill C-14.

The SMA and the CMA were disappointed by the news that the Senate had disregarded the urgency of a national framework on assisted dying and dismissed the June 6 deadline, imposed by the Supreme Court. The CMA is the only national physicians’ group that has undertaken in-depth consultations with doctors. Based on those consultations, the CMA and SMA can confidently state that without federal legislation in place, physicians and patients across the country are now placed in a very vulnerable position.

The SMA joins provincial and territorial medical associations and the CMA in urging the swift passage of Bill C-14 as a national priority.

The Saskatchewan Medical Association (www.sma.sk.ca) is a voluntary, member-based, professional association for physicians, medical students and residents in the province and it is the provincial chapter of the Canadian Medical Association. As the trusted voice of Saskatchewan’s 2,300 practicing physicians, the SMA negotiates for and on behalf of our doctors; supports the educational, professional, economic and personal well-being of physicians; and advocates for a high-quality and patient-centred health care system.

– 30 –

Dr. Intheran Pillay, president of the SMA, is available this week for telephone interviews only.

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