

Urgent: Request for meeting regarding exemptions under CDSA Section 56(1)

TO:

Honourable Carolyn Bennett,
Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health, Government of Canada, MP for
Toronto – St. Paul's

and

Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos
Minister of Health, Government of Canada and MP for
Québec City

Via email : mhaminister.ministresmd@hc-sc.gc.ca; hccminister.ministresc@hc-sc.gc.ca

CC : carolyn.bennett@parl.gc.ca, jean-yves.duclos@parl.gc.ca, spencer@therapsil.ca,

FROM: The undersigned patients, doctors and healthcare workers

DATE: November 14th, 2022

Dear Honourable Ministers Jean-Yves Duclos and Carolyn Bennett,

We are a delegation of patients, doctors and healthcare workers, among hundreds, who have requested section 56 exemptions to Psilocybin on compassionate grounds. Section 56 and SAP have proven to be insufficient ways for us to access Medical Psilocybin, and we are in desperate need of alternate medical regulations. Only you, the Ministers of Health, can grant our exemptions and help us move to a regulated system that allows access to this medicine.

Many of us have been waiting for over a year for your compassionate response to our emergency exemption requests. For those of us with terminal and severe mental and physical illnesses, it has felt like an eternity.

Under the new and existing Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) regulations, we patients are able to access medically assisted death but are still unable to access the medical Psilocybin that could improve our conditions and keep us from the desperate act of MAiD. Those of us who have tried Medical Psilocybin know that it is a life-affirming medicine and has improved the length and quality of our lives.

Ministers, we are coming to Ottawa to meet with you to discuss our Section 56 exemptions and Medical Psilocybin regulations. **We implore you to prioritize a 30-minute meeting with us.** This meeting is the last hope of making this medicine accessible now and in the future. We must fix this for all Canadians who use Medical Psilocybin and those who could potentially benefit from it.

The journey to Ottawa will be difficult and expensive for us, however, due to the severity and urgency of our requests to use psilocybin for treatment, and given that the requests have been ignored for a year, we are left with no other option than to come to Parliament Hill to meet you.

We will arrive in Ottawa on November 27th and leave on December 1st.

We will be coming to Parliament Hill each day to speak with parliamentarians and the media.

Please Ministers, commit a half-hour of your time to meet with us during our visit. Your compassion is our last chance at accessing Medical Psilocybin.

Regards,

The undersigned patients, doctors and healthcare workers seeking compassionate access to psilocybin

Simon St-Laurent, Janis Hughes, Thomas Hartle, Gaurav Gupta MD, Barbara Fehlau MD, Jim Doswell, Anthony Di Virgilio, Jenna Fletcher, Josette Cattan, Julie Cheatley, Jesse Merks, Bruce Tobin, Danny Aceytuno MD, Bonnie Elliot

