

“A Conversation on the Future of Physician Assisted Dying in Canada”

Guest Panelist Bio

Lucy Costa works as a systemic advocate in Toronto with the Empowerment Council promoting the rights of mental health clients as well as encouraging critical analysis about service user inclusion in the mental health sector. She sits on a number of advisories and has been involved in disability politics for over fifteen years. She is a blog commentator for *Mad in America* and is co-editor of the anthology tentatively titled, *Madness, Violence and Power* due out winter 2016.

<http://www.empowermentcouncil.ca/contact.html>

Catherine Frazee is a Professor Emerita at Ryerson University's School of Disability Studies, now pursuing all the pleasures of activist retirement. When not consumed by the demands of persistent decrepitude, she spends her spare time wrestling with autonomy run amok, and holding out for kinder, gentler understandings of vulnerability and dependence. Much of her writing and thinking in recent years have focused on the illumination of discriminatory "habits of heart" embedded in our social ethos and, in direct response, cultural acts of resistance that reframe disability as a distinct and resilient social identity. She holds honorary degrees from Dalhousie University, the University of New Brunswick and McMaster University and was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada in December 2014 for "her advancement of the rights of persons with disabilities, and as an advocate for social justice".

Dr. Frazee's contribution to this panel will be informed in part by her recent service on the [External Panel on Options for a Legislative Response to *Carter v. Canada*](#), and her current role as an Advisor to the [Vulnerable Persons Standard](#). Samples of her recent writing on the subject of medically-assisted death can be found at The [Canadian Virtual Hospice](#), the [Halifax Chronicle Herald](#) as well as on her blog, [The Fragile and The Wild](#)

Rob Oliphant, M.P., Don Valley West . The Rev. Dr. Robert Oliphant, was first elected to the House of Commons in the 2008 General Election. He was elected again in 2015 to represent the people of Don Valley West. In January 2016, Rob was elected to Co-Chair the Special Joint Committee on Physician Assisted Dying. The committee, made up of 5 Senators and 11 Members of Parliament, heard from 61 witnesses and received over 120 written briefs before presenting its report: **Medical Assistance in Dying: A Patient-Centered Approach**.

Rob has worked in a variety of positions in business, government, church and community. Prior to his election, Rob worked as an accountant in the steel industry, was a senior advisor in the Office of the Premier of Ontario, was President and CEO of the Asthma Society of Canada and is an Ordained Minister, having held senior positions in the United Church of Canada. As a minister for over 25 years, Rob has counselled families grappling with a variety of end of life issues and has officiated at hundreds of funeral services. Both his experience as a minister wrestling with death and as a theologian have driven his approach to medical assistance in dying.

Madeline Weld is recently retired from Health Canada, where she evaluated studies pertaining to food safety for the Food Directorate. She is president of Population Institute Canada (www.populationinstituteCanada.ca), which strives to inform the Canadian public and policy-makers about population matters and promotes sustainable populations for all countries. Madeline also sits on the board of Canadian Humanist Publications (CHP) and is an editor of its publication, Humanist Perspectives (<http://www.humanistperspectives.org/issue196/index.html>).

Troy Moth spent the first few years of life living in a tent in a remote tree-planting camp on the West Coast of Canada. He loved the wild and abundant nature he grew up immersed in, but eventually the call to adventure became too much and he moved, first across Canada to the big city (Toronto), then across the world to India, to pursue a career in photography.

Troy has worked for numerous commercial and editorial clients, including Urban Outfitters, Vogue, Harper's Bazaar, Rolling Stone, GQ and many others. He has also exhibited his work nationally in Victoria, Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal as well as Internationally in New York, Kansas, Italy and Switzerland. <http://troymoth.com/my-story/>