

Hospice to Provide Safe Haven from Euthanasia for Patients, Staff and Healthcare Professionals

(Adapted from a Catholic Register article.)

“We will help you live until you die (...) you’re not alone in your journey”¹

Bob Parke, professional bioethicist and member of the Clinical Advisory Committee for the Ontario Palliative Care Network, wants to create a hospice that would not permit assisted death. The hospice would be a place to support life until the person dies naturally, providing care to alleviate suffering, meals, social comfort and excellent hospice palliative care. The safe haven hospice’s staff would not hasten death and would address a person’s total pain including physical, psychological, social and spiritual.

One of the biggest hurdles in launching this initiative is that the hospice will need private funding. “Some of my colleagues were saying if you take government money, then you must provide medical aid in

dying,” Parke said. While we would like to accept government money, we want to ensure that institutional conscientious objection would be respected. Otherwise, we might be entirely dependent on donors for our funding. While the cost of medications, as well as physician fees, will in most cases be covered by government-funded insurance plans, he said the hospice is going to require a lot of help to get off the ground.

Ron Forbes, a partner of the safe haven hospice project and former CEO of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, said avoiding government funding will be challenging. He expects it will take about \$10 million to bring the hospice to life for a stand-alone facility.



“You matter because you are you, and you matter to the end of your life. We will do all we can not only to help you die peacefully, but also to live until you die.”

– Dame Cicely Saunders, nurse, physician and writer, and founder of the modern hospice movement (1918 – 2005).

For further information about the Safe Haven Hospice contact:
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1. Boudreau, Evan. “Hospice to provide safe haven from euthanasia for patients and doctors.” The Catholic Register, article issued March 24th 2016.