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DEAD TOO SOON?

As Quebec begins a consultation process on euthanasia legislation, research shows legalization could cause victims of accidents to die too soon

February 9, 2010 (Ottawa) - The Quebec government will begin a provincial consultation on the legalization of euthanasia on February 15. A new paper released today by the Institute of Marriage and Family Canada offers research for consideration in the area of legalized assisted suicide/euthanasia.

Analyst Derek Miedema compiles research that shows those who experience an accident resulting in spinal cord injury can rehabilitate and experience a self-defined high quality of life after the passage of time. Early stages of accident recovery almost always include requests for death, however, the research shows these are almost always overcome by happiness at being alive. The legalization of assisted suicide, therefore, may in effect capitalize on a period of depression after an accident. One study found, for example, that 92 per cent of those who have suffered a spinal cord injury say they are glad to be alive.

Some of the top findings show that:

- People with a spinal cord injury are happier with their family life than the general population
- The passage of time is critical to weathering a crisis such as a spinal cord injury

This research has broader applicability, says Miedema. "We cannot impose our own understanding of a 'life worth living' onto any person with a disability. And any discussion of legalized assisted suicide should be aware of the long term nature of injury recovery," he concludes.

The paper *Dead too soon? Spinal cord injury and quality of life* can be read in full in English, [here](#).

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