When the Supreme Court struck down the ban on physician-assisted dying, we at Dying With Dignity Canada knew that the decision would signal a new era for our movement, our organization and for the country as a whole. But we had no way of knowing the decision would be just one of several earth-shaking events in what turned out to be the most important—and most challenging—year in DWDC’s history.

Less than two months after the historic ruling, our charitable status was officially annulled, a casualty of the Harper government’s controversial political-activity audits. Under the leadership of former CEO Wanda Morris, we realized the loss could be turned into an exciting new opportunity. Without the constraints of our charitable status, we embarked on a new phase of unencumbered political advocacy, raising as strong a voice as possible on behalf of the 85 per cent of Canadians who support the Supreme Court’s decision. We knew it wouldn’t be easy.

Due to the generosity of our supporters, we were able to make crucial investments to help us weather the coming storm. In the first half of 2015, we hired three new full-time staff, bolstering our ranks in the areas of fundraising, volunteer management and communication. Our new website, launched in June, continues to help us make our voices heard in the dizzying digital sphere. These improvements couldn’t have come at a better time.

After months of near silence on the assisted dying file, Ottawa announced in July its plans to hold a public consultation on end-of-life choice. Two weeks later, the largest federal election campaign in modern Canadian history kicked off. Two weeks after that, a group of 11 provinces and territories announced they were assembling their own expert panels to study possible legislative responses to the Supreme Court’s decision. In each case, we responded on our blog and in the media, demanding answers on what our lawmakers planned to do to ensure Canadians have real access to their right to assisted dying.

The summer gave us a true taste of what was to store for the rest of 2015 and beyond. Despite the hurdles we’ve faced after losing our charitable status, we’ve tried our best to advance our agenda of compassion and choice on every possible front: meeting with relevant lawmakers, both federal and provincial; making our voices heard in the dizzying number of public consultations that have popped up; helping our supporters share their personal stories in the media; and connecting with doctors who support our mission and want to lend their expertise. This is our new normal.

With the push for patient-centred federal legislation well underway and a spate of provincial campaigns on the horizon, we expect the need for our work to only intensify in the months ahead. Thankfully, we’re enjoying the challenge—there are more than a few political junkies in DWDC’s ranks, and we relish the opportunity to work for lasting change. More importantly, though, we are guided by our North Star: our supporters and the millions of other Canadians who want meaningful access to their right to a peaceful death. Your stories and your words of encouragement fuel our efforts. We refuse to let you down.

Jim Stephenson, Chair
Shanaz Gokool, CEO

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR & CEO

The Day that Changed Everything: February 6, 2015 Marked the Beginning of a New Era for Our Movement

For our movement, it was the day The Wall fell.

On the morning of February 6, 2015, the Supreme Court of Canada declared once and for all that the Criminal Code ban on physician-assisted dying violated Canadians’ Charter rights, and thus, it could not stand. Just like that, the old law—which for so many years separated Canadians from their right to die in peace and with dignity—was fated to the dustbin of history.

At Dying With Dignity Canada’s national headquarters in Toronto, the groundbreaking news was met with tearful celebration, followed by an emotionally charged press conference in front of more than a dozen reporters and photographers. Images from the occasion appeared in newspapers and TV broadcasts all over the world. We became, as the cliché goes, an overnight success story in the making.

In fact, the unanimous ruling immediately established this country as an emerging global leader in the realm of end-of-life rights. When it finally comes into force on June 6, 2016, the high court’s decision in Carter v. Canada will decriminalize physician-assisted dying for competent adult patients who are suffering intolerably as the result of a “grievous and irremediable illness” and who clearly consent to the termination of life. More expansive than Quebec’s 2014 Medical Consent to the Termination of Life Act well underway and a spate of provincial campaigns on the horizon, we expect the need for our work to only intensify in the months ahead. Thankfully, we’re enjoying the challenge—there are more than a few political junkies in DWDC’s ranks, and we relish the opportunity to work for lasting change. More importantly, though, we are guided by our North Star: our supporters and the millions of other Canadians who want meaningful access to their right to a peaceful death. Your stories and your words of encouragement fuel our efforts. We refuse to let you down.

Jim Stephenson, Chair
Shanaz Gokool, CEO

The Day that Changed Everything: February 6, 2015 Marked the Beginning of a New Era for Our Movement

For our movement, it was the day The Wall fell.

On the morning of February 6, 2015, the Supreme Court of Canada declared once and for all that the Criminal Code ban on physician-assisted dying violated Canadians’ Charter rights, and thus, it could not stand. Just like that, the old law—which for so many years separated Canadians from their right to die in peace and with dignity—was fated to the dustbin of history.

At Dying With Dignity Canada’s national headquarters in Toronto, the groundbreaking news was met with tearful celebration, followed by an emotionally charged press conference in front of more than a dozen reporters and photographers. Images from the occasion appeared in newspapers and TV broadcasts all over the world. We became, as the cliché goes, an overnight success story in the making.

In fact, the unanimous ruling immediately established this country as an emerging global leader in the realm of end-of-life rights. When it finally comes into force on June 6, 2016, the high court’s decision in Carter v. Canada will decriminalize

The Day that Changed Everything: February 6, 2015 Marked the Beginning of a New Era for Our Movement

For our movement, it was the day The Wall fell.

On the morning of February 6, 2015, the Supreme Court of Canada declared once and for all that the Criminal Code ban on physician-assisted dying violated Canadians’ Charter rights, and thus, it could not stand. Just like that, the old law—which for so many years separated Canadians from their right to die in peace and with dignity—was fated to the dustbin of history.

At Dying With Dignity Canada’s national headquarters in Toronto, the groundbreaking news was met with tearful celebration, followed by an emotionally charged press conference in front of more than a dozen reporters and photographers. Images from the occasion appeared in newspapers and TV broadcasts all over the world. We became, as the cliché goes, an overnight success story in the making.

In fact, the unanimous ruling immediately established this country as an emerging global leader in the realm of end-of-life rights. When it finally comes into force on June 6, 2016, the high court’s decision in Carter v. Canada will decriminalize

The Day that Changed Everything: February 6, 2015 Marked the Beginning of a New Era for Our Movement

For our movement, it was the day The Wall fell.

On the morning of February 6, 2015, the Supreme Court of Canada declared once and for all that the Criminal Code ban on physician-assisted dying violated Canadians’ Charter rights, and thus, it could not stand. Just like that, the old law—which for so many years separated Canadians from their right to die in peace and with dignity—was fated to the dustbin of history.

At Dying With Dignity Canada’s national headquarters in Toronto, the groundbreaking news was met with tearful celebration, followed by an emotionally charged press conference in front of more than a dozen reporters and photographers. Images from the occasion appeared in newspapers and TV broadcasts all over the world. We became, as the cliché goes, an overnight success story in the making.

In fact, the unanimous ruling immediately established this country as an emerging global leader in the realm of end-of-life rights. When it finally comes into force on June 6, 2016, the high court’s decision in Carter v. Canada will decriminalize

The Day that Changed Everything: February 6, 2015 Marked the Beginning of a New Era for Our Movement

For our movement, it was the day The Wall fell.

On the morning of February 6, 2015, the Supreme Court of Canada declared once and for all that the Criminal Code ban on physician-assisted dying violated Canadians’ Charter rights, and thus, it could not stand. Just like that, the old law—which for so many years separated Canadians from their right to die in peace and with dignity—was fated to the dustbin of history.

At Dying With Dignity Canada’s national headquarters in Toronto, the groundbreaking news was met with tearful celebration, followed by an emotionally charged press conference in front of more than a dozen reporters and photographers. Images from the occasion appeared in newspapers and TV broadcasts all over the world. We became, as the cliché goes, an overnight success story in the making.

In fact, the unanimous ruling immediately established this country as an emerging global leader in the realm of end-of-life rights. When it finally comes into force on June 6, 2016, the high court’s decision in Carter v. Canada will decriminalize

The Day that Changed Everything: February 6, 2015 Marked the Beginning of a New Era for Our Movement

For our movement, it was the day The Wall fell.

On the morning of February 6, 2015, the Supreme Court of Canada declared once and for all that the Criminal Code ban on physician-assisted dying violated Canadians’ Charter rights, and thus, it could not stand. Just like that, the old law—which for so many years separated Canadians from their right to die in peace and with dignity—was fated to the dustbin of history.

At Dying With Dignity Canada’s national headquarters in Toronto, the groundbreaking news was met with tearful celebration, followed by an emotionally charged press conference in front of more than a dozen reporters and photographers. Images from the occasion appeared in newspapers and TV broadcasts all over the world. We became, as the cliché goes, an overnight success story in the making.

In fact, the unanimous ruling immediately established this country as an emerging global leader in the realm of end-of-life rights. When it finally comes into force on June 6, 2016, the high court’s decision in Carter v. Canada will decriminalize

The Day that Changed Everything: February 6, 2015 Marked the Beginning of a New Era for Our Movement

For our movement, it was the day The Wall fell.

On the morning of February 6, 2015, the Supreme Court of Canada declared once and for all that the Criminal Code ban on physician-assisted dying violated Canadians’ Charter rights, and thus, it could not stand. Just like that, the old law—which for so many years separated Canadians from their right to die in peace and with dignity—was fated to the dustbin of history.

At Dying With Dignity Canada’s national headquarters in Toronto, the groundbreaking news was met with tearful celebration, followed by an emotionally charged press conference in front of more than a dozen reporters and photographers. Images from the occasion appeared in newspapers and TV broadcasts all over the world. We became, as the cliché goes, an overnight success story in the making.

In fact, the unanimous ruling immediately established this country as an emerging global leader in the realm of end-of-life rights. When it finally comes into force on June 6, 2016, the high court’s decision in Carter v. Canada will decriminalize

The Day that Changed Everything: February 6, 2015 Marked the Beginning of a New Era for Our Movement

For our movement, it was the day The Wall fell.

On the morning of February 6, 2015, the Supreme Court of Canada declared once and for all that the Criminal Code ban on physician-assisted dying violated Canadians’ Charter rights, and thus, it could not stand. Just like that, the old law—which for so many years separated Canadians from their right to die in peace and with dignity—was fated to the dustbin of history.

At Dying With Dignity Canada’s national headquarters in Toronto, the groundbreaking news was met with tearful celebration, followed by an emotionally charged press conference in front of more than a dozen reporters and photographers. Images from the occasion appeared in newspapers and TV broadcasts all over the world. We became, as the cliché goes, an overnight success story in the making.

In fact, the unanimous ruling immediately established this country as an emerging global leader in the realm of end-of-life rights. When it finally comes into force on June 6, 2016, the high court’s decision in Carter v. Canada will decriminalize
2015 was a whirlwind for Dying With Dignity Canada. Here’s a timeline of key moments in the biggest year in our movement’s history.

**JANUARY 20**
Our office phones ring off the hook after we announce that our charitable status would be annulled as the result of a controversial Canada Revenue Agency political-activity audit. In a confusing letter explaining its decision, the CRA stated it had twice given our organization charitable status “in error”—once in 1982 and again in 2011.

**FEBRUARY 6**
The Supreme Court releases its decision in Carter v. Canada, striking down the country’s decades-old ban on physician-assisted dying. A press conference at our national offices in Toronto is broadcast live on major national news networks.

**OCTOBER 8**
Provincial medical Colleges across the country begin public consultations on assisted dying. DWDC releases toolkit after toolkit with tips on how our supporters can make the best of these opportunities.

**OCTOBER 29**
DWDC and the BC Civil Liberties Association issue a “Blueprint for Leadership,” outlining the steps Canadian decision-makers need to take to ensure equitable, safe and timely access to physician-assisted dying.

**OCTOBER 19**
Canadians go to the polls to vote in the country’s 42nd general election.

**NOVEMBER 4**
Hundreds of DWDC supporters hold rallies in 10 cities as part of our second annual National Day of Action.

**NOVEMBER 10**
Quebec’s Dying with Dignity law comes into full effect, making it the first province to offer legal assisted dying to patients at end of life.

**MARCH 10**
Dying With Dignity Canada’s charitable status is officially annulled, marking the beginning of a new era of unfettered political advocacy for the organization.

**DECEMBER 10**
The Provincial-Territorial Expert Advisory Group’s final report is released. Its 43 recommendations lay out a path forward to a compassionate national framework for assisted dying.

**JULY 7**
We launch an online petition urging the federal government to respond to the Supreme Court’s decision on assisted dying. More than 3,000 Canadians sign the petition.

**JULY 9**
A story about DWDC’s Personal Support and Advocacy program makes the front page of the National Post.

**MAY 3**
Members and other stakeholders gather in Vancouver for DWDC’s first Annual General Meeting since the Supreme Court’s decision in Carter v. Canada.

**JUNE 25**
DWDC unveils its brand-new website. In order to make waves in the always-competitive digital world, we built an interface that functions as smoothly on your smartphone as it does on your laptop computer.

**JULY 17**
At the request of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Governor General David Johnston dissolves Parliament, kicking off the longest election campaign in modern Canadian history.

**AUGUST 2**
The newly elected Liberal government asks the Supreme Court to delay the implementation of its decision on assisted dying by a period of six months. The government taps Dr. Harvey Chochinov, a long-time opponent of assisted dying, to chair the panel that will conduct the consultation.

**AUGUST 14**
After months of federal inaction, the Government of Ontario announces that it, with the support of 10 other provinces and territories, has established the Provincial-Territorial Expert Advisory Group on Physician-Assisted Dying. Assisted dying advocate Maureen Taylor is appointed co-chair.

**JULY 9**
A story about DWDC’s Personal Support and Advocacy program makes the front page of the National Post.

**NOVEMBER 11**
Commissioned by DWDC, an independent analysis of the federal panel’s online survey on assisted dying is released. The report finds the consultation to be “ambiguous and biased.” Three days later, the federal government announces it is narrowing the panel’s mandate.

**DECEMBER 14**
The Provincial-Territorial Expert Advisory Group’s final report is released. Its 43 recommendations lay out a path forward to a compassionate national framework for assisted dying.

**DECEMBER 18**
The Supreme Court agrees to hear arguments into the federal government’s extension request. Hearings are scheduled for January 11, 2016.
Memberships
Interest & Other Income

chapters. Last year, DWDC added five new official

Many of our volunteers come to us through our regional

perspectives and interests of Canadians with disabilities.

in the medical community, while our Disability Advisory

Council ensured that our policies are informed by the

media. Our Physicians Advisory Council drove our outreach

attended election debates and told their stories in the

ways. They held Advance Care Planning workshops, sent

DWDC volunteers contributed to the movement in myriad

logged more than 10,000 total volunteer hours.

Dying With Dignity Canada owes much of its success

change — up from 13 per cent in 2014.

In 2015, 74 per cent of our program

spent went towards driving political

before to our political advocacy efforts.

for-profit organization, we were free

to dedicate more resources than ever

Our successes in 2015 would not have been possible without the financial support of our donors and

members. These champions of compassion were instrumental in establishing end-of-life choice as a right

for all Canadians. Because of their generosity, we can continue our fight for better quality of dying.

The incredible generosity of our

supporters not only ensured the survival of the organization; it also allowed us to speak out time and time again in

defense of patient rights. Last year, you gave us the resources to build a sleek new website, secure meetings with powerful stakeholders, hire our first-ever full-time fund development officer and launch a new advocacy campaign, Voice Your Choice. These investments will continue to reap rewards well into 2016 and beyond.

The charts on the right illustrate how

we put your 2015 donation dollars to work. Nearly eight in 10 dollars that DWDC brought in last year went

towards our programs. Because of our transition from a charity to a not-for-profit organization, we were free to dedicate more resources than ever before to our political advocacy efforts. In 2015, 74 per cent of our program spending went towards driving political change — up from 13 per cent in 2014.

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

Programs  Administration  Driving political change  Educating about end-of-life rights and options  Providing personal support and advocacy

ANNUAL REVENUES, 2013 TO 2015

$1,047,293, edging out our earlier

record of $1,029,334, set in 2014.

$1,029,334.

$1,047,293

ANNUAL REVENUES, 2013 TO 2015

GREATER THAN $25,000

Richard W. Ivey
Nancy’s Very Own Foundation
Barrie D. Rose and Family

$10,000 - $24,999

Anonymous
The Estate of George Peter Harvey
Robert Holub
Dr. Jean Marmoreo
Bruce H. Mitchell
The Shelagh and David Wilson Fund at the Toronto Foundation
Tamara Ziony
Moses Ziony

$5,000 - $9,999

Anonymous (3)
Christie Bentham
Doug and Ellen Campbell
Anne Crawford
Mark and Ann Curry
Marianne Girling
Rosamond Ivey
The Estate of Denys Lloyd
David and Joanne Moore
Wanda and Tony Morris
Jack Pahl and Penny Bell
Gareth Seltzer
Hope Smith
Jim and Marcia Stephenson
The Estate of Kathy Wardle

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

$2,500 - $4,999

Anonymous (8)
Jame Atkinson
Diane Arthur
Richard and Joan Boxer
Carey Diamond
Dolores Dickey
In memory of Tom Elliott
C J Findlay and WD Black
John B. Friedlander

$1,000 - $2,499

Anonymous (37)
AAA Forum Group
Heinz Ahner
Gerald and Jan Ashe
Roy Balch
Bruce Barker
Douglas Becroft
Elizabeth Bigelow
Cindy and Robert Blakely
Walter M. and Lisa Balfour Bowen
Elizabeth Campbell
Noreen and Clifford Campbell
Sue Clifford
Roger Cotton and Marcia Matsui
Jean R. Cuddy
Laureen Darr
Rick Durst
Ebbie Easteurne
Brenda Eaton
Ingeborg Evans
Harold Fast
Lesley Robb Forsster
Douglas G. Gardner
Georgina Geldert
Tom Gentles
Ruth Gilbert
Shirley Beatrice Grant

2015 DWDC MAJOR DONORS

Pal and Frank Guenther
François Hebert
Valerie Kennedy
Margaret McPhee
Marjory and Andy Patterson
PFDL Investments Limited
Gordon Pommers
Remington Development Corporation
Lionel and Carol Schipper
In memory of David C. Smith
John and Barbara Warren
Mr. and Mrs. J. White
Dianne L. Woodruff

Diana Gurd-Trask
Richard and Nancy Hamm
Jane D. Hastings
Joe Heffernan
Patricia Hill
Dr. George Iwanchyshyn
Dr. Wilma de Groot
Lewis Ford Jackson
W. Edwin Jarman
Delores Jones and Herta Ziemann
Jane Katan
Nancy Kennedy
André Lachance, In memory of Jane Bowles
Carolyn and Robert Lake
Patti Loach
Lori and Charles Macdonald
Jack and Lynn Marineau
R.B. Matthews
Margaret McClan
Colin and Isabel McGregor
Susan McMinn
Michael and Jane Millgate
Dr. Ed Nagele
James Ostou
Chris Pallara and Eva Marszewski
Robert and Anna Paul
Trish Remmers
Matthew Sachs
Meg Salter
Stuart and Jayne Schipper
Dr. Derick Smith
James Ostou

OUR CHAPTERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Dying With Dignity Canada owes much of its success in 2015 to its growing roster of dedicated volunteers and regional chapters. Last year, our supporters logged more than 10,000 total volunteer hours.

DWDC volunteers contributed to the movement in myriad ways. They held Advance Care Planning workshops, sent letters and made phone calls to their elected representatives, attended election debates and told their stories in the media. Our Physicians Advisory Council drove our outreach in the medical community, while our Disability Advisory Council ensured that our policies are informed by the perspectives and interests of Canadians with disabilities.

Many of our volunteers come to us through our regional chapters. Last year, DWDC added five new official

Chapters — in Victoria, B.C., Vancouver, Hamilton, Ont., Toronto and at the University of Ottawa — bringing the organization’s total to 14. We thank all of our chapters for their on-the-ground commitment to raising a strong voice for compassion and choice in their local communities.
LEAVING A LEGACY

We would like to recognize donors who have committed to leaving a legacy to Dying With Dignity Canada. We thank these incredible individuals for their dedication to lasting change.

Anonymous
Giuseppe and Jean Gizzi
Pamela Hobbes
Michele and Brian O’Keefe
Carol Rankmore

DWDC ADVISORY COUNCILS

PATRONS COUNCIL
Chair, Richard W. Ivey

PHYSICIANS ADVISORY COUNCIL
Chair, Dr. Derryck Smith

DISABILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
Chair, James Wooten Sanders

Dr. Joseph and Miriam Rogers
Anne and Brian Ross
Penny Sanger
Kim Shannon
Daphne Shick
Eric and Marsha Slavens
Edward Spencer
Sally Swenson
Peter Symcox
Josie and Derek Taylor
Dr. Martin Taylor
Annelies Tudor
Paula Tyroler
Chad Walton
David and Shirley Weary
Rachel Wellock
Susan Westersund
Meg Westley and Jay Klassen
Joan Williams

Senta Chisholm
In memory of Cheryl Chopy
Galina Coffey-Lewis
Norman Cowan
Marion Cronk
Jean Donaldson
Quenten and Joyce Doolittle
In memory of Leona Drew
John Duravetz
Robert and Jo Durie
Ann Estill
George Evans
Paul and Joan Feth
Dr. Brian Finnemore
Lorne Fitch
Toby Fouks
Bette Gallander
Shanaaz Gokool
Barbara Goldring
Donna Graham
Laurie Grant and Tony Ryan
Charlotte Gray
Brian Greenspan and Marla Berger
Kerrie Hale
Bonnie Hall

Joseph Hammerlindl
Sharon Hart
Wendy Hilliard
Marcie Hogan
Jill Horne
Morris Hounsell
Dr. Susan Hughson
Eric Inch
Crystal Ironside
Linda Jarrett
Jack and Nancy Jefferson
Dr. Ian Jeffrey and Anne Jeffrey
Philip F. and Elaine V. Jones
Fred Kay and Julia Hattori
Rolf and Heather Kellerhals
Dr. Anne Kershole
Eva Kmiecic
In memory of Frida Lammens
Liz Lepp
Dr. Chad Lund
Glen and Nancy MacDonald
Robert Maksymetz
Andrej Marjan
Margaret Maxted
Inge McGarry
Larry and Mireille Meyers
Irene Miller
Florence Moore
Anne Morawetz and Don Bocking
Dr. Patricia Morton
Janine Muller
Charles Nixon
John and Sheila Noyes
Michele and Brian O’Keefe
Barry Olshen and Robin Tully
Desmond and Pam O’Rorke
William and Loraine Patterson
Penelope Pattison
Arlene Pegg
Dr. Chantal Perrot
Penny Tilby and Ron Peterson
Jeannette Piry
Bevan Ratcliffe
Clara Robert
Dr. David W. Robertson
Rev. Jessica Rodela