



December 9, 2015

Supreme Court of Canada
301, Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0J1

Attention: Roger Bilodeau, Q.C.
Registrar, Supreme Court of Canada

Dear Sir:

**Re: *Carter et al. v. Attorney General of Canada*
SCC Docket 35591**

I write on behalf of the Attorney General of British Columbia (“the Attorney General”), respondent in the above-captioned appeal, in support of the application of the Attorney General of Canada, filed December 3, 2015, for an order extending for a further 6 months the suspension of the declaration of constitutional invalidity made by this honourable court in *Carter v. Canada*, 2015 SCC 5 (“*Carter*”).

Included in the Attorney General of Canada’s motion record, attached as exhibits to the affidavit of Eric Lafleur sworn December 3, 2015, is correspondence and affidavit material that Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Ontario submitted to the Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, P.C., M.P., Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, in support of her motion to extend the suspension. The Attorney General agrees with those provinces that more time is required for all levels of government to respond to the court’s decision.

Physician-assisted dying is a profound and complex issue with significant medical and moral implications for patients, families, care providers and the public. For all of the valuable and thoughtful work that has been completed since the ruling, all levels of government need to undertake further collaboration to coordinate and align their activities. It is necessary to still consider a wide range of legislative and policy issues, and come to decisions, in order to address all matters arising from the *Carter* decision. The ability of provinces and territories to respond appropriately and comprehensively to

the *Carter* decision is predicated on any legislation being contemplated by the federal government.

The Attorney General submits that six months is a reasonable period to extend the suspension of the declaration beyond the current deadline of February 6, 2016.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jean M. Walters".

Jean M. Walters
Barrister and Solicitor

JMW/bcs