



CANADIAN CATHOLIC BIOETHICS INSTITUTE
INSTITUT CANADIEN CATHOLIQUE DE BIOÉTHIQUE
UNIVERSITY OF ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

MAiD (Medical Assistance in Dying) for Mental Illness: An Exploration of the Deeper Issues

Date: Thursday, April 9th 2026

Time: 7:00–8:00 PM (EST)

Format: Online Webinar (Zoom) – Registration Required

Registration link:

[Click here to register](#)

(real-time captioned translation available in 35+ languages)

Objectives:

- 1) To explain how MAiD has evolved in Canada and what it could mean to extend it to mental illness
- 2) To outline key questions and serious clinical and ethical challenges raised by the proposal to extend MAiD to people with mental illness
- 3) To share a few real-world examples that demonstrate why this issue is complex and deeply troubling
- 4) To encourage reflection on how families, communities, and systems can better support individuals so that MAiD does not feel like the only option

Dr. Sephora Tang completed her Doctorate in Medicine and Postgraduate Residency training in psychiatry at the University of Ottawa. She works at the Ottawa Hospital as a psychiatrist in outpatient mental health services. As an assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Ottawa, she has been engaged in medical education at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels, currently serving as Program Director of the Ottawa Psychiatry Residency Training Program. She is an advocate for access to quality medical and mental healthcare for vulnerable and marginalized people and has appeared as an expert witness before the Canadian Senate and the Ontario Provincial Parliament on issues pertaining to the practice of medicine and psychiatry in Canada. She currently serves as a Council Member of the Ontario Psychiatric Association, is a Senior Health Fellow with Cardus, and has an appointment as a Clinician Investigator at the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute (OHRI) in the Neuroscience Program.

After Dr Tang's analysis of the clinical and ethical issues regarding MAiD for mental illness, Dr. Murphy, Program Director of the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute, will offer some very brief reflections.