

Contrary to reports, Catholic hospital in Antigonish will not provide MAiD

The Nova Scotia Health Authority has assured a Catholic health facility, St. Martha's Hospital in Antigonish, that it will not have to provide euthanasia within its walls.

"It continues to operate as a Catholic Hospital," said Michael Shea, president and CEO of the Catholic Health Alliance, adding widespread news reports indicating that the hospital would have to provide Medical Assistance In Dying (MAiD) are incorrect.

The reports came just as Canada's Catholic bishops began their annual plenary meeting in Cornwall, Ont.

The Nova Scotia Health Authority will, however, provide MAiD in a separate building that is not part of the St. Martha's hospital.

The federal Medical Assistance in Dying law, which took effect in 2016, allows a physician to administer a lethal medication or provide the means for a patient to do so. However, such acts violate the mission of St. Martha's Regional Hospital and the Catholic ethical tradition of respect for life from conception to natural death.

"We continue to uphold the mission and values of St. Martha's Regional Hospital for quality compassionate health care," said Sister Brendalee Boisvert, congregation leader for the Sisters of St. Martha.

In a statement, Sister Boisvert said a Mission Assurance Agreement with the Nova Scotia Health Authority will continue to be honoured, and the Sisters continue to support pastoral care, palliative care and the work of the St. Martha's Hospital Foundation.



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The Sisters of St. Martha were informed that the Nova Scotia Health Authority continues to uphold our *Mission Assurance Agreement*, while providing access in Antigonish for individuals who request Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD). The Nova Scotia Health Authority has assured us that Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) will not take place in St. Martha's Regional Hospital.

We do not own St. Martha's Regional Hospital, or the building called the *Antigonish Health and Wellness Centre*.

We continue to uphold the Mission and Values of St. Martha's Regional Hospital for quality compassionate health care. We are pleased to be able to continue to offer support to the community of Antigonish and area through the Mission Assurance Advisory Council and through our support of Pastoral Care, Palliative Care and the work of St. Martha's Hospital Foundation.

Sister Brendalee Boisvert
Congregation Leader,
Sisters of St. Martha

