Canada: It's a small pond, but I wouldn't want to have to row across it.

The state of the law
• Criminal statutes – Federal law (R.S.C. 1985 C-46)
  o Provide necessaries of life (215)
  o Negligence (219-221)
  o Homicide (222)
  o Preventable death (224)
  o Accelerating death (226)
  o Murder, etc. (229)
  o counseling or aiding suicide (241)
  o administering a noxious substance (245)
• Nancy B. v. Hôtel Dieu de Québec (1992) – Person has the right to refuse medical treatment.
• Rodriguez v. British Columbia (1993) – though s. 241 violates rights, it’s necessary to protect PWDs.

Current cases
• Carter case
  o 2012 – BC court – Rodriguez court was wrong, danger insufficient for total ban.
  o 2013 – Appeals court – Stare decisis applies. Lower court can’t overrule S.Ct.
  o 2014 – Supreme court – Accepts to hear the case (reconsider Rodriguez)
• Bentley case
  o Case is on appeal

Legislation
• Parliament – Considered the issue many times, most recently rejected in 2010 by wide margin.
• Québec’s euthanasia bill
  o “Medical aid in dying” for “physical or psychological suffering” at the “end of life”
  o Was on the verge of passing, but election call killed the bill.
  o New government will try to pass old bill “as is.” One vote needed to block it.
• Other provinces waiting for Québec to lead the way.
• Fletcher’s federal bills – “medical aid in dying” for “suffering” and commission to implement. They will go nowhere.
• Efforts to defeat Québec's bill.

In the Media
• The media are decidedly pro-euthanasia, pro-assisted suicide
• Public campaigns claiming right to assisted suicide: S. Griffiths, D. Low, E. Hung
• Efforts to get disabled people to be consulted as the experts.

Other organizing issues and strategies.
• Damage control – negotiating safeguards
• Dealing with (actual and perceived) division in the community – leadership.