

Canada to appeal ruling on assisted suicide

July 13 2012

(AP) — Canada's justice minister says the federal government will appeal a British Columbia Supreme Court ruling that said federal laws banning doctor-assisted suicide are unconstitutional.

A B.C. Supreme Court justice ruled last month that laws banning [assisted suicide](#) are invalid because they discriminate against severely ill patients. The justice suspended her ruling for one year to give Canada's federal Parliament time to draft new legislation.

[Justice](#) Minister Rob Nicholson said Friday that the federal government will seek a suspension on the ruling while it goes to the British Columbia [Court](#) of Appeal.

He says the government believes Canada's existing Criminal Code ban on assisted suicide is constitutional.

It has been illegal in Canada to counsel, aid or abet a suicide, an offence carrying a maximum prison sentence of 14 years.

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