

Her Last Project

Summary¹

This documentary follows Dr. Shelly Sarwal, a physician from Halifax, during the last few months of her life. Dr. Sarwal, diagnosed with multiple system atrophy, received medical assistance in dying (MAiD) shortly after it was legalized in Canada in 2016. Her last project was to donate her organs after receiving MAiD. She dedicated the last days of her life to educating health care professionals and the general public about organ donation as a way to create a meaningful legacy of one's life, as well as contributing to public discussion about MAiD.

44:08 mins.

Director: Rosvita Dransfeld

Available on CBC Gem: <https://herlastproject.ca/home/about/>

Questions for Discussion

- Which part of this documentary made the biggest impression on you, and why?
- For Dr. Sarwal it was important to be in control of her death.
 - What does a good death mean to you?
- Why do you think people might choose MAiD?
- What were your thoughts around Dr. Sarwal's decision to become an organ donor?
- Dr. Sarwal's husband supported her in her decision to receive MAiD and become an organ donor.
 - What do you think family members might find most ethically challenging if their loved one chooses MAiD?
 - What do you think family members might find most ethically challenging when having to make decisions around organ donation?
- What difference do you think Dr. Sarwal's decision and advocacy about organ donation makes in public discussion about MAiD?
- What can health care providers do to support patients *and* family members throughout the MAiD process?

¹ Summary adapted from CBC Canada's website: <https://www.cbc.ca/cbcdocspov/episodes/her-last-project>