



## **THE WESTMOUNT WEEKLY**

### **Shul Schedule:**

#### **Leil Shabbos Jan. 29th:**

**4:30 PM TISH & TORAH: "SECRETS OF THE 39 MELACHOS" LIVE & ZOOM**

5:06 PM Mincha / Kabolos Shabbos / Maariv

#### **Shabbos Jan. 30th:**

8:30 AM Main Sanctuary Service

8:45 AM Sefardi Minyan

9:45 AM Father / Son Minyan followed by Shiur with Rabbi Farkas

10:45 AM Men's Shiur with the Rabbi

10:45 AM Ladies Shiur with the Rebbetzin

4:45 PM Mincha

6:16 PM Maariv / Havdalah

### **Home Schedule:**

#### **Friday Jan. 29th:**

1:01 PM Earliest Time to Say Mincha (Mincha must be finished no later than 5:24 PM)

4:24 PM Earliest Candle lighting / Kabolos Shabbos / Maariv

5:06 PM Latest Candle lighting / Kabolos Shabbos / Maariv

6:14 PM Repeat Shema after this time

#### **Shabbos Jan. 30th:**

#### **Torah Reading pg.366 ; Haftorah pg.1152**

- **Omit on Friday night , the 3 paragraphs after "Yayachulu" (Artscroll pg. 346)**
- **Omit on Shabbos morning, 2nd "Yekum Purkan" & "Mi Shebeirach" (pg. 450)**
- **Omit all prayers for removal & returning of Torah**

7:36 AM Sunrise

10:03 AM Latest Time to Say Shema on Time

10:52 AM Latest Time to Say the Amida on Time

1:01 PM Earliest Time to Say Mincha

5:26 PM Latest Time to Begin Shalosh Seudos

6:16 PM Maariv / Havdalah

### **UPCOMING VIRTUAL WINTER EVENTS:**

- **FEB. 13 : MELAVA MALKA WITH RABBI DAVID FOHRMAN. EVERYONE WILL RECEIVE A FREE COPY OF RABBI FOHRMAN'S BOOK ON MEGILAS ESTHER: "THE QUEEN YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW"- ALL SPONSORED BY GERALD & SHERYL HARTMAN.**
- **FEB. 26 : MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION PURIM SEUDAH - ALL ADULT MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING WILL RECEIVE A FREE GOURMET MEAL & ENTERTAINMENT ON PURIM**

### **SALUTE TO OUR SENIORS:**

*We are very proud of all our members who have been attending services in Shul during the pandemic. We are especially proud of the following senior members, who are in their 70s and 80s who are guiding and inspiring us by their regular attendance: **Sammy Polster, Milton Eugene, Alan Vale, Earle Friedman, and Syd Goldberg**. They would be very happy to see more of their friends in Shul. May Hashem bless them, amongst our entire congregation, with good health until this crisis passes. During a crisis, there is no better place to be than in a safe Shul.*

**Davening & Learning Times January 31-February 5:**

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Earliest Beracha on Talis / Tefilin	6:40:28	6:39:29	6:38:29	6:37:28	6:36:24	6:35:19
<b>Sunrise</b>	7:35:18	7:34:12	7:33:05	7:31:55	7:30:44	7:29:31
<b>Shacharis in Shul</b>	8:15	6:30	6:45	6:45	6:30	6:45
<b>SECOND SHACHARIS</b>		8:00	8:00	8:00	8:00	8:00
<b>Latest Shema</b>	10:03	10:02	10:02	10:01	10:01	10:00
<b>Latest Amida</b>	10:52	10:52	10:52	10:51	10:51	10:51
<b>Earliest Mincha</b>	1:02	1:02	1:02	1:02	1:02	1:02
<b>MINCHA</b>		<b>2:00</b>	<b>2:00</b>	<b>2:00</b>	<b>2:00</b>	
<b>Plag Hamincha</b>	4:25	4:26	4:28	4:29	4:30	4:31
<b>Mincha / Maariv</b>	5:10					<b>5:16</b>
<b>Sunset</b>	5:27	5:28	5:30	5:31	5:33	5:34
<b>Nightfall</b>	6:17	6:18	6:20	6:21	6:23	6:24
<b>MAARIV</b>		<b>9:15</b>	<b>9:15</b>	<b>9:15</b>	<b>9:15</b>	

*All classes are live in the Shul can be accessed via ZOOM ID 905-881-7485; password 728960*

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>7:25-7:55 AM</b>		TALMUD	TALMUD	TALMUD	TALMUD	NESIVOS SHALOM
<b>12:00-12:30 PM</b>	<b>PARSHA FOR CHILDREN</b>	<b>PARSHA FOR CHILDREN</b>	<b>PARSHA FOR CHILDREN</b>	<b>PARSHA FOR CHILDREN</b>	<b>PARSHA FOR CHILDREN</b>	<b>PARSHA FOR CHILDREN</b>
<b>1:25 - 1:55 PM</b>		SEFER B'YAM DARKECHA	SEFER B'YAM DARKECHA	SEFER B'YAM DARKECHA	SEFER B'YAM DARKECHA	
<b>8:00-9:15 PM</b>		ADVANCED PARSHA	<b>FOCUS ON SHOAVIM</b>	PARSHA LIGHT	SEMICHAS CHAVER PROGRAM	
<b>9:30-10:00 PM</b>	<b>RAMBAM @ 5:55</b>	RAMBAM	RAMBAM	RAMBAM		

***SHABBOS SPONSORS:***

***SHACHARIS IS SPONSORED BY ARTHUR LAMPERT IN APPRECIATION FOR THE RABBI'S EFFORTS IN PROVIDING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE MEMBERS TO PRAY & LEARN***

***MINCHA IS SPONSORED BY JAYKEE ROMI-BABANY ON THE YAHRZEIT OF HIS FATHER ELIYAHU BEN YAAKOV a"h***

***THANK YOU TO MARTIN LEVIN & HANNOCH YEHUDA FOR SPONSORING THE FOOD FOR THE TU B'SHEVAT SEDER***

**WESTMOUNT SHUL SAFETY MEASURES UPDATE - January 13, 2021:**

With praises to Hashem, we are fortunate that the province of Ontario is permitting houses of worship to continue having gatherings of ten people. Please see the following link that spells out the present restrictions: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/enhancing-public-health-and-workplace-safety-measures-provincewide-shutdown> & [https://www.york.ca/wps/portal/yorkhome/health/yr/covid-19/!ut/p/z1/jY\\_fCoIwFMafxQeQna2l83JYuc1kgWS2mxiFNiiVEC96-iS86SLr3H3w-4cZFCJTGMHV9vetY29jfpogpPkiRQiBaUpi4GD5oqEDNYRRoc3AF-OAzL-GcAMx-vfhWMH5BHFmc1Mp3tr75rqhaV53ZwFx9HY7\\_5TEhyRkEWKuQF1kDIYgIloYHAMsgQmoHchLvligkMKZmAmZHdfV8-t1Uua897ARbl9OA!/dz/d5/L2dBISEvZ0FBIS9nQSEh/#.YABONsVKipg](https://www.york.ca/wps/portal/yorkhome/health/yr/covid-19/!ut/p/z1/jY_fCoIwFMafxQeQna2l83JYuc1kgWS2mxiFNiiVEC96-iS86SLr3H3w-4cZFCJTGMHV9vetY29jfpogpPkiRQiBaUpi4GD5oqEDNYRRoc3AF-OAzL-GcAMx-vfhWMH5BHFmc1Mp3tr75rqhaV53ZwFx9HY7_5TEhyRkEWKuQF1kDIYgIloYHAMsgQmoHchLvligkMKZmAmZHdfV8-t1Uua897ARbl9OA!/dz/d5/L2dBISEvZ0FBIS9nQSEh/#.YABONsVKipg)

The Shul members have overall been very compliant regarding the safety procedures, and Baruch Hashem, there have been zero transmissions since we have re-opened. The Shul has always been, and will continue to be, the safest place for all our members to serve Hashem.

At the same time, the Shul has been able to show compassion and know when relax certain stringencies, when it presents no increased health risk. We have also treated everyone as adults without being overly compulsive over adherence to safety rules.

The Shul has spared no effort to be as inclusive as possible, and, I feel, has been generally successful. The **overwhelming majority** of people are happy and eager to come to Shul and feel safe.

That being said, there is always the ongoing challenge of continuing to be vigilant, especially as the COVID numbers in Ontario are rising. We therefore, reiterate that all people attending the Shul be **especially careful** about:

- ENTERING WHEN SYMPTOM FREE
- WEARING APPROPRIATE FACE COVERINGS THAT COVERS YOUR NOSE & MOUTH
- STAYING SOCIALLY DISTANT AT ALL TIMES
- HAVING YOUR TEMPERATURE TAKEN REGARDLESS OF WHICH ENTRANCE YOU USE
- SANITIZE YOUR HANDS BEFORE & AFTER ENTERING THE BUILDING
- SANITIZING YOUR TABLE WHEN YOU LEAVE
- PROPER RESPECT FOR THE HOLINESS OF THE SANCTUARY, WHICH INCLUDES COMING ON TIME & NOT BRINGING IN CELL PHONES.

In addition, the Shul understands that there are congregants who prefer higher levels of safety precautions, which the Shul can not accommodate at the expense of overly taxing the vast majority of people.

To that end, starting **Sunday January Jan. 17**, we will be designating the VIP Fireside Lounge for the exclusive use of those people who feel more comfortable attending a prayer service with the highest safety standards possible. In addition to stricter enforcement of the above six safety rules, strict compliance regarding sign up and time arrival with zero exceptions will be in place. Attendance will be limited to only 8 people. We thank Louis Pillemer who will be monitoring all VIP attendees for compliance.

***Entrance to the VIP Fireside Lounge is only for those who have asked and received specific permission from Rabbi Michalowicz, and have their names posted by its entrance.***

This group will work similarly to the world NEXUS program, as people found in the lounge violating the extra safety measures, will no longer be permitted to attend the VIP Fireside Lounge service.

We hope that these newer procedures will encourage more people to attend and feel more comfortable when attending. Please contact me at [yossi@rogers.com](mailto:yossi@rogers.com) if you have any questions.

Safely Yours,  
Rabbi Yossi Michalowicz

January 25, 2021

Dear Community Member:

As rabbis we feel that it is our solemn responsibility to advise you of our very grave concerns about a new law that is in the final stages of development, Bill C-7,<sup>1</sup> which significantly and dangerously expands the legal definition of “medical assistance in dying” (MAiD). As it is currently written, Bill C-7 will make it far easier for those with mental or physical illnesses to be euthanized. By expanding this practice, it will also further pressure medical professionals into participating, despite objections for religious reasons or moral conscience.<sup>2</sup> We must emphasize that in all its forms medical assistance in dying is considered murder in Jewish law. The agreement of a patient to the termination of his or her life does not change the nature of what is the active taking of a person’s life.

Bill C-7 has passed the House of Commons but currently sits in the Senate. There is still time to make our voices heard and make a difference.

We have been advised by groups that have been actively involved with this issue that the most effective means of advocacy would be to email Senators who sit on the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs and ask them to consider adding specific amendments to Bill C-7 that will lessen the dangerous impact of the Bill. We are told that writing a personal letter with one’s unique feelings is preferable to a form letter, but we have included a sample letter drafted by *Physicians Together with Vulnerable Canadians*.

We have also included below the names of the relevant Senators who should be contacted.

<sup>1</sup><https://parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/43-2/bill/C-7/third-reading>

<sup>2</sup>Physicians who have questions about “effective referral” should consult their Rabbi for *halachic* guidance

One of Judaism's fundamental precepts is the value of human life. The Torah enjoins us to protect the weakest members of our society and the current COVID-19 pandemic has shown us the great lengths the entire world has gone to protect the most vulnerable amongst us. Yet, Bill C-7 endangers the lives of some of these very same vulnerable Canadians. We must voice our collective opposition and advise our elected officials that Canada is a compassionate nation and must extend that compassion to our fellow Canadians who are most vulnerable.

Yours sincerely,

*Rabbi Yoir Adler*

*Rabbi Messod Azoulay*

*Rabbi Avrohom Bartfeld*

*Rabbi Yisroel Bollag*

*Rabbi Eliezer Breitowitz*

*Rabbi Chanoch Ehrentreau*

*Rabbi Yacov Felder*

*Rabbi Shea Fuhrer*

*Rabbi Seth Grauer*

*Rabbi Binyomin Greenbaum*

*Rabbi Yechezkel Grysman*

*Rabbi Ovadya Haboucha*

*Rabbi David Kadoch*

*Rabbi Mordechai Kanner*

*Rabbi Yossel Kanofsky*

*Rabbi Mendel Kaplan*

*Rabbi Uri Kaufman*

*Rabbi Yaakov Kaufman*

*Rabbi Daniel Korobkin*

*Rabbi Chaim Dovid Kulik*

*Rabbi Baruch Lichtenstein*

*Rabbi Rafi Lipner*

*Rabbi Moshe M Lowy*

*Rabbi Uri Mayerfeld*

*Rabbi Yossi Michalowitz*

*Rabbi Yirmiya Milevsky*

*Rabbi Shlomo E Miller*

*Rabbi Yisroel Y Muller*

*Rabbi Yehuda Oppenheimer*

*Rabbi Yoseph Oziel*

*Rabbi Avraham Plotkin*

*Rabbi Avram Rothman*

*Rabbi Mordechai Scheiner*

*Rabbi Dovid Schochet*

*Rabbi Zev Spitz*

*Rabbi Chaim Strauchler*

*Rabbi Tzvi Sytner*

*Rabbi Mordechai Torczyner*

*Rabbi Asher Vale*

*Rabbi Yoseph Zaltzman*

*Rabbi Eliyahu Zrihen*

### **List of Senators to be Contacted Regarding Bill C-7**

The Senators on the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs will be key in getting amendments to the Bill. Their emails of committee members are:

mobina.jaffer@sen.parl.gc.ca  
denise.batters@sen.parl.gc.ca  
larry.campbell@sen.parl.gc.ca  
pierre-hugues.boisvenu@sen.parl.gc.ca  
Gwen.Boniface@sen.parl.gc.ca  
claude.carignan@sen.parl.gc.ca  
Brent.Cotter@sen.parl.gc.ca  
PierreJ.Dalphonde@sen.parl.gc.ca  
Renee.Dupuis@sen.parl.gc.ca  
Judith.Keating@sen.parl.gc.ca  
Kim.Pate@sen.parl.gc.ca  
scott.tannas@sen.parl.gc.ca

## **Draft Letter to Senators Regarding Bill C-7**

Dear Senator (insert name here):

As Canada and the world live in fear of death from the COVID-19 pandemic, we are reminded of the lengths to which public authorities can and should go to prevent death and to protect the common good.

Bill C-7 endangers the lives of vulnerable Canadians and does not protect the common good. This bill expands “medical assistance in dying” (MAiD) to virtually everyone who is sick and suffering in Canada, and will, if passed in its current form, make our country the world leader in administering death.

The shock of a sudden illness, or an accident resulting in disability, can lead patients into feelings of anger, depression, suicidality and guilt BUT with proper support and attention, these issues can resolve over time.

In Canada, MAiD has been deemed an essential service under the Canada Health Act but homecare and palliative care supports have not. This creates the conditions for cheap and easy death through euthanasia or assisted suicide. In fact, we live in a country where the wait time to see a psychiatrist in certain areas is 4-8 times longer than the 90-day waiting period proposed in the bill for those whose natural death is not considered “reasonably foreseeable”. As well, 70% of Canadians nearing the end of life still have no access to basic palliative care services.

I believe the government must prioritize supporting patients so that they have the basic requirements needed to live; not to facilitate their death as a response to their suffering.

I ask that only patients initiate MAiD discussions, and the doctor should never bring up as a treatment option (to avoid subtle patient coercion in the context of despair or suicidality).

I ask for stronger conscience rights from participating directly and indirectly in MAiD for our health care workers.

I ask for oversight mechanisms to ensure compliance with regulations, appropriate medical care has been provided to patient and no forms of abuse are detected before a lethal injection is administered.

There is too much at stake with this life ending legislation to not have safeguards for vulnerable Canadians.

Sincerely,  
(Your name and address and contact info)

**January 25, 2021**

Dear Senator,

As community rabbis, we write on behalf of ourselves and our Jewish communities to express our very grave concerns about Bill C-7 and the expansion of “medical assistance in dying” (MAiD). One of Judaism’s fundamental precepts is the value of human life. Indeed the current COVID-19 pandemic has shown us the great lengths that the Government of Canada and the entire world has gone to protect the most vulnerable amongst us. Yet, Bill C-7 endangers the lives of some of these very same vulnerable Canadians.

As rabbis, we have heard of tragic situations where the ill or aged are unduly pressured to end their lives. We hear from physicians about pressures they are facing to end the lives of their patients against their deeply held beliefs. And we hear from people who have mental or physical illnesses who would be best served by a health system that allocated resources to help support them live, rather than facilitate their death. As rabbis one of our main functions is counseling congregants some of whom are suffering from either physical or mental illness. As front line workers in this regard, we see firsthand how these vulnerable people may want to end their lives when they are at their lowest, but after counseling, many rebound to live happy and meaningful lives. The lives of these Canadians have value and we ask the Government of Canada to protect them.

We urge you to amend Bill C-7 to protect people from being preyed upon and to ensure that doctors are not required to participate if it violates their religious beliefs or moral conscience.

We recommend the following avenues for achieving these goals:

1. We ask that Bill C-7 be amended so that only patients initiate MAiD discussions, and the doctor should never bring it up as a treatment option (to avoid subtle patient coercion in the context of despair or suicidality).
2. We ask for stronger conscience rights for medical professionals to refrain from participating directly and indirectly in MAiD if they so choose.
3. We ask for meaningful care infra-structure to be accessible and provided for patients throughout their lives including medical, disability, home and social supports.
4. We ask for oversight mechanisms to ensure compliance with regulations, appropriate medical care has been provided to patient and no forms of abuse are detected before the lethal injection is given.





We would be happy to meet with you virtually to discuss this issue in further detail.

Canada has always been a compassionate nation. Compassion requires that we extend our hands to those in their moments of weakness, when they have given up on life. We ask that you extend that compassion to our fellow Canadians who are most vulnerable.

Sincerely,

*Rabbi Yoir Adler*

*Rabbi Messod Azoulay*

*Rabbi Avrohom Bartfeld*

*Rabbi Yisroel Bollag*

*Rabbi Eliezer Breitowitz*

*Rabbi Chanoch Ehrentreau*

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*Rabbi Yirmiya Milevsky*

*Rabbi Shlomo E Miller*

*Rabbi Yisroel Y Muller*

*Rabbi Yehuda Oppenheimer*

*Rabbi Yoseph Oziel*

*Rabbi Avraham Plotkin*

*Rabbi Avram Rothman*

*Rabbi Mordechai Scheiner*

*Rabbi Dovid Schochet*

*Rabbi Zev Spitz*

*Rabbi Chaim Strauchler*

*Rabbi Tzvi Sytner*

*Rabbi Mordechai Torczyner*

*Rabbi Asher Vale*

*Rabbi Yoseph Zaltzman*

*Rabbi Eliyahu Zrihen*