END OF LIFE:
A JOURNALIST’S PERSPECTIVE

Lisa Priest
Former Globe and Mail Reporter
Objectives

- To explain why reporters write the stories they do.

- What reporters hope to achieve with an end of life story.

- Why the goals of a clinician for a story may be different from those of a journalist.
Pull the Plug
Family goes to court to keep dad alive: 'He talks to us with his eyes'

'Thumbs-up' From Man On Life-Support Revives Family's Hope

Starved Alberta tot's parents appeal life-support ruling

A wife wants her husband kept alive at all costs

Top court to decide if docs can pull plug on life support
In your experience, how often is a patient kept alive when they have no brain function? Do they literally just keep living in their bed on a machine until old age eventually takes them? - Kevin
Three tips when dealing with reporters

- One-party consent. Expect to be tape-recorded
- Off the record: What it means
- Different stories have different formats
“Lessons from a $618,616 Death”

Bloomberg News

“We’re all caught in a machine...It’s not an evil machine but it’s one that moves forward."

- Amanda Bennett, Pulitzer-prize winning journalist whose husband died from a rare kidney cancer in 2007.