

## LAW AND MORALITY

Laws serve a practical purpose, such as governing property rights or regulating traffic.

Other laws reflect the moral values of the majority of society. But the relationship of laws to moral codes and standards can be controversial.

*Examples:*

Should it be illegal to help someone die if they are suffering from a terminal illness?

Should Canada consider capital punishment?

Should it be illegal for a parent to physically discipline their children?

Why does society regulate tobacco and alcohol, but consider marijuana illegal?

In a democratic society, the pressure on the government from groups of people will also result in changes to laws. Society became less tolerant of drinking and driving, and more recently cell phones while driving, resulting in increased penalties for these offences. Lobby groups (such as MADD) also influence lawmakers.

Can you think of any other current situations that are resulting in changes to the law



Read the case *R. v. Dudley and Stevens* on Page 17 of your text. What do you think?

