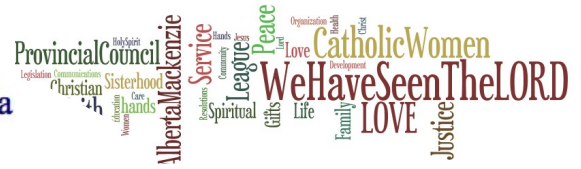




The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL



Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council  
**Legislation Standing Committee**  
**Communique #3**  
October 2014

Dear League Sisters,

This has been a busy summer in our Alberta Government. Premier Alison Redford stepped down amid a flurry of accusations, David Hancock took over the helm as acting Premier, and then there was the PC leadership race with Jim Prentice being voted in as party leader.

Under the new leadership, cabinet posts were swiftly changed, with additions and deletions to positions. The following is who's who as at September 30, 2014:

## **Alberta Ministers - September 2014**

<b>Ministries</b>	<b>Name</b>
Aboriginal Relations	Jim Prentice
Agriculture and Rural Development	Verlyn Olson
Culture and Tourism	Maureen Kubinec
Education	Gordon Dirks
Energy	Frank Oberle
Environment and Sustainable Resource Development	Kyle Fawcett
Finance	Robin Campbell
Health	Stephen Mandel
Human Services	Heather Klimchuk
Infrastructure	Manmeet Bhullar
Innovation and Advanced Education	Don Scott
International and Intergovernmental Relations	Jim Prentice
Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour	Ric McIver
Justice and Solicitor General	Jonathan Denis
Municipal Affairs	Diana McQueen
Seniors	Jeff Johnson
Service Alberta	Stephen Khan
Transportation	Wayne Drysdale

## Associate Ministries

Aboriginal Relations  
Asia Pacific Relations  
Persons with Disabilities

David Dorward  
Teresa Woo-Paw  
Naresh Bhardwaj

Presently 2 of the appointed ministers to the cabinet (Stephen Mandell & Gordon Dirks) as well as the Premier (Jim Prentice) are not MLAs. By-elections will be held on October 27, 2014 to determine who the MLA will be for the recent vacated ridings.

Please note that a new ministry was created for Seniors. It will be very interesting to see how this ministry will work towards issues facing seniors.

### Alberta

The fall session of Legislative Assembly originally slated to begin October 13<sup>th</sup> has been delayed to November 17<sup>th</sup> 2014.

The website to follow bills presented and their current status is: [www.assembly.ab.ca](http://www.assembly.ab.ca)

### Northwest Territories

Legislative Assembly will begin on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Website is <http://www.assembly.gov.nt.ca>

### Government of Canada

The fall session of Parliament began on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

Websites to follow bills presented and their current status are: [www.parl.gc.ca](http://www.parl.gc.ca) and <https://openparliament.ca/bills>

### Issues of concern / hot topics

- 2 Private member bills to allow Doctor-assisted suicide (currently shown as Dormant but not failed as yet, so keep writing, Sisters)
  - Bill C-582 Canadian Commission on Physician-Assisted Death; and
  - C-581 An Act to amend the Criminal Code (physician-assisted death).

If we do not tell the government that this is wrong and that we are against it, these bills will pass.

- It was recently reported that Prime Minister Harper did not feel that there is an issue regarding missing and murdered aboriginal woman. It is important that we voice our opinion that we know that there is an issue. Too many of these beautiful women are going missing or murdered without concern of some police agencies and government offices. Why this is the case is yet to be determined but action must be taken to locate the missing and to protect girls and women from going missing.
- Elizabeth May has a private members bill C-442 on Lyme Disease – (update currently with the Senate Committee)

- This enactment requires the Minister of Health to convene a conference with the provincial and territorial ministers responsible for health and with representatives of the medical community and patients' groups for the purpose of developing a comprehensive federal framework to address the challenges of the recognition and timely diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease.
- \*\*\*with this private member's bill, the provincial government needs to hear from us as to whether they should take action on this bill at a provincial level of Health Care\*\*\*
- Right for Life (from conception until natural death) is always important to us as Catholic women. Please continue to write the Federal government that abortion is wrong. Education is a key factor in that many people do not know that in Canada a fetus (infant in the womb) is not considered a life until delivered. Therefore, the fetus (infant in the womb) has no rights and can be legally aborted at any time prior to delivery. Many (including Catholics) are under the false information that we have the same laws on abortion as the United States.

#### **Important things to remember when writing / emailing the government**

- Email your City Councilor, MLA or MP; add a cc (copy) to the party leader (Mayor, Premier, or Prime Minister) and most importantly copy in (cc) the opposition party or parties. When the person you contacted sees that you have copied in their opposition and also his/her boss, it demands action on his/her part in the case that they will be asked about it on during "in session" meetings.
- When writing with reference to a Resolution passed at the appropriate level of the CWL, mention that you belong to the Catholic Women's League. Otherwise (unless you are the president of your council and have been directed by your members to write on behalf of the council) – you are writing on your own behalf. Your voice has power all on its own. Believe in yourself.

God Bless  
*Annamaria*