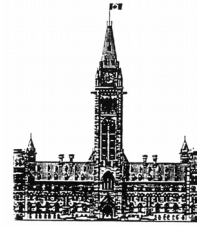


**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council**

**LEGISLATION
Communiqué #3**

One Heart, Once Voice, One Mission



Date: October 1, 2016
To: Diocesan Chairpersons of Legislation
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)
National Chairperson of Legislation (for information)
From: Betsy F., Provincial Chairperson of Legislation

Greetings Sisters in the League,

I hope you all had a fun and restful summer and return to League work full of energy and ideas. Two of the resolutions that passed at the 2016 National Convention in Halifax fall under the Legislation Standing Committee. Resolution 2016.04 Amend the Canada Health Act to Identify Palliative Care as an Insured Health Service, and Resolution 2016.05 Amend the Canada Health Act to include Home Care as an Insured Health Service. For both of these resolutions, we are being asked to write to the Prime Minister, the Health Minister and members of parliament urging them to provide palliative care and home care as insured services under provincial/territorial health acts.

Parliament resumed sitting on September 19, 2016. The complete calendar for the house of Commons can be accessed at: www.parl.gc.ca/housechamberbusiness/chambercalendar. Information about ongoing legislation can be found at: www.parl.gc.ca/LEGISInfo. To follow bills before the Alberta Legislative Assembly go to: www.assembly.ab.ca. There you will find information on how to contact your MLA as well as follow progress on bills before the Legislature. The Legislative Assembly currently stands adjourned and will resume sitting on October 31, 2016.

Regarding the Seniors' Advocate Initiative, a status report was sent out in August for councils to share with their parishioners. Councils are urged to continue with letter writing campaigns to MLAs asking that the Advocate be made completely independent of the Ministry of Health. We would like an amendment to the Health Act to include an independent Seniors' Advocate or a separate Seniors Act.

The new electronic annual reporting will begin this year. Councils will be receiving a package from National. Since this is new and there will probably be some hiccups, councils will be given the opportunity to file either electronically or with a hard copy. I urge all councils to embrace this new method of reporting and to report online. If you are afraid that you don't have the computer skills to perform this task, use it as an opportunity to invite some of the younger members of your parishes to assist you. This could turn into a recruiting tool!

May you be blessed in your work for God and Canada.