

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

**LEGISLATION
Communiqué #5**



Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call

Date: October 3, 2017
To: Diocesan Chairpersons of Legislation
CC: Parish Council Chairpersons of Legislation, Provincial Executive,
National Chairperson of Legislation
From: Linda VandenBerg, Provincial Chairperson of Legislation

MESSAGE:

Sisters in the League,

Nancy Simms is our National Chairperson of Legislation. She sends her regards to the new and returning provincial chairpersons of legislation. I would extend those regards to the diocesan and parish level legislation chairpersons. In her words, "The awesome power of this standing committee enables the League to collectively raise members' voices to change the earth!"

Nancy calls our attention to two of the resolutions that were passed this last August that fall under the legislation standing committee:

- Resolution 2017.03 Zero-Rated Status Under the Goods and Services Tax Provisions of the Excise Tax Act. We are asked to write letters to the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, with copies to local members of parliament (MPs), requesting the removal of the federal portion of tax from child safety products. Please see the full resolution, brief and action plan on the national web site:
<https://www.cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Convention-2017.03-ON02-GST-Ontario-Provincial-Council.pdf>
- Resolution 2017.04 Protection from Coercion of Conscience for Healthcare Professionals. Members are asked to write to the Prime Minister and Attorney general, with copies to local MPs, urging them to make it an offence under the Criminal Code for healthcare professionals to be coerced into performing or referring patients for procedures that are in opposition to their conscience. Again, see the full resolution, brief and action plan on the national web site:
<https://www.cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Convention-2017.04-BC-and-Yukon-Coercion.pdf>

Nancy also reports:

That three motions presented by legislation were carried at the 2017 national convention, of which we are to encourage diocesan councils to promote education of members on the third motion: "to educate and support the statement by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops dated July 7, 2017, On the Passage of Bill C-16 Regarding Gender Identity and Gender Expression as well as the papal teachings on the central tenet of contemporary gender theory". The information on this bill can be found at

https://lop.parl.ca/About/Parliament/LegislativeSummaries/bills_ls.asp?source=library_prb&ls=C16&Parl=42&Ses=1&Language=E

Also from Nancy Simms Legislation Communique on the Palliative Care Petition

“The 2017 League petition, requesting the federal government to specifically identify hospice palliative care as a defined medical service covered under the Canada Health Act, was distributed across Canada this spring. Completed petitions with a total of 32,741 signatures were delivered to Member of Parliament Cathy McLeod (Kamloops-Thompson-Cariboo). The petition will be presented in the House of Commons this fall. Due to the impressive number of signatures received, Cathy McLeod is looking into the viability of developing a private members’ bill Thank you to the councils and members for gathering the signatures. This one gesture in legislation demonstrates how we should never be afraid to raise our voices for all that is good. Members can and will change the world!”

Newsworthy items:

- October 1 is International Day of Older Persons and Seniors were recognized at the Legislature on September 29 of this year, 2017.
- Maryann Ryan was sworn in as Alberta’s ninth Ombudsman and second public interest commissioner, July 4, 2017, in the legislature, the first woman to serve in either of these positions.
- The Legislative Assembly of Alberta resumes October 30, 2017.

Bills to watch:

Federal Bill C-45 Cannabis Act: the text of the bill in its latest form can be found at the following website, <http://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/42-1/bill/C-45/first-reading> It is important to know what this bill entails and how it will affect Canadians of all ages. This bill has reached its second reading and has been referred to Committee in the House of Commons. Your member of parliament should hear how you feel about the legalization of marijuana and if you have questions, they deserve to be answered.

Federal Bill C-277 Framework on Palliative Care in Canada Act: passed May 30, 2017 by the House of Commons and “provides for the development of a framework designed to support improved access for Canadians to palliative care.” The full text of this bill can be found at: <http://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/42-1/bill/C-277/third-reading>

Senior’s Advocate Update: Dr. Kwon See, Senior’s Advocate biography can be found on our provincial web site. <https://www.cwl.ab.ca/SARJan2017.pdf>
The 2016/2017 Annual Report activities and recommendations from the current Seniors Advocate Office (established September 1, 2016) is expected in the Fall of 2017. Please check the website below for this report. There was no report as of this communique. In checking the list of bills before the legislature, there were no bills passed or introduced dealing with making the Senior’s Advocate an office independent of government.
<https://seniorsadvocateab.ca/reports>

If anyone has any questions regarding the legislation committee, please send them my way.

For God and Canada.

Linda VandenBerg, Alberta MacKenzie Provincial Legislation Committee Chair