



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

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Legislation Report
69th Annual Provincial Convention
Westlock, Alberta (June 3-4, 2016)

Madam President,

Since last reporting to you, work continued on getting appointments with our Members of the Legislative Assembly. We are pleased to tell everyone that, on Tuesday April 12, 2016, President Cathy B. and Vice President and Spiritual Development Standing Committee Chair Judy L. joined me for a meeting with The Honourable Sarah Hoffman, Minister for Health, and the Honourable Lori Sigurdson, Minister for Seniors and Housing, and their staff. The meeting was most cordial. A report on this meeting will be available on the Provincial website: www.cwl.ab.ca.

The Legislation committee has really focused on Physician Assisted Death. First reading of Bill C-14 took place on April 14, 2016. The Bill was adopted by the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights on May 11, 2016 and was subsequently presented to the House of Commons on May 12, 2016. Third Reading and referral to the Senate was held on May 31, 2016. The vote in the House of Commons was 186 yeas to 137 nays. The Bill now goes to the Senate where the whole process of debate and readings begins again. Both the House of Commons and the Senate must agree on the wording of the Bill before it achieves Royal Assent. Bill C-14 is slated as per the order of the Supreme Court of Canada to become law on June 06, 2016, but it is looking like the government will not meet that deadline. Clearly as seen by the result of the vote in the House of Commons, there are many MPs with concerns about Bill C-14. If The Bill does not receive Royal Assent, the law as presented by the Supreme Court of Canada will stand.

There is still time to press our MPs to make sure this Bill is as restrictive as possible. Please continue to write letters and make phone calls expressing your concerns to the Federal Government regarding Bill C-14. The full Bill as it stands now can be read at: www.parl.gc.ca/LegisInfo/BillDetails. Please note that the complete title of the Bill is: Bill C-14 An Act to amend the Criminal Code and to make related amendments to other Acts (medical assistance in dying).

The Diocesan Annual Reports sent in showed excellent work for God and Canada. Please take time to read the Legislation Report in the Convention Book and share it with your councils.

This concludes my report.

Betsy F.
Provincial Legislation Standing Committee Chair