



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

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**Legislation Report
Mid-Winter Meeting Leduc
January 22-24, 2015**

Now that the Provincial and Federal Elections have been held and we have new governments in place, there is something to report on.

The citizens of Canada elected a Liberal Federal Government. Now is the time to watch to see if they will follow up on campaign promises and to challenge them when they don't seem inclined to honour those promises. So far the Federal Government has followed up on its commitment to cut taxes for middle income families and an inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal Women has also begun. On the issue of Physician Assisted Dying, the Government appealed for a six month extension on drafting legislation. The legislation was supposed to be ready for February 2016. Due to the length of the federal election campaign, it was felt that the Government needed more time. The Supreme Court of Canada has agreed to a four month extension. Legislation on Physician Assisted Dying must now be ready by the middle of May 2016. We must not let up on expressing our concerns regarding this issue and how it may affect vulnerable persons. Continuing with letter writing campaigns and personal contact with our MPs is vitally important. Pressing the Government on the importance for more funding for palliative care across the country is a good place to start.

Provincially, the Government's promise of a review of royalties in the oil industry is ongoing. Unfortunately, it appears there is a delay on the results of the review and it will not be ready until later this month. Bill 6, The Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Worker's Act has caused quite a bit of controversy. Although Bill 6 has passed, there will be amendments to it. Members of the Legislative Assembly are fanning out across the Province to speak with those in the farming community to gather more input and to offer reassurances that the bill will not negatively affect the family farm.

The government of the Northwest Territories is not in session until February 18, 2016. The website for the NWT Government lists tackling the high cost of living, delivering more effective education and training, and improving community wellness and safety – to name just a few of their priorities for the upcoming session.

A letter requesting a meeting with Premier Rachel Notley and Health and Seniors Minister Sarah Hoffman was sent, and we received a letter from her office stating that she was not available to meet with us at this time.

This concludes my report,

Betsy F.,
Provincial Legislation Chair