



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



Legislation Chair  
Communique # 4  
DATE: May 22, 2020

TO: Diocesan Chairpersons  
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)  
CC: National Chairperson of Betty Colaneri (for information)  
FROM: Sharon Malec Provincial Chairperson of Legislation

**Our lives are a Gift from GOD.**  
**BILL C-7**

We are living in troubled days where it appears that we will have a new 'NORMAL'.

On February 24, 2020, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops issued a response to Bill C-7: an Act to amend the Criminal Code that will allow change to Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD). It was given first and second reading in the House of Commons on Monday, February 24, 2020.

In the response, the Bishops of Canada expressed their concerns with Bill C-7, which seeks to expand the eligibility criteria for euthanasia and assisted suicide by removing the "reasonable foreseeability of natural death" criterion currently in the Criminal Code, and by loosening some of the existing "safeguards" allowing patients whose death is "reasonably foreseeable" to waive final consent to receiving euthanasia by making an advance directive.

In addition to voicing their strong opposition to the proposed legislation, the Bishops called upon all Canadians to oppose the Bill and make their voices heard. They likewise urged members of Parliament to acknowledge the giftedness of life as an inalienable right not to be taken away by others, the importance of compassion for the ill and the dying, as well as the responsibility to protect the most vulnerable.

When we look at this Bill, we need to think of our own personal convictions as committed Catholics. Currently, Bill C-7 has only received its' second reading in the House of Commons. If it passes through the House of Commons, Bill C-7 will then go through three readings in the Senate prior to receiving Royal Assent. **We still have time to write letters, speak with our Member of Parliament, and email the government to express our concerns about this bill.** Letters are postage free. You can telephone your Member of Parliament at their constituency office. I encourage you to contact them.

Three questions/actions that you may want to do as a committed Catholic:

1. Have you reviewed your will?
2. Do you have a 'Power of Attorney' prepared?
3. Do you have a personal directive prepared?

An excellent resource to help you with the questions is found on our Alberta Mackenzie Provincial web site [www.cwl.ab.ca](http://www.cwl.ab.ca). There you will find 2 documents under the Christian Family Life Chair – Communique #3, April 2020. These can guide you in your decision making. Your priest, mentor or a trusted friend may be able to help you find someone who will be able to direct you to the appropriate place so that you can make sure that everything is done according to your wishes. Make sure that you are not being pushed into something that is not your wish. Elders need to make sure that they are being taken care of with love and respect.

Remember to talk to a confidant about matters that are important to you.

Sharon Malec  
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Legislation Chair  
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