

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Nova Scotia Provincial Convention 2018  
Legislation Oral Report**

Keeping track of Legislation, especially legislation that supports active resolutions is important. The best way to stay informed is to access Hansard, which is the government website that lists the current Bills that are before the House of Commons and the Provincial Legislature. Hansard also gives the progress of these Bills at both levels of government. Armed with this knowledge we can express an informed opinion and let our voices be heard.

Please refer to my February Legislation Communique for the status of some of the Bills we have been tracking in the House of Commons. I suggest that it would be a worthwhile exercise for you to check if the status of any of these Bills have changed and to determine where further action is required.

Today, I want to focus on a few of the current Bills that are before the Nova Scotia Legislature. While there are many issues that affect us, I have chosen the Bills concerning youth mental health.

**Bill 62- Cayley's Law**, specifically Clause 63. This requires the Secretariat to establish a committee to focus on mental health issues of youth and support systems for youth. Passed it's First Reading on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**Bill 44--Mental Health Court Expansion Act.** An act to require the Expansion of the Mental Health Court Program. Passed Second Reading October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**Bill 88—An Act to Develop Computer Application for Mental Health Resources.** Passed Second Reading March 21, 2018.

As you can see from the above Bills that are in progress on the provincial level, there are various departments involved in youth mental health issues. (sometimes referred to as silos of government departments). Since so many departments are involved, it seems that ultimately no one is in charge and that no one takes on youth mental health issues as their number one priority.

I would like to challenge councils to get involved in youth mental health issues and to make it your number one priority. Maybe this is timely topic for a resolution.

Two years ago, I asked our President Peggy if I could be Legislation Chairperson, not because I thought it was an easy job but because I did not know much about what it involved and I wanted a challenge. Fast forward. to today.

I have learned a lot about Legislation but realize there is always much more to learn. There are many issues that demand our attention. I ask that you continue to voice your concerns through letters, petitions, phone calls and personal visits with politicians.

This is my last report as a member of the Provincial Executive. Little did I know that when I accepted an appointment on the Diocesan level, in 2005, that I would end up here. The Spirit works in mysterious ways. May you also be open to the movement of the Spirit and respond with joy to God's Call to service.

Respectfully Submitted: Toosje Van de Sande

