

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Nova Scotia Provincial Convention 2017
Legislation Oral Report**

Can you make a difference ? Will your opinion really count ? Will politicians really listen ? The answer to these questions is yes. Our collective voices count. First of all you need to know what's going on so you can voice an informed opinion.

Learning about Bills before the House of Commons, in Ottawa and the Legislative Assembly, in Halifax is the first step. To find out about the status of these Bills access Hansard which is the printed record of the progress of Bills at both levels of government. To understand this process you should study the document "How a Bill Becomes Law " which is available from National.

Status of Some Bills in the House of Commons

Bill C-277—passed third reading May 9th, 2017 and has now been sent to a committee of the House. This Bill supports Resolution 2016.4. Amend the Canada Health Act to Identify Palliative Care as an Insured Health Service.

Bill C-268—Protection of Freedom of Conscience Act for health care providers re: medical assistance in dying. Passed first reading May 5th, 2016.

Bill S-201—An Act to Prohibit and Prevent Genetic Discrimination, which was introduced by, now retired Senator, James Cowan, received royal assent May 4th, 2017.

Bill C-37 and Bill C-324—both supporting Resolution 2005: The Illegal manufacturing and Trafficking of Crystal Methamphetamine. Bill C-37 has received royal assent and Bill C-324 passes its first reading.

Bill C-233-- National Strategy for Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias Act. Passed third reading Feb. 3Rd, 2017.

Bill C-257-- Amend the Food and Drug Act, would require the sugar content of prepackaged products to appear on the label. Has passed its first reading.

Bill C-313—National Strategy on Advertising to Children Act. Passed first reading October 5th, 2016.

Bill C- 228—Child health Protection Act—to Amend the Food and Drug Act which would prohibit food and beverage marketing directed at persons under 13 years of age. Passed its second reading December 5th, 2016 and has been referred to Committee.

There are also many Bills of interest before the Nova Scotia Legislature. I will cover some of them in my Fall Communique. Or better yet, you can get a head start by checking the Nova Scotia Legislature website for the status of Bills.

Talk is not enough, action gets results. Even if your council has no Legislation Chairperson, you as an individual or as a council can still let your voices be heard. I suggest that you pick an issue that you are passionate about; get informed and start writing letters to your MP, your MLA and to the Prime Minister. A great resource titled *Effective Letter Writing Guide*, available from National will give you lots of ideas on how to write effective letters.

May the Holy Spirit continue to guide you as you as you respond to God's Call to Action.

Respectfully submitted:
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