

**Nova Scotia Provincial Council  
Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Legislation Communique # 5**

*Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call*

**To:** Diocesan Counterparts (**For distribution to all parish councils**)  
**From:** Toosje Van de Sande, Nova Scotia Provincial Legislation Chairperson  
**Date:** February 17, 2018  
**Copied:** Provincial President, Peggy MacNeil and Executive (for information)  
National Chairperson, Nancy Simms (for information)

As many councils have started a new CWL year, I want to welcome the new legislation chairpersons. You have accepted a challenging position as there is much work to be done. Parliament is a busy place. It is up to us to keep track of legislation being enacted and how this legislation addresses the concerns expressed in our resolutions. We need to continually look at legislation from the perspective of our Catholic beliefs. Great things can be accomplished when we take action on legislation. The task can be daunting but you are not expected to take action on every piece of legislation. Pick one or two items that you feel passionate about and let your voices be heard.

Nancy Simms, National Legislation Chairperson, in a memo sent to all parish council chairpersons of legislation, in October 2016, gave us a very concise job description. I believe it warrants repeating here.

1. Our job as legislation chairperson begins after resolutions have been adopted at National or Provincial levels.
2. Our task is to research if there have been government Bills introduced that deal with the topic.
3. Check to see at what stage the Bills are at in Parliament
4. Need to decide whether the Bill supports or opposes any League resolutions.
5. Encourage members to contact government to voice support or concerns about the Bill.
6. Contact members of Parliament through personal meetings, e-mails, letters, telephone calls, postcards, and petitions.
7. If there is no legislation existing or pending regarding a resolution, then we must create awareness and encourage members to urge government to enact legislation.

**Good News:** Nancy Simms informed us that the following Bills passed. Our hope is that the League's voice made a difference,

- **Bill C-233\_National Strategy for Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias Act** was passed by the Senate and House of Commons and received Royal Assent on June 22, 2017.
- On November 8, 2017, the House of commons Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights reversed the course of the governments efforts to repeal section 176 of the *Criminal Code* by voting to retain the provision( with amendments) . Section 176 prohibits activity that obstructs or interferes with religious officials seeking to perform

their religious duties.

**Bill C-51** will no longer attempt to remove protections in law for clergy and worship services.

Nancy Simms also brought to our attention that the following private members' Bills, which support League resolutions, still need action.

- **Bill C-254 An Act to Amend the *Excise Tax Act* (baby products)** is in its first reading. Members are asked to contact government officials to request support for the Bill, especially with the adoption of Resolution 2017.03 Zero-Rated Status Under the Goods and Services Tax Provisions of the *Excise Tax Act* for Child Safety Products.
- **Bill C-282 An Act to Amend the *Excise Tax Act* (extra-energy-efficient products), Bill C-283 An Act to Amend the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* (electronic products recycling program) and Bill C-287 An Act to Amend the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* (nanotechnology)** are all in first reading and support Resolution 2006.04 Renewable Energy and all other League resolutions that seek protection of the environment.
- **Bill C-313 National Strategy on Advertising to Children** is in its first reading and supports communications resolutions seeking protection in media for children and families.
- **Bill C-249 An Act to Amend the *Public Health Agency of Canada Act* (National Alzheimer Office)** is in its first reading and proposes the establishment of a national Alzheimer office within the Public health Agency of Canada. This would support the League's ongoing call for compassionate care for the sick.
- **Bill C-350 An Act to Amend the *Criminal Code* and the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (trafficking and transplanting human organs and body parts)** is in its first reading and supports the League's human trafficking resolutions.

Bills that have changed status ( as of February 15, 2018 ) but still need members support and action.

- **Bill C-277 Framework on Palliative Care in Canada Act** received Royal Assent Dec.12,2017.
- **Bill C-211 Federal Framework on Post-traumatic Stress Disorder Act** passed second reading in the Senate, Feb. 6, 2018.
- **Bill C-243 National Maternity Assistance Program Strategy Act** has had its second reading in the Senate Dec.6, 2017.
- **Bill S228 Child Health Protection Act** passed its second reading in the House of Commons and has been referred to committee, Feb. 14, 2018.
- **Bill S-225 An Act to Amend the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (substances used in the production of fentanyl)** was passed by the Senate with amendment at the third reading. Waiting for Royal Assent.
- **Bill S-5 An Act to Amend the *Tobacco Act* and the *Non-smokers Health Act* and to make consequential amendments to other Acts** was passed by the Senate with an amendment and passed its second reading in the House of Commons and sent to Committee Jan.30, 2018.

Two items of interest that were sent to the Diocesan Legislation Chairpersons for distribution to members were:

1. Interview with Fr. Deacon Andrew Bennett discussing Religious freedom, summer jobs program and Trinity Western University Law School.
2. Conservative Party of Canada-Minority Report on the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage on Systemic Racism and religious Discrimination.

In addition to keeping track of Legislation in the House of Commons, we also need to keep abreast of the status of Bills before the provincial Legislature.

### **Talk Is Not Enough—Action Gets Results**