



Nova Scotia Provincial Council
Catholic Women's League of Canada
Legislation Communique #2
One Heart, One Voice, One Mission
(Together We Serve)

To: Diocesan Counterparts (**For distribution to all parish councils**)
From: Toosje Van de Sande, Nova Scotia Provincial Legislation Chairperson
Date: November 27, 2016
Copied: Provincial Executive (for information)
National Chairperson, Nancy Simms (for information)

There were lots of ideas exchanged at the provincial/diocesan workshop, in Mabou, in October. We discussed why we should get involved in Legislation; what we can do; and what are the priorities of this committee. The conclusion reached was that it is up to the chairperson to make this committee interesting for the members.

What Can We Do ?

Get Involved

We want a country that is safe to live in, where life is sacred from conception to natural death and where the citizens are at peace and accepting of each other. We need to bring our Catholic perspective to the discussion on prospective legislation, at all levels of government.

Become Informed

Our first priority is to become informed about the issues so that we can inform our members and empower them to seek ways to bring about change.

- Study the guide *How a Bill Becomes Law* (available on the National website) www.cwl.ca
- Monitor websites, both federal and provincial for the status of the Bills.
Federal: www.parl.gc.ca Provincial: www.nslegislation.ca
- Collect items from other media sources to share with your members.

Carry Out Action Plans

In her November 21st communique, Nancy Simms, National Chairperson of Legislation, listed action taken on previous resolutions, as well as, resolutions on which we still need to take action. Attached is her communique, for your information and action.

Letter Writing

I encourage you to study the CWL brochure *Personal Writing Letter Guide*, (available on line from National), before you start writing letters to government officials. Also make available to your members names and addresses of their government representatives. Why not invite the women of your parish, to come together, over a cup of tea, and start this process of writing letters.

Be Vocal

Speak in person, if possible, with your member of Parliament or member of the Legislature. Why not pair up and pay him/her a visit at his/her constituency office and make your views known.

We must remember that talk is not enough. Opposition will not be overcome simply by talking about the problem. We must act and be prepared to monitor any action taken, study replies received and watch for results. We can all learn by doing. We are not appointed chairpersons of this committee because we have all the answers. We are appointed to them so we can learn about them and in turn pass on what we have learned, to our members. I wish you much joy in discovering the strength you have within you, to affect change in Legislation.

Talk Is Not Enough---Action Gets Results