

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Manitoba Provincial Council

Legislation

Sep 12, 2022



Communiqué 1

Catholic and Living It

TO: Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils)
Diocesan Chairpersons of Legislation
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)
CC: National Chairperson of Legislation (for information)
FROM: Paulette Borgfjord, Provincial Chairperson of Legislation

“Politics, according to the Social Doctrine of the Church, is one of the highest forms of charity, because it serves the common good.” (Pope Francis)

Greetings sisters! Welcome to a new CWL year as we head into fall and are still attempting to avoid Covid but also getting back to our new normal.

Our national chairperson of legislation is Glenda Carson. Her biography can be found on the League’s website at cwl.ca/general-information/meet-our-executive/.

Federal Government

Parliament is in recess until September 19.

In her recent communique Glenda Carson expressed concern about the overturning of *Roe vs Wade*. Her communique in its entirety on the CWL National website.

“With the question arising about what effect the change in American law could have on legislation in this country, there has been a strong call by pro-choice advocates to maintain the unrestricted access that currently exists here. Therefore, it seems a crucial time to look at the current state of Canadian abortion regulation and legislation from the perspective of protecting the right to life for unborn children.

*Canada is the only democracy in the world with no federal abortion legislation (criminal law). **The Canada Health Act** requires that abortion be classified as medically necessary in all provinces and that they provide services with full funding and accessibility. Failure to do so can result in withholding federal transfer payments to a province, as experienced by the New Brunswick provincial government when it refused to provide insured services for a community-based abortion clinic. This is a noteworthy federal government influence on provincial autonomy to regulate abortion services. It is also a stark difference from the usual federal hands-off approach to how provinces decide to use federal transfer payments for other health care services, such as palliative care.*

The enactment of federal legislation to protect the unborn is of significant importance, requiring strong voices of advocacy and transparent information about abortion to Canadians. The American experience shows that laws can change. Together with your diocesan counterparts, please encourage members to continue their important work of being well-informed voices of advocacy for the legal protection of unborn children and to continue to be a counterbalance to the hopelessness that so often drives so many pregnant women to consider abortion.”

Important Federal Government Websites are:

1. **House of Commons Parliamentary Business:** ourcommons.ca/en/parliamentary-business.
This website contains the parliamentary calendar and descriptions of the work of members of parliament
2. **LEGISinfo:** parl.ca/LegisInfo/Home.aspx?ParliamentSession=43-2
This website provides information on bills being considered in both the House of Commons and Senate.
3. **Department of Justice:** justice.gc.ca/eng/
This website offers information on federal law pertaining to a range of issues such as family law, Indigenous rights and privileges and contains the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. While legislation itself does not usually arise from the department of justice, information on this website often provides background information on laws that need to be considered when deliberating on a bill.

Manitoba Government

The House adjourned on June 1, 2022. The 4th Session of the 42nd Legislature will reconvene on Wednesday, September 28, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

Manitoba Websites:

1. For Legislative business: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/legislature/index.html>
2. To read sessional bills in their entirety: <https://web2.gov.mb.ca/bills/42-4/b203e.php>

Thank you to all who have chosen to sit as legislation chair.

May God bless and keep you.

Respectfully submitted.

Paulette Borgfjord