

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Manitoba Provincial Council

LEGISLATION



DATE: September 1, 2017

Communique # 1

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

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

Welcome back. I hope you are refreshed and ready to get busy.

Let me introduce myselfmy name is Paulette Borgfjord and I have been a member of the Notre Dame CWL Council in Selkirk for 25+ years. I have served on the Parish Executive in many capacities including President, Treasurer, Community Life, and Legislation. I have also sat on the Diocesan Council and Provincial Council as Legislation Chair. As you can see I gravitate toward Legislation. I am delighted to be able to once again actively participate. If you require assistance with this chair please feel free to contact me at pborgfjord@shaw.ca

If you are new to this position and feel overwhelmed by the number of Bills and Issues, just pick one the really interests you and your council and is important to the CWL. Follow the Bill through its 3 readings. Encourage your council members to write letters to MLAs and MPs.

At the CWL National Convention in Charlottetown, Archbishops LeGatt and Gagnon addressed those of us from Manitoba regarding **Bill-34 THE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN DYING (PROTECTION FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND OTHERS) ACT** which is currently before the Manitoba legislature. The bishops seek the support of all Catholics (including CWL) to write to their MLA, Premier Brian Pallister, and Honourable Kelvin Goertzen, Minister of Health, Seniors and Active Living) expressing support of Bill-34 and asking that they each support the passage of the Bill into law.

In addition to individual letter writing, there is opportunity to participate in an online petition so as to double our efforts in support of Bill-34 by going to the website, <http://www.canadiansforconscience.ca/manitoba>. By filling in the fields of your particulars and postal code, and selecting "Find Politician", your local MLA will be automatically selected and he would receive notice that you have signed the online petition,

Please remember that you must not reference the CWL when writing to government because you are writing on these issues as private individuals with Catholic values.

Manitoba Government website is: www.gob.mb.ca/legislature. The 2nd Session commences sitting on Oct 4, 2017.

Below I have listed some Federal Bills that could be followed:

Bill C-214 An Act to Amend the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (appeals) and Bill C-255 An Act to Amend the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (appeal process and for temporary resident visa applicants) have both gone through first reading in the House of Commons (House) and would provide a right of appeal to foreign nationals whose application for permanent resident visa has been denied. These bills support many League resolutions regarding refugees. Letters should be sent to members of parliament (MPs), the minister of immigration and the prime minister (PM).

Bill C-216 National Perinatal Bereavement Awareness Day Act has had first reading in the House. This bill supports many League pro-life resolutions including 2005.09 Support for Families Experiencing Perinatal Loss. Write letters supporting this bill to MPs and the PM.

Bill C-243 National Maternity Assistance Program Strategy Act is in committee report stage in the House. The bill supports many League pro-life resolutions. Write letters to the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities, Sixth Floor, 131 Queen Street, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6 or e-mail HUMA@parl.gc.ca.

Bill C-254 An Act to Amend the *Excise Tax Act* (baby products) has had first reading in the House. This bill would remove the Goods and Services Tax from all baby products and would support many League pro-life resolutions. Write to MPs, the minister of finance and the PM.

Bill C-257 Amend the *Food and Drugs Act* (sugar content labelling) has had first reading in the House and would require the sugar content of prepackaged products to appear on the label. Write letters of support to MPs, the minister of health and the PM (archived Resolution 2002.08 Labelling on Prepackaged Foods).

Bill C-233 National Strategy for Alzheimer's Disease and other Dementias Act is in committee with the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology and needs support as it addresses implementing a national strategy for health care for those afflicted. This supports the League's ongoing call for compassionate care for the sick. Postage free mail may be sent to any senator at [Name of Senator], the Senate of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A4.

Bill C-326 An Act to amend the *Department of Health Act* (drinking water guidelines) is in second reading in the House and would conduct a review of safe drinking water standards in member countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. This supports Resolution 2005.06 Developing Countries and Water. Write letters to MPs, the minister of health and the PM.

The Federal Government website is: www.parl.ca. Information on Bills can be found at LEGISinfo. The House of Commons commence sitting on September 18, 2017.

Remember each voice and letter is important and May God bless you

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Manitoba Provincial Council

LEGISLATION



DATE: October 24, 2017

Communique # 2

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

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

Greetings ladies!

We have recently celebrated Thanksgiving and probably gave thanks for living in a democracy. Part of the democratic process is Legislation, where the laws that structure our society are created. We are a big part of that process. **Come to our Resolutions and Legislation Workshop on November 25 and find out how this process works. (Watch for our poster)**

Provincial Legislation:

Bill-34 THE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN DYING (PROTECTION FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND OTHERS) ACT is currently before the Manitoba legislature. Please continue to write to your MLA, Premier Brian Pallister, and Honourable Kelvin Goertzen, Minister of Health, Seniors and Active Living) expressing support of Bill-34 and asking that they each support the passage of the Bill into law.

In addition to individual letter writing, there is opportunity to participate in an online petition so as to double our efforts in support of Bill-34 by going to the website, <http://www.canadiansforconscience.ca/manitoba>. By filling in the fields of your particulars and postal code, and selecting "Find Politician", your local MLA will be automatically selected and he would receive notice that you have signed the online petition,

Please remember that you must not reference the CWL when writing to government because you are writing on these issues as private individuals with Catholic values.

Manitoba Government website is: www.gov.mb.ca/legislature. The 2nd Session commenced sitting on Oct 4, 2017.

Manitoba Legislature Scheduled Sittings to end of 2017:
Oct 23-26; Oct 30-Nov 2, Nov 6-9; Nov 21- 30; Dec 4-7

Federal Legislation:

Bill C-277, An Act providing for the development of a framework on palliative in Canada had Second Reading in the Senate on September 26, 2017 and was referred to the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology. Their next scheduled meeting is October 25, 2017.

Bill C-233 National Strategy for Alzheimer's Disease and other Dementias Act received Royal Assent on June 22, 2017

Bill C-243 National Maternity Assistance Program Strategy Act Senate has progressed to first reading in the Senate. The bill supports many League pro-life resolutions. Please continue to write letters to the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities, Sixth Floor, 131 Queen Street, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6 or e-mail HUMA@parl.gc.ca.

The Federal Government website is www.parl.gc.ca. Information on Bills can be found at LEGISinfo.

The House of Commons Scheduled Sitting for 2017 dates:
Oct 23-Nov 10; Nov 20-Dec15

Looking forward to meeting you on November 25 and may God bless your continued work in Legislation.

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Manitoba Provincial Council

LEGISLATION



DATE: February 15, 2018

Communique # 3

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

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

Greetings. We are slowly making our way through a very cold and cloudy winter. Thank you to all who attended the Resolutions and Legislation Workshop in November.

In response to a question put forward at the workshop: What happens to bills when Parliament dissolves? *All Chamber activity ceases with dissolution, and all incomplete business is terminated, including government bills and Private Members' business. A list of these items may be found in a document called the **Status of House Business at Dissolution**, which is published shortly after dissolution is proclaimed.*

When Parliament is **prorogued** (delayed), the House is adjourned. All government bills that have not received Royal Assent cease to exist. In order for government bills to be proceeded with in the new session, they must be reintroduced as new bills or they may be reinstated, if the House adopts a motion to this effect.

Provincial Legislation:

Bill-34 THE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN DYING (PROTECTION FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND OTHERS) ACT received Royal Assent on November 10, 2017. This Act comes into forces on the day receives royal assent.

Federal Legislation:

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.

Both these bills have been in first reading for a while. If they are of personal interest to you, write a letter or send an e-mail to remind your MP that you would like to see these bills move forward.

Bill C277 Framework on Palliative Care in Canada Act received Royal Assent on December 12, 2017. With regards to the bill receiving Royal Assent:

- 1) The minister must initiate the consultation within six months after the day on which this Act comes into force.
- 2) The Minister of Health must prepare a report setting out the framework on palliative care and cause the report to be laid before the House of Parliament within one year after the day on which this Act comes into force.
- 3) Within five years after the day on which the report in 2) is tabled in Parliament, the Minister of Health must prepare a report on the state of palliative care in Canada

Bill C-243 An Act respecting the development of a national maternity assistance Program strategy remains in Second Reading in the Senate.

On November 8, 2017 the House of Commons Standing Committee of Justice and Human rights reversed the course of the government's efforts to repeal section 176 in the Criminal Code of Canada, voting to retain the provision with some amendments. Bill C-51 will no longer attempt to remove protections in law for clergy and worship services.

I would encourage all members to read National Chairperson of Legislation, Nancy Simms' article (Winter issue of the League Magazine) **on Mental Illness and Legislation.**

The Federal Government website is www.parl.gc.ca. Information on Manitoba bills can be found at LEGISinfo.

Our MLAs and MPs work hard on our behalf. I would encourage you to send emails or letters acknowledging their efforts.

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Manitoba Provincial Council

LEGISLATION



DATE: September 4, 2018

Communique # 4

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

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

Welcome back! I am sure everyone has been baked by the heat and smoked by the fires. We should continue to pray for the people affected by the fires and the drought. Autumn is an amazing time of year with the crisp air, the blaze of colours and the rewards of the harvest.

The Manitoba Provincial Council met with the Manitoba Provincial Government on August 9, 2018. We had a very productive meeting with The Honourable Brian Pallister, Premier, Honourable Kelvin Goertzen, Minister of Health and Honourable Ron Schuler, Minister of Infrastructure. The Premier thanked us for our work and our Resolutions. As part of the meeting a brief description of the Resolution as given by the presenter and then two questions were asked of the government; i.e. Will the government be acting on the resolution?

The following Resolutions were presented:

Provincial

- 2017.01 Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) and Environmental Sensitivities (E&H)
- 2016.01 Extending Coverage of Insulin Pumps and Supplies to Manitoban of All Ages (E&H)
- 2016.03 Environmental Responsible Solutions for the Collection and Disposal of Grain Bags and Agricultural Waste Products (E&H)
- 2015.01 Youth Engagement in Canadian Democracy and Governance (E&H)
- 2014.02 HZ (herpes zoster) Vaccine Coverage under Manitoba Health for persons 60 years and older (E&H).
- 2013.02 Efficient/Effective Modes of Transportation of Supplies to Norther/Remote Communities (CL) *
- 2013.03 Emergency Communications and Cellular Services for southern Manitoba (CL) **
- 2013.05 Coverage of Psychologist Services in Private Practice under Manitoba Health Benefits (L)
- 2011.04 removal of the Retail Sales Tax on Healthcare and Hospice Facilities (L)

National

- 2016.04 Amend the Canada Health Act to Identify Palliative Care as an Insured Health Service (L)
- 2015.01 Increased Early Access and Intervention to Children and Youth Mental Health Services (E&H)

*In an August 31, 2018 statement, the Premier announcement an agreement has been reached regarding the Churchill Rail Line between the federal government and a new ownership group. He stated in his announcement: “We are hopeful the repair of the rail line can occur as soon as possible so that service can be resumed before freeze-up. However, we want to reassure the people of Churchill and the surrounding northern communities that we have already made the financial commitments and logistical arrangements necessary to ensure propane resupply for the winter.”

** The Manitoba government has awarded a tender for the replacement of the province’s public safety communications service to Bell Mobility. This new digital two-way mobile radio system will provide expanded coverage over a more secure network and improve the safety of our first responders.” The new equipment will replace the outdated FleetNet system used by public safety organizations such as fire, ambulance and police services, and the very high frequency (VHF) radio system operated by Manitoba Sustainable Development and used by conservation officers and forest firefighting crews. Public safety organizations will rely on this service to remain safe while protecting the lives of Manitobans. The new equipment will include radios with GPS, which can track the location of first responders to improve their safety. Advanced radio encryption will ensure police operations are secure and the equipment will be compatible with other systems outside of Manitoba to enable co-ordination during emergencies.

The House of Commons reconvenes on September 17, 2018

The Legislative Assembly of Manitoba reconvenes on October 3, 2018

Our MLAs and MPs work hard on our behalf. I would encourage you to send emails or letters acknowledging their efforts.

Please read Betty Colineri, our new National Legislation Chairperson’s report in the Fall Issue of the League Magazine.

I look forward to seeing you at our Resolutions and Legislation Workshop on November 17, 2018

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Manitoba Provincial Council

LEGISLATION



DATE: October 28, 2018

Communique # 5

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

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

Greetings. The days are getting shorter and soon winter will be upon us. Before we know it we will be preparing Christmas.

Under Private Members' Motions — M-151 (sponsored by Gord Johns, MP for Courtenay — Alberni, British Columbia) has been placed on the parliamentary agenda for October 29

National strategy to combat plastic pollution

That, in the opinion of the House, the government should work with the provinces, municipalities, and indigenous communities to develop a national strategy to combat plastic pollution in and around aquatic environments, which would include the following measures: (a) regulations aimed at reducing (i) plastic debris discharge from stormwater outfalls, (ii) industrial use of micro-plastics including, but not limited to, microbeads, nurdles, fibrous microplastics and fragments, (iii) consumer and industrial use of single use plastics, including, but not limited to, plastic bags, bottles, straws, tableware, polystyrene (foam), cigarette filters, and beverage containers; and (b) permanent, dedicated, and annual funding for the (i) cleanup of derelict fishing gear, (ii) community-led projects to clean up plastics and debris on shores, banks, beaches and other aquatic peripheries, (iii) education and outreach campaigns on the root causes and negative environmental effects of plastic pollution in and around all bodies of water.

I will follow this motion and hopefully it will move through parliament on a timely basis.

On October 17, 2018, as Canada became the second country in the world to fully legalize the use of marijuana for recreational use with *Bill C-45, the Cannabis Act*. This act amends the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, the Criminal Code* and other acts.

The act establishes serious criminal penalties for those who sell or provide cannabis to youth under the legal age as well as new offences and strict penalties for those who use youth to commit a cannabis offence. The act also prohibits packaging, labelling and promoting cannabis in a way that makes it appealing to youth and selling it through self-service displays or vending machines.

The *Cannabis Act* allows adults subject to provincial or territorial restrictions to:

- Consume cannabis in locations authorized by local jurisdictions.
- Possess up to 30 grams of dried legal cannabis in public or share 30 grams of dried legal cannabis with other adults.
- Grow up to four cannabis plants per household (not per person) for personal use by licenses seeds or seedlings from a licensed supplier.
- Make legal cannabis-containing products at home, such as food and drinks, provided that dangerous organic solvents are not used in making them.

Important things you need to know:

- You must be of legal age to buy, possess or use cannabis.
- Cannabis possess several health risks, especially for youth and young adults.
- Cannabis can impair your ability to operate vehicles or equipment safely.
- Drug-impaired driving by cannabis or any other drug remains illegal in Canada.
- Whether you're leaving or coming to Canada it is illegal to take cannabis across the Canadian border.
- Access to cannabis for medical purposes will continue to individuals who are authorized by their healthcare practitioner.
- Cultivators, producers and packagers of cannabis products are required to obtain a cannabis license from the Canada Revenue Agency before production and a license from Health Canada.
- Consumers purchasing cannabis products are responsible for paying the applicable GST/HST.
- Consumers can confirm that they are purchasing legally produced cannabis products by verifying that there is a cannabis excise stamp on their product. There are different colours for each province and territory on product labels.
- The younger you are when you begin cannabis use, the more often and the longer you use it, the bigger the impact on your brain.
- Cannabis use affects the way the brain functions at any age, impacting attention, memory and learning.
- Studies show that cannabis smoke contains many of the same harmful substances as tobacco smoke. It can damage your lungs and can cause bronchitis-like symptoms, coughing and wheezing.
- Law enforcement can currently detect drug-impaired driving using Standard Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) and Drug Recognition Expert evaluation (DRE).
- On June 21, 2018 new legislation strengthening impaired driving laws came into force making it easier for police officers to detect drug-impaired driving.
- The Royal Canadian Mounted Police developed the "Introduction to Drug Impaired Driving" course enhancing the current SFST curriculum to train officers on the signs and symptoms of drug impairment. As of April 2018, there are over 13,000 trained SFST officers across Canada and 833 certified DREs. It is expected that Canada will train more than 7,000 new SFST officers over the next three years. The RCMP and its provincial partners also have a goal of training approximately 500 additional DRE-certified police officers over the next five years.
- The federal government launched the nationwide "Don't Drive High" campaign to educate Canadians about the safety and legal risks of drug-impaired driving.
- Cannabis can be addictive and cause serious harm to your health, work, social life, school work and financial future.

- One in three people who use cannabis will develop a problem from using it. Approximately one in 10 people who use cannabis will develop an addiction to it. This statistic changes to one in six for people who started using cannabis as a teenager.

Information on the legalization and regulation of cannabis can be found on the Government of Canada website **Canada.ca/cannabis**.

Amendments to the Manitoba Highways Traffic Act:

- Cannot be transported except in storage area (i.e. trunk)
- Prohibits consumption in any motorized vehicle
- 24 hour suspension if impaired

I look forward to seeing you at our Resolutions and Legislation Workshop at the Archbishop's Residence, 151 de la Cathedrale Ave on November 17, 2018, 9:30 – 3:30 pm

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Manitoba Provincial Council

Legislation

February 14, 2019



Communiqué #6

Care For Our Common Home

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
ATT:

Greetings. We are almost through this cold, snowy and sunless winter and we have survived. It was nice to see a good turnout to our Day of Celebration. Thank you to those who attended our Resolutions and Legislation Workshop in November.

Manitoba Legislature

The House adjourned on December 6, 2018. The 4th Session of the 41st Legislature will reconvene on Wednesday, March 6, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.

While not currently sitting the Government does still have news releases, examples below:

- A research report on sexual exploitation that will guide the Tracia's Trust strategy to help vulnerable young Manitobans, Families Minister Heather Stefanson announced today.
The report recommendations include:
- The provincial government is undertaking a review of the current youth justice system in Manitoba and its connections to the child welfare system, with the aim of ending cycles of crime for at-risk youth.

To access News Releases:

<https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?month=1&year=2019&day=01&bgnG=GO&d=>

Electoral Boundaries

Boundaries are reviewed every 10 years to ensure effective representation for all Manitobans. The Manitoba 2018 Electoral Divisions Boundaries Commission submitted its final report establishing provincial electoral boundaries in December 2018. New boundaries go into effect for the next provincial general election, set for October 6, 2020. Any byelection before the general election will be held under current boundaries.

The following link will take you to information regarding boundary changes as well as name changes to some ridings: <https://www.electionsmanitoba.ca/en/Resources/Maps>

Federal Government

In Communique No 5 I had mentioned Motion 151 - A National Strategy to Combat Plastic Pollution (put forward by BC MP, Gord Johns). This Motion was originally put forward on October 24th and was approved unanimously. On December 5, 2018 the motion to create a permanent, dedicated, and annual funding for community led clean-up projects was carried.

A *motion* is a formal proposal by a member to do something. *Motions* are the basis of the group decision-making process. They focus the group on what is being decided. Generally, a *motion* should be phrased in a way to take an *action* or express an opinion.

A useful tool for following parliamentary business is Hansard. The *Debates* (also known as *Hansard*) provide a substantially verbatim account of what is said in Parliament. They have been officially recorded since the 1870s ... <https://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/35-2/house/hansard-index>.

Please remember our MPs and MLAs in your prayers. They often have difficult choices to make on our behalf.