

You may write to provincial government about this resolution as a private citizen; you may state you are a CWL member, but you cannot state you are writing on behalf of a CWL council, nor can you write to government using League letterhead.”

Legislation

Winnipeg/Sacred Heart of Jesus - Virden

Resolution 2011.04 Removal of the Retail Sales Tax on Healthcare Hostel and Hospice Facilities

- Whereas** Currently Retail Sales Tax is charged on healthcare hostel and hospice facilities; and
- Whereas,** The cost of these facilities add a financial burden to the outpatient and caregivers using them; and
- Whereas,** The federal government does not charge Goods and Services Tax on the use of these facilities; therefore, be it
- Resolved,** That Manitoba Provincial Council of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada in 2011 annual convention assembled, urge the Government of Manitoba to remove the Retail Sales Tax on healthcare hostel and hospice facilities.

BRIEF Removal of the Retail Sales Tax on Healthcare Hostel and Hospice Facilities

Currently, the Retail Sales Tax is charged at healthcare hostel and hospice facilities. The Retail Sales Tax (RST) is a seven (7) percent tax applied to the retail sale or rental of most goods and certain services in Manitoba. Section 4(1) (a) (i) of the Retail Sales Tax, Taxable Services, states that “Except as otherwise provided in this section and the regulations, the following services are taxable: (a) the provision of lodging, whether or not a membership is required, except lodging for a continuous period of at least one month ...” (Government of Manitoba)

The cost of lodging at healthcare hostel and hospice facilities is one of several financial burdens to rural outpatients and caregivers using these facilities, and the RST is an additional burden when the facility is used.

The federal government does not charge Goods and Services Tax (GST) on the cost of lodging at these healthcare hostel and hospice facilities. Lennox Bell Lodge, a hospice service affiliated with the Health Sciences Centre and Cancer Care Manitoba, is one such example of a healthcare hostel and hospice facility that does not charge GST. (Health Sciences Centre)

Removing the Retail Sales Tax on healthcare hostel and hospice facilities would alleviate some of the financial burdens faced by rural outpatients and caregivers using these facilities. We urge the Government of Manitoba to address this additional burden by removing the Retail Sales Tax from healthcare hostel and hospice facilities, irrespective of the time spent at such facility.

WORKS CITED Removal of the Retail Sales Tax on Healthcare Hostel and Hospice Facilities

1. Canadian Cancer Society Manitoba Division, *Access to Cancer Services in Manitoba*, May 10, 2011 <http://www.ccanceraction.ca/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/Access-To-CancerServices-Manitoba.pdf>

2. Government of Manitoba, The Retail Sales Tax Act, *Taxable Services*, May 10, 2011
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/finance/taxationtaxes/retail.html>
3. Government of Manitoba, The Retail Sales Tax Act, *Taxable Services*, January 19, 2011.
<http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/ccsm/r130e.php>
4. Health Sciences Centre, Lennox Bell Lodge, May 2011
<http://www.hsc.mb.ca/lennox/>
5. Health Sciences Centre, Lennox Bell Lodge, February 15, 2011
<http://www.hsc.mb.ca/lennox/information.htm>

ACTION PLAN Removal of the Retail Sales Tax on Healthcare Hostel and Hospice Facilities

1. Write letters to the Premier, Minister of Finance, and a copy to MLA, urging the Government of Manitoba to remove the retail sales tax on lodging at healthcare hostel and hospice facilities, irrespective of the time spent at such facilities.
2. Encourage councils to discuss and educate members on RST as related to healthcare hostel and hospice facilities and the financial burden to those person(s) using these facilities.