

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Manitoba Provincial Council**

**Legislation**

**Feb 28, 2022**



**Communiqué 7**

***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)*

As we enter this Lenten period and slowly work our way out of Covid restrictions, let us remember to be kind and to respect to one another.

**Federal Government**

On December 16, 2021, the Prime Minister in his mandate requested Chrystia Freeland, the Finance Minister to “introduce amendments to the Income Tax Act to make anti-abortion organizations that provide dishonest counselling to pregnant women about their rights and options ineligible for charitable status.”

Even though these amendments have not yet come before parliament we can still voice our concerns to our local MPs and the Minister of Finance as they could directly affect organizations such as Crisis Pregnancy Centre and all the services they provide to women in crisis.

You can also email your concerns directly to the Minister of Finance : [Chrystia.Freeland@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Chrystia.Freeland@parl.gc.ca) or mail postage free to:

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland  
Minister of Finance  
Ottawa, Ontario,  
Canada K1A 0A6

## **Bill S-203 – An Act respecting a federal framework on autism spectrum disorder**

### Federal framework

2 (1) The Minister of Health must develop a federal framework on autism spectrum disorder.

### Measures to be provided

(2) The framework must identify measures to provide

- financial support for autistic persons and their families, including the establishment or expansion of tax benefits as required;
- support for caregivers of autistic persons;
- a national research network to promote research and improve data collection on autism spectrum disorder;
- a national public awareness campaign to enhance knowledge and understanding about autism spectrum disorder;
- online resource on best practices to support autistic persons, their families and their caregivers; and
- mechanisms to ensure accountability in the use of federal funds for autistic persons and their families.

## **Manitoba Provincial Government**

In session as of March 1, 2022

### **Bill 203 - The Buffer Abortion Protest Zone Act (Received 1<sup>st</sup> Reading)**

- This Bill establishes *The Abortion Protest Buffer Zone Act*. Access zones are created for clinics and facilities that provide abortion services and for service providers.
- Certain activities are prohibited within these zones. For example, a person must not attempt to persuade any other person to refrain from accessing abortion services; perform acts of disapproval; or continuously or repeatedly observe people.
- Certain activities are prohibited on school sites and within 50 metres of school sites. For example, a person must not attempt to persuade any other person to refrain from accessing abortion services; or perform acts of disapproval.

Please pray for peace in the Ukraine, the lives of those lost and the safety of its citizens.

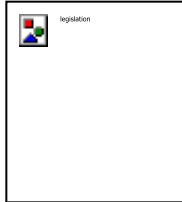
Respectfully submitted

Paulette Borgfjord

The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
**Manitoba Provincial Council**

**Legislation**

Sep 10, 2021



**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

Greetings sisters! We start a new CWL season as we head into autumn and are still navigating our way through the ever changing restrictions. I pray that it will soon come to an end.

Our new 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/](http://cwl.ca/general-information/meet-our-executive/).

**Federal Government**

Parliament has been adjourned with an election date of September 20. Please exercise your right and vote....know the candidates in your constituency and what they stand for.

In her communique Glenda has provided the following information:

1. **House of Commons Parliamentary Business:** [ourcommons.ca/en/parliamentary-business](http://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](http://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/](http://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**

Manitoba's premier has resigned and Kelvin Geortzen is the interim premier until a new leader is chosen on October 30, 2021. Many Bills have been tabled including controversial Bill C64

Thank you to all who have chosen to sit as legislation chair and to the councils that have continued to pass on legislative matter without a chair.

Glenda Carson has reminded us of Pope Francis' quote:

*"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)*

May God bless and keep you safe.

Respectfully submitted.

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Manitoba Provincial Council**

**Legislation**

**Nov 30, 2020**



**Communiqué 5**

***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: \_\_\_\_\_

*“The question is not how to survive, but how to thrive with passion, compassion, humor and style”—Maya Angelou*

Dear Sisters,

It is the season of Advent and we have again reached Code Red. As we await the Christmas celebrations we also await a time when we can all meet again.

**Federal Government**

**Bill C-7**

*An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying)* has passed second reading in the House of Commons and has now completed its public hearing before the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs.

“Bill C-7 would allow assisted death for Canadians who are not dying, by removing the requirement that a person’s death must be ‘reasonably foreseeable’ in order to be eligible for assisted suicide and euthanasia. The bill establishes two streams of eligibility: those whose natural death is foreseeable, and those whose natural death is not foreseeable. For those whose death is reasonably foreseeable, Bill C-7 would remove some key safeguards that were established in 2016, such as a 10-day reflection period between the request and the hastened death, and the requirement that a person is able to consent at the time of the hastened death. The bill also sets additional conditions for hastened death for those who are not dying. . . . . The bill specifies that mental illness alone cannot make someone eligible for assisted death” (Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, “Bill C-7 to expand Medical Assistance in Dying”)...as reported by Betty Conaneri in her Communiqué 11

**It is urgent that we continue to voice our concerns with our MPs and the Prime Minister’s Office.**

## **Bill C-9**

- This bill will give aid of businesses, charities and not-for-profit organizations struggling to make rental payments. Bill C-9 *An Act to amend the Income Tax Act (Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy and Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy)* sponsored by deputy prime minister and minister of finance, received royal assent on November 19, 2020. The subsidies will support some of those hardest hit by COVID-19.

## **Manitoba Government**

Province Launches New Training and Recruitment Initiatives to Support And Protect The Disability Services Sector

- > The Manitoba government is introducing new training and recruitment initiatives to help ensure agencies that serve Manitobans with disabilities have adequate staff, while also creating employment opportunities.
- > Manitobans interested in working with adults with intellectual disabilities in a variety of roles, such as helping with daily household tasks, supporting life-skills development or providing companionship, can apply immediately at [www.envoyy.ca](http://www.envoyy.ca).

This is a reminder to please read our National Legislation Chair's Communiqué 12 and the accompanying Fact Sheet on Bill C-7 and Euthanasia in Canada. She has passed on a lot of important information to us.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel watch over us and guide us safely through this storm.

Respectfully submitted

Paulette Borgfjord

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Manitoba Provincial Council**

**Legislation**

**May 28, 2020**



**Communiqué 4**

***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: \_\_\_\_\_

*“The question is not how to survive, but how to thrive with passion, compassion, humor and style”—  
Maya Angelou*

Dear Sisters,

Since my last communique our country has been set on a difficult journey. We are in this together. Our politicians have had to come together for the greater good and put aside differences to plan on how our country and its citizens can come through this difficult time.

I pray that you and your families are safe and well.

**Federal Government**

As reported in our National Chairperson of Legislation’s communique the federal government has put forward two bills that received royal assent:

- Bill C-14 *A second Act respecting certain measures in response to COVID-19*. The short title for the bill is *COVID-19 Emergency Response Act, No. 2*. The bill received royal assent on April 11, 2020.
- Bill C-15 *An Act respecting Canada emergency student benefits (coronavirus disease 2019)*, The short title is *Canada Emergency Student Benefit Act*. The bill received royal assent on May 1, 2020.

The prime minister placed a ban on assault-style firearms and some gun components. The ban enhances Bill C-71 *An Act to amend certain Acts and Regulations in relation to firearms*, which received royal assent on June 21, 2019. The federal government will introduce legislation as soon as possible as well as implement a buy-back program to remove these firearms safely. The government will also look at options that will work with provincial and territorial governments to ensure the safety and security of Canadians.

**Manitoba Government**

The following statement was released by Premier Brian Pallister – Manitoba in coordination with Premier John Horgan – British Columbia and Premier Sandy Silver – Yukon

“We are pleased the federal government is looking at a sick leave program that protects people and businesses, and we look forward to advancing this initiative. Paid sick leave is crucial for the safe restart of our economy. A national paid sick leave program would ensure people can stay home from work when they are sick without fear of not being able to pay their bills. It will also give the public confidence that the businesses and workplaces they visit are safe.”

May Our Lady of Good Counsel watch over us and guide us safely through this storm.

Respectfully submitted

Paulette Borgfjord



**The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Manitoba Provincial Council**

**Legislation**

**February 29, 2020**



**Communiqué 3**

*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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Province of Manitoba**

The Manitoba website can be reached at: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/government/index.html>

Check out the Province's News Releases at:

<https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?month=1&year=2020&day=01&bgnG=GO&d=>

This site outlines initiatives introduced by the Provincial Government. The following is an initiative listed on the website:

**Government Invests In Granny's House To Help Keep Families Together.**

The government is investing \$400,000 to launch Granny's House, a one-year pilot project to provide short-term, culturally safe and community-led care. Granny's House will provide temporary respite care for children, so their parents can deal with whatever challenges and stresses they're facing in their daily lives. By providing trusted temporary support, Granny's House will help reduce the number of children who become involved with the child welfare system.

Staff for the home will be hired from the community and will include a full-time granny (housemother) and several aunties (support workers) to help the housemother in providing care for the children, as well as a case manager who will work with community partners and help connect families to other needed resources.

## **Federal Government**

### **C-7 -An Act to amend the Criminal Code** (medical assistance in dying)

Introduction and First Reading in the House of Commons on February 24, 2020

#### **SUMMARY**

This enactment amends the Criminal Code to, among other things,

- (a) repeal the provision that requires a person's natural death be reasonably foreseeable in order for them to be eligible for medical assistance in dying;
- (b) specify that persons whose sole underlying medical condition is a mental illness are not eligible for medical assistance in dying;
- (c) create two sets of safeguards that must be respected before medical assistance in dying may be provided to a person, the application of which depends on whether the person's natural death is reasonably foreseeable;
- (d) permit medical assistance in dying to be provided to a person who has been found eligible to receive it, whose natural death is reasonably foreseeable and who has lost the capacity to consent before medical assistance in dying is provided, on the basis of a prior agreement they entered into with the medical practitioner or nurse practitioner; and
- (e) *permit medical assistance in dying to be provided to a person who has lost the capacity to consent to it as a result of the self-administration of a substance that was provided to them under the provisions governing medical assistance in dying in order to cause their own death.*

#### **Resolution 2018.03 Framework for Palliative Care**

Please continue to monitor the *Framework on Palliative Care in Canada* and the office of palliative care. The framework is available at <https://www.canada.ca/en/health>

Information on Parliament can be found at: <https://www.ourcommons.ca/en/parliamentary-business>

*Let us remember to include our Government officials in our prayers at this time of difficulty and instability in our country.*

Respectfully submitted  
Paulette Borgfjord

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Manitoba Provincial Council**

**Legislation**

**October 29, 2019**



**Communiqué 2**

***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: \_\_\_\_\_

We have cast our ballots and the results are in... a Conservative majority in Manitoba and a Liberal minority in Ottawa. Now everyone must get back to work.

**Province of Manitoba**

The House sat from September 30, 2019 until October 10, 2019. Bills were reinstated from the previous Session before the election was called. The House will sit again November 19 until December 5.

The Manitoba website can be reached at: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/government/index.html>

**Federal Government**

The Prime Minister visited the Governor General on October 29, 2019 to express his intention to form government. This should be an interesting time in Ottawa and we pray that all parties will work together for the good of our country.

I will follow federal bills to see if any that pertain to CWL interests are reinstated.

Information on Parliament can be found at: <https://www.ourcommons.ca/en/parliamentary-business>

Paulette Borgfjord

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Manitoba Provincial Council**

**Legislation**

**September 30, 2019**



**Communiqué 1**

***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: \_\_\_\_\_

*“We believe in just and peaceful sharing, but how is that to be achieved? We have gained for ourselves a certain measure of security for the aged and sick and helpless, yet poverty is still with us. So are regional disparities.*

*These are all problems of government, and therefore your problems.....When you take an interest in your community, when you form an opinion in politics, and when you cast your vote, you are part of government.”....*

....The Honourable Eugene A. Forsey, author of How Canadians Govern Themselves

Welcome back. I hope you enjoyed your summer and are ready to get down to work.

Let me introduce myself ....my name is Paulette Borgfjord and I have been appointed as Legislation Chair of Manitoba Provincial Council. If you require assistance with this chair please feel free to contact me at [pborgfjord@shaw.ca](mailto:pborgfjord@shaw.ca)

We are now in an election period both provincially and federally. When a session ends all pending legislation dies on the Order Paper and committee activity ceases.

Bill C-418 An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying) has only passed first reading in parliament and will therefore die on the Order Paper.

The Manitoba election is scheduled for September 10<sup>th</sup>.

The writ has not been dropped for the federal election, but traditionally it is scheduled to take place on or before October 21, 2019. The October 21 date is determined by the fixed-date procedures in the Canada Elections Act but the Act does not preclude the Governor General of Canada from issuing the writs of election at an earlier date.

I encourage you to make yourself aware of your candidates and how they stand on issues important to you as well as the League.