

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Manitoba Provincial Council

Legislation

April 14, 2023



Communiqué 3

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

Federal Government

Bill S-203 Federal Framework on Autism Spectrum Disorder

Received Royal Assent on March 30, 2023

Tabling of federal framework

3 (1) Within 18 months after the day on which this Act receives royal assent, the Minister of Health must cause to be tabled in both Houses of Parliament a report setting out the federal framework on autism spectrum disorder developed under section 2

Publication

(2) The Minister must publish the report on the website of the Department of Health within 10 days after the day on which the report is tabled in Parliament.

Report

4 (1) Within five years after the day on which the report referred to in section 3 is tabled in Parliament, the Minister of Health must cause to be tabled in each House of Parliament a report that sets out

- **(a)** the measures from the federal framework that have been implemented and their effectiveness in supporting autistic persons, their families and their caregivers; and
- **(b)** with respect to any measure included in the federal framework that was not implemented, the reason it has not been implemented and the timeline for its implementation.

BILL S-253 – Currently in 2nd reading in the Senate

An Act respecting a national framework for fetal alcohol spectrum disorder

Provincial Government

The Manitoba government in its Budget of 2023 has included a \$120-million infusion to the Pharmacare program, including extending coverage for insulin pumps for eligible adults with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes.

Our Provincial Council had presented to Government in 2016 **Resolution 2016.01 Extending Coverage of Insulin Pumps and Supplies to Manitobans of All Ages.**

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Manitoba Provincial Council

Legislation

Feb 01, 2023



Communiqué 2

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)

Chilly greetings! We are starting February and are well on our way into hopefully leaving winter and CoVid behind.

Federal Government

Bills originating in both the Senate and House are listed at: <https://www.parl.ca/legisinfo/en/bills>

Bill S-203 Federal Framework on Autism Spectrum Disorder

The Minister of Health must develop a federal framework on autism spectrum disorder.

The framework must identify measures to provide

- (a) timely and equitable access to screening and diagnosis for autism spectrum disorder;
- (b) financial support for autistic persons and their families, including the establishment or expansion of tax benefits as required;
- (c) support for caregivers of autistic persons;
- (d) a national research network to promote research and improve data collection on autism spectrum disorder;
- (e) national campaigns to enhance public knowledge, understanding and acceptance of autism spectrum disorder while accounting for intersectionality, in order to foster inclusivity;
- (f) sustained, accessible and culturally relevant resources, available online and elsewhere, on best available evidence based information to support autistic persons, their families and caregivers, including information on effective treatments and ineffective or harmful treat

This Bill has been introduced many times. It has now passed 3 readings in the Senate. It has completed 2 readings in the House and is in the Committee Stage. Let us hope that it finally reaches enactment.

Bill S-248 – Received 1st reading in the Senate, currently in second reading

An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying)

This enactment amends the Criminal Code to

(a) permit an individual whose death is not reasonably foreseeable to enter into a written arrangement to receive medical assistance in dying on a specified day if they lose the capacity to consent to receiving medical assistance in dying prior to that day; and

(b) permit an individual who has been diagnosed with a serious and incurable illness, disease or disability to make a written declaration to waive the requirement for final consent when receiving medical assistance in dying if they lose the capacity to consent to receive medical assistance in dying, are suffering from symptoms outlined in the written declaration and have met all other relevant safeguards outlined in the Criminal Code.

BILL S-253 – Currently in 2nd reading in the Senate

An Act respecting a national framework for fetal alcohol spectrum disorder

This enactment provides for the development of a national framework designed to support Canadians with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, their families and their caregivers.

Manitoba Government

Bill 202 - This Bill establishes *The Abortion Protest Buffer Zone Act*. Received 1st reading Nov 22, 2022

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.

For Legislative business: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/legislature/index.html>

To read sessional bills in their entirety: <https://web2.gov.mb.ca/bills/42-4/b203e.php>

May God bless and keep you.
Respectfully submitted.

Paulette Borgfjord

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