

The Catholic Women's League
Manitoba Provincial Council
71st Annual Convention
June 9, 2019

ORAL REPORT
LEGISLATION

Paulette Borgfjord, Chairperson

I have attended Executive Meetings, attended and participated in the February Provincial Day of Celebration, attended the Winnipeg Diocesan 2019 convention.

As Legislation chair I have had the opportunity to develop and present the legislation portion of the Resolutions & Legislation Workshop. The experience with this workshop has lead me to believe that continued education in navigating Hansard and the various websites both Provincially and Federally would be beneficial.

With the fall Federal Election I would encourage all members to make themselves familiar with the candidates in their ridings and the candidates stand on issues.

The Manitoba government has indicated an early election call is possible. Electoral 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.

Bill C-418 An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying)

This enactment amends the Criminal Code to make it an offence to intimidate a medical practitioner, nurse practitioner, pharmacist or any other health care professional for the purpose of compelling them to take part, directly or indirectly, in the provision of medical assistance in dying. It also makes it an offence to dismiss from employment or to refuse to employ a medical practitioner, nurse practitioner, pharmacist or any other health care professional for the reason only that they refuse to take part, directly or indirectly, in the provision of medical assistance in dying.

This Bill received First Reading October 30, 2019, was debated again on May 29. Debate time ran out and was placed at the bottom of the Order of Precedence; therefore, *On or after Thursday, June 13, 2019* — Resuming consideration of the motion — Bill [C-418, An Act to amend the Criminal Code \(medical assistance in dying\)](#), be now read a second time and referred [to the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights](#), if it passes Second Reading.

The bill is in danger of dying because it will probably not reach the Senate by the time Parliament is dissolved for the election. David Anderson, MP for Cyprus Hills-Grasslands Saskatchewan presented this Bill and has announced will not be running in the next election.

A communique was received yesterday. Alex Schadenberg of Euthanasia Prevention Coalition has initiated an e-petition in support of Bill C-418. The petition is available on the Euthansia Prevention website epcc.ca and at Parliament of Canada, <https://petitionsourcommons.ca/en/> This petition closes June 16, 2019.

Have a wonderful summer.



The Catholic Women's League
Manitoba Provincial Council

70th Annual Convention
June 3, 2018

**ORAL REPORT
LEGISLATION**

Paulette Borgfjord, Chairperson

My report is on page 58 of the Convention Book.

At the Winnipeg Diocesan Convention in Gimli, the League was thanked by James Bazan, MP for Selkirk-Interlake for our many petitions, letters and e-mails. He commented that support from faith-based organizations is needed and appreciated by MPs how share the same values. We were encouraged to keep up our work. So, when the Spirit moves you grab pen or keyboard and make your view known.

Bill C277 Framework on Palliative Care in Canada Act received Royal Assent on December 12, 2017. Health Canada appears to be moving towards the first steps to forming this framework with the following statement: "...is asking that Canadians share their ideas, innovations and lived-experience related to palliative care. Your input will help the government develop a framework on palliative care for Canadians. Through this consultation, Health Canada intends to engage Canadians on their long-term vision of palliative care in Canada, focusing on specific elements mentioned in the new Law: A Framework on Palliative Care in Canada, including access, education and training, and supports for caregivers. Using discussion forums and shared stories, we hope to identify gaps as well as solutions and bright ideas we can then share across the country. The consultations will open May 7, 2018 and will close July 13, 2018. You can provide your feedback online or provide written response. Please follow the link for additional information: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/programs/consultations-palliative-care.html>

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

The following bills have been in first reading since early 2017. 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 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.

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.

I received an email from our National Legislation Chairperson later Friday afternoon regarding the intention of Bill C-404 "to decriminalize payment for sperm or ovum donation and for surrogacy.

The Summary of the Bill states:

"This enactment amends the Assisted Human Reproduction Act to decriminalize payment for sperm or ovum donation and for surrogacy. It specifies that, subject to section 9, a sperm or ovum donor must be at least 18 years of age, must have the capacity to consent to the donation and must not be coerced into donating. It also specifies that a surrogate mother must be at least 21 years of age, must have the capacity to consent to becoming a surrogate mother and must not be coerced into becoming a surrogate mother.

The enactment also amends the Act to allow for the purchase of other human reproductive material."

If this Bill passed into law it would mean that sperm, ova, and human genes as well as a women's womb will be able to be bought and sold with the purpose of creating designer babies. Everything involved in the creation of a new human life will be "on sale".

Bill C-404 is in direct contradiction to our many pro-life resolutions as well as resolution 2011.01 Prohibition of Practices re Human Reproductive Material.

Please send this information to your diocesan counterparts and encourage all members to contact their MP and the Prime Minister to express concern of this Bill and urge them to vote against it. Also, to contact MP Anthony Housefather requesting him to withdraw Bill C-404. (If you are no longer the provincial legislation chair, please forward this email to your new chairperson).