



**Nova Scotia Provincial Council  
Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Legislation Communique #4  
*Care for our Common Home***

**To:** Diocesan Counterparts (**For distribution to all parish councils**)  
**From:** Mary ten Brinke, Nova Scotia Provincial Legislation Chairperson  
**Date:** February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020  
**Copied:** Provincial President Glenda Carson and Executive (for information)  
National Chairperson Betty Colaneri (for information)

**Care For Our Common Home**

**National Legislation:**

Lent begins in a few days. This a time for us to pray and contemplate on how or what I will change. In "The Canadian League" winter 2020, our National Legislation Chairperson Betty Colaneri has written an article on what happens to bills that we have been monitoring and the government falls victim to the dissolution effect. This means all business in the Senate and the House of Commons is dissolved and ends all bills that were working their way towards royal assent. There is both a positive and negative effect to this. Please read her article as she describes how this could be good for some, and not so for others. A very interesting and informative read.

**Bills in the House of Commons:**

These are a couple of the Bills in the Provincial Government that are of interest to me, due to their commonality of our National theme, that I have been monitoring:

**Bill 153:** Clean Air Act – passed 1<sup>st</sup> reading September 26<sup>th</sup> 2019

**Bill 152:** Plastic Bags Reduction Act – passed 1<sup>st</sup> reading March 13<sup>th</sup> 2019

This is an act to reduce the use of plastic bags and other single-use products. After this Bill passes, the industry will have one year to prepare before bags are prohibited. The NS Government has introduced this legislation to ban the retail distribution of single-use plastic check-out bags, It is expected to be in place by the end of 2020.

**Bill 108:** Green Jobs Act – passed 2<sup>nd</sup> reading April 10<sup>th</sup> 2019

This Act is making a plan for the province that will create good, clean jobs, promote economic fairness and improve quality of life for Nova Scotians while decreasing provincial greenhouse gas emissions to at least 50% below 1990 levels by 2030 and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

Passed 2<sup>nd</sup> reading April 10<sup>th</sup> 2019

### **Actions By Members:**

- 1) **Bill 152 Plastic Bags Reduction Act:** I would like to encourage all councils and members to send a letter of thanks to the Sobeys Grocery Stores to let them know we appreciate and applaud their ban on the plastic bags in their stores. We need other businesses to step up and start caring about mother earth. I will be sending a letter from the provincial council.
- 2) **[www.canadiansforconscience.ca](http://www.canadiansforconscience.ca):** January 27<sup>th</sup> was the deadline to complete the online survey from the federal government regarding changes to the Canadian Euthanasia Law. This falls under Christian Family Life which Linda Howell will address in her communique in detail but I am calling members to action. Send a letter to the Justice Minister regarding his perception that there is a desire to expand euthanasia to the three groups targeted in this law. There is a campaign being led by the Coalition for Health Care and Conscience. On their website, noted above, there is a link to tell your MP that you want them to vote to protect the vulnerable. There is concern that people didn't have a chance to voice on the survey whether it should be expanded. People were only able to vote on the controls that would go around it. This Conscience Campaign has already been successful in seeing conscience protection legislation passed in Manitoba and are now working to see a similar bill passed in Saskatchewan. The bill stated that Manitoba Health Care Professionals could not be compelled to participate in assisted suicides. You are also able to write a letter to your provincial legislator using a provided link. We need to let the Minister of Health of NS know that we need legislation to protect conscience rights in our province. Please use the links. Letters from these links that are sent will automatically be sent to the Premier and leaders of the opposition parties.

Please contact me at any time for any questions you may have or help with finding something. We all learn as we go along. Continue to be strengthened by "Our Lady of Good Counsel" as we work for "God and Canada".

**I alone can not change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."**

Mother Teresa