

**Nova Scotia Provincial Council
Catholic Women's League of Canada
Legislation Communique # 4**

To: Diocesan Counterparts (**For distribution to parish councils**)
From: Toosje Van de Sande, Provincial Legislation Chairperson
Date: September 19, 2017
Copied: Provincial Executive (for information)
National Chairperson, Nancy Simms (for information)

What is Legislation ?

Legislation concerns Bills that are passed in the House of Commons or by the House of Assembly, in Halifax. Bills may be presented by the government or by a member. Sometimes a Bill originates in the Senate. A Bill has to go through three readings. In this process they are debated and may be amended. After third reading they are sent to the Senate where this process is repeated. At any stage in this process we are able to let our voices be heard. Once a Bill receives Royal assent it becomes law.

Why Get Involved ?

We need to bring our Catholic perspective to the discussion on legislation at all levels of government.

How Do We Get Involved ?

- Educate ourselves on the legislative process
- Monitor Bills before the government
- Voice our concerns to the members of government

Resources to Access for Information

National website: www.cwl.ca

Click on Resources

Go to: Inspired by the Spirit 2017 Prayer Services and Workshops

Then to the headings: What Do you Stand For Workshop and to Programs and Workshops

What Do You Stand For Workshop Covers:

1. Canada-the Road to Democracy: gives a brief history of the Canadian system of government and the process of creating and passing a Bill.
2. Monitoring Bills Before Parliament: contains four reliable internet sites for accessing information on legislation and bills and it walks you through the process of how to monitor a particular Bill.

Programs and Workshops has:

1. An excellent workshop on Legislation and Resolutions
2. The ABCs of Legislation Workshop

Bills Before the Nova Scotia Legislature

In my oral report at the June Convention, I mentioned that I would give you an update on the Bills before the Nova Scotia Legislature. However there so many Bills involved it is not practical to start listing them. Between October 14, 2016 and April 28, 2017, ninety Bills came before the Nova Scotia House of Assembly. Of these only thirteen received Royal assent. The other seventy-seven have passed first reading with some having amendments attached. I invite you to go to: Nova Scotia House of Assembly and click on: `Status of Bills` and get informed about what is happening in our province.

National Convention Resolutions

Two Resolutions passed at the national Convention in Charlottetown fall under Legislation:

1. Zero-rated Status Under the Goods and Services Tax Provisions of the Excise Tax Act for Child Safety Products
2. Protection from Coercion of Conscience for Health Care Professionals

The complete resolutions with the proposed action plans will be in the Fall issue of the League magazine. Please encourage your members to follow through with the suggested action plans.

Conclusion

It is by getting involved in the legislative process that our voices are heard by governments. It is our way to promote awareness and respond to social issues that affect all of us.

Why not stir up some interest among potential members by actively promoting the message on the CWL postcard : **``I Can make a Difference`**.