

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Resolutions & Legislation – St Paul Diocese
Communique #1

February 2014
Chairperson: Annette deB
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There is a lot happening in our country to be mindful of when it comes to Legislation and Resolutions.

All CWL members should have received *The Canadian League* magazine before Christmas, and hopefully you have found time to read all the interesting articles it contains. If you are just reading it now, pay special notice to the information on the resolutions that were passed at the National Convention in Regina; if you read it previously, you may want to go back and have another look. Two resolutions were passed:

- 2013.01 *Building Relationships and Partnerships with Canada's Indigenous Peoples.*
- 2013.02 *Employment Insurance Benefits for Cancer Patients and Their Caregivers.*

Also within the League magazine is the National Chairperson of Resolutions report on the CWL executive visit to Parliament Hill in Ottawa. What a privilege it is to be part of an organization that is able to speak directly to the Government of Canada on behalf of all CWL members, their families, and those that our resolutions are working to assist.

Communiqué 05, January 14, 2014 from the National Chairperson of Legislation has been included for your review <cwl.ca/legislation-communique-5-2>. There are a number of proposed bills on the agenda for Parliament to consider; several of them align with resolutions that have been adopted by national council. These bills are outlined on this communiqué.

Human dignity is facing challenges on multiple fronts. If you watch the news, then you are aware that the Supreme Court of Canada struck down the country's prostitution laws, and has given the government one year to pass new legislation. It is urgent that all members write to their members of parliament, the Minister of Justice, and the Prime Minister in support of the League's position as it relates to Resolution 2012.01 *Criminalization of the Purchasing of Sexual Services.*

The Quebec government has proposed Bill 60, *Charter of Values* which bans religious displays among civil servants in the province. If this bill passes, we cannot help but wonder how long it will take for them to ban religious symbols for ordinary citizens.

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The debate on euthanasia and assisted suicide is facing additional challenges with the BC Carter case (which has moved to the Supreme Court of Canada) and the Bentley Feeding case (where a family is petitioning to have normal spoon feeding classified as medical treatment so they can discontinue it for their family member who has dementia and is in a nursing home). Quebec's Bill 52 is another attempt by a member of the Quebec National Assembly to legalize euthanasia by classifying it as “medical treatment”. You can state your opposition to Bill 52 by contacting Bertrand St-Arnaud, Quebec's Minister of Justice and Attorney General (ministre@justice.gouv.qc.ca) and Dr. Rejean Hebert, Quebec's Minister of Health & Social Services (ministre@msss.gouv.qc.ca). Also contact the Canadian Minister of Justice, Peter MacKay to express your concern (284 Wellington St., Ottawa, ON K1A 0H8 or by e-mail (mcu@justice.gc.ca)).

Members of the government have often indicated that letters do make a difference. They do bring your concerns to the forefront, especially when received en-mass. Please remember that it can also be of benefit to send a thank you or a letter of commendation when a member of the legislature or parliament has spoken out or taken a stand in favour of a bill that supports human dignity or against one that impacts the dignity of persons negatively.

Speaking out, in a letter or by action, is working for social justice in a small way which can be multiplied by the volume of letters or actions completed by a multitude of members. As National Chairperson of Legislation writes, “We cannot do everything, but we can do something.”

Annette deB
St Paul Diocesan Chairperson
Resolutions and Legislation