



Nova Scotia Provincial Council
Catholic Women's League of Canada
Legislation Communique #8
Care for our Common Home

To: Diocesan Counterparts (**For distribution to all parish councils**)
From: Mary ten Brinke, Nova Scotia Provincial Legislation Chairperson
Date: March 17th 2021
Copied: Provincial President Glenda Carson and Executive (for information)
National Chairperson Betty Colaneri (for information)

Care For Our Common Home

Happy St. Patrick's Day to all my Sisters in the League. I pray you are all well and keeping healthy during these times and that some of you have been able to receive the vaccine to help guard against COVID-19. We are bringing Lent to a conclusion and preparing for the Passion of our Lord.

Since my last communique in November, the Provincial Executive have met twice by teleconference calls. It is indeed different times, but we must continue our work "For God and Canada." Our National Legislation Chair, Betty Colaneri, has sent out Communique #12 on November 26th 2020 and Communique #13 on March 3rd 2021. Both deal with the progression of Bill C-7 "An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (Medical Assistance In Dying) through Parliament.

Members of Parliament passed Bill C-7 with a vote of 180 – 149 in Parliament on March 11th 2021 with most Bloc Quebecois, Liberals, Conservatives, NDP's and 2 out of 3 Green Party members voting to support the revised bill to expand access to medical assistance in dying, eventually including people suffering solely from mental illness. This revised bill must now go to the Senate, where Senators will have to decide whether to accept the decision of the MP's or insist on amendments. All along we have been asking you, the members, to write to your MP's and let them know how upset we all are with the governments' decision to support Bill C-7. Now, since the bill has been moved on to the Senate, we must write the Senators and let them know we do not support this bill.

There was an emergency lecture series put on by the deVeber Institute on “Bill C-7 and Palliative Care” on February 23rd & 24th. I did not find out about the series until after the fact. I hope some of you were able to watch this webinar series. Also, the CCCB supports a letter which the Vulnerable Persons Standard wrote on February 24th 2021. The letter can be read at “vps.npv.ca/stopc7”. It is very informative and I'm asking you to please take time to read it and take action. As of today, March 17th 2021, it has been signed by representatives of 142 organizations including the Catholic Women's League of Canada and the CCCB.

It is most certain that Bill C-7 will pass as the politicians and senators are pushing strongly to put their support behind it. Even if it is passed, we should not give up the fight. We need to be advocates and the voice for those who feel hopeless, alone and suffering. This is what Legislation is: “social justice in action and carrying out League resolutions to influence government policy.” On our National CWL web page, there is a copy of a letter sent to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau from our National President Anne Marie Gorman regarding Bill C-7 calling on the PM and Parliament to reconsider the amendments and focus on making the elderly, disabled and ill to be more accepted and be more comfortable through palliative care.

**“We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean.
But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.”**

Mother Teresa