



**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial Council
Resolutions and Legislation**

April 30, 2016

Communiqué # 6

One Heart, One Voice, One Mission: Palliative and Hospice Care

To:	Parish Chairpersons of Resolutions and Legislation
CC:	Provincial Executive and National Chairpersons (for information)
From:	Peggy Roche, Provincial Chairperson of Resolutions and Legislation

Important:

I have just received a **Legislation Alert** from Janet McLean, National Chairperson of Legislation, which reads:

*“The House of Commons is recessed this week (April 25th -29th) so your federal members of parliament may be in their riding offices. I **urge** you to take this opportunity to visit them and let them know your concerns regarding Bill C-14, An Act to Amend the Criminal Code.... (medical assistance in dying). Conscience protection for physicians, health care workers and their facilities must be clearly guaranteed in Bill C-14. This crucial issue cannot be left to be dealt with by medical associations or provinces. Make sure your member of parliament knows how you feel. Use the website for the Coalition for Health Care and Conscience, for help sending e-mails and writing letters. We should all act **NOW**, in the matter of life and death”.*

(www.canadiansforconscience.ca)

Look for the excellent letter-writing tool on this website under the heading: "**Take Action**". Sample letters to the federal government may be found by clicking on the federal government icon and for letters to provincial premiers on icons for each province.

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I took the liberty to download some background information from the Coalition for Health Care and Conscience website for our information:

The website enables individuals to indicate their support for the Coalition's proposal, as well as to write to appropriate officials in the federal government and in each province or territory regarding its plans to protect conscience rights. In addition, the Coalition has developed materials in both official languages which outline the proposed approach to respect the conscience rights of health-care workers and institutions. The details have been developed in consultation with Catholic moral theologians, including the Most Reverend William Terrence McGrattan, Bishop of Peterborough, and Dr. Moira McQueen, Executive Director of the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute, Toronto.

The Coalition comprises the Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto, Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute, Canadian Federation of Catholic Physicians' Societies, Catholic Health Alliance of Canada, Catholic Organization for Life and Family, Christian Medical and Dental Society of Canada, and Canadian Physicians for Life.

Also, here is an update from the CCCB:

“The webpage of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) on euthanasia and assisted suicide has been revamped to be more accessible and facilitate research. In addition, a link from the CCCB website's home page has been added to direct visitors to the new webpage. The new web page offers links to: CCCB statements, resources from the different Regional Episcopal Assemblies; five major campaigns against physician-assisted suicide; resources for parish communities; resources of the Catholic Organization for Life and Family; and a number of other articles and media reports”.

An excerpt from Janet’s, April communiqué:

‘Time is running out for the federal government to enact legislation to amend the Criminal Code in light of the Supreme Court of Canada’s decision in the Carter v. Canada case with respect to physician-assisted dying (PAD). The government was granted a four month extension from the February 6th deadline so it seems likely that it will try to enact appropriate legislation by June 6th.

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Bills/Statutes

Over the past two years twelve government bills have been introduced in the House of Commons and twenty- three in the Senate, as well fifty-seven private member’s bill. The latter includes:

- Bill C-211 Federal Framework on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Act
- Bill C-206 An Act to amend the Criminal Code (abuse of vulnerable persons)
- Bill C-204 An Act to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Criminal Code (gender identity and gender expression)
- Bill C-223 Canadian Organ Registry Act

In Newfoundland and Labrador there were Seventeen Regulations - **2016** published in the *Gazette*, which includes:

- NLR-13/16 Pension Benefits Act 1997 (O.C. 2016-031)
- NLR-17/16 Midwives Regulations under Health Professional Act

I encourage everyone to remind members to keep vigilant and support the petitions on line if possible. Keep in touch with your local representatives at the provincial and federal levels by asking them to promote more Hospice and Palliative Care across this province.

God Bless you all!