



Kingston Diocesan Council
Legislation Standing Committee
Directive # 4
May 12, 2014

Dear Sisters in the League,

The following was received on April 24th from Anne Gorman, National Legislation Chair, and referred to at our Diocesan Convention on May 3rd in my oral report. They refer to recent motions and bills that require action from League members. Please write your member of parliament (MP) with the appropriate action—either supporting or rejecting the bill or motion as suggested.

1) [Motion-456: *Pan-Canadian palliative and end-of-life care strategy*](#)

A private members motion calling on the federal government to establish a national palliative care strategy and introduced in the fall of 2013. The first hour of debate was April 1, 2014. A second hour is forthcoming. This subject has been front and center for League members and is an ongoing issue. Please write your MP urging his or her support.

2) [Bill C-581: *An Act to amend the Criminal Code \(physician-assisted death\)*](#)

Introduced by MP Stephen Fletcher (Charleswood-St. James-Assiniboia & Headingly). Please write your MP urging him or her to vehemently reject this bill.

3) [Bill C-582: *An Act to establish the Canadian Commission on Physician-Assisted Death*](#)

Please write your MP urging him or her not to support.

4) [Bill C-23: *Fair Elections Act \(short title\)*](#)

The Bill has gone to committee after second reading in the House of Commons, and an all-party committee of the Senate has made specific recommendations for amendments. Some of the parts that would be of interest to League members relate to the possible disenfranchisement of “the elderly, homeless, Aboriginal peoples, etc.” (Senate report). The committee also recommends the Bill be amended to consider carefully, permitting promotion of democracy by the Chief Electoral office. Members should read the [summary of the proposed Bill](#), and the Bill in its entirety, as well as the recommended amendments by the Senate committee. Some of the most vulnerable of Canadian citizens may lose their right to vote should the Bill be passed, or passed without several amendments. Please contact your MP for information and clarification. Question the intent of this Bill, how the changes will affect certain sectors of our society and why promotion of the democratic right to vote would be removed.

Thank you,
Margie Royle,
Legislation Chair, Kingston Diocesan Council