



**The Kingston Diocesan Council of  
The Catholic Women's League of Canada**

**Legislation Chairperson**

***One Heart, One Voice, One Mission***

**Directive #2**

**Pages: 2**

**Date:** February 13, 2016

**To:** Parish Council Legislation Chairpersons

**From:** Wilma Turcotte, Diocesan Legislation Chairperson

**CC:** Diocesan Executive, Provincial Legislation Chairperson,  
Parish Council Presidents

---

**Attachments:** #1: List of Bills Currently Before the Provincial Legislature  
#2: Legislation Committee Resources

***We know that all things work together for good for those who love God,  
who are called according to his purpose (Rom 8:28)***

Hopefully you have become more familiar with your position and are enjoying its many challenges.

The goal of the Legislation Standing Committee is to monitor the actions of legislators at all levels of government, municipal, provincial and federal. You are reminded to check the official websites of the federal government and the provincial legislature on a regular basis, to keep abreast of current bills, their status, etc. As an attachment to this directive you will find a list of Legislation Committee Resources.

Following is a list of Provincial Bills and the latest updates:

**Bill 66** – An Act to protect and restore the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Basin (an ongoing environmental concern). This Bill received Royal Assent on November 3, 2015.

**Bill 75** – An act with respect to microbeads (this relates to Ontario Resolution ON.15.01).

**Bill 95** – An Act to continue the Mental Health and Addiction Leadership Advisory Council to amend the Ombudsman Act in respect to providers of mental health and *addictions* services (continues to be an interest resulting from Resolution ON.13.01). *Referred to Standing Committee on Justice Policy.*

Attached is a list of Provincial Bills that we should be watching. For full details re the Bills, search Legislative Assembly of Ontario, click Bills & Lawmaking, then click on the Bill #. Let your MPP know that you are interested in these Bills.

Federally, the Supreme Court has granted an extension of 4 months for the government to craft federal assisted-death laws. It is clear that both the government and the provinces will have to work quickly to meet this deadline. Go to Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops website and click on the story "Ecumenical and Interfaith Declaration on Euthanasia and assisted suicide". Click on the link to "Declaration", then click on "Sign the Declaration" and follow the instructions from there. The Declaration can be downloaded and signed for those who do not have the internet. Ultimately we all have a stake in that laws that will be enacted, laws that will certainly impact on our society and our future.

In her letter to Parish Council Presidents (December 8, 2015), National President Barbara Dowding introduced the sub-theme for the year of Mercy, **One Heart, One Voice, One Mission—Palliative and Hospice Care**. In light of the Supreme Court ruling, the importance of lobbying for better, more readily available and accessible Palliative and Hospice Care has taken on a new urgency.

Palliative care is a long neglected component of our health-care system. The League has long recognized the need for palliative care services to be designated as an essential service, fully funded, easily accessible, and readily available to all. We currently have one provincial (ON.09.06) and two national resolutions (1998.05 and 2007.03) relating to palliative care which can and should form the basis for a major effort on our part to make our views known to those who will be developing the legislation which will govern assistance in dying.

Write letters, call the constituency office, speak to your MP or MPP, leave a message and ask to be called back. Let them know that Palliative and Hospice Care has to be at the top of any political agenda.

(information from Provincial Legislation Chairperson's Directives #2 and #3)

May our Lady of Good Counsel guide us on our journey to justice for all.

Blessings

Respectfully submitted,

*Wilma*