



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

One Heart, One Voice, One Mission

Directive#1

Date: October 24, 2015

To: Parish Council Legislation Standing Committee Chair

From: Wilma Turcotte, Diocesan Legislation Standing Committee Chair

CC: Diocesan Executive, Provincial Legislation Standing Committee Chair

(This report is excerpts from Provincial Council Legislation Standing Committee Chairperson Directive #1 and Linda Squarzolo Provincial Convention written and oral report)

Welcome to all parish Legislation chairpersons, whether you are new at this, as I am, or into the second year of your term.

Legislation is defined as social justice in action. It is carrying out of League resolutions to influence government. We begin this term in the midst of a federal election campaign. Pope Francis tells us that "a good Catholic meddles in politics", and the Catechism of the Catholic Church makes it clear that we have a duty to take an active part in public life. Our legislators are elected to serve and protect the common good, human dignity, and the rights of the human persons. We should have a clear understanding of the principles of Catholic moral and social teaching and we should understand that life issues are most dominant issues for us as Catholics

Once the new government is elected, our work will be cut out for us with respect to so many issues. In November, be ready to inundate the Prime Minister and local members of parliament to act on all they have promised us.

The next issue of the League magazine will list all resolutions passed at the national convention, three which were gifted by Ontario. Become familiar with all the resolutions, review the action plans and become involved in the appropriate level of government to take action as requested. Don't be afraid to follow the urging of Pope Francis and "meddle in politics"!

Over the coming year we will be studying these and other resolutions, and monitoring legislation at both the provincial and federal levels, "meddling" where necessary to ensure that our Christian values are upheld.

Ontario Bill 45 – Making Healthier Choices, regulates the use and sale of flavoured and electronic cigarettes. This issue was addressed by national resolutions in 2014. Ontario is one province that has enacted legislation to control these products.

Several private members bills have been introduced. One bill of particular interest is Bill 75 – Microbead Elimination and Monitoring Act.

Since some issues are the responsibility of the federal government, we also need to watch what is happening in Ottawa. Charlie Angus, MP Timmins-James Bay, has been a very vocal advocate for the aboriginal people he serves. He has raised the concerns about the lack of adequate housing, the flooding of the communities every spring, the social concerns and the inadequate educational facilities.

In June this year the Ontario Provincial Council's delegation met with government officials to discuss League resolutions. Four meetings were scheduled with government ministers, with a deputy minister and with the parliamentary assistant to an opposition leader. They were very gracious and listened to their concerns, answered questions and even shared special projects that they were developing.

Please check the national and provincial websites for reports and directives.

National website: cwl.ca

Provincial website: cwl.on.ca

May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide and bless you.

Your sister in the League,

Respectfully submitted,

Wilma Turcotte