



Kingston Diocesan Council
Legislation Standing Committee
Directive # 6
September 27, 2014

Dear Sisters in the League,

A warm hello and welcome back to all Legislation Standing Chairpersons. Special greetings are extended to all who are new to this exciting and challenging position.

Our Executive Handbook states that "Legislation is social justice in action. It is the carrying out of League Resolutions to influence government policy. At the National Convention in beautiful Fredericton, New Brunswick this summer, five resolutions were adopted by the national council for action by members:

- 2015.01- Restoration of Health Care for Refugee Claimants urges "the federal government to reinstate health care for all refugee claimants comparable to coverage for Canadians on social assistance". (Community Life)
- 2014.02- Electronic Cigarettes encourages "provincial councils to become aware of the issue of electronic cigarettes as it pertains to their province/territory, and to act on it, as deemed necessary". (Education & Health)
- 2014.03- Flavoured Tobacco Products Ban encourages "provincial councils to become aware of the issue of flavoured tobacco products as it pertains to their province/territory, and to act on it, as deemed necessary/prudent". (Education & Health)
- 2014:04- National Standard for Newborn Screening Including Screening for Severe Combined Immunodeficiency urges "the federal government to implement a national standard for newborn screening including screening for SCID (Screening for Severe Combined Immunodeficiency) and urges provincial councils to become aware of newborn screening including screening for SCID as it pertains to their province/territory, and to act on it, as deemed necessary/prudent". (Education & Health)
- 2014:05- Old Age Security Allowance for Individuals 60 to 64 Years of Age Regardless of Marital Status urges "the federal government to include all individuals 60 to 64 years of age, regardless of marital status, to be eligible for Old Age Security Allowance". (Legislation)

In her first communique as our newly elected National Legislation Chairperson, Janet McLean focuses on Resolution 2014:05, Old Age Security Allowance for Individuals 60 to 64 Years of Age Regardless of Marital Status. She urges us to write letters to the prime minister, the minister of employment and social development and to members of parliament. Members, she says, need to be educated on Old Age Security benefits and eligibility requirements. She suggests this could be used as a starting point to begin fall activities.

Provincial Legislation Chairperson, Linda Squarzolo, in her convention report, relates the strong, personal impact the viewing of the film "A Voice for Justice" had on her. This film, about a homeless man in her city, was produced by a social work professor from Laurentian University. Both she and the homeless man were present to talk to the audience and answer questions. Linda felt her understanding of the homeless was forever changed by this experience. She urges all members to research how the problem of homelessness is being addressed in our own towns and cities. Contact all levels of government, your local representatives MP, MPP, mayor and city councillors to see what is being done and what more can be done.

May I offer two suggestions

- with the upcoming municipal elections, those seeking election could be asked their views/plans regarding the homeless
- is there a project/activity somewhere in the making here for individual CWL parish councils?

Action plans give life to our resolutions. Never underestimate the impact of every letter, every project, every prayer.

I encourage you to take full advantage of all the resources available to you. Please read the League Magazine and go online to diocesan, provincial and national websites often, to keep in touch with current events.

May our Lady of Good Counsel guide you in all that you do for God and Canada.

Respectively submitted,
Margie Royle
Legislation Chair, Kingston Diocesan Council

"My sisters, what good is it for someone to say that she has faith if her actions do not prove it?"
James 2:14

