



Hamilton Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

ONE HEART
VOICE
MISSION

Dear Sisters in the League,

You no doubt are aware of last year's Supreme Court decision that struck down the twenty-one year old law outlawing physician-assisted suicide in Canada. The Court's ruling takes effect June 6th of this year. A Special Joint Committee of the Government of Canada was formed to study the question, but sadly, for Canadians, there seemed to be a foregone conclusion. The committee's report, ironically subtitled, "A Patient-Centred Approach," was released this week and makes some horrific recommendations, including allowing teens to make this deadly choice!

There is an excellent summary of why Catholics should be concerned about this report on the website of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. (<http://www.cccb.ca/site/eng/media-room/statements-a-letters/4421-pastoral-statement-for-the-catholics-of-canada-on-the-report-medical-assistance-in-dying-a-patient-centred-approach>) Our own Bishop Crosby is president of the CCCB. I'm including a link to his statement and encourage you to read it, and particularly consider acting on his last paragraph:

"Together with my brother Bishops ... I urge you to inform your elected officials why euthanasia, assisted suicide and the above recommendations are completely unacceptable."

This threat is even more chilling in Ontario as doctors who object to having their role as healer taken from them, will be *required* under the Provincial law to be involved regardless of what their consciences tell them. I urge you to contact your MP and MPP as Bishop Crosby asks, to "inform [them] why [this is] completely unacceptable."

Surely, trying to protect the vulnerable is part of our service to the People of God.

Our Lady of Good Counsel, pray for us!

Linda Perron
Hamilton Diocesan Education and Health Chairperson