

Dear Sisters in the League

I do not have a report in the Fall issue of the Spectrum but this report will be included in the minutes for the Kitchener and Hamilton region meeting minutes and I hope it can be distributed to our sisters in the North region via email.

The legislation committee is one that unfortunately does not get much attention or effort at the parish level but is of tremendous importance at both the provincial and national levels. One of the most interesting aspects of Catholic Women's League activity, at least in my opinion, is government advocacy. Executive members of provincial and national councils arrange to meet with government representatives to bring concerns from our members and from our Catholic and Catholic Women's League perspectives. At the parish level legislation committee activity can include study and discussion of pending or existing legislation...or it should as members can always learn more.

Two areas of interest for your councils are the recently implemented federal physician assisted death legislation and proposed changes to our federal electoral process. As many of you know the purported safeguards in place to protect vulnerable individuals in the physician assisted death legislation are already being challenged in the courts. Your continued attention and prayer as court rulings are made is vital.

Representatives of the federal Liberal government are now holding town hall information sessions across the country bringing attention to alternatives to the current first past the post electoral process. These sessions are an opportunity for all members to learn the various options under consideration and provide thoughtful input before decisions are made. All members should be open to hearing the pros and cons of each alternative and the rationale behind it. I think we can never hear too often how important it is to hear new information, from an open place, without predetermined ideas based on second or third hand accounts, sometimes from dubious sources.

Legislation affects all of our lives in a myriad of ways and I firmly believe it is incumbent on all of us to ensure we are informed before expressing our thoughts and opinions in a respectful manner. All our voices are important and, as active, committed Catholics, it is our duty to participate in the various legislative processes in whichever way we can.

Madam President, this concludes my report.

Catherine Feren  
Hamilton Diocesan Council Legislation Committee Chair