



**Hamilton Diocesan Council**  
of  
**The Catholic Women's League of Canada**  
*Inspired by the Spirit — Women Respond to God's Call*



Directive #2

Pages: 2 (plus Attachment)

January 2018

**To:** Council Presidents, Council Legislative Standing Committee  
Chairpersons  
**From:** Teresa DiFalco, Hamilton Diocese Legislation Standing Committee  
Chairperson  
**cc:** Diocesan Officers, Committee Members, Diocesan Legislative Standing  
Committee Members

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Warmest greetings and blessings to All,

As we embark on a new year and continue this journey together, let's reflect on the following message from a Homily given by Pope Francis, in Havana Cuba (September 2015) "*Being a Christian entails promoting the dignity of our brothers and sisters, fighting for it, living for it.*" I thank my Provincial counterpart for sharing this reflection with us.

In my 1st Directive I shared some highlights of the important role the Legislation Standing Committee Chairperson plays in the CWL. Our Provincial Legislation Standing Committee Chairperson Karen McDonald, reminds us that our dedicated service is required more than ever as this new year promises to be busy with a June 7, 2018, election looming and many Bills and Acts requiring our attention.

As Catholic women, we are taught to live by our family values as Mother Mary did, and not just talk about them. We are women "rooted in gospel values" and women of action, who have improved the lives of those less fortunate. We do this each time we take action by challenging our politicians to include core family values (as presented in our resolutions) in their decision making, and to advocate in parliament on our behalf. The gospels depict several occasions when Jesus stood up to injustices and laboured for the betterment of the society of His day. Let us call these examples to mind as we are also called to stand up to injustices and to improve and enhance the lives of all.

I would like to share with you a link I received over the holidays of a 37sec video clip of MP Cathy McLead presenting our CWL petition requesting the federal government to specifically identify hospice palliative care as a defined medical service covered under the *Canada Health Act*. Together, we gathered 32,741 signatures, and delivered the Petition to Member of Parliament - Cathy McLeod, to present in the House of Commons. I encourage you to watch it as it demonstrates yet another example of what our League is capable of through YOUR voice and YOUR actions.

Here is the video link: [https://youtu.be/l1\\_7e1zzUWo](https://youtu.be/l1_7e1zzUWo)

Our National Legislation Chairperson Nancy Simms advised of the following two items of good news:

- ✓ With the hope that the League's voice made a difference, **Bill C-233 National Strategy for Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias Act** was passed by the Senate and House of Commons and received Royal Assent on June 22, 2017.
- ✓ On November 8, 2017, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights reversed the course of the government's efforts to repeal section 176 of the *Criminal Code* by voting to retain the provision (with amendments). Section 176 prohibits activity that obstructs or interferes with religious officials seeking to perform their religious duties. **Bill C-51 will no longer attempt to remove protections in law for clergy and worship services.**

Also, in my 1st Directive, I extended an invitation to you to consider joining as a member of the Diocesan Legislative Standing Committee. I am very excited that this committee is underway, and we are currently looking at ways to better support you in taking action on Resolutions and Private Members Bills. We are hoping to identify ways to encourage and engage our members to take action, by reviewing and analyzing the possible reasons why some don't and/or can't. It is our hope to provide each Council with the support and tools they need to help address these issues and increase participation. I invite you to share your concerns or ideas with me. Every petition, letter, email, and telephone call are important, as every members voice/signature counts.

The **attached** is a list is being shared from our National Legislative Chairperson Nancy Simms via our Provincial Legislation Chairperson Karen McDonald of private members' bills requiring **action** by contacting MPs, ministers, the Prime Minister. Postage is going up but *mail addressed to parliament is always FREE*. Legislation updates can be found at [www.parl.ca/LegisInfo/LAAG.aspx?Language=E](http://www.parl.ca/LegisInfo/LAAG.aspx?Language=E)

Also, please review the four resolutions adopted at last summers Annual National Convention, if you haven't already, which can be found at [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca) under the Resolutions tab on the main page under the subtitles.

Please remember, we are not expected to take action on everything. Select one or two that speak to your heart and go from there. Do what you can as member and as a Council, and remember that help is only a phone call away.

I look forward to continuing our journey together, serving and assisting you in any way I can. I invite you to contact me at any time. My phone number is 905-643-6819, and my email is [cta-associates@cogeco.ca](mailto:cta-associates@cogeco.ca)

May the Holy Spirit and our Christian values guide and help us fulfill our work as Legislation Standing Committee Chairpersons.

May God bless you abundantly,

Teresa DiFalco, Diocesan Legislation Standing Committee Chairperson



## ATTACHMENT

### "EYE ON LEGISLATION"

The following private members' bills (current status) were brought to our attention by National Legislation Chairperson Nancy Simms.

*\*\* We are **not** expected to take action on all of these bills ... pick one or two of interest. As Nancy states, "There is so much important work taking place in Parliament that creates an abundance of information to share. Don't get overwhelmed." \*\**

**Bill C-254 An Act to amend the Excise Tax Act** (baby products) is in first reading in the House of Commons. Members are asked to contact government officials to request support for the bill especially with adoption of **Resolution 2017.03 Zero-Rated Status Under the Goods and Services Tax Provisions of the Excise Tax Act for Child Safety Products**.

**Bill C-282 An Act to amend the Excise Tax Act and the Income Tax Act** (extra-energy-efficient products); **Bill C-283 An Act to amend the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999** (electronic products recycling program); and **Bill C-287 An Act to amend the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999** (nanotechnology) are all in first reading in the House of Commons and support **Resolution 2006.04 Renewable Energy** and other League resolutions seeking to protect the environment.

**Bill C-313 National Strategy on Advertising to Children Act** is in first reading and supports communications resolutions seeking protection in media for children and families.

**Bill C-249 An Act to amend the Public Health Agency of Canada Act** (National Alzheimer Office) is in first reading in the House of Commons and proposes the establishment of a national Alzheimer Office within the Public Health Agency of Canada. This would support the League's ongoing call for compassionate care for the sick.

**Bill C-350 An Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act** (trafficking and transplanting human organs and other body parts) is in first reading in the House of Commons and supports the League's human trafficking resolutions.

*The following bills changed status:*

**Bill C-211 Federal Framework on Post-traumatic Stress Disorder Act** is in second reading in the Senate.

**Bill C-277 Framework on Palliative Care in Canada Act** received Royal Assent on December 12, 2017.

**Bill C-243 National Maternity Assistance Program Strategy Act** passed the House of Commons with amendments and has had first reading in the Senate.

**Bill S-228 Child Health Protection Act** passed third reading in the Senate and is in second reading in the House of Commons.

**Bill S-225 An Act to amend the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act** (substances used in production of fentanyl) was passed by the Senate with amendment at third reading.

**Bill S-5 An Act to amend the Tobacco Act and the Non-smokers' Health Act and to make consequential amendments to other Acts** was passed by the Senate with an amendment and is in second reading in the House of Commons.