



ONTARIO PROVINCIAL COUNCIL
LEGISLATION STANDING COMMITTEE
ONE HEART, ONE VOICE, ONE MISSION



DIRECTIVE # 2 Pages: 3 Attachments: 1 November 11 , 2015

To: Diocesan Legislation Standing Committee Chairpersons
From: Carol Richer, Ontario Provincial Council Legislation Standing Committee Chairperson
cc: Diocesan Presidents, Provincial Officers, Provincial Legislation Subcommittee member, and National Legislation Standing Committee Chairperson

Greetings to all Legislation Standing Committee Chairs across this beautiful province. Hopefully you have become a bit more familiar with this position, and are enjoying its many challenges.

The goal of the Legislation Standing Committee is to monitor the actions of legislators at all levels... municipal, provincial and federal. You are reminded to check the official websites of the federal government www.parl.gc.ca and the provincial legislature www.ontla.on.ca on a regular basis, to keep abreast of current bills, their status, etc. It is also important to encourage parish councils to monitor activities at the municipal level, and to advocate for those whose needs are not being met.

As an attachment to this directive you will find a list of Legislation Committee Resources. I find the Google Alerts most helpful, as you can set them up for any topic you wish to follow, and receive daily updates. Great way to keep on top of things.

Provincially, I have been following :

- Bill 66 - An Act to protect and restore the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin ... (an ongoing environmental concern)
- Bill 75 - An Act with respect to microbeads ... (this relates to Ontario Resolution ON.15.01 and to National Resolution 2015.01)
- Bill 95 - An Act to continue the Mental Health and Addictions Leadership Advisory Council and to amend the Ombudsman Act in respect to providers of mental health and addictions services ... (continues to be an interest resulting from Resolution ON.13.01)

Bill 132 - An Act to amend various statutes with respect to sexual violence, sexual harassment, domestic violence and related matters ... 1st Reading October 27, 2015. This will be an interesting one to follow as much work is needed in this area.

Bill 144 - An Act to require municipalities to take action with respect to accessibility for persons with disabilities. Another interesting one to follow, as convenient access for disabled persons continues to be a problem in many areas.

Federally, we have already seen some changes:

Reinstatement of the Long Form Census -- Resolution ON.15.05 and National Resolution 2015.05 both called for this to take place.

An inquiry into murdered and missing indigenous women, a review of the findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and improvement to aboriginal education on reserves have all been promised.

An extension of the time allowed by the Supreme Court to formulate new legislation regarding physician-assisted suicide has been requested. Hopefully this will also allow more time for public consultation.

The following is from a blog posted by Rev. Janet Stobie, a United Church Minister from Dunsford, north of Lindsay. It was sent to me by Life Member Glenda Klein, and is worth sharing.

The Election is Over, Now What

Our federal election is over. As a nation we have chosen a new leader. We have more choices ahead of us. We can join the crowd across our country who are waiting for Justin's first mistake so we can descend like vultures and say "I knew it. That's why I didn't vote for him". What will that accomplish except to fill our hearts with negative thoughts and send negative vibes to Ottawa.

Today, I challenge you to choose a more positive path, to let go of adversarial thinking and focus on goodness for our country and the world. After all, we do want the best possible government for our country. The next four years, these are the leaders who can bring that hope to fruition.

There will be times when we disagree with decisions our government makes. At those times we can choose to do the research on the issues and write letters or be part of delegations bringing alternative suggestions for what we believe is a better way.

As Christians we believe in the power of prayer. In his book "The Only Necessary Thing" modern day theologian Henri J.M. Nouwen reminds us that too often we wait

and turn to prayer as a last resort. He challenges us to begin with prayer, because prayer makes a difference.

For now, I challenge us all to use this new beginning for our country as the moment we begin to wrap our nation and its leaders in prayer. Let's ask God to give them gifts of wisdom and compassion. Let's send positive thoughts to surround our newly elected MP's as they make decisions for our people, the environment, the world. Let's use the power of prayer to make Canada a strong and loving nation. (end of blog)

I recently came across the following prayer, which we could all make part of our daily prayers

Prayer For Our Political Leaders

Father, you guide and govern everything with order and love. Look upon our national, provincial and municipal leaders and fill them with the spirit of your wisdom. May they always act in accordance with your will, and may their decisions be for the peace and well-being of all. Amen.

I urge you to share this information with your parish counterparts, encouraging them to give at least a short report at their meetings. This often helps not only to keep our members informed but also to build an interest in following current events more closely, thereby building an awareness of happenings in their communities, the province and the country.

Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions, concerns, suggestions, etc. I would love to hear from you!

May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide you as you continue your work for the League.

Blessings to all,

Carol

