



Ontario Provincial Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada Legislation Standing Committee

Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call

Directive #4

Pages: 2

June 13, 2018

To: Diocesan Legislation Standing Committee Chairpersons
From: Karen McDonald, Provincial Legislation Standing Committee Chairperson
cc: Provincial Officers, Diocesan Presidents, Legislation Sub-Committee
Chairpersons and National Legislation Standing Committee Chairperson

National Chairperson of Legislation Nancy Simms has sent this **urgent** information:

Liberal MP Anthony Housefather introduced legislation on May 29th. The intention of Bill C-404 is "to decriminalize payment for sperm or ovum donation and for surrogacy."

The Summary of the Bill states:

"This enactment amends the Assisted Human Reproduction Act to decriminalize payment for sperm or ovum donation and for surrogacy. It specifies that, subject to section 9, a sperm or ovum donor must be at least 18 years of age, must have the capacity to consent to the donation and must not be coerced into donating. It also specifies that a surrogate mother must be at least 21 years of age, must have the capacity to consent to becoming a surrogate mother and must not be coerced into becoming a surrogate mother. The enactment also amends the Act to allow for the purchase of other human reproductive material."

If this Bill passed into law it would mean that sperm, ova, human genes as well as a woman's womb, will be able to be bought and sold with the purpose of creating designer babies. Everything involved in the creation of a new human life will be "on sale".

Bill C-404 is in direct contradiction to our many pro-life resolutions as well as resolution 2011.01 Prohibition of Practices re Human Reproductive Material.

Members are encouraged to contact their member of parliament and the prime minister to express concern regarding proposed Bill C-404 and urge them to vote against it. We are also encouraged to contact MP Anthony Housefather requesting that he withdraw Bill C-404.

Bill C-404 can be found at this link (at page 15):

<http://www.parl.ca/LegisInfo/Home.aspx?Mode=1&Language=E&ParliamentSession=42-1>

I wish to bring the following information to your attention.

Palliative Care

A. Until July 13, 2018 ... Canadians have an opportunity to share their views with the government concerning palliative care, and to help develop a framework on palliative care for Canadians. Members are encouraged to provide feedback by:

1. Participating online -- <http://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/programs/consultations-palliative-care.html>
2. Written submission via **email** to End.of.life.care_soins.fin.de.vie@hc-sc.gc.ca
3. Written submission via **mail** in **hard-copy** format to:

**Let's Talk Palliative Care
The End of Life Care Team
c/o Venetia Lawless
200 Eglantine Drive, A.L. 1904D
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9**

B. We are all encouraged to watch the video message entitled, *Ending Suffering: The Palliative Alternative* by Dr. Neil Hilliard, palliative care physician in Chilliwack, B.C. The link is available on the national website **homepage** (www.cwl.ca).

There will always be legislation (relating to our resolutions) requiring our attention ... much of it relating to homelessness. Even as the seasons change, and we relax in the sun, we must remain vigilant. It reminds me of the refrain from a favorite hymn:

***Bread for the world: a world of hunger.
Wine for all peoples: people who thirst.
May we who eat be bread for others.
May we who drink pour out our love.***

(Bread for the World - Bernadette Farrell)

I pray that all members will enjoy a wonderful summer and be safe when travelling. I ask all legislation chairpersons and sub-committee chairpersons attending provincial convention in July to please introduce yourself ... I want to meet you and get a hug!

Lots of love,

Karen