



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 #6

Pages: 2

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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

*"May the Virgin Mary help us to prepare the way of the Lord day by day,
beginning with ourselves," Pope Francis prayed.*

Scavenger Hunt

My sub-committee (Carol Richer and Sue Lubowitz) and I are thrilled that **26 teams** across Ontario participated in our Scavenger Hunt. We accomplished our goal to educate members about homelessness issues within their communities and to review the legislation in place. A summary of the completed surveys is being compiled.

Ontario Government Visit (November 26, 2018)

I survived the provincial government visit in November...what an exciting experience! It was humbling to represent over 44,000 members as we met with, and listened to, Members of Provincial Parliament and their staff. If MPPs were not aware of the Catholic Women's League when we arrived, they certainly know about us now. Thank you to the members who were able to invite their MPP to attend the reception. Be sure to review the report from the Fall 2018 government visit at www.cwl.on.ca

Pray that the Lord will guide our MPPs with a spirit of justice and righteousness in making decisions about legislation that affects citizens across this beautiful province.

Since I led the discussions in our meeting with MPP France G linas that focused on hospice palliative care, home care, mental health services, minimum standard of daily care, and ATV safety training courses for youth under 16, I thought I would highlight these Private Member's Bills (**not yet** passed into law):

Bill 13, Time to Care Act (Long-Term Care Homes Amendment, Minimum Standard of Daily Care), 2018 – this Private Member's Bill received First Reading on July 31, 2018 and would amend the *Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007* so that a long-term care home will have to provide its residents with at least four hours a day of nursing and personal support services, averaged across the residents.

** MPP France G linas introduced similar legislation (Bill 33) in 2017; however, it did not become law since the 41st Parliament of Ontario was dissolved in May, 2018.

Bill 58, Family Caregiver Day Act, 2018 – this Private Member's Bill received First Reading on November 20, 2018 and would proclaim the first Tuesday in April in each year as Family Caregiver Day.

Bill 59, Caregiver Recognition Act, 2018 – this Private Member's Bill received Second Reading on December 6, 2018 (and was ordered referred to the standing committee on social policy) and would set out general principles relating to caregivers and proclaim the first Tuesday in April in each year as Caregiver Recognition Day.

Bill 63, Right to Timely Mental Health and Addiction Care for Children and Youth Act, 2018 – this Private Member's Bill received First Reading on November 27, 2018 and would require the Minister to ensure that a person who is less than 26 years old, resides in Ontario and has been deemed to require a mental health or addiction service, receives access to the required mental health or addiction service within 30 days of being deemed to require the service.

To access these Bills, go to: <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/current>

Bill C-45 (The Cannabis Act)

In her second communiqué, National Legislation Chairperson Betty Colaneri advised history was made on October 17th with the passing of Bill C-45, as Canada became the second country in the world to fully legalize marijuana for recreational use. Canadians may now purchase a variety of cannabis products from licensed producers/retailers at retail locations authorized by the provinces/territories. As Betty says, "It is important to be informed, be aware of the signs and know where to go for help."

To read her informative communiqué, go to (and click "ok"):
https://cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Legislation-02_.pdf

As I relaxed on my flight home after a successful government reception, informative and productive meetings, and attendance in the Legislature during Question Period (we were introduced), I hummed a hymn that I love to sing:

*There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to reveal yourself to us.
There is a longing in our hearts for love we only find in you, our God.
For justice, for freedom, for mercy, hear our prayer.
In sorrow, in grief, be near, hear our prayer, O God.*

*There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to reveal yourself to us.
There is a longing in our hearts for love we only find in you, our God.
For wisdom, for courage, for comfort, hear our prayer.
In weakness, in fear, be near, hear our prayer, O God.*

(There is a Longing – Anne Quigley)

I wish all members and their families a blessed and Merry Christmas!

Karen