

**Ontario Provincial Council
The Catholic women's League of Canada**

Legislation Standing Committee

Directive #2

October 2022

To: Diocesan Chairpersons of Legislation
From: Joanna Sisk, Ontario Provincial Chairperson of Legislation
Bcc: Bishop Dowd, OPC Executive, National Chairperson of Legislation

Many actions under Legislation Committee include writing the government expressing concerns and need for changes. As we know there are so many topics that need our attention.

This fall the Legislation project **Go Make a Difference** is a huge letter writing campaign related to the resolution passed at convention this summer

ON.22.01 Improve Long Term Care Homes in Ontario

There are over 31,000 CWL members in Ontario. Imagine what an impact, what a difference we could make by bombarding the provincial government with personal letters asking for improvements to our Long-Term Care Homes, as promised.

If your council members write a letter and invite others such as parishioners, friends, family etc. there could easily be thousands of letters sent to the Ontario Provincial Government urging them to expedite action to do what they promised they were going to do.

I would encourage each council to appoint someone to take on the task of keeping track of the number of letters sent. This is a competition to find the council with the greatest response number wise. A special "surprise" will be presented at the OPC Convention in July in Cornwall in 2023. Please forward to me the numbers of letters sent from councils in your diocese by Dec 15, 2022.

Remember you are writing as a concerned citizen and not as a CWL member.

Attached is a sample letter. It was intended as an example for the Premier of Ontario but can be sent to the Minister of Long-Term Care Homes, Paul Calandra, the Opposition Minister, Wayne Gates and to your local MPP.

At a time when there's never been more media and political attention on long-term care, we cannot let the status quo live on. We must Make a Difference and speak up. I invite you, urge you, to get at it and write today.

The following Bills currently before parliament relate to topics of current interest to the League. (These Bills can be accessed through the LEGISinfo website, parl.ca/legisinfo/. and can be found on the National website under Legislation communiques dated September 21, 2022).

Bill C-7 An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (Medical Assistance in Dying). The final step in enacting this bill is the work of the Special Joint Committee on MAID, who are reviewing the expansion to include mature minors, advance requests, mental illness, Canadians living with disabilities and the state of palliative care. Significant concerns about this expansion have been expressed by the CCCB and other organizations.

Bill C-230 An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (intimidation of health care professionals). More information on protecting health care workers conscience rights and access to a petition can be found at canadiansforconscience.ca.

Other Bills: Sexual Exploitation of Children
Human Rights
Child and Forced Labour
Environment, two bills related to water
can also be found on the National website under Legislation communiques dated September 21, 2022

Thank you for taking action.

Blessing,
Joanna Sisk
Provincial Legislation Chairperson