

Legislation Communiqué – #3 – March 2019

To: CWL Parish Legislation Chairpersons

From: Janette Rieger, Regina Diocesan CWL Legislation Chairperson

In my last communiqué I wrote to you about Bill C-418 as introduced by Cypress Hills-Grasslands MP David Anderson. This bill was introduced at the federal level and has had first reading. Unfortunately, few private members bills, such as this, get passed into law. But even the introduction of the bill does raise awareness of the issue. This issue is directly related to a resolution that was passed under the Legislation Standing Committee at the 2017 CWL National convention – [2017.04 Protection from Coercion of Conscience for Healthcare Professionals](#).

However, there is also an effort to have similar legislation passed in Saskatchewan. If you have not already done so, please consider signing a letter addressed to Saskatchewan Minister of Health Jim Reiter, and Saskatchewan Minister of Rural and Remote Health Greg Ottenbreit, requesting that they support the creation of legislation in Saskatchewan to protect healthcare workers from being involved in treatment or referral for treatment for Medical Aid in Dying. An online version of the letter can be found at <https://www.canadiansforconscience.ca/saskatchewan>. However, if you wish, you can also write your own letter to these ministers.

Some people suggest that this type of legislation is difficult to pass, but Manitoba did successfully pass similar legislation in 2017 after people campaigned the members of their legislature to pass a law to protect the conscience of healthcare workers. It passed unanimously after the citizens blitzed all of their MLAs (not just the governing party). So if the ministers do introduce some type of conscience protection in Saskatchewan, be sure to contact your MLA and perhaps those in other areas, even if they are not the governing party, encouraging them to support this legislation.



Federally, another bill of interest is Bill C-69 – An Act to enact the Impact Assessment Act and the Canadian Energy Regulator Act, to amend the Navigation Protection Act and to make consequential amendments to other Acts. There is some criticism, especially from the resource sector of Western Canada, that if this bill passes it will kill jobs. According to the website www.suitsandboots.ca, “It will further delay and discourage investment in Canadian pipelines, mines and other resource infrastructure. It imposes a “green agenda”, new layers of bureaucracy, higher costs, longer delays and more uncertainty on Canada’s resource sector.” Since much of the Saskatchewan economy revolves around the resource sector, this could be very damaging for our province. Contact your MP regarding this timely issue.