

Legislation Communiqué – #4 – August 2018

To: CWL Parish Legislation Chairpersons

From: Janette Rieger, Regina Diocesan CWL Legislation Chairperson

Happy autumn! I am Janette Rieger – Regina Diocesan Resolutions and Legislation Chairperson, and 1st Vice-President. I am taking over the Legislation chair mid-term for Vicki Mayer who had to resign for personal reasons. On behalf of all the Diocesan council, we thank Vicki for her years of service and we ask you to join us in lifting her up in prayer.

I attended the CWL National Convention in Winnipeg a few weeks ago. As usual, it was full of faith, fun, and fulfillment! Three resolutions were passed at this year's convention. One resolution falls under the Legislation standing committee. However, the national website is still being upgraded so the link to the resolutions is not available as of yet. Therefore, the official title of the resolution may vary slightly, but the working title is as follows:

➤ Resolution 2018.03 – Legislate Designation of Hospice/Palliative Care, Free from Medical Assistance in Dying

This resolution was brought forward to raise awareness that some hospice/palliative care facilities are being pressured to provide medical assistance in dying (MAID), contrary to their philosophies and purposes. CWL members are encouraged to write to their Member of Parliament (MP) regarding the need for these facilities to be free from MAID. Raise awareness in your CWL councils of the implications of these facilities being forced to provide MAID.

At the National Convention, I attended a break-out session on Human Trafficking. The main speaker was former MP Joy Smith. It was a shocking and emotional session, and I encourage members to learn more about this issue from her website <http://www.joysmithfoundation.com/>. Her bills are examples of positive legislation! From her website: ***“Joy made Canadian history as the first sitting MP to amend the Criminal Code twice, both times to better protect victims of human trafficking. In 2010, Bill C-268 was passed, enshrining mandatory minimum sentencing for traffickers of children 18 years and younger in Canada’s Criminal Code. Then in 2012, Bill C-310 was passed – receiving unanimous consent – reaching the long arm of the Canadian law into other countries where Canadian citizens or permanent residents traffic or exploit others abroad. After the historic passage of her Bills, Joy developed Canada’s National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking.”***

There are many items pending in the Canadian Parliament of which we should be aware. Some of these include:

➤ Bill C-277 – An Act providing for the development of a framework on palliative care in Canada
This is an important act so that a proper palliative care policy is developed for Canada. Remember to contact your MP regarding the importance of palliative care in Canada.

➤ Bill C-404 – An Act to amend the Assisted Human Reproduction Act
The summary reads as follows: *“This enactment amends the Assisted Human Reproduction Act to decriminalize payment for sperm or ovum donation and for surrogacy”*. If this passes, sperm and ovum can be bought and sold like any commodity, leading to the further devaluation of human life. Please follow this bill and again, contact your MP. (See CWL Resolution 2000.02)