

LEGISLATION COMMUNIQUE #2

November, 2017

Four resolutions were adopted at the 2017 annual national convention in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, **with two** falling under the legislation standing committee:

The action plan for Resolution 2017.03 Zero-Rated Status Under the Goods and Services Tax Provisions of the Excise Tax Act for Child Safety Products asks members to write letters to the prime minister and minister of finance, with copies to local members of parliament (MPs), requesting the removal of the federal portion of tax from child safety products. Encourage councils to: invite a guest speaker to educate members on the requirements of child safety products; hold fundraisers to purchase safety products for those in need; study the product list in the Canada Safety Act and ascertain if any other products should be listed; and educate members, parish communities and the public on the provincial rebate for child safety products.

The action plan for Resolution 2017.04 Protection from Coercion of Conscience for Healthcare Professionals asks members to write to the prime minister and attorney general, with copies to local MPs, urging them to make it an offence under the Criminal Code for healthcare professionals to be coerced into performing or referring patients for procedures that are in opposition to their conscience. Councils are also encouraged to educate members and the community on the importance of healthcare professionals' right of conscience and find ways to support healthcare workers who will not perform procedures that are in opposition to their conscience.

Motions

Three motions presented by legislation were carried at the 2017 national convention. All the motions were on the passage of Bill C16 regarding Gender Identity and Gender Expression.

Palliative Care Petition

The 2017 League petition, requesting the federal government to specifically identify hospice palliative care as a defined medical service covered under the Canada Health Act, was distributed across Canada this spring. Completed petitions with a total of 32,741 signatures were delivered to Member of Parliament Cathy McLeod (Kamloops-Thompson-Cariboo). The petition will be presented in the House of Commons this fall. Due to the impressive number of signatures received, Cathy McLeod is considering the viability of developing a private members' bill. This one gesture in legislation demonstrates how we should never be afraid to raise our voices for all that is good. Members can and will change the world!!

Currently there are a few legislation bills in the making at the federal level that are of concern to many tax payers. The taxation changes to small businesses that will greatly affect their income, introduction of a carbon tax (Bill C-342); the consideration of taxation on employee discounts and the act to legalize the sale and use of marijuana (Bill C-45.) We will have to wait to see just what occurs with these legislation proposals.