



Ontario Provincial Council The Catholic Women's League of Canada Resolutions Standing Committee



Care for our Common Home

Directive #7

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November 24, 2020

To: Diocesan Resolutions Chairpersons
From: Wilma Vanderzwaag, Ontario Provincial Council Resolutions Chair
cc: Diocesan Presidents, Ontario Provincial Council Executive, National Resolutions Committee Chairperson

A Christian who does not pray for those who govern is not a good Christian.
Pope Francis

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM NATIONAL RESOLUTION CHAIR:

Please send this out to your counterparts so that it gets down to the parishes. I made a mistake in my editing.

In the Resolutions Annual Survey - 2020

Q22 Please list resolutions written by your parish council in 2020. ~~If none, skip the next two questions.~~

Reports should continue to question 23 and 24.

I am sending this directive with information regarding Bill C-7 *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying)*. Much of this information comes from Betty Colaneri, Legislation Chair of the National Council and her latest communique. As many councils have combined resolutions and legislation and it is so important that members let their voice be heard, I am sending this out as well. This Bill has passed the second reading in the House of Commons and has completed its public hearing before the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs. They have vowed to move this bill quickly through parliament; therefore, it is important that we stress to our members to contact their local members of parliament. Bill C-7 would remove safeguards that were established in 2016—such as the 10 day-reflection period between the request and the hastened death and they wish to remove the need for consent at the time of the hastened death by the person.

The Holy See has posted "Letter 'Samaritanus bonus' of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith on the care of persons in the critical and terminal phases of life, 22.09.2020" on the Vatican website. The letter refers to the parable of the Good Samaritan that teaches us that "even when a cure is unlikely or impossible," medical, nursing, psychological and spiritual care "should never be forsaken". Take the time to go online and read the full letter on this vital issue.

On November 9, 2020, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops submitted a brief on C-7 to the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights. The brief states "The proposed legislation of Bill C-7 remains deeply flawed, unjust and morally pernicious. The Bishops of Canada continue to call on Catholics and all people of good will to make their voices heard in opposition to this Bill. The complete brief can be found on the CCCB website.

Attached is a sample letter created by Lidwina Critch, Resolution and Legislation Chair of Newfoundland and Labrador. It has listed bullet points, use all or as many in your copy of the letter to your Member of Parliament. This letter also reminds our representatives that while euthanasia is publicly funded, palliative care is not given the same status. All Canadians should have access to palliative care. Let us all do our part, send out a letter and pray for those in government.

Long-Term Care Letters-



Thank you to the many members that have written letters regarding our Long-Term Care in Ontario. Please continue to watch that promises of change do come to this important issue. A special thank you to the members of St. John the Evangelist in the Toronto Diocese. They sent 322 letters to Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Long-Term Care and Home Care. Awesome Job! I am keeping track of the number of letters sent, so Diocesan Resolution Chairs, be sure to send me your numbers from your Diocese.

Date to Remember for Resolutions-

A reminder for all Diocesan Council Resolution Chairs **December 15, 2020**, is the date to forward via email topics for resolutions to me.



As we begin to focus on Advent and the Christmas Season, I want to express my gratitude for all your efforts for this standing committee. Many of you have taken this time during the pandemic to be vigilant and engaged and it has made a difference! Your enthusiasm feeds the members and more are heeding your requests for action. Thank you for all you do and please continue to lead with this energy.

I wish that you and your loved ones can express through this Christmas Season what your faith and family mean to you-even if your activities are different because of the pandemic.

Stay well, stay safe and continue coping with prayer,

Wilma

Attachment:

Name of MP

Member of Parliament

House of Commons

Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

October 28, 2020

Dear Mr. /Mrs./Ms

As one of your constituents, I want you to know that I am aware that Bill C-7 is receiving second reading in the House of Commons, a bill that seeks to expand the law regarding euthanasia and assisted suicide.

I am genuinely concerned that this bill is flawed and even dangerous for the lives of Canadians. Bill C-7

- must not permit MAiD when a person has become incompetent even if the person was previously approved
- must not remove the 10-day waiting period as I believe it is an important safeguard
- must provide adequate oversight, review and prosecution of non-compliance with the legislation
- must define “psychological suffering” to actually prevent euthanasia for mental illness alone.
- Must provide conscience protection for healthcare professionals

The federal legislation on euthanasia has positioned itself as a healthcare “right” under the *Canada Health Act* so it is publicly funded and accessible to all. Palliative care, however, is not afforded the same status. Dying patients should have access to palliative care as a right.

I urge you to ask the government to undertake a five-year review of the system of euthanasia in Canada as was promised when assisted dying was legalized in 2016 in response to a Supreme Court ruling.

Sincerely yours,

Your name

Address