



London Diocesan Council
Of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada
One Heart, One Voice, One Mission

To: All Parish Presidents, Legislation Chairpersons and Resolutions Chairpersons
CC: London Diocesan Council
From: Rebecca McCarrell, 1st Vice-President/London Diocesan Chairperson, Legislation & Resolutions
Date: March 2016
Directive #11

How blessed are those who keep justice, Who practice righteousness at all times!
Psalm 106:3

Sisters, two pressing matters have come up since I wrote Directive 10 and I urge you to look at both these topics thoroughly. There is much information about both in the newspapers, on the internet, and being discussed in meetings throughout Ontario and Canada.

Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide

Father Matt Kucharski shared with the Diocesan Council that the Church's teachings us to use respect when considering all aspects of euthanasia and assisted suicide. Life support is a vital necessity for some; for others it is a way of prolonging life in situations that may not be helpful to the patient. If the second is the case, we are asked to work with our palliative care and pain management teams to assist in decisions that might lead to removing the life support. Respecting the doctor's consciences in respect to assisted dying is important. There is work underway by several organizations to protect conscience rights for health-care practitioners and institutions, as well as to safeguard vulnerable persons. Our main focus should be on Palliative care and pain management, keeping our love ones comfortable. Please research the information available in respect to these subjects. Look at the compassionate side of the equation. Talk to your pastors and priests about the outcomes of assisted dying. Will the person be afforded a Catholic funeral if they decide to go forward with this?

Here are some resources to study on these topics:

<https://www.archtoronto.org/media-centre/releases-backgrounders>

www.CanadiansforConscience.ca

<http://www.vps-npv.ca/>

http://www.larchecommons.ca/f/nf4675ca/vanier_oped_on_physicianassisted_dying.pdf

<http://hamiltondiocese.com/uploads/docs/Bioethics%20Matters.pdf>

<http://www.colf.ca/index.php/en/in-action/item/269-colf-response-to-the-report-of-the-special-joint-committee-on-physician-assisted-dying>



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Tell Legislators How You Feel (as requested by Archbishop Collins)

1. Those people who are concerned about this legislation are encouraged to visit **CanadiansforConscience.ca** and join the Coalition for HealthCARE and Conscience. The coalition is made up of numerous partners, including more than 5,000 Canadian doctors, and has been formed to educate and engage those who share our concerns.
2. You can use this website to write directly to your Member of Parliament, respectfully expressing your concerns. Please urge your elected representative
 - a. to protect the vulnerable; and
 - b. to ensure that individuals and institutions can provide health care without having to compromise their moral convictions.

Cassie and Molly's Law: Bill C-225 An Act to amend the Criminal Code (injuring or causing the death of a preborn child while committing an offence) as Relating to our Resolution # 2 Unborn Victims of Crime

Bill C-225 has reached second reading in the House of Commons on February 26 2016. This is great news and we are closing watching the progress of this bill. Cathay Wagantall (Yorkton-Melville) MP has championed this cause and introduced it into the House as a Private Member's Bill. Our resolution will be adjusted at the Resolution Dialogue session of convention to reflect any progress that has been made to date. Currently, St. Michael's, Leamington, is working on rephrasing the whereas clauses and brief information to include this progress. The resolved clauses will be reflective of the progress made. We continue to work on this resolution as private member's bills have a history of dying in progress. We want to ensure that support is given to the bill to remain active in the House of Commons. For more information, please see MP Cathay Wagantall's press release on the subject:

<http://www.conservative.ca/criminal-code-must-be-updated-to-protect-women-and-families-wagantall/>

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide you in support of issues affecting society today! See you at convention!

God bless,