



London Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



To: All Parish Presidents, Legislation Chairpersons

CC: London Diocesan Council

From: Helga Stuermer, Legislation Chairperson

Date: March 10.2021;

Directive # 2

“ Your life is God’s gift to you; make it your gift to God by serving others, we serve God”

Legislation: We are challenged everyday as Catholics to stay true to our belief that all lives matter. May it be Abortion, or Euthanasia? Or other human rights issues. What happens to our soul, if we allow an innocent little baby to be aborted, we believe life begins at conception; therefore abortion is murder and cheapens human life. We now are deciding who lives or dies on the basis of convenience.

C-7

I have written so many times - to speak up against the (Maid) program. And write to our MP's that we are against it, but -here we are again on the eve of the expansion of **Bill C-7**. On February 17 the Senate passed the bill to significantly change and expand the bill to allow people who have mental issues and are afraid to possibly suffer of dementia to have easy access to Maid. It passed 66-19;; The NDP voted against this, however the government wants to get it out of the way. It is a Political decision. I am sure if it was not so more would vote against the expansion of this bill. So if a person is just tired and discouraged he has easy access to be killed? Our first Nations also say Bill C-7 goes against their belief and values. Recent polls show many Canadians are against this expansion. It is very dangerous, so why did it still pass?

Bill C-268: Protection on Freedom of Conscience <http://ow.ly/qsWq.50DVs77>; Doctors and healthcare providers are often in mental turmoil. **“We swore to do no harm and save lives, not take it”**: Huge moral issues. We need to protect Conscience Objectors. This will be debated by parliament in the near future; making it an offence to intimidate, and to threaten their job.

**Here is a part of communication Rebeca received I am adding this to my notes: Please read: The C1qL has been on top of this since the beginning. Earlier this week direction did go out re letter writing.

The CWL are at the forefront of a lot of good work. Bishop Fabbro has written a letter to the faithful to also encourage participation.

You are probably familiar with all the work being sent out by those organizing the 2021 Ontario call for conscience campaign. Here is a brief summary:

1. For a video with testimonies from healthcare providers, please click here: bit.ly/2021ConscienceVideo
2. Pray for those who are sick and those who care for them. Pray that our politicians that they may promote and protect conscience rights

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3. Visit www.canadiansforconscience.ca/ontario where you can send an email directly to the Ontario government and learn more about this critically important issue.
4. Follow up your email with a call or personal email to your Member of Parliament, the Premier and/or the Health Minister and let them know you support Conscience Rights

Member of Parliament	Riding and Party
Percy Hatfield	Windsor-Tecumseh NDP
Lisa Gretzky	Windsor West NDP
Taras Natyshak	Essex NDP
Rick Nicholls	Chatham-Kent-Leamington PC
Monte McNaughton	Lambton-Kent-Middlesex PC
Bob Bailey	Sarnia-Lambton PC
Jeff Yurek	Elgin-Middlesex-London PC
Teresa Armstrong	London-Fanshawe NDP
Terrance Kernaghan	London-North Centre
Peggy Sadler	London West NDP
Lisa Thompson	Huron-Bruce PC
Ernie Hardiman	Oxford PC
Doug Ford	Premier PC
Christine Elliot	Health Minister PC

Thanks for all your good work. St. Joseph, pray for us.

Joe Bezzina

Director of Pastoral Services

Episcopal Liaison for Catholic Schools

Diocese of London

The Diocese of London: Being a mission-oriented Church that forms disciples of Jesus

*Articles about C-7 Sign the petition: [No to euthanasia for mental illness and incompetent people! \(Link\)](#)

- Contact your MP to [reject the Senate amendments to Bill C-7](#) and support the [Michael Barrett MP amendment](#) that rejects euthanasia for mental illness. ([MP list](#)) ● Euthanasia
- Also for further info; e-mail: info@epcc.ca Euthanasia Prevention Coalition
 Also check out Bill C-6 Conversion Therapy;

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Communique #13 – Legislation

March 03, 2021

National Chairperson of Legislation Betty Colaneri, March 3, 2021

“We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now.” (Martin Luther King, Jr.)

My dear League sisters,

The Future is Now was this year's theme for Black History Month, sponsored by the federal government. Upon reflecting on historical events and the theme, the above quote came to mind. While reading and watching the process unfolding with Bill C-7 *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying)*, this appropriate quote spoke to me of the undeniable truth. Canadians must act now for the future!

Bill C-7 proposes to expand eligibility for medical assistance in dying (MAiD) to any competent adult who has an illness, disease or disability, is in an advanced state of decline in capability, and is experiencing intolerable and irremediable suffering—regardless of whether the person's natural death is reasonably foreseeable. The first track of this legislation is available to all Canadians equally approaching the end of life. The second track has now singled out the disability community and told them they can also choose to end their lives.

One day before the deadline of February 25th, the Quebec Superior Court has given the government its fourth extension to bring the law into compliance with the 2019 *Truchon v. Attorney General of Canada* court ruling. The ruling struck down a provision that allows assisted dying only for those whose natural deaths are “reasonably foreseeable”. “Bill C-7 is intended to bring the law into compliance with the ruling, expanding access to assisted dying to intolerably suffering individuals who are not approaching the end of their lives” (*The Canadian Press*, February 25, 2021). The official opposition refused to facilitate debate on a motion laying out the government's response to amendments passed by the Senate. It is opposed to the original bill and objects vigorously to the amended version the government now proposes.

The government has rejected the Senate amendment that would have allowed advance requests for assisted dying, as well as an amendment intended to clarify what constitutes a mental illness. The Bloc Quebecois has stated it will support the government's response to the Senate amendments, which will lead to the passing of the motion. However, it cannot be put to a vote until the official opposition agrees to finalize debate.

I ask that you encourage your diocesan counterparts to implore members to flood their members of parliament and senators with letters expressing their profound disapproval of Bill C-7 and amendments at ourcommons.ca and sencanada.ca, respectively. Help in writing letters and how to send them can be found at one.org.

A plethora of information can be accessed beginning with Bill C-7 in its entirety at parl.ca/legisinfo. Many articles are accessible from the Canadian Conference of Catholic

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Bishops website cccb.ca; one to read in particular is "Submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs." Euthanasia Prevention Coalition also has a great deal of information and an online petition at epcc.ca. Other informative sources include, The Angus Reid Poll: taken from the November 10, 2020 report *Broad Support for MAiD in Canada has Caveats and Concerns* by Ray Pennings and Angus Reid, as well as the fifth episode of the podcast by Edmonton "Archbishop in Dialogue: Our Mission Against Assisted Suicide with Dr. Heidi Janz and Dr. Robert Hauptman" on February 19th.

Kindly encourage diocesan chairpersons to inform members of the informative, emergency lecture series by The deVeber Institute on "Bill C-7 and Palliative Care" located on its website, deveber.org. The CCCB has endorsed a letter written by the Vulnerable Persons Standard, which can be read at vps-npv.ca/stopc7. Please ask your diocesan counterparts to encourage parish councils to read the letter and take action.

The likelihood of Bill C-7 passing is high due to politicians' and senators' determination, but that does not mean that members should give up on their fight. The bill's outcome will not change the beliefs and morals of how members look at the sanctity of life to its peaceful natural end. The League will continue to be the voice for the voiceless and advocate for proper resources to give hope to those who feel their situation is hopeless. There are problems of accessibility, costs, stigma, lack of resources and high palliative care that stand in the way of people receiving the help they need. That should be the focus of proper legislation, not Bill C-7!

"We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope." (Martin Luther King, Jr.)

Let us put faith into action!

Betty Colaneri
National Legislation Chairperson

This is a lot to read. Please remember to write to our MP and also pass all this info along to you CWL sisters.

Blessings to all
Helga Stuermer
London Diocesan Legislation



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IMPORTANT AMENDMENT

Further on Bill C-7; New development;

Addition to my March 10 report Re: Bill C-7 Amendment allowing Patients with mental illness to die by Lethal Injection;

The bill passed on March 11, 2021;

At the time I wrote my report on March 10th the Parliament was in session for further debate to amend the C-7 bill to make it easier for people with mental illness to request to die by Lethal Injection without the 90 days waiting, and because of feeling mentally ill, or fear of dementia;

Most people with mental illness may not really be capable of making the best decision for their desire to die. Today they may feel super depressed and can request to die by lethal Injection, and actually die the same day? This Bill, permits doctors and nurses to administer lethal injection that are incapable to make that decision.

Could it be that our Leaders be that it is less costly to provide death by (Maid) than providing Psychological and medical help to people who suffer from mental illness so that they could possibly lead many years of normal lives? No this could not possibly so. That would be so inhumane and terrible.

Fact: The Bill C-7 has been amended to make it easier for Mentally Ill people to request to be Euthanized (KILLED) without waiting time in case they change their mind. How sad is that.

The Euthanasia lobbyist call this a victory of freedom... My opinion NO NO NO it dehumanizes life, and cheapens HUMANITY and regresses civilization, as we know it.

Again Our life is God's gift to us, we need to cherish it until God calls us back to him.

PS; Please read the letter again. That is related to this. Our Doctors need protection Bill C268.

May God's Blessing be with all of you.

Helga Stuermer, Legislation Chairperson

Diocese of London





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15 March 2021

To: The Faithful of the Diocese of London

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Healthcare professionals need our prayers and support. Parliament has passed Bill C-7 and expanded access to assisted suicide across Canada. People with disabilities, those with mental illness and those with chronic conditions will qualify, even if they are not dying. This law will put vulnerable people at risk.

The federal legislation will have implications for healthcare in the provinces. Now, more than ever, we need doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals who will ensure vulnerable patients have caring alternatives to lethal injections. But many healthcare professionals with moral convictions are being pushed out of their profession by provincial health regulators. Here in Ontario, you can support vulnerable patients by contacting the Ontario government and asking that legislation be introduced to protect the conscience rights of healthcare workers.

I invite you to visit www.canadiansforconscience.ca/ontario where you can send an email directly to the Ontario government and learn more about this critically important issue. If your MPP is Conservative it will be sent to him or her, and if you are represented by an MPP of another party it will be sent to the Premier and the Health Minister. To view a video with testimonies from healthcare providers, please click here: bit.ly/2021ConscienceVideo

No one should ever be forced to participate by immoral means, for example, by making an effective referral, in ending the lives of patients. We need legislation in Ontario to protect the conscience rights of healthcare workers.

Let us continue to pray for those who are sick, vulnerable and alone. Thank you for all that you do to strengthen our faith community, especially during these challenging times.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Ronald P. Fabbro, C.S.B.
Bishop of London