



London Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



To: All Parish Presidents, Legislation Chairpersons

CC: London Diocesan Council

From: Helga Stuermer; London Diocesan Legislation Chairperson

Date: July 6, 2018

Directive # 3

Be not afraid, I go before you always, come, follow me and I will give you rest.

Urgent Information

Re: Bill C-404, Clarification we as Catholics need to know: Please refer to my Directive # 2 Page 2& 3; and add this clarification info to it. This just came through from my Provincial Legislation chairperson. **Re: Bill C-404,** Please pass it on as soon as possible to all councils via Council Presidents and Regionals. We as Catholics must follow the teachings of our faith.

I will copy both- the Letter of Bill C404; and this clarification for your convenience: 1st the clarification: Helga. *

To: all diocesan legislation chairpersons, diocesan presidents, Archbishop O'Brien, OPC officers, legislation sub-committee, and national legislation chairperson

Bill C-404 (An Act to Amend the Assisted Human Reproduction Act)

Since sending Directive dated June 13, 2018, I received clarification from Nancy Simms as follows:

"Provincial legislation Chairs,

My sincerest apologies. In my email memo of June 1st entitled "Action to be taken on Bill C-404", I stated that if Bill C-404 passed into law that reproductive items could legally be bought and sold for "the purpose of creating designer babies." I unfortunately misspoke with this statement. No where does the Bill state that it is to create designer babies.

The League recognizes that many couples struggle with receiving the gift of a child and we are encouraged as members to always find ways to support these couples in any means possible.

Yet, as Catholics we must follow the teachings of our faith. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states in section 2376 "Techniques that entail the dissociation of husband and wife, by the intrusion of a person other than the couple (donation of sperm or ovum, surrogate uterus), are gravely immoral. These techniques (heterologous artificial insemination and fertilization) infringe the child's right to

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be born of a father and mother known to him and bound to each other by marriage. They betray the spouses' "right to become a father and a mother only through each other."

Bill C-404 is also in opposition to CWL Resolutions 2011.01 Prohibition of Practices re Human Reproductive Material and 2000.02 The Prohibition of the Sale of Human Embryonic or Foetal Tissue, or Reproductive Services. God bless, Nancy Simms, National Chairperson of Legislation"

We thank Nancy for clarifying this.

I would point out that the CWL resolutions referred to are for our information; however, when writing letters and contacting government (as requested in Directive #4), as members we cannot speak on behalf of the League, only in our personal capacity as concerned citizens.

We must continue to let our voices be heard!

Karen McDonald
Legislation Chairperson
Ontario Provincial Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Please remember when writing Letters & contacting our government (as requested) as members we cannot speak on our CWL leagues behalf, but as a concerned Canadian citizen. For your convenience -: The Letter I resend the letter of me June Directive:

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

Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call

Directive #4 Pages: 2 June 13, 2018

To: Diocesan Legislation Standing Committee Chairpersons
From: Karen McDonald, Provincial Legislation Standing Committee Chairperson
cc: Provincial Officers, Diocesan Presidents, Legislation Sub-Committee Chairpersons and National Legislation Standing Committee Chairperson

National Chairperson of Legislation Nancy Simms has sent this **urgent** information: Liberal MP Anthony Housefather introduced legislation on May 29th. The intention of Bill C-404 is "to decriminalize payment for sperm or ovum donation and for surrogacy."

The Summary of the Bill states:



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"This enactment amends the Assisted Human Reproduction Act to decriminalize payment for sperm or ovum donation and for surrogacy. It specifies that, subject to section 9, a sperm or ovum donor must be at least 18 years of age, must have the capacity to consent to the donation and must not be coerced into donating. It also specifies that a surrogate mother must be at least 21 years of age, must have the capacity to consent to becoming a surrogate mother and must not be coerced into becoming a surrogate mother. The enactment also amends the Act to allow for the purchase of other human reproductive material."

If this Bill passed into law it would mean that sperm, ova, human genes as well as a woman's womb, will be able to be bought and sold with the purpose of creating designer babies. Everything involved in the creation of a new human life will be "on sale".

Bill C-404 is in direct contradiction to our many pro-life resolutions as well as resolution 2011.01 Prohibition of Practices re Human Reproductive Material.

Members are encouraged to contact their member of parliament and the prime minister to express concern regarding proposed Bill C-404 and urge them to vote against it. We are also encouraged to contact MP Anthony Housefather requesting that he withdraw Bill C-404.

Bill C-404 can be found at this link (at page 15):

<http://www.parl.ca/LegisInfo/Home.aspx?Mode=1&Language=E&ParliamentSession=42-1>

I wish to bring the following information to your attention.

Palliative Care

A. Until July 13, 2018 ... Canadians have an opportunity to share their views with the government concerning palliative care, and to help develop a framework on palliative care for Canadians. Members are encouraged to provide feedback by:

1. Participating online -- <http://www.canada.ca/en/healthcanada/programs/consultations-palliative-care.html>
2. Written submission via email to End.of.life.care_soins.fin.de.vie@hc-sc.gc.ca
3. Written submission via mail in hard-copy format to:

Let's Talk Palliative Care

The End of Life Care Team

c/o Venetia Lawless

200 Eglantine Drive, A.L. 1904D

Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9

B. We are all encouraged to watch the video message entitled, Ending Suffering: The Palliative Alternative by Dr. Neil Hilliard, palliative care physician in Chilliwack, B.C. The link is available on the national website homepage (www.cwl.ca).

There will always be legislation (relating to our resolutions) requiring our attention ... much of it relating to homelessness. Even as the seasons change, and we relax in the sun, we must remain vigilant. It reminds me of the refrain from a favorite hymn:
Bread for the world: a world of hunger.
Wine for all peoples: people who thirst.





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May we who eat be bread for others

May we who drink pour out our love.

(Bread for the World - Bernadette Farrell)

I pray that all members will enjoy a wonderful summer and be safe when travelling.

I ask all legislation chairpersons and sub-committee chairpersons attending provincial convention in July to please introduce yourself ... I want to meet you and get a hug!

Lots of love,

Karen



This concludes the Info I received: Please read it. It is very important.

Blessings to all

Helga Stuermer.

London Diocesan Legislation Chairperson

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