



The Catholic Women's League of Canada
London Diocesan Council



Environment Care

To: All Parish Presidents, Legislation Chairpersons
CC: London Diocesan Council, OPC Legislation Chairperson Karen McDonald
From: Helga Stuermer, Legislation
Date: March 15, 2019

Directive #

Prayer: Grant us O Lord God, we beseech you, to enjoy continual health of mind & body.
And may we always speak with love and about what is good and wise. May Jesus be with us & speak through us. Amen.

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Recap: In my last directive I asked: What is Legislation? -the enacting of laws, -taking a stand. So much is being said and discussed about Medical Assisted Suicide, or medical assistance in dying: Sorry to say too many have become used to this idea, although there are several safeguards implemented by our government, it is so easy to abuse the system. Belgian scientists are warning about the consequences of our society's actions. The dangers of abuse are real may it be of withholding food and drink for excuses of reflux or...

Bill C-418: an act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying)
House of Commons of Canada: First reading October 30th 2018

Summary: This enactment amends the Criminal Code to make it an offence to: Intimidate a medical practitioner, nurse practitioner, pharmacist or any other healthcare professional for the purpose of compelling them to take part, directly or indirectly, in the provision in medical assistance in dying. It also makes it an offence to dismiss from employment or to refuse to employ a medical practitioner, nurse practitioner, pharmacist or any healthcare professional who refuse to take part, directly or indirectly, in the provision of medical assistance in dying. (Information is available on the House of Commons website: www.ourcommons.ca)

- 1. This Act may be cited as the Protection of Freedom of Conscience Act
- **Criminal Code.** 2. The portion of section 241.1 of the Criminal Code before the definition medical assistance in dying is replaced by the following:
- Definitions: **241.1 the following definitions apply in this section & in section 241.2 to 241.5**
- 241.3.4: The act is amended by adding the following after the section.

Offence & punishment –intimidation: 241.5 (1) Every person who, for the purpose of compelling a medical practitioner, nurse..... etc. To take part directly uses violence or threats of violence, coercion or any other form of intimidation, is guilty of;

- (a) an indictable offence & liable to imprisonment for a term of not more than 5 years; or
- (b) an offence punishable on a summary conviction..

Offence and punishment –employer: same as above;
Published under authority of the speaker of the House of Commons.

Bill: C-277: Palliative Care: End of Life Care palliative care can help improve the quality of life, reduce, or relieve physical & psychological symptoms. Help to have a more peaceful & dignified death. And help support family and loved ones to cope during the process of dying and afterwards. Type of treatment can involve:

- Pain management, symptom management, such as: nausea, anxiety, depression, difficult breathing social, psychological, spiritual and emotional support.
- Caregiver support.

Just recently I had close contact with the effectiveness of palliative care. It is important to give a nice beautiful environment. Often the danger is the loved ones either pretend and/or bemoan the condition of the patient. They know they are dying, they don't need to be reminded of it. Info can be found at:

<https://www.canada.ca/health-canada/services/palliative-care.html>.

Water Quality Regulations From Health Canada

News release: March 8,2019

Ideally, polluting contaminants should be prevented from entering the water. At the most, in some circumstances, they can be allowed only in low concentrations. All provinces and territories in Canada have pollution control regulations. In deciding which substances to control, and to determine the concentrations of these substances and how they may enter the environment, a number of questions have to be asked, including:

- What are the sources, amounts and effects of various substances?
- What happens to them and what do they do after they have entered the water? do they change? to what?
- Where do the substances end up?
- Can they be prevented from reaching the water body or removed by treatment?

Examples of a substance successfully regulated to reduce pollution are phosphates found in laundry detergents. The Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA) regulates many of the substances that have a deleterious effect on the environment. Lead levels in Canada have fallen dramatically over the past 30 years because of strong actions taken by the Government of Canada to reduce exposure to lead and other pollutants.

Resources:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2019/03/health-canada-sets-new-guideline.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/corporate/about-health-canada/legislation-guide.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/publications/healthy-living/guidelines-canadian-drinking-water-quality-guideline-technical-document-lead/guidance-document.html>

2.0 Executive summary 2.1 Health Effects 2.2 Exposure 2.3 Analysis.

The new Ontario Provincial Council initiative focusing on water conservation/preservation in keeping with the national theme, Care for our "Common Home". The kick-off date is March 22,2019, **World Water Day**.

There is so much more to write about, but some, and often, it will seem it is repetition, however there is usually some new information I have received. There are so many concerns out there, but sometimes we upon checking with the Canadian legislation we find information may be inflated a tad.

Until next time, blessings to all,

Helga Stuermer

Legislation Committee

PS: Generally quality of drinking water is provinces jurisdiction, the federal government has some responsibility on federal lands & First Nations communities located south of 60 degrees N latitude & North of 60 territorial. Safe drinking water for all communities is vital!