

Pembroke Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada
Fall Meeting, October 30, 2021, Oral Report
Karen McKibbin, Legislation

Legislation provides CWL members the opportunity to educate themselves on potential bills being introduced to federal and provincial governments. Our CWL National and Provincial CWL Websites contain a wealth of information for members and these are valuable sites to source. Bills for decades on a vast array on topics of legislation have been and continue being introduced. Delving into these topics is interesting and becomes rather compelling for a member to become involved.

For the Pembroke Diocese, we have become involved by the letters you received pertaining to **Bill C-7 An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying)**. Members responded by contacting their local political representative with calls, letters and emails, and signing petitions. Regrettably, **Bill C-7 received royal assent, but it caused us to strongly advocate for palliative care as the dignified choice.**

Thank you to members who did join our efforts against Bill C-7. We still have much to do.

The pandemic caused our federal government to act quickly during the pandemic – six bills were passed through federal parliament at the start of the pandemic:

Bill C-4 An Act relating to certain measures in response to COVID-19,
Bill C-9 An Act to amend the Income Tax Act (Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy and Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy),
Bill C-13 An Act respecting certain measures in response to COVID-19 (COVID19 Emergency Response Act),
Bill C-14 A second Act respecting certain measures in response to COVID-19,
Bill C-15 The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and
Bill C-24 An Act to amend the Employment Insurance Act (additional regular benefits), the Canada Recovery Benefits Act (restriction on eligibility) and another Act in response to COVID-19 received royal assent.

Just this past week I noticed on the Ontario Legislation, Bill 16, an Act to amend the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, to provide WSIB Coverage to Workers in Residential Care Facilities and Group Homes.

You can expect to hear more from me to protect the valuable people that are employed in this environment.