

Pembroke Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada
Annual General Meeting, May 29, 2021, Oral Report
Karen McKibbin, Legislation and Resolutions Chair

Thank you to the many CWL members who participated in our letter writing efforts toward opposing Bill C-7, Medical Assistance in Dying. Suffering Canadians who are not near the natural end of their lives now have the right to seek medical assistance in dying. Bill C-7 legislation brought to the forefront the manner in which we treat the weak, the ill and the marginalized.

A government funded Palliative Care system available to all Canadians is a much more effective response to suffering and to protecting each human person.

The Principles of Palliative Care

- Affirms life and regard dying as a normal process
- Neither hastens nor postpones death
- Provides relief from pain and other distressing symptoms
- Integrates the psychological and spiritual aspects of care.
- Offers a support system to help patients live as actively as possible until death

As Catholic Women's League Members, our tasks have not concluded, because of the critical need for Palliative Care. We ask all CWL members to vigorously support our efforts toward a universal, publicly funded Palliative Care.

Canadians across Canada during 2020 and 2021 have witnessed the devastation of Covid 19 on our beloved people in Long Term Care Facilities. We have witnessed the suffering and loss of our beloved due to the unimaginable spread of this virus and the variants that accompany it.

In May 2020, members of the CWL Pembroke Diocesan sent letters to Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario asking that the Independent Commission he had chosen to examine Ontario's Long Term Care System achieve the protection and safety of our residents in Long Term Care Facilities. Regrettably, the conclusion of the Independent Commission revealed that "Ontario was not prepared to address a pandemic and had no plan to protect residents in long term care, due to years of neglect".

Now in 2021, our Pembroke Diocesan CWL has the desire for further communications on this crucial matter. We ask that you kindly support us as we prepare a response from the Catholic Women's League to address the serious issues evident in our Long Term Care Facilities.

We encourage all members of our Catholic Women's League to support us in these new tasks that our Pembroke Diocesan CWL is undertaking.