



# The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Archdiocese of Edmonton

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL, PRAY FOR US

## LEGISLATION & RESOLUTIONS ANNUAL REPORT 2014

46 councils reported

### Sisters in the League

Many parish councils do not have a Standing Committee on Resolutions or Legislation, but information is shared, discussed and actions are taken by the parish councils. Several councils reported “Catch the Fire” reminded members of the importance of resolutions to the work of the league. An initiative introduced this year at the Mid-Winter Meeting held in Rocky Mountain House was the “**CWL JOB JAR**”. From the Job Jar members selected a topic to take to their council to discuss and to consider writing a letter to an M. P. or M.L.A. Sample letters were provided on the topics such as banning the sale of flavored tobacco, old age security benefits for single adults and assisted suicide. Ten councils reported using this initiative to bring issues to their councils for action. A resolution workshop entitled “**Demystifying Resolutions**” was held at our Annual Convention, in Edmonton, April 2014. Approximately 55 members attended the session.

### Resolutions:

This year one of our member council prepared & submitted a resolution on banning the sale of flavored tobacco products. This resolution was passed at the Diocesan, Provincial and National Conventions. Councils reported discussing the resolutions passed at National in 2014 and about a third had written letters or taken action related to them.

1. 2014.01 Restoration of Health Care for Refugee Claimants (Community Life)
2. 2014.02 Electronic Cigarettes (Education & Health)
3. 2014.03 Flavored Tobacco Products Ban (Health and Education)
4. 2014.04 National Standard for Newborn Screening including Screening for Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (Education & Health)
5. 2014.05 Old age Security Allowance for Individuals 60 to 64 years of age regardless of Marital Status. (Legislation)

Many of the councils indicated that our theme “We Have Seen the Lord” reflected social justice and respect for the sanctity of life and incorporated aspects into their council meetings. Parish Council’s reported they reviewed euthanasia, criminalization of the sexual services, and many had studied the selling of the flavored tobacco to youth.

## **Legislation:**

All reporting councils indicated they monitored government through federal and provincial government web sites, the Western Catholics Reporter, Prairie Messenger, Diocesan/Provincial Web Sites & National Communiqués, the League Magazine and local newspapers. Members shared and discussed information related to bills before the provincial or federal legislatures.

Members gathered and used the resources provided at the Mid-Winter Meetings or on CWL websites to write to their M.L.A's and M.P's. While not all councils reported the number of letters written or the replies received all indicated taking action. The following is what was provided in Parish Annual Reports:

Banning Tobacco Products – 70 letters written reported by 20 councils with replies received from the Minister of Health for Alberta (unknown how many replies)

Old Age Security Benefits – 12 letters written by 3 councils.

Assisted Suicide – 12 letters by 3 councils

Gender Selection – 4 Councils reporting writing letters

Additional Benefits for Cancer Patients and their Caregivers – one council reporting

Three councils had met with the M.L.A. in their area; topics discussed included ban on tobacco products, right to life legislation and the RU abortion pill. One council reported having a speaker from Magdalene House to speak on the changes to human trafficking legislation.

Councils also acted upon issues related to homelessness, abortion, cyber-bullying, Alberta Senior Advocate, improved palliative care and the work of St. Vincent de Paul.

The Parish Councils across our diocese have done a tremendous amount of work studying issues and maintaining their awareness of government actions. They keep informed on the issues and work for the good of the church, the league and Canada. The one reoccurring theme from all the reports is their love of God and love of each other. Truly through our councils “We Have Seen the Lord”.

Respectfully submitted,  
For God and Canada

*Mary Molloy*

