

The Catholic Women's League of Canada Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council

Social Justice Chair MEMO: 2023.02 DATE: March 28, 2023



TO: Diocesan Presidents

CC: Diocesan Chairpersons Social Justice / Resolution

CC: Provincial Executive (for information)

CC: National Chairperson of Resolution (for information)
FROM: Denise Blackstock Provincial Chairperson of Social Justice

RE: Resolution 2018.03 Legislate Designation of Hospice/Palliative Care Services in Facilities to Exclude Medical Assistance in Dying

Welcome to spring, a time of new growth, renewal, and planting seeds. It is a time to get down on our knees, till the ground, plant the seeds and water them so that the seeds may germinate and begin to grow.

We, as Catholic women also must get on our knees, plant the seeds and be a voice for those who are most vulnerable. Thus, in keeping with the joint communique from National Christian Family Life and Legislation Chair we need to write to our members of government letting them know that we oppose the ever-expanding inclusion of MAiD to those most vulnerable and request that the current legislative pause to include mental illness as criteria for MAiD be made permanent. Our voices can make a difference.

My request is that you bring sample letters to your Diocesan Conventions, distribute them to the ladies so they may take, sign, and mail the letters to their MLAs. These letters can be found on the Calgary website at calgarycwl.ca, as well as having sample letters at the convention, the letters can also be brought to council meetings, have a letter writing campaign at some point in the meeting. Some ladies may prefer to mail the letters themselves; others can hand in their letter to you where you can gather all the letters into one envelope and drop them off at your MLAs office.

I would request that all councils send out their letters before June 30, 2023 and then send me a report as to how their council participated:

- 1. Were they happy or disgruntled in doing the letter writing?
- 2. How can we make it so that the ladies want to write letters?
- 3. Do the ladies understand the process and why we send letters?
- 4. What is the initial reaction to letter writing?

Please go to ABMK website at cwlabmk.ca and check out the MAiD Powerpoint presentation which has been put together by my Resolution Committee – Dorothy Boras, Diane Miedema and Sharon Ryan.

May the Holy Spirit Guide and Inspire us!

Denise Blackstock

ABMK Social Justice Chair