



Name of Parish Council (Location) of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Date

Name of Member of Parliament

Member of Parliament
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Re: Protection of the charitable status of faith organizations and pro-life charities

Dear *Mr./Ms. Name of Member of Parliament*,

As local constituents, we urge the rejection of any proposed legislative changes that would remove charitable status eligibility for faith-based communities and pro-life organizations, such as those forwarded by the Standing Committee on Finance in its December 2024 pre-budget Recommendations 429 and 430.

Recommendation 429 suggests amending the *Income Tax Act* to revoke charitable status from organizations identified as “anti-abortion.” This terminology targets a specific subgroup within the charitable sector and appears to prioritize organizations that align with the current government’s policies over those following established legal principles. The rationale behind this proposal seems to penalize organizations based on differing moral stances. While maintaining transparency and accountability in the charitable sector is important, these requirements unfairly affect organizations that provide legitimate pregnancy health and social services based on their moral beliefs.

Recommendation 430 further imperils the Catholic charitable sector in Canada, which is integral to Canada’s social fabric. This sector encompasses a wide range of community services and ministries, including food banks, soup kitchens, refugee resettlement programs, climate and social justice initiatives, daycares, schools, hospitals, long-term care homes and palliative care centres. A recent study estimated that replacing the services provided by faith congregations in Canada would cost \$16.5 billion. Moreover, for every dollar a congregation spends, the local community receives an average of \$3.39 in economic benefit. The proposed changes threaten not only the survival of these faith organizations but also Canadians and their broader communities that rely on these compassionate, accessible and purpose-driven services.

I urge you not to support any legislation related to Recommendations 429 and 430 and to protect the charitable status of faith-based and pro-life organizations. This will ensure these institutions continue serving millions of Canadians, regardless of religious affiliation.

Sincerely,

The undersigned members of *Council Name (Location)* of The Catholic Women's League of Canada

