

Christian Family Life



Date: October 22, 2020

Communiqué #11

Care for Our Common Home

TO: Provincial Chairpersons of Christian Family Life
CC: National Executive (for information)
FROM: Pat Deppesse, National Chairperson of Christian Family Life

Dear sisters in the League,

I hope and pray you are staying safe and are in good health. I recently sent out a parish council memo, yet I felt it was important to write to inform chairpersons about messages I recently received regarding Bill C-7 *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying)*. The bill seeks to expand medical assistance in dying (MAiD) and was re-tabled in parliament on October 5th.

Euthanasia Prevention Coalition's October 2020 newsletter explains the changes Bill C-7 would make to the law. I urge you to visit epcc.ca for updates. Alex Schadenberg, executive director of Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (EPC), requests Canadians write letters to their members of parliament. EPC provides a list of members of parliament and some key talking points including:

1. Bill C-7 must not permit MAiD when a person has become incompetent even if the person was previously approved.
2. Bill C-7 must not eliminate the 10 day waiting period.
3. Bill C-7 must define "psychological suffering" to actually prevent euthanasia for mental illness alone.

On the same website is a link to a statement from Canadian physicians, "Bill C-7 from MAiD to MAD: Medical Assistance in Dying becomes Medically Administered Death—You no longer need to be dying for your physician to end your life." Bill C-7 seeks to expand "medical assistance in dying" (MAiD) to virtually everyone who is sick and suffering in Canada," which would "make our country the world leader in administering death."

Religious leaders from across Canada including Archbishop Richard Gagnon (Winnipeg) and president of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB), wrote a letter in opposition to Bill C-7 stating, "As Canadians, we can and must do better." The CCCB calls "on Catholics and all people of good will to make their voices heard in opposition to the Bill." This letter can be reviewed in full at cccb.ca/media-release/we-can-and-must-do-much-better.

I urge you to pass this message to your diocesan counterparts, encouraging them to send it on to parish councils for action. Many Canadians are unaware of Bill C-7. Now is an extremely important time to be aware of what is going on and act. Ask your diocesan counterparts to encourage members to write their elected officials and express their wishes for the government to reject Bill C-7. Together members can make an impact.

God bless and keep you all,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Deppiessé".

Pat Deppiessé
National Chairperson of Christian Family Life