

# Legislation Workshop – Faith In Action

By National Chairperson of Legislation Betty Colaneri (2018-2021)

## Introduction:

Legislation is often thought of as a daunting and tedious task. That is where a workshop comes in! Knowing about the history, traditions and procedures can give members a better understanding and appreciation for the process. Think of this as an opportunity to make a difference.

Parliament passes laws that affect Canadians in their everyday lives as well as foreign policy and national defence. This workshop focuses on the legislative process at the federal level. Each province also makes laws that do not fall under the federal umbrella, such as those related to education and healthcare.

This workshop can be held in many formats depending on what your council has available. It is designed to be held as a workshop in its entirety but can also be presented at a meeting if time permits.

The PowerPoint presentation will require a computer, projector and screen or plain wall. If members are not familiar with the technology necessary to show the presentation, requesting a student's expertise could open the doors to other possibilities.

In the interest of saving trees and helping the environment, displaying the websites where members can find the resource information is highly recommended rather than providing handouts.

An important website to display and demonstrate how to access is the LEGISInfo ([parl.ca/legisinfo](http://parl.ca/legisinfo)). This website provides a list of all bills and their up-to-date status.

Why not be interactive!

Have members enact the Legislative Process of passing a bill.

- Pick a topic of importance to your council or provide a current issue of concern.
- Set up the room similar to the House of Commons with chairs on either side of the room facing each other.
- Assign members to be the prime minister, leader of the official opposition, etc.
- Provide name tags for prime minister, leader of the official opposition, speaker etc.
- Create the bill on paper or assign a person to be "Bill."
- If you do not have one readily available, a crown can be made out of paper to emphasize when royal assent has been achieved.

Be creative to make the workshop/presentation enjoyable!

## Welcome and Opening Remarks

## Opening Prayer for Social Justice

### Social Justice Prayer

When Jesus began His journey of ministry, it was centred on social justice. His heart was with the poor and vulnerable and defended women and the oppressed.

The gospel tells us:

“Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute” (Psalm 82:3)

“Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.” (Isaiah 1:17)

Almighty and eternal God, with You all things are possible. In our fractured world that bears the scars of suffering, we seek Your comfort to heal the wounds of division. We desire to answer Your call to act justly and bring about reconciliation.

We pray that You guide the nations of the world, and those that govern the countries within them, in the ways of justice and truth so they can live in unity with equality and peace.

Lord Jesus, give us the strength and courage to fulfill our baptismal promises of serving all people by following Your example and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Send us Your Spirit to give us the gifts of wisdom and grace to guide our actions as advocates for the marginalized and a voice for the voiceless.

May we persevere in our hunger for social justice and thirst for peace.

As we journey together with our sisters and brothers, may our path be one of solidarity, understanding and compassion.

Heavenly Father, watch over our country and guide its leaders in knowledge and truth to deal with complex issues for the greater good of our nation.

As a final request on this day, dear Lord, we ask that you bless those of us gathered here together. May we leave with lasting friendships and kindled with the fire of Your love to fulfill our ministry.

Amen.

## PowerPoint Presentation

### Conclusion:

As members of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada, we can make a difference—working together with our Christian values in the present to improve the future for all Canadians.

### Our Faith in Action!