

LEGISLATION



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I would like to share a summary of comments from legislation chairpersons across Canada. Chairpersons of legislation reported their greatest accomplishments, their biggest challenges and their recommendations.

Their greatest accomplishments included explaining the importance of legislation, attending workshops on legislation, and encouraging and assisting councils to write letters and postcards in the knowledge that the League has the power to influence current legislation.

The biggest challenges facing chairpersons included filling this standing committee, creating interest and encouraging action by members, keeping up to date on current issues and the status of bills, understanding an issue in order to address it, and communicating with councils.

The chairpersons recommended encouraging commitment to legislation in every council by studying the resolutions adopted at the diocesan, provincial and national levels of the League and designating a council member to coordinate an action plan for each resolution. For councils without a legislation chairperson, it was suggested that a strategy be developed to keep members informed and active on relevant issues. It was encouraged that members continue to monitor government Web sites and local papers to take note of acts and issues of importance. All members are encouraged to vote in municipal, provincial and federal elections and write, telephone or e-mail with their concerns. All members are also encouraged to read the *Constitution & Bylaws*, use the *CWL Day of Peace and Hope Activities Kit*, the League Web site, *The Canadian League* and *Be League* as sources of information.

I see great **hope** for **peace** and **hope** in legislation and the actions taken by our members. For example, Bill C-384 *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (right to die with dignity)*, which would have legalized euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide, did not receive enough support to proceed and was defeated April 21st in the House of Commons by a vote of 228 to 59. This goal was achieved due to members' hard work in bringing this important issue to the parish level.

Bill C-268 *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (minimum sentence for offences involving trafficking of persons under the age of eighteen years)* has received royal assent.

Bill C-300 *Corporate Accountability of Mining, Oil and Gas Corporations in Developing Countries* received second reading on March 3, 2010. This bill relates to Resolution 2007.02 Global Accountability for Canadian Registered Mining Companies. Keep talking. Keep writing. It pays off.

For many members who were concerned about Bill C-391 *An Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Firearms Act (repeal of long-gun registry)*, on June 9th the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security presented a report that Bill C-391 not be further proceeded with.

It is very important that each member, on her own behalf, keep up a letter writing campaign showing support for bills that we requested by our resolutions and expressing concern for the bills to which we are opposed. Please use the *Personal Letter Writing Guide* which includes directions to discuss only one issue per letter. Name the bill you are referring to and be polite and courteous. Be brief and to the point with your concerns and ask for a response. Please note that the House of Commons is adjourned until September 20, 2010. †

LAWS



Lorette Noble
Candiac, Quebec

Seventeen years ago it was with great trepidation that I stood here as Quebec provincial president and gave my first report. So much has happened in my League journey since then, but one thing remains constant. It is still with great trepidation that I stand here to give my final oral report!

Each year I have been given a unique opportunity to get to know the League better

- Who we are
- What we do
- How we do it and, most importantly
- Why we do it

I would encourage every one of you to enjoy taking up this challenge and opportunity.

This is a year of anniversaries. Forty years ago Christopher and I came with our three eldest children to Canada to start a new life here. It has been a wonderful adventure about which one day I might write a book with the probable title, "How long should I leave the camel in the oven?" and thereby hangs a tale!

It is also 30 years since I joined the League and this, too, has been a wondrous adventure of *faith, fun and fulfillment...*