



# The Catholic Women's League of Canada

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September 2, 2025

The Hon. François-Philippe Champagne  
Minister of Finance and National Revenue  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Minister,

I am writing on behalf of the 55,000 members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, as well as in support of the 19.3 million Canadians who identified themselves as Christians in the 2021 Census.

We respectfully register our opposition to the Federal 2025 Pre-Budget Recommendations 429 and 430, which address the charitable status of pro-life and religious organizations.

### **Recommendation 429**

This recommendation unfairly targets a single charitable subgroup, "anti-abortion groups." It appears to penalize organizations based on moral stance rather than legal grounds. The resulting loss of funding would negatively affect legitimate pregnancy health and social support services.

In Canada, certain pro-choice organizations, such as Abortion Care Canada, currently hold charitable status to provide abortion access, education and care. Under Section 2 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, all Canadians are free to practice the religion of their choice. If pro-choice organizations are permitted to receive tax exemptions for their contributions, then equal consideration must be given to organizations that support the other side of this critical social discourse.

### **Recommendation 430**

The implications of this recommendation are even more significant. It would affect more than 40% of Canada's registered charities, with two out of five potentially losing their charitable status.

A research report released on November 13, 2024, by Cardus estimated that religious congregations contribute \$16.5 billion annually in economic and social benefits to Canadians. Using the "halo effect"—a calculation of the dollar value of a congregation's socio-economic contribution—the report concluded that the benefit provided is, on average, 10.47 times greater than the value of the tax exemptions and credits received. If religious congregations were to lose tax-exempt status, this "halo effect" would likely diminish, leaving a significant gap in social support services.



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Where would the funding come from to replace the \$16.5 billion in contributions? If contributions were reduced as little as 10% suggested in the Cardus report, could the government realistically allocate the \$1.65 billion necessary to offset this loss?

In addition to the economic impact, the social consequences would be profound. Religious Canadians contribute disproportionately through volunteerism. Removing charitable recognition from these organizations would be unconscionable, as it would penalize those who already contribute the most to the well-being of Canadian society.

It is also concerning that no public consultation was held with the charitable sectors directly affected by Recommendations 429 and 430. Given the substantial impact these changes would have on Canada's social support systems, we strongly urge that these recommendations not be included in future pre-budget recommendations and not be considered for legislation.

Sincerely,

Betty Colaneri  
National President

JP/am

cc: The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., M.P., Prime Minister of Canada