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MEMO

To: Parish Council Chairpersons of Legislation
CC: Parish Council Presidents, Diocesan Presidents, Provincial Presidents and Life Members (on request)
From: Janet McLean, National Chairperson of Legislation
Date: April 22 2016

It is only March as I write this, but spring is coming! While I was out walking this morning, flocks of Canada geese overhead were making their way north. I may be a bit optimistic thinking of spring as, in most parts of Canada, the weather can be pretty unpredictable at this time of year. However, as you read this, spring will be upon us, with perhaps crocuses and daffodils blooming, or at least the ice and snow melting in the most northerly parts of this great country.

Legislation is a lot like beautiful spring flowers. It begins with a seed or bulb (a plan or idea), is planted (presented to the governing body), nurtured with water, sunlight and fertilizer (is discussed, researched, sent for further study and then finalized), blossoms and is pruned (is passed by the governing body concerned, becomes law and takes effect). We may not all be great gardeners, but we can all do something. It is the same for you as a chairperson of legislation. By becoming aware of laws and regulations in your community, province and in Canada, you may see areas that need the “watering” and “pruning” of the League. News reports, newspaper articles or discussions with friends and relatives may raise questions in your mind about inequalities or injustices in society. What can your council do about a situation? Should they write letters, make telephone calls, send e-mails or speak to their elected officials? Any or all of these might be appropriate. Do not be afraid to make suggestions to members when you feel an issue warrants action. Get one or two members to work with you and, before you know it, your council can be a force for change. Happy gardening!

Janet McLean
National Chairperson of Legislation