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August 16, 2017

Most Rev. Bishop Douglas Crosby
Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops President
2500 Don Reid Dr.
Ottawa, ON K1H 2J2

Your excellency,

On behalf of the 938 registered attendees at the 97th annual national convention of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, representing the membership of over 82,000 members across Canada, I commend you and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops for the *CCCB Statement On the Passage of Bill C-16 Regarding Gender Identity and Gender Expression*.

The *Criminal Code* which now extends protection to members or groups distinguished by gender identity or expression from hate crimes provides for a protection that in a peaceable and respectful society should never have been necessary to articulate. That this measure was contemplated as being necessary by the federal government speaks volumes about an overriding lack of faith in the actions and behaviours of citizens of Canada.

As the statement so clearly says, "The Catholic Church sees all people, regardless of how they identify themselves or the manner in which they choose to live their lives, as possessing equally an inherent dignity bestowed on them by God our Creator. For this reason, unjust discrimination or violence against a person or community or class of persons is always morally wrong. From the moment of conception onward, every human being has the innate dignity of bearing the image of God. All persons, including those who identify as 'transgender,' must always be treated with compassion, respect, and love."

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops is taking a courageous stand in voicing the concerns of its many faithful regarding their own rights, and indeed the right of the Church, to be able to peaceably disagree with current gender theory without fear of losing the many faithful's freedom of speech, association or religion. The Catholic Women's League of Canada stands in support of any and all efforts to explain the inherent dignity of all persons, their right to live in peaceful co-existence with others, and the right of all persons to speak the truth in love.

Sincerely,

Margaret Ann Jacobs
National President

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