



# WORKSHOP

## LEGISLATION and RESOLUTIONS



# OUTLINE

- Introduction
- What is legislation?
- Why get involved with legislation?
- What can we do to affect legislation?
- What is a resolution?
- Why do we need resolutions?
- What do resolutions have to do with the *CWL*?
- Conclusion
- Questions?



## What is legislation?

- the enacting of laws
- taking a stand



## Why get involved with legislation?

- to become informed and prepared to defend our Christian values
- to affect change to better our county



## What can we do to affect legislation?

- pray
- write letters to *MPs* or *MLAs*
- monitor and study legislation in process or needing change
- prepare briefs and position papers on legislation proposals
- monitor *Hansard* and other government publications
- monitor newspapers and other media
- keep issues in the minds of members
- become informed -- don't bury your head in the sand



## Stages of a Bill

- bill introduced by a member
- first reading
- second reading
- committee stage
- report stage
- third stage
- passage by the Senate
- royal assent and proclamation



# LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF BILL C-13

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

## SENATE

<u>Bill Stage</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Bill Stage</u>	<u>Date</u>
First Reading	Oct. 9 2002	First Reading	Oct. 28 2003
Second Reading	Oct. 9 2002	Second Reading	
Committee Report	Dec. 12 2002	Committee Report	
Report Stage	Mar. 26 2002	Report Stage	
Third Reading	Oct. 28 2003	Third Reading	



# RESOLUTIONS

- allow us to **STRUCTURE** our views so that they can be
  - expressed clearly
  - easily understood
  - examined by members and others concerned about the issue
  - acted upon





## What is a resolution?

- a formal means of communications
- a declaration of a group of people
- a fixed purpose of mind
- a formal expression of opinion
- a formal statement of concerns
- a form of expression
- a decree
- a mandate
- a resolve to do things
- a set form



## Why do we need resolutions?

Resolutions are one of the ways that allow members to fulfill the objectives of the League.

- to inform CWL members
- to inform government
- to establish policy
- to plan programs
- to request action
- to express views
- to criticize existing conditions
- to motivate members
- to commend
- to thank



## Why do we need resolutions ?

- as a non-political body, we have the *freedom* to take sides for just causes
- we can speak for those who may not be able to
- we can share our values



## What do resolutions have to do with the CWL?

**A means:**

- to work for a transformation of our world
- of taking sides when necessary in the struggle for justice
- to influence authority
- to educate CWL members
- to favourably affect peoples lives
- to bring about changes



## How do resolutions come about?

- a member feels **STRONGLY** about an issue
- a council decides it feels the same way
- a committee is set up to:
  - research the topic
  - formulate the resolution
  - prepare a brief



## Where do resolutions go?

- resolutions must be presented to each appropriate level
  - parish council
  - diocesan council
  - provincial council
  - national executive



## Resolutions are passed

- first - parish council meeting
  - second - diocesan annual convention
  - third - provincial annual convention
  - final - national annual convention
- 
- resolutions are acted upon once adopted by a vote at highest level concerned



## How to formulate a resolution

- resolutions are a **FORMAL** and **STRUCTURED** statement
- all resolutions look alike and follow the same
  - “pattern”
  - “recipe”
  - “blue-print”





## How to write a resolution

- word the resolved clauses first
- word the whereas clauses next
- standard format for all resolutions. . . . .
- **WHEREAS, The . . . . .; and**  
**WHEREAS, There . . . . .; and**  
**WHEREAS, It . . . . .; therefore be it**  
**RESOLVED, That the members of . . . . .; and be it**  
**further**  
**RESOLVED, That . . . . .**
- resolved clauses to bridge levels of the League



## Resolutions Action Plan

- read, study the resolution
- discuss the resolution in your parish council
- use the detailed action plan available in early fall
- letter writing the most frequent form of action
- plan letter writing meetings for your council using the *Personal Letter Writing Guide*
- consider inviting guest speakers
- prepare a program or workshop on the topic
- share your successful "actions" with others



## Conclusion

- talk is not enough!
- monitor action taken
- study replies received from authorities
- watch for results
- has any change taken place?
- improvements?
- study undertaken?
- prayer



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## QUESTIONS

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Parliamentary website <http://www.parl.gc.ca>