

2015

TO: Base Council Presidents, Base Council Resolution and Legislation Chairs,
Military Ordinariate Admin Committee, Military Ordinariate
Archivist and Military Ordinariate Life Liaison Member

SUBJECT:

Introduction, Resolution 2015.04 and
public consultation

MEMO:

#2(2014-2016)

DATE: October 6, 2015



The Catholic Women's League of Canada Military Ordinariate Provincial Council



TO: Base Council Presidents, Base Council Resolution and Legislation Chairs, Military Ordinariate Admin Committee, Military Ordinariate Archivist and Military Ordinariate Life Liaison Member

FROM: Military Ordinariate Provincial Resolution and Legislation Chair

DATE: October 6, 2015

MEMO: #2(2014-2016)

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Dear Sisters in the League,

I hope that you are enjoying the fall and the beautiful colours that God has provided for us as the leaves turn brilliant colours.

My name is Theresa Schopf and I was recently appointed Chair for Resolutions and Legislation. I have been a member of the Catholic Women's League for 32 years, and have held many offices at the parish council level and as treasurer and spiritual development chair at the provincial level. This is the first time that I have been the chairperson for resolutions and legislation at any level, so this is a learning experience.

Over the next few months I plan to tell you about the resolutions which were passed during the CWL National Convention. The first one that I want to mention is also linked to legislation: *Carter v. Canada* - physician assisted suicide.

Resolution 2015.04 Invoke Section 33 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* in the case of *Carter v. Canada*

As many of you know, on February 6, 2015, the Supreme Court of Canada struck down sections of the *Criminal Code of Canada* which prohibited individuals the right to consent to death being inflicted on them and the right to assist someone in death if the appropriate consent has been given and the medical condition is grievous and irremediable. This, in effect, would allow for physician assisted suicide. The Supreme Court of Canada suspended their ruling for 12 months to give the federal government enough time to amend its laws.

Section 33 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, includes a notwithstanding clause which can give elected government the legislative authority to overturn or suspend a judicial court ruling in matters of public policy. It would give the federal government up to five years from the date that Section 33 is invoked to comply with the court ruling. Rather than rush through consultations and establishing law in an expedited manner, this would provide time for consultations and sound decision making.

Public Consultation

In July 2015, the federal government announced the establishment of an external panel that will consult with Canadians on options to respond to the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in *Carter v. Canada*. The panel is consulting with experts, healthcare professionals and the general public.

You can participate in two consultations which are open to the public:

1. [Send a Formal Submission](#)

Individuals and Organizations are invited to prepare and send submissions for the Panel to review. Submissions should focus on issues outlined in section 3.2 of the Panel's found here [Terms of Reference](#). **Deadline October 11, 2015**

2. [Online "Issue Book"](#)

Learn more about voluntary euthanasia and assisted suicide as well as palliative care, and consider key perspectives and issues, as you provide your input to the Panel through this comprehensive questionnaire. **Deadline November 1, 2015**

For more information on the Panel and its work, please visit: www.externalpanel.ca

In my opinion, participating in this consultation does not mean that you support physician assisted suicide. Not participating; however, means that your voice will not be heard.

Federal Election

Please exercise your right to vote! If you have the opportunity you may want to ask the candidates in your riding how they feel about the sanctity of life and if they would support invoking Section 33 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

In the meantime, please pray for the candidates and for all Canadian eligible to vote, that they may make the right decision. I will pray for you!

Please send me your comments, questions and any suggestions for upcoming memos.

Your Sister in the League,

Theresa