

My dear League sisters and Father John Garden:

Summer seems to have arrived in most places and we are being blessed with longer, sunny days. It is a time to rejoice in God's many abundant blessings!

National Social Justice Communique #13

I hope all members a chance to review National Social Justice Chairperson Glenda Carson's communique sent out in early May encouraging councils to act immediately on 2 very important issues:

- The protection of charitable status for religious and pro-life groups
- Changes to consent procedures for MAID to that of advanced requests.

The communique included excellent resources which were developed by the social justice sub-committee. Please make use of the petitions and letter-writing templates to ensure the government knows our position on these concerns. We can't remain silent.

Bill S-209

"An Act to restrict young persons' online access to pornographic material" is an important piece of legislation sponsored by the Honourable Senator Julie Miville-Dechene. The bill had its first reading in the Senate on May 28th and the second reading is now in progress. Sister Nancy Brown brought this legislation to my attention in connection with one of our past resolutions:

2017.02 Mandatory Age Verification Mechanisms for Adult Pornographic Websites.

Senator Miville-Dechane has been sponsoring this bill in parliament for the last four and a half years. From the senator's speech in support of the bill, she noted: "At the time of prorogation last January, my bill had almost reached the finish line, at report stage, just before its third reading in the House of Commons....A year ago, 77% of Canadians surveyed by Leger supported the idea of an age-verification method to block access by children to on-line pornographic material. They are the reason I keep going, to make their voices heard in parliament." The senator is to be applauded for her valiant efforts and for starting the process all over again, to ensure our children are protected. Further in her speech, the honourable senator noted that the average age of first exposure to graphic pornography is 11. "According to the renowned Canadian Centre for Child Protection, the viewing of pornography by minors normalizes these images in their eyes, making children more likely to fall victim to online predators."

Below is a link to the bill, where a copy of the senator's speech can also be reviewed:

[S-209 \(45-1\) - LEGISinfo - Parliament of Canada](#)

Please write to your MPs to let them know we support this important piece of legislation. You will be taking direct action in support of Resolution 2017.02.

I would also encourage members to visit <https://protectchildren.ca/en/>, the website for the Canadian Centre for Child Protection. The organization was founded 40 years ago as a small Manitoba charity and is now an international force advocating for online safety for children. According to their website, cypertip.ca has reported a 27% increase over last year in reports of online sexual exploitation. Likely, many incidents go unreported. Again, there are no regulations in place to protect children on social media sites, where predators have easy access to potential victims. Educate yourself on this issue and the Centre also encourages concerned citizens to write to their MPs to ask them to introduce legislation to regulate online companies to protect children.

Indigenous Relations Webinar

Please share the link below which highlights a recent webinar which introduced the national indigenous relations subcommittee members. The link can be accessed in Videos under the “Inspire” tab on the national website. “Walking Together with Indigenous Sisters: Making Connections” offers meaningful insights into reconciliation journeys and inspiration on building meaningful relationship.

[Walking Together with Indigenous Sisters](#)

This will be my last communique as your provincial Social Justice chairperson. It has truly been an honour and a pleasure to serve on the provincial executive for the past 4 years and I thank you for giving me this opportunity at a higher level in the League. I look forward to seeing many of you at the provincial and national conventions and wish you all a blessed, beautiful summer.

“Prayer in action is love, love in action is service” Blessed St. Teresa of Calcutta

Blessings, Angelina Stiglich