



**Ontario Provincial Council**  
**Education & Health Standing Committee**  
**ONE Heart, ONE Voice, ONE Mission**

Directive # 3

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To: Diocesan Education & Health Standing Committee Chairpersons  
From: Colleen Randall, Ontario Provincial Council,  
Education & Health Standing Committee Chairperson  
cc: Diocesan Presidents, Provincial Officers, Sub-committee chairs,  
National Education & Health Standing Committee Chairperson

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**Home Care in the Province of Ontario**

A recent article in the Globe and Mail (November 23, 2015) informed us of a major overhaul to the way home care is provided in this province.

Currently **Community Care Access Centres** (CCAC) provide information about local care options to residents of Ontario. It is provincially funded and was established by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care in 1996 to help the public access government-funded home and community services. CCACs work together with doctors, hospitals and other health care providers to coordinate services like support for the elderly in their own homes or long-term care facilities.

The article states that the proposed changes will be mapped out in a paper to be made public in a couple of weeks. The Globe and Mail states that the proposal will expand the role of the province's **Local Health Integration Networks** (LHIN) and eliminate the fourteen CCACs across the province.

CCAC has come under fire in recent years for inconsistent standards of care. In her report released December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 Auditor-General Bonnie Lysyk cited the following regarding health care:

- The Ministry of Health and Long-term Care fell behind on its critical-incident and complaint inspections at the province's 630 long-term-care homes.
- The province has yet to correct many of the problems in the Home Care Program of Ontario's 14 Community Care Access Centres that were identified in an audit our Office completed five years ago.
- Children's Aid Societies are not always meeting provincial protection standards, may be closing cases too soon, and are taking too long to complete investigations of possible abuse.
- The Ministry of Children and Youth Services lacks sufficient information about the quality of care provided by Ontario's 47 Children's Aid Societies to oversee them effectively.
- Ontario's 14 Local Health Integration Networks have a mandate to plan, fund and integrate local health systems, but the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care has not clearly outlined what the end result should look like and when it should be achieved. The complete report is available at

[http://www.auditor.on.ca/en/news\\_en/15\\_newsreleases/2015news\\_overall.pdf](http://www.auditor.on.ca/en/news_en/15_newsreleases/2015news_overall.pdf)

These reforms could be of concern if the quality of care deteriorates under the changes. As members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada we are called to be diligent in monitoring these changes and ensuring that our MPPs are aware that we are concerned and watching the reforms.

The discussion paper was to be released today from the ministry.

### **From National:**

After the national convention in August I distributed a DVD on **the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd** to all dioceses. Attached you will find a registration form for Leader Formation Programs being offered in Ottawa in July. If anyone can attend please let me know.

### **Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy – Palliative Care**

At the fall meeting of the national executive, members deliberated on the many aspects of mercy to focus on during the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy that began on December 8th. The recurring theme was the corporal work of mercy through palliative care. With the recent political landscape on physician-assisted suicide, it is more important than ever that members answer the call to accompany those who are on the journey of dying and being reborn into eternal life. Palliative care is a basic human need that everyone deserves. Councils need to educate members and their communities on what constitutes good palliative care and then inspire members to action through volunteering the gift of themselves to accompany others on their journey.

Parish councils will soon be receiving in the mail a new brochure on the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy along with a [letter from the national president](#) and pledge cards for councils to sign and mail back to national office. These pledge cards will be sent as a spiritual bouquet of the League's corporal works of mercy to the Holy Father. Members will be asked to pledge their support through action towards good palliative care.

### **National Bursary Fund Changes**

To address concerns expressed by members, the national bursary fund has been changed to have funds distributed twice a year. Deadlines for applications to be submitted to national office are now May 31st and November 30th. This will allow applicants to receive funds quicker if they are taking a course in the middle of the year. Applicants may also now receive reimbursement for courses they have already taken. The new form with highlights on these changes can be found at [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca) under "Resources" then "Forms". Please encourage your diocesan/parish counterparts to review the changes and encourage members to apply.

These are only highlights from Nancy's report. The full report can be found on the National website [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca).

### **Education: Our Catholic Schools Newsletter - Merry Christmas!**

<http://us9.campaign-archive2.com/?u=a585e4f26709da29d5b57db80&id=4fc2c4c73c&e=6bbdc3fd35>

Yours in service to God, Colleen