



ONTARIO PROVINCIAL COUNCIL
LEGISLATION STANDING COMMITTEE



ONE HEART, ONE VOICE, ONE MISSION

DIRECTIVE # 5

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To: Diocesan Legislation Standing Committee Chairpersons
From: Carol Richer, Ontario Provincial Council Legislation Standing Committee Chairperson
cc: Diocesan Presidents, Provincial Officers, Provincial Legislation Sub-committee member,
and National Legislation Standing Committee Chairperson

"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth"

(Mohammed Ali)

A heartfelt welcome to those of you who have taken on the duties of Legislation Standing Committee Chairperson, and a sincere welcome back to those of you who are setting out on the second year of this journey.

I look forward to seeing you at the up-coming provincial convention, and to working with all of you in the coming year. I'm sure it will be a year of challenges, but I promise you, it will be interesting and rewarding work.

The call from our Heavenly Father never comes to us in a vacuum; it comes to us in the circumstances of our daily lives. As we go about fulfilling the duties associated with our standing committee, we must remain open to hearing the Father's call.

The Legislation and Resolutions Standing Committees work hand in hand in responding to the Father's call for us to take an active role in advocating for human rights and social justice. Through our resolutions, action plans and lobbying of governments, we respond to the needs of the marginalized and vulnerable at home and abroad, through advocacy, empowerment and prayerful service ... we are a voice for the voiceless. As Legislation chairs, it falls on us to support all CWL resolutions, to keep members informed of issues that affect all of society, and to encourage members to take action.

Much of the past year has been spent supporting our bishops in the fight against Physician Assisted Death legislation. Our work will continue, as we work to minimize the damage, to ensure that physicians and other health care workers are protected from having to be part of the process, and in making sure that Hospice and Palliative Care are fully funded and readily accessible as a dignified alternative to Assisted Death. We will continue in our efforts to ensure respect for all life, from conception to natural death.

We will of course also be strongly advocating for our First Nations People, as efforts are being made by governments to relieve some of the many issues that affect their lives. All people deserve equal opportunity.

I encourage you to share your concerns with me. If there are issues that you feel we should be dealing with, let me know... they may be of concern to others, too. Together, perhaps we can come up with a plan of action that can be shared with our members across the province.

I wish you all a summer filled with happy times spent with family and friends, and pray that you will all be blessed with good health.

May the Holy Spirit and Our Lady of Good Counsel guide and watch over you always.

Blessings,

Carol Richer

Legislation Standing Committee Chairperson
Ontario Provincial Council of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

