



ONTARIO PROVINCIAL COUNCIL
LEGISLATION STANDING COMMITTEE



ONE HEART, ONE VOICE, ONE MISSION

DIRECTIVE # 6

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September 2, 2016

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

"As women of mercy we cast a light into the darkness around us"

(Sister John Mary, speaker at 96th Annual CWL National Convention)

We warmly welcome new diocesan legislation chairpersons Darlene MacGregor of Alexandria/Cornwall, Theresa Ryan of London, Maria Fitzgerald of Peterborough, and pray that Hearst, Ottawa and Timmins will soon find women willing fill these vacancies on their diocesan executive. A list of legislation chairs is attached for diocesan counterparts only. Remember that it is for your use only!

Diocesan, provincial and national conventions! WOW! The opportunities for spiritual growth, gaining knowledge from the various informative speakers, and learning more about the League, were endless. How could one NOT come away invigorated and eager to face the challenges of the coming CWL year. Father James Mallon reminded us that 'all is not right in the world, but not all is wrong either'.

Following the national election, it was announced that Nancy Simms, a 31 year League member from Kamloops, BC, has been designated as the new national chairperson of legislation. Nancy held the education and health chair at the national level in the past term. She has a passion for research, writing and working to make the world a better place, and is a joy to work with! We welcome her as our national counterpart, and look forward to working with her in this most interesting and challenging position.

Four resolutions were passed at the provincial convention. Two of these, plus three from other provinces, moved on to be passed at the national convention. Two of these directly relate to the legislation standing committee...

2016.04 Amend the *Canada Health Act* to Identify Palliative Care as an Insured Health Service

2016.05 Amend the *Canada Health Act* to Include Home Care as an Insured Health Service (ON.16.01)

These are attached for quick reference. All resolutions, in their entirety can be found on the national and provincial websites... cwl.ca or cwl.on.ca

As legislation chairpersons, we understand that resolutions cannot end with their passing at provincial and national conventions. It is up to all members, at all levels, to

carry out the action plans... to take the resolutions to those outside the League, to other concerned citizens and to governments at all levels, to inform them of the issue, and to persuade them to make changes. Simply bringing forth a resolution is not enough. It is up to us to inform, to initiate action and to influence those who can ultimately bring about change. This is how we can 'cast a light into the darkness around us'. This is the primary role of legislation chairpersons.

Another of the speakers at the national convention cautioned us to aim to focus our efforts, and to remember that we cannot be all things to all people. Keeping this in mind, I encourage you to urge your parish council counterparts to study all resolutions, especially those passed this year, to pick one or two to focus on, and to work diligently at following the action plans... letters, phone calls, personal contact... all are critical in achieving the desired results. As legislation chairs, let's aim to really promote the action plans of the two national resolutions that relate to this committee.

Although 59 national resolutions were archived at the national convention, there are still many, both national and provincial, that require our on-going and committed attention. Check both the national and provincial websites for a list of all active resolutions. Become familiar with them, and make the action plans part of your daily lives.

A list of members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario can be found at www.ontla.on.ca/web/members, and federal members of parliament can be found at www.parl.gc.ca/parliamentarians. And don't forget your local/municipal governments regarding local issues. I know that those at all levels in my area are always happy to hear from their constituents, and welcome comments and suggestions. Your concerns are their concerns, as they were elected to represent you, so stay in touch with them, and work to develop a good working relationship.

A reminder that you can all benefit from the wonderfully inspiring speakers from the national convention as their presentations were live streamed, and are available on the national website (cwl.ca). Be sure to check them out.

Attached to this directive are the following for your information:
List of diocesan legislation chairpersons and contact info (for their use only)
Resolutions 2016.04 and 2016.05
Janet MacLean's oral legislation report to national convention 2016
My oral legislation report to OPC convention 2016

May Our Lady of Good Counsel and St. Laura of St. Catherine of Siena continue to guide and inspire us as we work 'to make the world a better place'.

Blessings to all!

Carol Richer

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