



ONTARIO PROVINCIAL COUNCIL
LEGISLATION STANDING COMMITTEE



ONE HEART, ONE VOICE, ONE MISSION

DIRECTIVE # 7

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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

"To change the world, we must be good to those who cannot repay us." Pope Francis

The geese have gone north (except for some that seem to have forgotten where north is), the birds of summer have gone south, leaves are falling, nights are cooler and days are growing shorter. Having gloried in the beauty of the changing leaves, we now look with joyful anticipation to the beautiful season of Advent.

I recently came across a small booklet entitled 'Living Advent with Mary' and was taken by a section which referred to Mary as 'The Mirror of Justice'. The passage states that..." *Our Blessed Virgin Mary is a hope-filled woman of justice --- the "Mirror of Justice" as a traditional litany describes her --- concerned that the hungry be filled with good things. Christians have long envisioned her watching over the poor and lowly with a fierce, protective mother's love ... a woman who isn't squeamish at all about crushing the head of evil under her foot.*"

I immediately thought of the League and of our many members who are also 'mirrors of justice', working to feed the hungry, give shelter to the homeless, and so much more. Through our many resolutions, we have worked to change the world, to speak for those who have no voice, and to *be good to those who cannot repay us*. Like Mary, we have answered God's call, and set out to be servants of the Lord. During this coming season of Advent, may we wait and be watchful with Mary, to slow down and recognize all the ways Jesus comes to us.

I recently sent out an email sharing the news that effective July 1, 2018, the federal government has banned the sale of shower gels, toothpaste and facial scrubs containing plastic microbeads... the hoped for response to our resolution ON.15.01, which was passed at the national level as 2015.02. This is cause for rejoicing, and for spreading the word that our resolutions are effective!

Over the years, the CWL has passed many resolutions that deal with issues relating to women. Two still active resolutions ...2009.1, Exit Strategies for Prostituted Persons and 2011.02, Children of Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women, are deserving of our ongoing attention, especially during the month of November, "Women Abuse Prevention Month".

Following is information taken from the promotional material for the ***Shine The Light on Woman Abuse*** campaign.

The ***Shine the Light on Woman Abuse*** campaign is a registered trademarked public awareness movement .

Shine the Light intends to:

- Raise awareness on violence against women and the statistics involving Canadian women
- Raise awareness of the different types of abuse and community services in place to help
- Stand in solidarity with abused women and support in the understanding that there should be no shame or blame put on the victim but on the perpetrator
- Raise awareness on the number of community organizations that can provide and advocate for abused women as they attempt to live a life free from violence
- Work towards breaking the cycle of violence

Purple is a symbol of survival, honour and courage. The colour of bruises, purple has been transformed to symbolize the fight to end woman abuse. From putting up a poster to getting creative and devising your own plan, there are many ways to show your support.

To get more information on this campaign, and find posters and other material that you can share, just google *Shine the Light Campaign*. You'll find many sites to choose from, and find out what is happening in other areas. Learn more about the campaign, wear purple, and share what you learn... **It's time to end this violence!**

Keeping in mind the success of our microbeads resolution, please take the time to write letters to your MP, MPP and both provincial and federal ministers ... use the sample letters provided by Resolutions Chairperson Linda Squarzolo to let your voice be heard. Little by little, we can change the world!

May our Lady of Good Counsel and St. Laura of St. Catherine of Siena continue to watch over and guide us.

Blessings,

Carol Richer

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