



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

Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call

Directive #1

Pages: 2

August 29, 2017

To: Diocesan Legislation Standing Committee Chairpersons
From: Karen McDonald, Provincial Legislation Standing Committee
Chairperson
cc: Provincial Officers, Diocesan Presidents, Legislation Sub-Committee
Chairpersons and National Legislation Standing Committee Chairperson

Legislation is social justice in action.

It is the carrying out of League resolutions to influence government policy.

CWL [Executive Handbook](#) (May 2014)

My League sisters ... I warmly welcome each of you and send a hug your way. Whether you are new to this role or not, I commend you for *stepping up to the plate*. You have answered the call to serve on a committee that many shy away from. Through prayer and *teamwork*, using the gifts and talents that God gave us, we will learn from one another over the next two years and continue to be women of **action**.

I am humbled to have been elected to serve at the provincial level. I joined the League in 1990 in the footsteps of my mother and my grandmother. At the diocesan level, I have chaired the spiritual development, resolutions and organization standing committees, and have served as diocesan treasurer, regional chairperson, diocesan president and currently as diocesan past president. Now, I am gifted with legislation. In 28 years as a legal assistant, I have learned to love a challenge and this qualifies!

I am excited to announce that Carol Richer (Kingston Diocese) and Sue Lubowitz (Toronto Diocese) will assist as my sub-committee chairpersons ... I am truly blessed.

Our Role as Legislation Chairpersons

At the national convention in Charlottetown, I attended an informative *Meet the Officers Luncheon* with National Chairperson of Legislation Nancy Simms.

Did you know? ... we are to **monitor** and **study legislation** at all levels of government.

Did you know? ... we are to **review ongoing and proposed legislation** that pertains to League resolutions.

Did you know? ... our work begins once a resolution(s) is adopted.

My experience in the legal field has taught me that a Court judgment, which can take months/years to obtain, is merely a piece of paper until it is enforced. The same may be said for our resolutions and that is where our work *comes into play*. Once adopted (usually after months/years of research), they remain words on a paper unless we follow up to ensure that government enacts laws or makes changes that we request.

Action Plans

These are found at the bottom of each adopted resolution(s) posted on the provincial and national websites. Our task is to find ways to motivate members to review the **Action Plans** and do the necessary follow up work to give life to the resolution(s). By doing this, we honour the work done by those who gifted us with the resolution(s).

Focus

Provincial President Anne Madden has asked that we focus on **Homelessness** during our two year term. Part of her reason for choosing this topic came from the meetings held during the annual government visits. I will be sending more information concerning a project by the legislation committee related to this very serious issue ... stay tuned!

In the meantime, please feel free to contact me at any time. Email is a wonderful tool but I still enjoy a chat on the telephone (remember that I work on weekdays).

With these lyrics in mind from a favourite hymn of mine, let our journey begin ...

*Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?*

*Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow You and never be the same.
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in You and You in me.*

(The Summons)

Lots of love,

Karen