



Ontario Provincial Council  
Of The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Education and Health Standing Committee

Directive #3

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To: Diocesan Education and Health Committee Chairpersons  
From: Wilma Vanderzwaag, Ontario Provincial Council, Sub Committee Chairs: Mary Lou Watson and Heather Sisk  
cc: Diocesan Presidents, Ontario Provincial Council Executive, National Health and Education Chair, Fran Lucas

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*If God is the centre of your life, no words are necessary. Your mere presence will touch hearts.*

St. Vincent de Paul

The Ontario Provincial Council President, Anne Madden has directed each standing chair to focus on homelessness during this two-year term. Through this standing chair we will be looking at ways through health and education we can prevent homelessness. **World Homeless Day is October 10<sup>th</sup>**. Let us educate ourselves on this important issue and what we can do to **prevent** more homelessness in our country. Mary Lou Watson, Sub Committee Chair sent these wonderful suggestions:

A doctor at St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto realized there was compelling evidence that illnesses such as diabetes are twice as common in Ontario's poorest households. Cardiovascular disease is 17% higher than the national average for low-income Canadians. Cancer, arthritis, and asthma are all more common amongst the poor. In treating patients, he realized that medical treatments alone were not enough so he added a new member to their family health team whose job it was to provide financial advice to patients who were given an *Income Security* prescription by the doctor. Some had not filed income tax and were missing out on credits others did not know to apply for Guaranteed Income Supplement. They have found this so successful in health improvement they are reaching out to add other services for those in precarious jobs. The Ontario Minister of Health, also a doctor is watching this project with great interest. Any council see a resolution in this? For the full article-  
[https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2014/12/14/doctors\\_at\\_st\\_mikes\\_launch\\_project\\_to\\_address\\_root\\_causes\\_of\\_poor\\_health.html](https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2014/12/14/doctors_at_st_mikes_launch_project_to_address_root_causes_of_poor_health.html)

There is a program called Canadian Integration through Co-operative Education (CICE). This program is a two-year Ontario College Certificate offered at some Ontario colleges. The CICE program will provide individuals with development disabilities and other significant learning challenges the opportunity to experience college life, pursue a post-secondary education and develop skills which will help prepare them for employment. This program is open to those who have been out of high school for more than a year and are 19 or older. For more information go to <http://www.teentransition-lk.org/Education/87>.

Please be sure to review the information in the communiques from our National Chair, Fran Lucas. Communiqué #6 is about water and how each of us has the right to safe, clean drinking water. More information is also available in communiqué 5. Our National Chair is making this a focus during her term. She asks that parish councils consider submitting a new resolution on water for the 2018 annual convention.

The Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute has a series of videos on the Catholic Bioethics Moments You Tube channel. Each 8-9-minute video begins with a discussion of the topic at hand, followed by definition of terms, relevant Catholic Church Teaching, and sources. Two videos that fall under this standing chair are:

Series One, "*Ethical Issues at the End of Life 1*," examines Death; Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide; Forgoing Treatment; and the Principle of Double Effect.

Series Two, "*Ethical Issues at the End of Life 2*," explores Organ Donation after Death; Pain Relief at the End of Life; Palliative Care; and Conscience.

Encourage all members to watch these videos to become more informed. When mentioning these videos also advise members to discuss their views on end of life care with their family physician and ask that these be noted in your file. Be sure to discuss with whoever is your medical power of attorney your wishes and ask for their views—make sure they know what is important to you.

I wanted to attach an article regarding the World's Best Teacher. I am proud to say that she is Canadian and a graduate of St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia. Before accepting her teaching position in Salluit, Quebec, she spent five years working in Botswana, Tanzania and Congo. She uses a community development approach at her teaching position in this remote community that she learned through the Coady International Institute. Read about this inspiring young Canadian teacher.



If you are able please give as blood supplies are low in Ontario.

May each of you and your families take time during the Thanksgiving weekend to reflect on the many blessings our Lord has given us and be truly thankful.

With a grateful heart,

*Wilma*