



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

Directive #4

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October 26, 2017

To: Diocesan Education and Health Committee Chairpersons
From: Wilma Vanderzwaag, Ontario Provincial Council, Education and Health Standing Committee Chairperson, Sub Committee Chairs: Mary Lou Watson and Heather Sisk
cc: Diocesan Presidents, Provincial Officers, National Health and Education Standing Committee Chairperson

"There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up."
J. Holmes

At the 97th annual national convention two resolutions that pertain to this standing chair were given for action and awareness. One on Multiple Chemical Sensitivity and Environmental Sensitivities and the other Banning the Marketing of Unhealthy Foods and Beverages to Children. Encourage members to become aware of these issues and educate themselves. Once there is education and awareness, action plans can begin. For more information on these two resolutions, go to the national website to Communique 5 for this standing committee and to the resolutions standing committee.

Environment

The Green Churches Network helps parishes choose better ecological practices and educate members to live in ways that respects their environment. For more information go to greenchurches.ca/

Under environment the national focus will be water. Here are some questions that Rita Janes, sub-committee chair compiled:

- Why nearly 2,000 communities in Canada live under boil water advisories?
- Why has the number of protected rivers and lakes dropped dramatically in recent years?
(99% of rivers and lakes are presently unprotected)
- Will the 2017 North America Free Trade Agreement, presently being negotiated with the United States and Mexico, ensure Canada's waters are protected?
- Why 73% of First Nations communities have water systems at medium to high risk?
- How is water being affected by industrial pollution along rivers, such as fracking, oil and gas drilling, hydroelectric developments?
- What is happening over the relicensing of the Nestle water bottling plant in Ontario?
- What is the effect of retreating glaciers on the water supply?
- Why does Canada not have a national water strategy?

Education

The National Bursary Fund aids members pursuing education in areas of spiritual growth, adult faith formation, youth ministry, ministry to patients in palliative care, ministry to shut-ins, parliamentary procedure or literacy tutoring. Councils and

members are asked to donate funds to this bursary. Educating our members in these various areas helps us all.

The website www.togetherinfaith.ca promotes Catholic Education in Ontario. The goal is to build a vibrant online community of supporters of Catholic education, and share the stories of the exceptional students, teachers and other members of our faith community who are demonstrating excellence in our school system. This can be a wonderful resource to exchange ideas-check it out.

Health

Mental health will be the focus of the National Chair, Fran Lucas. Watch for more information in the coming months on this important issue. There is so much to learn and be aware of-stay tuned.

The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition posted on their website that the Canadian Mental Health Association opposes "MAiD" euthanasia for psychiatric reasons and should remain illegal. The CMHA recommended that the government:

- support recovery services and supports
- continue to invest in community mental health and addiction services and supports
- develop a national suicide prevention strategy
- invest in research to accurately predict and understand the course of illness in mental health and substance abuse

Through the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, you can order pamphlets or DVDs. Caring Not Killing pamphlet is \$25 for 100 copies and the dvd Euthanasia Deception documentary are available. The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition also has a monthly newsletter. For more information go on their website www.epcc.ca.

On November 16, 2017, Dr. Andrew P. W. Bennett will be speaking at University of St. Michael's College on *Restoring Human Dignity: The Martyrdom of Public Faith*. The focus will be on how we as Catholics are called to take bolder steps in affirming through a vibrant public faith the life-giving nature of human dignity and witness to the Incarnational reality of the human person. This lecture is being presented by The Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute. There is no cost and you can find out more on bioethics.usmc@utoronto.ca or call 416-353-4224.

Watch *Catholic Bioethics Moments*—Drs. Moira McQueen and Bridget Campion explain Church teaching about mainstream issues in bioethics-www.ccbi-utoronto.ca.

I have found that there is much to report on through this standing chair. If any members have something that all members in the province can learn from or should be informed of, please forward it to me.



Learning Knows No Bounds

*Blessings,
Wilma*

