

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

Directive #10

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One Attachment

September 6, 2018

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 Executive, National Health and Education Standing Committee Chairperson

The task of the modern educator is not to cut down jungles, but to irrigate deserts.

C. S. Lewis

Happy September! This is the month our meetings start again after being renewed at the Provincial and National Conventions. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the National Convention, but the Provincial Convention was such a wonderful and moving experience. Now we continue with the theme of homelessness for the final year of our term.



In my oral report, I spoke about saying person with a home rather than homeless. In doing this they become more human and rather than being thought about as something "less". This is just a small way we can change how we think. A reminder that World Homeless Day will be October 10, 2018. Plan to attend any events in your community or have an event at your parish to help better understand the many reasons why people become homeless and how we can each do our part. Sometimes just having a sympathetic ear and hearing their story can help them, respect the person, give them their dignity. Local elections are coming up in October, listen to the candidates and see how they address this issue—does it align to your views?

Health

Last winter I asked the Diocesan Education and Health Chairs to ask members the following question:

List the top 3 things that were the most frustrating when dealing with getting a loved one into long term or palliative care.

I want to thank all who took the time to send me their answers. I have attached a summary of the responses I have received and am hoping that our Provincial President, Anne Madden will have the opportunity to give them to the Minister of Health and Long Term Care, Christine Elliott at their government meeting. The answers are very compelling and show that there is plenty of room for improvement in all areas pertaining to this difficult issue. Usually people are exhausted and emotionally spent when having to begin this process. Pray for all involved who are dealing with this at this time.

At the National Convention, a resolution was passed that involves palliative care services. Resolution 2018.03 **Legislate Designation of Hospice/Palliative Care Services in Facilities to Exclude Medical Assistance in Dying.** Please read about this resolution and participate in the action plan.

Environment

There was another resolution that was passed that pertains to this standing chair, Resolution 2018.02 **Setting a Standard for Products Marketed as Flushable.** Products are being marketed as flushable when they are causing issues in our sewer collection systems. In the resolution it states that we are spending over \$250 million in repairs and maintenance of our sewer systems because of inappropriate disposal of products marked "flushable". Read the resolution, educate our members about this and encourage them to implement the action plan.

Note--If you are unable to get information on these resolutions as the National website is under construction, please contact me and I will email you copies.

Education

I have been asked questions regarding the Province of Ontario decision regarding the repeal of the 2015 Health and Physical Education Curriculum. Be advised that Catholic School Boards will continue to deliver content through our Family Life Curriculum in the current *Fully Alive* program and work through the Catholic lens to meet the expectations of the revised 2010 curriculum set by the Province.

The following is what the Niagara Catholic District School Board will be distributing to all parents of children in their district.

During the provincial review process of the elementary Health and Physical Education Curriculum, our Catholic elementary schools will deliver all of the curriculum expectations as set by the Ministry of Education in The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1–8: Health and Physical Education, Interim Edition, 2010 through a method that conveys, respects and models Catholic principles to our students. We will also continue to deliver content through the Fully Alive Program that was sponsored and developed with the approval of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario, in collaboration with Catholic educators and families, and is the approved student and teacher resource for the Family Life curriculum. Catholic schools have provided a family life curriculum consistent with our faith for more than 30 years. Fully Alive is the program that delivers the family life curriculum, which is holistic and inter-disciplinary in its approach, in meeting many specific expectations in the Ontario Curriculum documents in Catholic schools. We are confident that the Fully Alive Program taught by our staff will continue to meet the needs of students as they encounter the challenges of our modern world. If you have any questions, please contact the Principal of your school.

I believe this message can speak to any parent who has a child in a Catholic school in Ontario.

Blessings,

Wilma