



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

Directive #11

Pages:

October 11, 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, Archbishop O'Brien, Ontario Provincial Council Executive, National Health and Education Standing Committee Chairperson

---

### Legalization of Cannabis/Marijuana

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops prepared a statement regarding the legalization of cannabis/marijuana for recreational use. A copy of the full statement is attached for your information. I would like to highlight that it is their position that the federal government facilitating the provision and use of an addictive substance will have disastrous effects. In the statement reference is made that the Canadian Medical Association, the Canadian Psychiatric Association, and the Canadian Pediatric Society have pointed out how the use of cannabis is linked to addictions, depression, anxiety, psychosis, damage to brain development, and lung problems such as asthma and emphysema. In the statement it was also noted that UNICEF considered Canadian youth the most frequent users of marijuana in the developed world. The CCCB noted that Pope Francis pointed out that "the legalization, even partial, of so-called 'soft produce the desired results". In closing the CCCB stated that "at a time when so many resources are already being spent to discourage recreational tobacco use, it is difficult to comprehend the disregard for public safety entailed in legalizing marijuana, which is arguably much more dangerous". <http://www.cccb.ca>

### Sex Education Curriculum

Thank you to Sandra Blais, Ottawa Diocesan Education and Health Chair for further information regarding this issue. The Ontario Provincial government has launched a Parental Consultation Process regarding the sex education curriculum. Parents and concerned citizens can give their feedback by accessing the website <https://www.ontario.ca/page/for-the-parents>. The consultation process closes on December 15, 2018. Sandra also advised that in the near future, the government will launch an online survey, plus a schedule of telephone town halls in every region of the province. Pass this information along to your councils so that all who are interested can participate in these various ways.

## Catholic Post-Secondary Education-

Mary Lou Watson submitted the following information:

Looking for a Catholic College in Ontario? Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College in Barry's Bay offers a 3-year Bachelor of Catholic Studies degree, as well as one, two- and three-year certificates in the classical liberal arts. The college website states "our identity as a faithful Catholic institution is of utmost importance. Our students, study, pray and live in a vibrant Catholic atmosphere where all the professors are faithful to the Magisterium. There is an opportunity for daily Mass, confession and devotions and the Faith is joyfully lived out in both residence and social life. The college has also offered a Catholic Leadership Program, which promotes virtue-based Catholic leadership. Students will look at the role of leadership in areas of church, politics, media and community. This is a non-academic two-year certificate program. To learn more about this college, visit their website at <https://www.seatofwisdom.ca/visit/>.

## Persons without a Home Initiative-

When our mayor first came into office he took a tour of our city with the organizations that assist people with no home. He went under the bridges, visited overnight shelters, behind malls and saw how they are living. He then invited all city councilors to come on the tour so that all elected officials were aware of what is happening in our city. From this came our Compassionate Charter. All citizens were invited to sign the charter and be an active participant. Here is what it states:

The health and well-being of our city is measured by the health and well-being of everyone. The success of our city depends on our residents, community partners, schools and businesses working together. Through combining care and action, you will ensure that no one is left outside the circle of community.

Commit to be an **active** participant in fulfilling our vision. Sign the Compassionate Charter.

I commit to making a difference:

- 1) Working to provide food, shelter and dignity to citizens living in poverty, are homeless, and need quality physical and mental health care
- 2) Working with business to build an innovative economy where businesses thrive, and jobs are created
- 3) Ensuring that seniors get the support they need to live a robust and active life
- 4) Ensuring that all children are safe, have first rate education and access to recreation facilities
- 5) Continue to develop a strong cultural sector focused on supporting local artists
- 6) Safety for women in all aspects of their lives

Is this something that your city/town has in place? Could this be implemented where you live?

Mark your calendar—November 18, 2018, World Day of the Poor

Blessings and hugs,

*Wilma*