



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



Directive #5

Pages: 2

Enclosures (5)

Date: August 9 2018

To: Diocesan Resolution Standing Committee Chairpersons
From: Colleen Martin, Ontario Provincial Council Resolutions Chairperson
cc: Ontario Provincial Officers, Diocesan Presidents, Archbishop O'Brien, and National Resolutions Development Chairperson

Sub-Committee: not yet named

Enclosure: Oral report to convention, copies of 3 resolutions, urgent bulletin

Provincial convention was awesome! My apologies if I did not have a chance to meet all of you during convention. Responsibilities can overwhelm the best of intentions as it did with my plan for a Tuesday lunch. It will be my intent to get to organized much sooner next year. A copy of my oral report is attached for your review.

Please see the urgent bulletin attached which requires immediate action. It is also posted on the website (www.cwl.on.ca). A suggestion is to request permission from your diocesan Bishop for your resolution chairs to circulate the bulletin within parishes.

As we have likely had a break from our duties as Resolutions Chair over the summer, I recommend another review of the documents below to refresh our memories:

Executive Handbook

<https://www.cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/606-Executive-Handbook-2014.pdf>

Resolutions Supplement to the Executive Handbook

<https://www.cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Resolutions-Supplement-to-Executive-Handbook-2012.pdf>

Please find below the titles of resolutions; copies of each are attached. Please review the action plans and consider how you might study and action each of these.

- ON.18.01 Develop national standards for levels of pharmaceuticals in Canada's drinking water
- ON.18.02 Full implementation of *Income Security: A Roadmap for Change* for disabled adult Ontarians
- ON.18.03 To fully implement alternative sentencing to incarceration of Indigenous offenders

Please feel free to contact me with any questions by email cwlresolutions@tbaytel.net or by phone 807-628-3875 (evening is best but feel free to call during the day for urgent matters).

May Our Lady of Good Counsel be with those traveling to national convention and always at our side as we fulfil our responsibilities as resolution chairs and respond as members of the League. Submitted By:

Colleen Martin

OPC Resolutions Standing Committee Chairperson

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Ontario Provincial Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada

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RESOLUTIONS ORAL REPORT TO OPC ANNUAL CONVENTION JULY 2018

In its simplest form, homelessness is a person without a home. In 2012, Canada broadened its definition of homelessness to contain the phrase “at risk to be on the street.” Madame President asked us to consider a broader definition still including spiritual and social isolation. The League’s resolution process creates space for change that minimizes social impacts that place individuals at greater risk.

During this past year parishes across the province have been studying resolutions and taking action to ‘create a space for change’. Much activity focused on reconciliation with Indigenous peoples of Canada. Members encouraged the use of ‘Gladu reports’ to consider an Indigenous person’s life experiences prior to sentencing, supported the voice of Indigenous youth, connected with their Indigenous sisters through sharing of culture and reached out to Indigenous communities in order to respond to their expressed needs.

Other areas contributing to individuals at risk were studied and acted upon across the province including: affects of wind-turbines on health, conscience rights for health care workers, mandatory age verification for adult pornography websites, euthanasia and assisted-dying, hospice/palliative care, enhancement of the Canada Health Care Act, immigration-equal access for permanent residence, abortion, supporting Ontario’s first responders experiencing PTSD, and the inclusion of registered nurses in Provincial Bill 163.

To conclude my report, Madame President asked each committee to connect its action to a title of our Blessed Mother. I chose *Our Lady of Guadalupe*.

In 1953, a poor 57-year-old Indigenous widower, who lived in a small village near Mexico City, was on his way to attend Mass in honor of Our Lady. As Juan walked by a hill called Tepeyac he heard beautiful music like the warbling of birds. A radiant cloud appeared, and within it stood an Indian maiden dressed like an Aztec princess. The lady spoke to him in his own language and sent him to the bishop of Mexico to tell him to build a chapel where she had appeared. Eventually the bishop told Juan to have the

lady give him a sign. About this same time Juan's uncle became seriously ill so Juan was distracted. Nevertheless the lady found Juan, assured him that his uncle would recover, and provided roses for Juan to carry to the bishop in his cape or tilma. When Juan Diego opened his tilma in the bishop's presence, the roses fell to the ground, and the bishop sank to his knees. On the tilma where the roses had been appeared an image of Mary exactly as she had appeared at the hill of Tepeyac.

Quoting from Franciscan Media:

Mary's appearance to Juan Diego as one of his people is a powerful reminder that Mary—and the God who sent her—accept all peoples. Our Lady of Guadalupe cries out to us that God's love for and identification with the poor is an age-old truth that stems from the Gospel itself.

Let us be forever mindful that "there, but for the grace of God, go I" and, through the resolutions process, let us continue to create space for change that embraces all peoples.

Madame President this concludes my report.



ONTARIO PROVINCIAL COUNCIL
of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

ON.18.01
Develop National Standards for Levels of
Pharmaceuticals in Canada's Drinking Water

ON.18.01 Develop National Standards for Levels of Pharmaceuticals in Canada's Drinking Water

- 1 **Whereas,** in Canada there are no national standards or laws for pharmaceuticals in drinking
2 water; and
3
- 4 **Whereas,** traces of pharmaceuticals have been reported in the water cycle, including surface
5 waters, wastewater, groundwater and drinking water; and
6
- 7 **Whereas,** the risks to human health and aquatic ecosystems from exposure to chronic, low
8 concentrations of pharmaceuticals are unclear; therefore, be it
9
- 10 **Resolved,** that the Ontario provincial council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in
11 71st annual convention assembled, request national council to urge the federal
12 government to:
13
 - Fund research into pharmaceuticals in drinking water
 - Set rigorous quality standards for the presence of pharmaceuticals in ground
14 and surface drinking water comparable to the World Health Organization
15 (WHO) standards; and be it further
16
17
- 18 **Resolved,** that this resolution be forwarded to national council of The Catholic Women's
19 League of Canada for consideration at 98th Annual Convention August 2018.

ON.18.01 Develop National Standards for Levels of Pharmaceuticals in Canada's Drinking Water

1 Brief

2 There are few comprehensive studies on pharmaceuticals in drinking water and limited data. As
3 a result, assessing the potential health risks from exposure to pharmaceuticals in drinking water
4 is challenging. “The maximum allowable concentrations for chemical and radiological
5 contaminants included in the Canadian Guidelines are ‘substantially weaker’ than comparable
6 standards or guidelines ... by the World Health Organization (WHO)” (House of Commons,
7 2017). WHO admits there is a “knowledge gap” when it comes to “assessing the risks associated
8 with long-term exposure to low concentrations” of drugs and “the combined effects of mixtures
9 of pharmaceuticals” (WHO, 2012).

10

11 Pharmaceuticals are synthetic or natural chemicals that are designed to cure and prevent the
12 spread of disease in humans or animals. The widespread use of pharmaceuticals from agricultural
13 practice, veterinary practice and human consumption has led to the release of pharmaceuticals in
14 the environment (Berryman et al. 2014). To date, many pharmaceuticals have been detected in
15 finished drinking water worldwide (Collier, 2012). The detection of these compounds in drinking
16 water is largely due to their presence in source water and the inability of treatment processes to
17 reduce pharmaceuticals below detection limits.

18

19 The presence of pharmaceuticals in drinking water may be a concern (Trimble, 2011).
20 Pharmaceuticals are intended to deliver a response in specific populations. The effects of routine,
21 unintended exposure of the general population to pharmaceuticals is not known and data is
22 needed (Collier, 2012).

23

24 “The number of prescriptions dispensed are increasing at almost five times the rate of population
25 growth” (Neighbourhood Pharmacy Association of Canada, 2016). This is a developing problem
26 that will probably get worse, in terms of the amount of pharmaceuticals we can expect being
27 discharged into the environment. “None of the wide range of drinking-water treatment processes
28 available have been designed specifically to remove pharmaceuticals that may be present in
29 source waters” (WHO, 2012).

30

ON.18.01 Develop National Standards for Levels of Pharmaceuticals in Canada's Drinking Water

Works Cited

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http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2015/ec/En14-203-2014-eng.pdf
2. Collier, Roger "Swallowing the pharmaceutical waters", Canadian Medical Association Journal, 2012 <http://www.cmaj.ca/content/184/2/163>
3. House of Commons, Report of the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development, June 2017
http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2017/parl/xc50-1/XC50-1-1-421-8-eng.pdf
4. Neighbourhood Pharmacy Association of Canada, "Pharmacy 360+", 2016
<http://www.myneighbourhoodpharmacy.ca/?articleattachment=509>
5. Trimble, David, US Government Accountability Office, August 2011
<https://www.gao.gov/new.items/d11346.pdf>
6. World Health Organization, "Pharmaceuticals in Drinking Water", 2012
http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/publications/2012/pharmaceuticals/en/

ON.18.01 Develop National Standards for Levels of Pharmaceuticals in Canada's Drinking Water

Action Plan:

1. Write letters to the federal government requesting greater implementation of the awareness campaign on the proper disposal of pharmaceuticals.
2. Invite a guest speaker from Public Health to educate members on potential health risks from exposure to pharmaceuticals in drinking water.
3. Research the measures that are taken in your community for water treatment.
4. Continue to monitor this issue



ONTARIO PROVINCIAL COUNCIL
of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

ON.18.02

Immediate Implementation of *Income Security*:
A Roadmap for Change for Ontarians with a
Disability

ON.18.02 Immediate Implementation of *Income Security: A Roadmap for Change* for Ontarians with a Disability

- 1 **Whereas,** *Income Security: A Roadmap for Change*, October 2017, presented a 10-year
2 roadmap for income security reform in Ontario including recommendations for
3 supporting people with disabilities through an amended, strengthened and distinct
4 Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) with an assured income approach
5 and redesigned rate structure; and
6
- 7 **Whereas,** ODSP rates keep persons with a disability in Ontario in deep poverty when
8 compared with Canadian Low-Income Measures (LIM) because the rates:
9 • Were inadequate when established in 1997 as the primary source of income
10 for Ontarians with a disability; and
11 • Were frozen from 1997 to 2005; and
12 • Are revised at the discretion of the sitting provincial government; therefore, be
13 it
14
- 15 **Resolved,** that the Ontario provincial council of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada in
16 71st annual convention assembled urge the Ontario provincial government to
17 immediately implement the recommendations of *Income Security: A Roadmap*
18 *for Change* pertinent to Ontarians with a disability, and be it further
19
- 20 **Resolved,** that this resolution be forwarded through the national executive to the other ten
21 provincial councils, urging them to become aware of this issue as it pertains to
22 their province/territory, and to act on it, as deemed necessary/prudent.
23

ON.18.02 Immediate Implementation of *Income Security: A Roadmap for Change* for Ontarians with a Disability

Brief

The report, *Income Security: A Roadmap for Change* October 2017, recommends a 10-year roadmap for income security reform in Ontario including support for Ontarians with disabilities through an amended, strengthened and distinct Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) with an assured income approach and redesigned rate structure. It examines inter-related issues in depth and proposes solutions that would achieve income adequacy for Ontarians with a disability and indeed for all Ontarians locked in poverty that would not rely on the discretion of the sitting government.

Internationally, the Low-Income Measure (LIM) is the most commonly used statistic to compare poverty. It is fixed at 50% of median adjusted household income, where "adjusted" indicates that household needs are taken into account. LIMs are calculated three times, using market income, before-tax income, and after-tax income. They do not require updating using an inflation index because they are calculated using an annual survey of household income (Canada, Statistics Canada, Table 3, March 12, 2018).

Using the Before Tax figures, the LIM in 1997 for a single person was \$13,890/year when the ODSP yearly income was established at \$11,160. In 2013, the LIM was established at \$23,939/year when the ODSP single yearly income was \$13,032; calculated from a household size of four (Canada, Statistics Canada, (SLID), March 12, 2018).

ODSP is governed by the Ontario Disability Support Program Act, 1997 and administered by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services following the social assistance policy directives (Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services Ontario).

ODSP was created in 1997 when the Ontario government changed its social assistance system to separate those unable to work due to disability from those viewed as able to work. The monthly maximum amounts, i.e., \$930/month for a single person, were established province-wide and frozen by the provincial government from 1997 to 2005. The latest 2% increase effective September 30, 2017 provides the single income recipient with \$1,151/month comprised of \$662 for basic needs (food, clothing, heat, hydro, transportation, hygienic needs, phone, cable, internet, household expenses, etc.) and \$489 for shelter, previously \$649 and \$479 respectively. There are additional provincial and federal benefits for those who qualify, i.e., GST/HST credit, the Ontario Trillium Benefit or the Canada Child Benefit.

When established in 1997, ODSP rates were inadequate as the primary means of income for Ontarians with a disability. Increases are fully at the discretion of the sitting provincial governments in terms of the amount, the timing and the calculations. Since 1997 and regardless of the method used to compare, there has been a significant loss of income. The 7-year freeze between 1997 and 2005 has had an extremely detrimental effect on ODSP recipients in terms of their income, health and welfare. Taking all these factors into account, full implementation of *Income Security: A Roadmap for Change* pertinent to Ontarians with a disability is paramount.

ON.18.02 Immediate Implementation of *Income Security: A Roadmap for Change* for Ontarians with a Disability

Works Cited

1. Statistics Canada. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/75f0002m/2015002/tbl/tbl03-eng.htm>. Income Research Paper Series - Research Paper Low Income Lines, 2013-2014: Update, Table 3 - Low income measures by income concept, for household size of four persons 1976-2013. Web. 12 Mar 2018.
2. Statistics Canada. Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID) - A 2008 Survey Overview, <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/75f0011x/2008001/5203392-eng.htm>. Web. 12 Mar 2018.
3. Ontario Disability Support Program Act, 1997, S.O. 1997, c. 25, Sched. B <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/97o25b>. Web. 12 Mar 2018.
4. Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, Ontario Disability Support Program Policy Directives <http://www.mcscs.gov.on.ca/en/mcscs/programs/social/odsp/>. Web. 12 Mar 2018.
5. *Income Security: A Roadmap for Change*, October 2017. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/income-security-roadmap-change>. 12 Mar 2018.
6. Income Security Advocacy Centre. Historical Basic Needs and Maximum Shelter benefits for single person on ODSP, Jan 2018.

ON.18.02 Immediate Implementation of *Income Security: A Roadmap for Change* for Ontarians with a Disability

Action Plan

1. Write to the premier, the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services and members of provincial parliament urging them:
 - To immediately implement the recommendations of *Income Security: A Roadmap for Change*, October 2017, for Ontarians with a disability
 - To become aware of the need for a more comprehensive approach in supporting Ontarians with a disability through an amended, strengthened and distinct disabled support program using an assured income approach and redesigned rate structure
2. Monitor the provincial government's response to the request of this resolution.



ONTARIO PROVINCIAL COUNCIL
of
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ON.18.03

To Fully Implement Alternative Sentencing to
Incarceration of Indigenous Offenders

ON.18.03 To Fully Implement Alternative Sentencing to Incarceration of Indigenous Offenders

1 **Whereas,** culturally specific correctional interventions, such as Elder services, Healing Lodges,
2 Pathways Initiatives and partnerships with community groups, make the Indigenous
3 offender more likely to successfully complete their supervision and to be granted
4 parole, and
5

6 **Whereas,** section 81 of the Corrections and Conditional Release Act states that the Minister of
7 Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness or a person authorized by the Minister may
8 enter into an agreement with an Aboriginal* community for the provision of
9 correctional services to Aboriginal offenders, and
10

11 **Whereas,** section 84 of the Corrections and Conditional Release Act states that where an offender
12 has expressed an interest in being supervised in an Aboriginal community, the
13 Correctional Service shall, if the offender consents, give the Aboriginal community
14 adequate notice of the offender's parole review or statutory release date and an
15 opportunity to propose a plan for the offender's release with supervision and
16 integration into that community, and, therefore, be it
17

18 **Resolved,** that the Ontario provincial council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in 71st
19 annual convention assembled request national council to urge the federal government
20 to fully implement sections 81 and 84 of the Corrections and Conditional Release Act,
21 and be it further
22

23 **Resolved,** that this resolution be forwarded to national council of The Catholic Women's League
24 of Canada for consideration at 98th Annual Convention August 2018.
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26
27
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29
30

31 * The term Aboriginal was used as it was specifically stated in the sections of the Corrections and
32 Conditional Release Act. The new recognized term is Indigenous.

ON.18.03 To Fully Implement Alternative Sentencing to Incarceration of Indigenous Offenders

1 Brief

2 The 2015 Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) called upon the
3 Government of Canada to commit to eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in
4 custody over the next decade (Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, 2015). The
5 government committed to implementing all the TRC's recommendations.
6

7 When imposing a sentence, section 718.2(e) of the Criminal Code of Canada requires a court to
8 consider the following principle: "that all available sanctions, other than imprisonment, that are
9 reasonable in the circumstances and consistent with the harm done to victims or to the
10 community should be considered for all offenders, with particular attention to the circumstances
11 of Aboriginal offenders" (Justice Laws, December 12, 2017).
12

13 In addition, sections 81 and 84 of the Corrections and Conditional Release Act provide the
14 opportunity for the Aboriginal community to be involved in the correctional process (Minister of
15 Justice, June 17, 2016). Under Definitions for sections 80-84, given in section 79, "Aboriginal
16 community means a first nation, tribal council, band, community, organization or other group
17 with a predominantly Aboriginal leadership" (Ibid, section 79, p. 42). Correctional Service
18 Canada (CSC) is working with Indigenous communities to facilitate programs on reserves and in
19 urban settings as these communities take responsibility for offenders released to them. General
20 Custody Agreements provide for the transfer of an Indigenous offender to an Indigenous
21 community in a non-institutional setting with supervision, treatment and programming provided
22 under 24-hour supervision of community members or the transfer to a spiritual or Healing
23 Lodge, or other treatment facility in an urban setting (Achnenberg, January 2000). Healing
24 Lodges are correctional institutions where cultural values, traditions and beliefs including
25 Indigenous concepts of justice and reconciliation are included. The approach to corrections is
26 holistic and spiritual including guidance and support from Elders and their communities (CSC,
27 December 1, 2016). Offenders who have demonstrated a serious commitment to a healing path
28 may participate in an alternative spirituality-centered Pathways programs that involve intensive
29 Elder services, including both one-to-one counselling and sharing Indigenous values, traditions
30 and beliefs (CSC, November 12, 2013). Indigenous communities are also provided with the
31 opportunity to participate in an offender's release plan from a penal institution. The release plan
32 must address the concerns and needs of the community as well as those of the offender
33 (Achnenberg, January 2000).
34

35 "Indigenous offenders, who participated in Pathways Initiatives at some point during their
36 sentences, had higher rates of conditional release" and those released on parole "from Healing
37 Lodges were more likely to successfully complete their supervision" (Office of the Auditor
38 General of Canada, 2016). "Indigenous offenders with a section 84 release plan were twice as
39 likely to be granted parole... [and] successfully complete their supervision" (Ibid). These
40 alternatives to incarceration should be given the utmost consideration when sentencing.

ON.18.03 To Fully Implement Alternative Sentencing to Incarceration of Indigenous Offenders

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ON.18.03 To Fully Implement Alternative Sentencing to Incarceration of Indigenous Offenders

Action Plan

1. Write to the prime minister, minister of Justice, the minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness and your member of parliament urging them:
 - to make more progress on their commitment to the 2015 Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, to eliminate the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in custody over the next decade;
 - to ensure that judges, lawyers and legal personnel, when sentencing, ask for the provision of Section 718.2(e) of the Criminal Code of Canada which requires a court to consider the following principle: “that all available sanctions, other than imprisonment, that are reasonable in the circumstances and consistent with the harm done to victims or to the community should be considered for all offenders, with particular attention to the circumstances of Aboriginal offenders;”
 - that the Government of Canada respect the right for Aboriginal people to ask that their Aboriginal community be involved in the correctional process.
2. Councils invite an Indigenous person who has come into contact with the correctional system to share his/her story with them.
3. Monitor the federal government's response to the request of this resolution.

URGENT BULLETIN

MEMBERS CALL TO ACTION

At the recent Ontario provincial council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada convention members in attendance approved resolution **ON.18.02 Immediate Implementation of *Income Security: A Roadmap for Change* for Ontarians with a Disability** (attached).

The resolution resolves that "the Ontario provincial council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in 71st annual convention assembled urge the Ontario provincial government to immediately implement the recommendations of *Income Security: A Roadmap for Change* pertinent to Ontarians with a disability."

You can read or download *Income Security: A Road Map for Change* here:
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/income-security-roadmap-change>

Headlines In recent news include:

The Toronto Star: Ontario government scraps basic income pilot project, limits welfare increase to 1.5 per cent; and,
CTV News Toronto: PC government defends move to axe basic income pilot project.

These headlines inform us the Ontario government is not recognizing the significant public consultation and the Community Working Group's efforts in designing its report *Income Security: A Road Map for Change*.

A letter has been forwarded on behalf of all members; however, individual communication has the greater impact in compelling political change.

Premier Doug Ford needs to hear from each and everyone of our members that eliminating the income security pilot project and other recommendations within the report is not acceptable to each of us as Ontario citizens concerned for those at risk of homelessness.

Send a comment to the Premier and Minister McLeod in one of two ways:

1. **For the premier:** navigate to <https://www.ontario.ca/page/premier> then select the button 'Contact Us' and be sure to select yes where it asks if you require a response
2. **For Minister McLeod:** email lisa.macleodco@pc.ola.org

Send me a message at cwlrresolutions@tbaytel.net to let me know if you receive a response. I will advise of the responses received in a future directive.

Email cwlrresolutions@tbaytel.net to report all responses. The results are to be reported in a future directive.
