



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



***Care for our Common Home***

Directive #15

Pages: 1

March 22, 2019

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

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**Education—**

The Provincial Education Minister, Lisa Thompson recently announced changes to our education system. Here are some points of interest and concern for each of us to consider. In secondary school, there will be 4 mandatory e-learning classes. These classes may be hired by private outside firms and have as many as 35 students per session. These e-learning classes will reduce the number of elective courses available by 12%. This will mean less arts and interest-based courses for students. It is also worth mentioning that on the provincial government e-learning page up until March 15, 2019, it stated that “e-learning was not for everyone” and cited drop-out rates. The website has been changed since the Education Minister's announcement of changes to education.

The funding announced for Autism Spectrum Disorder students is not new or extra money. It is the same amount of money ALL students get, therefore no extra money for EA supports. Teachers are being offered a ONE day PD day training on Autism Spectrum Disorder.

The Provincial Government cancelled the 100 million dollar school repair fund. Schools will not get much needed repairs and updates.

There will be an increase in class sizes in secondary schools. Classes would have a minimum of 28 students but could have as many as 45. When asked how teachers would be able to support/help additional students, the Education Minister Thompson made the following suggestions: “families hire tutors, students could teach/tutor each other”. She also stated when asked about overcrowded classrooms that students will learn “coping skills” and “resilience” which are needed in the workplace. Another question to consider—will smaller rural schools without 28 students or more in classes be amalgamated into one “super” school per region. This would mean students will have greater distances to travel via bus to attend high school. This would be a hardship to small towns. Families would no longer wish to live/move to these small rural towns as any extra curricular activities through sports/arts/music would be extremely difficult as well as the travel time.

Please stay current on this very important issue and contact via email/phone your concerns to:

Premier Doug Ford [doug.ford@pc.ola.org](mailto:doug.ford@pc.ola.org) 416-325-1941

Minister of Education Lisa Thompson [lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org](mailto:lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org) 1-800-668-9320

Parliamentary Assistant Sam Osterhoff [sam.oosterhoffco@pc.ola.org](mailto:sam.oosterhoffco@pc.ola.org) 905-563-1755

Plus contact your local MPP

## Health—

Ontario's Health Minister, Christine Elliott announced new long-term care projects that will add 1,157 beds in facilities across the province. The March 22, 2019 announcement brings the total of beds announced to 7,232. These additional beds will take 1 to 2 years to become available. The Health Minister stated the new long-term care beds will ease pressures on hospitals so they can be ready for an aging population with complex care needs. With this announcement there was no additional funds for personal support workers to assist with this increase in beds.

## Environment—

With our focus on water, I am including the list as of March 22, 2019 of the number of communities that have a boil water or do not consume water advisories in Ontario.

### Advisories for Ontario

[Return to province list](#)   [Graphic Maps](#)

	<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Since</u>
1.	Anishnaabeg of Naongashiing First Nation	Boil Water	2/15/2019
2.	Arran Elderslie	Boil Water	12/10/2018
3.	Baltimore	Boil Water	11/9/2018
4.	Big Grassy First Nation	Boil Water	3/1/2017
5.	Biigtigong Nishnaabeg	Boil Water	11/15/2018
6.	Brighton Shores Trailer Park	Boil Water	3/19/2019
7.	Cape Croker First Nation	Boil Water	1/21/2019
8.	Chippewas of Rama First Nation	Boil Water	8/8/2018
9.	Coboconk	Boil Water	6/1/2018
10.	Constance Lake First Nation	Boil Water	2/23/2018
11.	Curve Lake First Nation	Boil Water	9/20/2018
12.	Dorset - Individual	Boil Water	10/1/2015
13.	Eabametoong First Nation	Boil Water	8/1/2001
14.	Fort Severn First Nation	Boil Water	2/4/2019
15.	Georgina Island Chippewa	Boil Water	4/24/2017
16.	Golden Lake - Algonquins of Pikwakanagan	Boil Water	7/11/2008
17.	Grassy Narrows First Nation	Do Not Consume	6/27/2014
18.	Gull Bay	Boil Water	4/30/2009
19.	Hiawatha Park Campground	Boil Water	7/20/2018
20.	Kawartha Highlands Prov Park	Boil Water	1/29/2019
21.	Koochening First Nation	Boil Water	10/19/2009
22.	Lac Seul First Nation (2)	Boil Water	1/10/2018
23.	Lions Head	Boil Water	9/29/2018
24.	Marten Falls First Nation	Boil Water	7/18/2005
25.	Martintown - non-munic.	Boil Water	12/13/2006
26.	Moosonee	Boil Water	3/21/2019

27. Morrisburg	Boil Water	7/22/2010
28. Munsee-Delaware First Nation	Boil Water	1/31/2017
29. Muskrat Dam Lake Reserve	Boil Water	10/24/2003
30. Namaygoosisagagun First Nation	Do Not Consume	9/19/2014
31. Neskantaga First Nation	Boil Water	2/1/1995
32. Nibinamik First Nation	Boil Water	2/5/2013
33. Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation	Boil Water	2/5/2019
34. Northwest Angle 33 First Nation	Boil Water	2/12/2016
35. Ojibway Nation of Saugeen (2)	Boil Water	4/27/2018
36. Poplar Hill First Nation	Boil Water	1/16/2019
37. Presqu_ile Prov Park	Boil Water	8/2/2018
38. Presqu_ile Provincial Park	Boil Water	8/29/2018
39. Rondeau Prov. Park	Boil Water	2/28/2019
40. Sachigo Lake First Nation	Boil Water	10/19/2018
41. Sandy Lake First Nation	Boil Water	10/10/2002
42. Scugog - Mississaugas of Scugog Island	Boil Water	10/23/2008
43. Shoal Lake No. 40 First Nation	Boil Water	2/18/1997
44. Simcoe	Do Not Consume	7/28/2017
45. Slate Falls Nation	Boil Water	8/29/2018
46. Tyendinaga Mohawk of Bay of Quinte	Boil Water	1/20/2012
47. Wabaseamong Independent Nation	Boil Water	8/11/2017
48. Wahta Mohawks	Do Not Consume	9/11/2013
49. Wainfleet	Boil Water	4/10/2006
50. Wapekeka First Nation	Boil Water	1/15/2019
51. Washagamish Bay First Nation	Boil Water	12/19/2008
52. Wauzhushk Onigum First nation	Boil Water	1/26/2017
53. Wawakapewin First Nation	Boil Water	3/3/2004
54. Whitefish Bay Indian Reserve	Boil Water	1/10/2018
55. Wiarton	Boil Water	9/21/2018
56. Wilberforce	Boil Water	7/1/2018
57. Williamsburg (2)	Boil Water	10/15/2018

Let us continue to apply pressure to both the federal and provincial governments to help these communities have safe drinking water in their homes.

Blessings and hugs,

*Wilma*