

2019 Oral Report to Convention – Resolutions Chair – Colleen Martin

Organic. 1. Referring to or derived from living organisms.

For this year's convention, Madame President asked that members of the Ontario provincial council chose a term from a list of environmental terms.

The word organic seemed a best choice.

You see there is nothing more organic than The Catholic Women's League of Canada and its resolution process. When I think of living organisms, thoughts of a scene under a microscope often come to mind. The cells are busy multiplying and moving about.

Within the League these smaller living cells are our local councils. The local councils, the grassroots are the women who bring life to the League; without our members the League would be literally lifeless. Without the identification of resolution topics, followed by research and drafting of wording, resolutions would not even get started, never mind bringing issues forward to the various levels of the League.

In 2018, one resolution addressed the theme Care for Our Common Home: ON-18-01 Develop National Standards for Levels of Pharmaceuticals in Canada's Drinking Water. Although it was not accepted for presentation at the national convention, it brings awareness to one action that has impacted the environment for too many years without consideration for the future.

The provincial theme of Homelessness was also addressed by a 2018 resolution. ON-18-02 Immediate Implementation of Income Security A Roadmap for Change for Ontarians with a Disability urges the provincial government to address the level of the Ontario Disability Support Program which was implemented in 1997 with a freeze on its monthly contribution until 2005. The income level remains several years behind the current Low Income Measure.

The last resolution ON.18.03 was directed at addressing the injustices that have resulted in over representation of indigenous peoples in the justice system.

Nearly 100 years ago Miss Bellelles Guerin, the first National President, stated: "We come from the north and south, east and west, most of us women who have never met before, who have never heard each other's name, yet with one Faith in our Souls as we hold one Hope for one Heaven, we clasp each other's hands impelled by one desire; the glory of Christianity

and the benefit of our fellow beings....Oh! Catholic women of Canada, let us stand close together-so close-so close that we will hear each other's heartbeats, that if a sigh or a sob or a call shall stir the air in the most distant part of the North West, it will throb down through us like an electric current, even to the shores of the Atlantic, awakening our sympathy and compelling our Aid."

This is what continues to compel us to action today ... the throb of something like an electric current... that feeling something is not right in the world... that there is an injustice that needs to be righted or an awareness that needs to be created.

I will close with the invitation issued many years ago by Bellelles Guerin: "Amongst us there are women of intellectuality and constructive ability, let them give us the benefit of their ideas, let no gem be lost."

Madame President ... this concludes my report..