

**Sustainable Development using land or energy sources in a way that meets the needs of people today without reducing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.**

Sustainable Development has many different meanings and therefore many different responses, when considering how it should and can be obtained in Canada and in the world.

Sustainable development requires meeting the basic need of all and extending to all the opportunity to satisfy their goals for a better life.

Isn't this what the Community Life Chair deems as our goals?

Dignity and rights of persons  
Social and economic justice  
Refuges, immigration and citizenship  
Developing countries

Following our themes of homelessness and conservation of water, let us review some of the basic causes of homelessness, due mainly to the lack of living wages and affordable housing, which often results in related health issues due to the lack of access to basic healthcare, leading to a lack of treatment for those suffering from mental illness, drug addiction, physical disability, domestic violence especially against women and the stigma of being homeless.

In general, the homeless are at higher risk of dehydration and heart related illness and lack access to quality water; we all need access to clean potable water for hydration, hygiene, and cooking.

The homeless do not always have the means to purchase bottled water. We have, over recent years, made bottled water the acceptable norm. A trend that we now know contributes to the destruction of our waterways

Creative ways to provide water to the homeless other than plastic bottles might be an action plan, for Ontario councils to consider.

Through our community life chairs, we have encouraged members to discontinue the use of one-time-only-use plastic; straws, containers, bags and bottles. As I prepare this report, the national government is proposing the elimination of one-time-use plastic.

Sustainability of water for homeless and those lacking potable water, may seem far reaching but we must not forget how we can make a difference in our local councils by continuing to support those who are struggling daily. Our donations, our increase awareness of issues and changing attitudes have touched so many across our province. Whether it is in collection of socks, peanut butter and crackers or other items for the poor, the HUGS Program, smiling at a street person and acknowledging them as person, volunteering, education ourselves on issues affecting others at home and abroad; we make a difference.

CWL Executive Handbook Community Life:

*Wherever there are people in need of food and drink, clothing, housing, medicine, employment, education; wherever (people) lack the facilities necessary for living a truly human life or are afflicted with serious distress or illness or suffer exile or imprisonment, there Christian charity should seek them out and find them, console them with great solicitude, and help them with appropriate relief. This obligation is imposed above all upon every prosperous nation and person.*

*(Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity)*

*May we continue to reach out to those in need!*