



**Ontario Provincial Council of  
The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Christian Family Life Standing Committee**



**Directive #3**

**Pages: 2**

**Enclosures ( 2 )**

**Date:** January 17, 2020

**To:** Diocesan Christian Family Life Standing Committee Chairpersons  
**From:** Colleen Martin, OPC, Christian Family Life Standing Committee Chairperson  
**cc:** Ontario Provincial Officers, Diocesan Presidents, Archbishop Prendergast, and National Christian Family Life Standing Committee Chairperson  
**Sub-Committee:** Pat Weller and Shelley Tamas  
**Enclosure:** Bishop Bernard F. Pappin Bursary Fund Brochure and Application

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**IMPORTANT:** Please reply to my email so I know you received the directive.

**THEME** - The national theme is *Care for Our Common Home*. Our Provincial President has added to this the topic of *loneliness*. Work on a Christian Family Life toolkit for addressing these themes is underway by our CFL team. The goal for distributing the kit remains spring 2020.

**URGENT-DEADLINE January 31, 2020! Bishop Bernard F. Pappin Bursary Fund**

Please contact any seminarians in your diocese to see if they might be interested in this bursary. The Ontario President, Colleen Perry, has not received any applications to date and the deadline is January 31, 2020. I will include the application and brochure as an attachment; it is also available under resources on the provincial website.

**URGENT-DEADLINE January 27, 2020!!!  
Department of Justice Consultation – Euthanasia**

Please share the information below with your members and ask everyone to *complete the consultation* on line by clicking the button with these words at the bottom of the webpage at <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/cons/ad-am/index.html>

The following information was taken directly from the webpage and explains the commitment made by the government for further study at this time.

Medical assistance in dying (MAID) became legal in Canada in June 2016. Canada's *Criminal Code* now exempts doctors and nurse practitioners who provide, or help to provide, medical assistance in dying.

“Medical assistance in dying” currently includes:

- the use of medication by a physician or nurse practitioner to directly cause a person's death at their request
- the prescription or provision of medication by a physician or nurse practitioner that a person can use to cause their own death

The law currently sets out eligibility criteria for those who wish to apply for MAID. It also sets out safeguards that doctors and nurse practitioners must follow when

deciding if a patient qualifies for MAID, in particular to make sure that the patient requesting MAID is fully informed and has given their consent freely.

During the development and implementation of MAID (Bill C-14) in 2016, many Canadians voiced their support for broader access to MAID. As a result, the Government of Canada committed to study a wider variety of medical circumstances where a person may want to access MAID.

Specifically, the Government of Canada asked the Council of Canadian Academies to study three complex issues including requests for MAID by mature minors, advance requests, and requests for people where mental illness is the only reason for requesting MAID. The reports and a summary are available on the [CCA's website](#).

As legalizing medical assistance in dying was a significant step for Canada, Parliament committed to reviewing the law five years after it was passed. This review will provide the opportunity to hear from Canadians about how MAID is working, and to see if any changes should be made. It is expected that this review will start in 2020.

### **JUNE 15 – 19, 2020 – LONELINESS AWARENESS WEEK IN THE UK – LET'S ORGANIZE OUR OWN ACTIVITIES**

Most, if not all, of our councils plan wind-up events in June. Perhaps, a specific focus could be increasing the participation of those who do not regularly participate... things to consider:

1. Is there a way to ensure all interested members have transportation to the event?
2. Is there a way to personally invite all members?
3. Is it possible to minimize the price so as not to limit member's participation due to her economic situation.
4. Could the event kick off a project to pair members to keep in touch over the summer months and support each other?

If you have ideas, share them with me and I can pass them on in a future directive.

## **EXPLORE CORNER**



Coping with Loneliness

<https://cmha.bc.ca/documents/coping-with-loneliness/>

Remember to refer, from time to time, to the Executive Handbook on the National website here....

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

Care for Our Common Home <https://www.devp.org/en/education/fall2019/materials>

Submitted By

*Colleen Martin* Colleen Martin, Chair, Christian Family Life Standing Committee

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me (Psalm 23:4)