



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



Care for our Common Home

Directive #3

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March 3, 2020

Attachments:4

To: Diocesan Resolutions Chairpersons

From: Wilma Vanderzwaag, Ontario Provincial Council Resolutions Chair

cc: Diocesan Presidents, Ontario Provincial Council Executive, National Resolutions Committee Chairperson

A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me.

Psalm 51:12

Our annual reports are done for 2019, be proud of what has been done and the importance your councils give our resolutions. It was quite remarkable to see that even though a large amount of councils, do not have a resolution chair, members are aware of the resolutions passed and are carrying out the action plans. It is so important that we continue with letter writing to our elected government representatives at both the provincial and federal level. Letters enable us to add our voice and support to the representatives who have or will be presenting them. A common concern is whether or not members can state they are members of the League. It is imperative we let government officials know we are members so that they realize the level of support for the issue. Attached to this directive are 3 examples of letters that each member can send for the 3 provincial resolutions adopted at the 2019 Provincial Convention. Letters are the most effective way of communicating our action plan. One suggestion that is not in the examples is to include in your closing sentence or statement a question so that a response is required. A common action requested of us on a resolution is to meet with the local government official in support of our resolutions. Government officials want and need us to visit. Why not have a few members from your council bring your letters to their offices in person. Ask to take a picture with them explaining that the membership is interested in seeing that their letters were given. There are guidelines for letter writing in the Resolutions Supplement that is available on the national website, cwl.ca.

The 2019 revised Resolution Supplement reflecting the changes regarding resolutions is now available on the national website, go to Resources, 600 Series and it is 618. Become familiar with the changes and the process for creating resolutions. It was wonderful to see the great turnout of Diocesan Resolution Chairs at the Resolution Workshop held by the Ontario Provincial Council in Toronto, Feb. 6-8, 2020. At this workshop we went through the new resolution supplement and the process for resolutions. Many seasoned chairs, had great tips and suggestions for the chairs that were experiencing resolutions for the first time. Sharing our knowledge is so important and can help other councils to take the plunge and create a resolution. If a diocese would like the PowerPoint presentations from the OPC workshop to use in their councils, please contact me.

Attached to this directive is also the latest report from the Canadian Catholic Institute of Bioethics titled, MAID- A Review of the Legislation by Bridget Campion. Let us continue to request from our government more palliative care and long-term care. We need to put more resources into other means of assisting people who

are chronically ill or dying. Cardinal Collins on March 2, 2020 wrote an opinion article in the Toronto Star encouraging us to develop a culture of care. He also went on to say:

“If all Canadians had access to quality palliative care, fewer would seek lethal injection. Instead of developing an overall culture of care, we are rushing towards death on demand. The same doctors who are trying to care for their patients will now be called on to approve euthanasia for them.

We should take time to be truly present to those who may feel that they are on the margins in our community. Those who feel that their life no longer has value must be assured by all of us that this is absolutely not the case — there is dignity within each human life, not just when we are young, healthy and able, but even more so, when we are fragile and vulnerable.

It is up to every Canadian to foster a culture of care and love for one another. The answer is not assisted death in its many forms; it is accompanying our family, our friends and even strangers to assist them in life, recognizing the inherent dignity of every person.”

Our resolutions that can help create a culture of care are by implementing the action plans are:

ON.19.03 Long Term Care Beds in Ontario

ON.16.01 Enhance the Canada Health Care Act to Include Home Care

2016.04 Amend the Canada Health Care Act to Identify Palliative Care as an Insured Health Service

Please send any updates of visits to your MP or MPP’s office—let’s make our voices heard!

Blessings,

Wilma

