



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

Care for our Common Home

Directive #5

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September 19, 2021

To: Diocesan Education and Health Standing Committee Chairpersons
From: Karen McDonald, Provincial Education and Health Standing Committee Chairperson
cc: Provincial Executive, Diocesan Presidents, Provincial Education and Health Sub-Committee and National Education and Health Standing Committee Chairperson

"The Catholic social teaching working group is confident members will find these resources useful in their councils as they learn how best to bring to life the new social justice standing committee as a core value".

(CWL - Catholic Social Teaching Resources – Introduction p.3)

At the 101st National Annual Meeting of Members, elections were held and we welcome **Margaret Schwab** (of Saskatchewan) as National Chairperson of Education and Health. I look forward to working with Margaret. National President Fran Lucas also announced the national theme for 2022–2023 will be ***Catholic and Living It!***

Below is a summary of three items of information from Margaret in Communiqué #1 (I encourage you to read her entire communiqué found at <https://cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/20210824-Education-and-Health-Communique-01-website.pdf>)

Coady International Institute

Councils are asked to show this video from the Coady International Institute (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=G4Bm6QtA6Cl>) to their members. The institute educates women worldwide to become community leaders, and Margaret mentioned a program of interest is the *Indigenous Women in Community Leadership* program (which is open to First Nations, Métis and Inuit women).

Environment

Margaret reminded us, "The League will soon be using a new national theme, but caring for the environment should not be put away on a shelf. Members must always be diligent about what they do to the world around them. For example, the lack of clean water remains an issue in many communities and landfills are being used to the maximum. While recycling is improving, there is still a long way to go."

Resolutions

We are reminded to take action on the six resolutions under this standing committee that are current (found at this link: <https://cwl.ca/resolutions/by-position/#EH>)

In Communiqué #2, Margaret brought the following to our attention (the entire communiqué is found at: <https://cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/20210831-Education-and-Health-Communique-02-website.pdf>).

Earth Action Initiative

The League was invited to participate in the *Earth Action Initiative* sponsored by the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisation. Members were encouraged to choose any day in September to participate in an environmental clean-up project.

Here are a few suggestions for each of us to help care for the environment:

- 1) *Reduce your own use of plastic products.*
- 2) *Re-use your plastic containers as often as possible.*
- 3) *Recycle plastics that you can no longer use.*
- 4) *Ensure that plastics are not contaminated (i.e. food waste) before recycling*

(taken from *Earth Action Initiative* poster)

Catholic Social Teaching

The League's **new** *Catholic Social Teaching Resources* document can be accessed using this link: <https://cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/624-Catholic-Social-Teaching-Resources.pdf>. This document provides members with resources to assist us in continuing to advocate for social justice and Catholic social teaching.

Provincial Theme of Loneliness

We continue to focus on helping those who are experiencing loneliness, and while the pandemic has likely made people feel alone and isolated, there are ways we can help. A phone call or a handwritten note arriving in the mail can brighten a person's day. Let us pray for those who are lonely, that God will be their companion and guide.

I am reminded of a beautiful hymn that I love to sing:

*Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness;
And all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia.*

*Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek, and ye shall find;
Knock, and it shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia.*

*You do not live by bread alone, but by every word
That comes forth from the mouth of God. Allelu, alleluia.*

*Where two or three are gathered in my name,
there am I in their midst; And whatsoever ye ask, I will do. Allelu, alleluia.*

(*Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God* by Karen Lafferty)

Lots of love,
Karen