



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

CATHOLIC
and **LIVING IT!**

Directive #10

Pages: 1

February 15, 2022

To: Diocesan Resolutions Chairpersons

From: Wilma Vanderzwaag, Ontario Provincial Council Resolutions Chair

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

Consider how small a fire can set a huge forest ablaze. The tongue is also a fire.

James 3:5-6

Resolutions always have action plans. In most cases letter writing is a component of the plan. During the past two years, many members have taken advantage of the time at home, because of social restrictions, to take pen to paper and send letters to the various levels of government. If your council members wrote letters, please forward a copy of the letter(s) to me so that sample letters can become a resource for future use by other members. The goal is to have sample letters for the resolutions, listed on the provincial website. These letters can be a useful tool when presenting a resolution to the parish council and help members to take part in the action plan.

Did you know that the League has position papers? What are position papers? These were questions asked by the position paper review sub-committee that included Betsy Courier, Ontario Legislation Chair, Anna Bawer-DiLallo, Quebec Resolution and Legislation Chair and me. At our initial virtual meeting with Rolande Chernichan National Resolutions Chair and Glenda Carson National Legislation Chair, position papers were defined in their power point presentation. Here is the explanation:

Position Paper

- Is a formal statement from the (national) executive defining the League's position or situation on a certain issue.
- Is helpful for information of members and those outside our organization, including the public.
- Is usually the result of one or several resolutions that have been previously adopted at the national level. It can also be the result of a policy, letters, briefs and other discussion papers on which consensus or agreement is indicated by the national executive.
- May be used as a response by the League to an idea or plan of action put forward by someone else. A position paper must not conflict with any resolution adopted by national council.
- Is usually prepared by an ad hoc committee, appointed by the national president in consultation with relevant standing committee chairpersons and according to terms of reference and parameters approved by the national executive

Position papers concern issues that are critical to the League. They meet one or more of the overall objectives of the League. A position paper provides guidance and direction for actions and advocacy. All position papers must be consistent with the tenets of our Catholic faith, recognize the dignity of people, as well as contribute to the growth and understanding of a social justice issue.

Each sub-committee received position papers to review and research. Reports will be submitted to the National Resolutions Chair and National Legislation Chair with their findings and recommendations. All the recommendations will be reviewed and a final presentation to the national executive will take place in August 2022. Position papers are listed on the national website, cwl.ca, under the heading "To Act On." Watch for the position paper updates.

Resources available for resolutions:

National Website-cwl.ca

Under Forms

523 Checklist for Reviewing Proposed Resolutions

618 Resolution Supplement to the Executive Handbook (2020)

620 Resolution Guide

Provincial Website-cwl.on.ca

Under Forms and Applications

Pamphlets-Building a Relationship with your MPP

Workshops-Resolution Workshop 2020

Another way to let your voice be heard is to take part in the "Listening Sessions" in your parish for the Synod on Synodality. Pope Francis stated "Synodality is the way of being the Church today according to the will of God, in a dynamic of discerning and listening together to the voice of the Holy Spirit." Together through this process, matters of faith, morality and modern challenges can be discerned, allowing the Church to grow in its mission for the third millennium. Watch for your parish bulletin for dates and times to sign up and take part.

Blessings and hugs,

Wilma

