



**Ontario Provincial Council**  
**The Catholic Women's League of Canada**  
**Education and Health Standing Committee Chair**  
*Go Make a Difference*

Directive: No. 01

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Pages: 2

Attachments: 2

ON.22.01 Improve Care in Long-term Care Homes

ON.22.02 National Strategy to Address Loneliness

To: Diocesan and Parish Councils Education and Health Standing Committee Chairs

Cc: Linda Squarzolo, Ontario Provincial President, Diocesan Presidents, Ontario Provincial Officers, OPC Education and Health Sub-Committee National Education and Health Chair

From: Hilarion Mitchell, Ontario Provincial Education and Health Standing Committee Chair

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Greetings to my fellow Education and Health Standing Committee Chairs. Thank you to our 2019-2022 predecessors including Karen MacDonald and her sub-committee and those continuing in the role. Warm welcome to those of us now onboarding. It is an honour to serve as your 2022-2024 Ontario Provincial Education and Health Standing Committee Chair. My bio is posted on the OPC website under the Executive Profile tab. Marlin Taylor, Life Member, Toronto Diocese will be assisting on my sub-committee.

### **2022-2024 OPC Theme and Symbol**

Linda Squarzolo, is now our Ontario Provincial President following the 2022 OPC elections in July. She has chosen **Go Make a Difference** for her theme and is using the Bee as her symbol. Linda explained that in addition to Bees important role to pollinate plants, they are a good luck symbol, hold the power of service, are productive, stay focused on their goal, remind us to slow down, smell the flowers and taste the sweet nectar of life. Linda used St. John Chrysostom quote that, "*The bee is more honoured than other animals, not because she labours, but because she labours for others.*"

This sets the tone for the next two years as Linda asked the executive and diocesan presidents to select a project based on the theme to educate members. Looking forward to your ideas on how we will action the **Go Make a Difference** theme given our responsibilities as outlined in the Constitutional & Bylaws (page 27), National Manual of Policy and Procedure (page 75), Executive Handbook (page 53-57), other League resources and listed on page 2 of this directive.

### **Constitution and Bylaws 2022 Instructed Votes**

Change is on the horizon with the outcome of the national instructed votes on the Constitution and Bylaws amendments. This term represents the last time our duties will be carried out under this committee. They will then be covered by the new chairpersons responsible for Service and Social Justice as we transition to the League of the future.

### **Current Education and Health Duties**

- a) Catholic education
  - (i) Catholic schools and catechesis
  - (ii) Rites of Christian Initiation
- b) literacy and continuing education
- c) Scholarships and bursaries
- d) Wellness and sickness/disease
- e) Environment
- f) Genetics

### **Future Assigned Chairperson(s)**

- Service
- Service
- Service
- Service
- Social Justice
- Social Justice

### **2022 OPC Resolutions**

The resolutions below were adopted at the Ontario Provincial Council 75<sup>th</sup> AMM/Convention in July 2022. They are posted on the OPC website by clicking on each blue hyperlink below to access their brief, resource lists and action plans.

#### [ON.22.01 Improve Care in Long-term Care Homes](#)

Urges the Ontario Provincial Government to prioritize and increase funding to improve long-term care homes by:

- regulating and upgrading training for personal support workers (PSW);
- increasing staff to resident ratios;
- updating infrastructure and increasing the frequency of scheduled and unscheduled provincial inspections for long-term care homes in Ontario in order to maintain the dignity of residents and provide quality and compassionate care

#### [ON.22.02 National Strategy to Address Loneliness](#)

Asks the federal government to develop a national strategy, including creating a Minister responsible for loneliness and the establishment of a commission to address the negative impact of isolation and loneliness on individuals through policy making and program delivery.

### **Keeping Informed**

*Catholic and Living It!* As your OPC Education and Health Standing Committee Chair, I will endeavor to keep you informed of topics and issues that impact our faith within the scope of our responsibilities. You are also encouraged to keep me and members informed of same. *Go Make a Difference!*