



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

Directive: No. 02  
Pages: 2

January 3, 2023  
Attachments: N/A

To: Diocesan and Parish Councils Education and Health Committee Chairs,  
Chairpersons of Service and Social Justice, Council Presidents  
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

---

Happy New Year! We are transitioning to the new League structure while some of us are still serving under the former standing committee chair positions depending on our election cycle. As such, the Education and Health chair position continues in some councils and dioceses through Spring 2024 and at the Ontario Provincial Council through July 2024.

Welcome to the new Chairpersons of Service and Social Justice who will be responsible for some of the duties previously covered under Education and Health.

### **Newly Revised League Resources**

League resources have been updated to reflect the new executive structure with the 2022 constitutional amendments. These include the Constitution & Bylaws (2022), National Manual of Policy and Procedure and other League resources, toolkits, etc. now posted on the national website in the [600 Series Manuals](#). The Executive Handbook has been discontinued.

### **Single-Use Plastics Ban**

The manufacture and import of single-use plastic (SUP) for sale in Canada ban came into effect on Dec. 20, 2022 and will no longer be available for purchase by Dec. 20, 2023. The six categories of products banned are straws, stir sticks, check out plastic bags, cutlery, some takeout containers and six pack rings. These products were chosen as available alternatives for them already exists. The ban addresses the environmental pollution from SUP by moving away from a linear economy of single use to a circular economy of multiple uses through better product design, reuse, recycling, etc. which are better for the environment. The Government of Canada Environment and Natural Resources website indicates that "*Canadians throw away over 3 million tonnes of plastic waste every year. Only 9% is recycled while the rest ends up in our landfills, waste-to-energy facilities or the environment.*" See links below for more info on the SUP from Government of Canada

- [Guidance for Selecting Alternatives to Single-use Plastics](#)
- [Single-use Plastics Prohibition Regulations Technical Guidelines](#)
- [Factsheet Exceptions for Single-use Plastic Flexible Straws](#)

### **Catholic Education School Support**

There are 29 English and eight French Catholic school boards in Ontario. The future of Catholic Education in Ontario depends on all of us. All Catholics are eligible to support Catholic education even if they do not have children currently attending school. They also need to register as an English or French Separate Catholic supporter when they change residence on their Tax Bill or Property Assessment Notice or on the Voter Information Card. A Separate School Support Lease form allows individuals who jointly own or rent a property to designate school support to the Separate School Board when one of the owners or tenants is non-Catholic. The Tax Direction and Lease Information forms are available on all Catholic school board websites or municipal clerk's office. Also visit [The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation \(MPAC\) Changing Your School Support](#).

### **Canadian Blood Services: CWL Blood Donors**

The need for blood donations continues. Members are encouraged to give blood if they are eligible. The previous link for members to donate blood through Canadian Blood Services is inactive. Members wishing to donate blood are to visit [blood.ca/](http://blood.ca/), select ways-donate/partners-life/group-donations-and-pledge-based-partnerships. Members will need to complete the registration to set up a new donor account if they do not have one. Once the account is set up, then choose *Partners for Life* to join an existing team which is the "The Catholic Women's League of Canada."

Thank you to Lisa Fillingham, St. Catharines, Diocesan President and Mary Joel Modolo, President, St. Julia Council for their assistance. St. Julia's Council held a blood donor drive in 2022. St. Catharines Diocese has a diocesan blood drive on Feb 18, 2023. With Mary Joel's help, I will provide more details and may do a workshop to assist councils and dioceses interested in hosting their own blood donor drive.

### **2022 Education and Health Education and Health Annual Report**

Looking forward to reading the accomplishments of councils in the summarized diocesan 2022 annual reports. The parish council Education and Health chairs are to complete and submit by Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> and diocesan chairs by Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Annual Member Satisfaction Survey**

The 2022/23-member satisfaction survey will assist the national executive/board of directors to evaluate the strategic planning efforts to meet the strategy designed to increase the sense of belonging and connectedness among the membership. The survey takes about four minutes to complete and closes on Jan. 21, 2023. Access the survey through this link [Annual Member Satisfaction Survey](#).

Prayers to all for best wishes as you *Go Make a Difference* in 2023!