



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

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To:                      Diocesan and Parish Standing Committee Chairs for Education and Health, Service and Social Justice  
Cc:                      Linda Squarzolo, Ontario Provincial President, Diocesan Presidents, Ontario Provincial Officers, Marlin Taylor, Life Member (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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Warm welcome to the new service and social justice chairs in parish and diocesan councils. Thank you to the Education and Health Chairs that represented their diocese as the last individuals to hold this position with the transition to the new executive structure. There is overlap with the Education and Health Committee and other executive positions continuing at the diocesan and provincial levels until the remaining dioceses and provincial councils hold elections in 2024.

September marks the return to League activities for the Fall and year end. Articles in this directive covers issues from the spring and summer during your much deserved summer break. Some of the issues are now time sensitive requiring your attention as you dive back in. The [blue hyperlinks](#) will provide more details on the articles in this directive.

**Federal Government Consultation on Safe Long-Term Care**  
**Time Sensitive Action: Sept. 21, 2023**

The federal government is conducting a public online consultation to the launch of a public [online consultation](#) to support the development of a Safe LTC Act.

Every senior in Canada deserves to live in dignity, safety, and comfort, regardless of where they live. While a majority of Canadians want to age closer to home and their family, they also expect and deserve long-term care—if it is needed—to be high quality and safe.

The COVID-19 pandemic shone a light on the problems in LTC and highlighted long-standing and systemic challenges across Canada. As the pandemic exposed uncomfortable truths within LTC, the Government of Canada is taking action to meet the evolving needs of seniors and to work with provinces and territories in order to support improvements.

The consultation is geared to:

- Seniors
- Persons with disabilities

- Caregivers (family/friends).
- Health, social and community care and service providers or volunteers.
- Groups working with or representing diverse communities such as older adults, persons with disabilities, Indigenous communities, etc.
- Researchers and academics.
- All other interested Canadians and organizations.

### **Bill 60 Your Health Act**

An Act to amend and enact various Acts with respect to the health system (Your Health Act) received Royal Assent on May 18, 2023. It allows for private clinics to perform more services to clear the backlog and wait times for medical procedures and surgeries, diagnostic services. However, there are concerns that there will be a two-tier system for those who can and cannot afford to pay. Under the bill, both for-profit and not-for-profit clinics will be allowed to conduct cataract surgeries, MRI and CT scans, minimally invasive gynecological surgeries and, eventually, knee and hip replacements under the Ontario Health Insurance Plan. Members are to monitor the impact of this bill and to address concerns as private citizens to the provincial member of parliament.

### **Bill C-39 An Act to amend the Criminal Code** (medical assistance in dying).

The bill received Royal Assent on March 9, 2023, and immediately came into effect, officially postponing the eligibility date for persons suffering solely from a mental illness until March 17, 2024. The delay was based on the advice of clinicians, researchers, and the faithful around the safeguards for its use. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) released a statement on May 9, 2023, which states that “we remain profoundly concerned about, and strongly disagree with the expansion of the ‘eligibility criteria’ for euthanasia and assisted suicide (i.e., ‘Medical Assistance in Dying’ or ‘MAiD’) to persons whose sole medical condition is a mental illness.<sup>1</sup> Euthanasia/Assisted Suicide.” See below for the CCCB complete position on Mental Health and Euthanasia/Assisted Suicide and letter to the government.

- [Message to the Catholic Faithful on Permitting Persons Living with Mental Illness to Access Euthanasia/Assisted Suicide](#)
- [Open Letter to the Government of Canada on Permitting Persons Living with Mental Illness to Access Euthanasia/Assisted Suicide](#)

See Educational and Health Directive 09 (Sept. 9, 2023) for more fall activities which include Food Insecurity, Food Waste and Season of Creation all taking place in September.