

PROVINCIAL SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 2024 ON-LINE NEWSLETTER
Ontario Provincial Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Social Justice Chair: Hilarion Mitchell

Remembrance Day and Social Justice Causes

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God, Matthew 5:9

Remembrance Day provides an opportunity for us to honour the sacrifices of veterans, affording us the opportunity to live in the absence of conflicts. It is also time for us to pray for the armed forces, governments, organizations, and the Church in preventing and defending human rights to preserve peace. Currently there are wars in Gaza, Sudan, Ukraine, Syria and the Democratic Republic of Congo. As members, we can be active participants to promote peace and justice at home and globally through activities below.

- Participate in Remembrance Day Ceremonies, wear a poppy, support and thank veterans and current armed forces members.
- Revisit [Resolutions 2019.02 Canadian Support for the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons](#). To date, Canada has not yet signed or ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).
- Educate self on causes of past and current conflicts, human rights abuse, poverty, discrimination, etc.
- Read and listen to programming, interact with others from different backgrounds and perspectives on issues.
- Engage elected officials at all levels of governments to act on local and global issues.
- Support organizations such as [CNEWA](#), [Development and Peace-Caritas Canada](#) and [Aid to the Church in Need \(Canada\)](#)

OPC Timelines for the 2025 Resolutions

Resolutions are how the League influences governments to be accountable to Canadians and the values the League holds. ([Toolkit for Social Justice](#)). We are looking forward to receiving several topical issues from parish councils to start the resolutions process for 2025. See *OPC Timelines for the 2025 Resolutions* for the various resolutions' tasks/activities, responsibilities and deadline dates. (**See Timelines list attached on page 4**)

OPC Archived 2024 Resolutions

On the recommendation of the Archive Review Committee and Mary Capobianco, Life Member, OPC Resolutions Chair, 2022-2024, the OPC executive adopted 31 resolutions (**See Archived Resolutions List attached on page 6**) for archiving in 2024. Resolutions are recommended for archiving when they meet one of the following criteria.

- 1) The action(s) requested of the federal government &/or national organization has been addressed.
- 2) The topic is no longer relevant or current.

- 3) The topic or action has been addressed in a more current resolution with more current references.
- 4) The resolution contains non-specific rational or action steps, refers to organizations that no longer exist, past dates/events and issues, focus or topic has changed.

Save the Date

Nov. 15-23: [International Restorative Justice Week](#) - "*The promise of restorative justice in a polarising world*"

Nov. 17th [World Day of the Poor](#)

Nov. 20 [National Child Day](#) (Can) / [National Children's Day](#) (UN)

Social Justice Award 2025 Nomination Deadline

- Diocesan President Sign-off: Fri. Nov. 15, 2024
 - OPC Social Justice Chair: Sat. Nov. 30, 2024
- Hilarion Mitchell, Social Justice Chair, Ontario Provincial Council
Email: opcsocialjusticechair@gmail.com

Social & Economic Justice Team Report

Betsy Currier, Life Member, Sault Ste. Marie Diocese

Committee: OPC Social and Economic Justice Team

Submitted: Oct. 21, 2024

RE: **ON.10.02 Financial Assistance for Diabetes Supplies and
Bill C-64, The Pharmacare Act**

Resolution ON.10.02 – Financial Assistance for Diabetes Supplies urged the provincial government to fully cover the costs of injection materials and all other related medical supplies for persons who are insulin dependent. This resolution came about because the government coverage was, and still is, limited with deductibles and annual limits for benefits, which would not cover the total cost of medication for people with health issues.

Related to this is Bill C-64, known as the Pharmacare Act, which received Royal Assent on Thursday, October 10, 2024, just 11 days ago. The purpose of this Act is to guide efforts to improve, for all Canadians, the accessibility and affordability of prescription drugs and related products, and to support their appropriate use, with the aim of continuing to work toward the implementation of national universal pharmacare. Its purpose is also to support the development of a national formulary of essential prescription drugs and related products and to provide for the development a national bulk purchasing strategy.

The Government of Canada commits to maintaining long-term funding for the provinces, territories and Indigenous peoples to improve the accessibility and affordability of pharmaceutical products, beginning with those for rare diseases.

If entered into an agreement with a province or territory, the federal government will make payments to the province or territory to increase any existing public pharmacare coverage — and to provide universal, single-payer, first-dollar coverage — for specific prescription drugs and related products intended for contraception or the treatment of diabetes.

Also, after discussions with the provinces and territories, the Health Minister will request that the Canadian Drug Agency prepare, no later than the first anniversary of the day on which this Act receives royal assent, a list of essential prescription drugs and related products to inform the development of a national formulary that will establish the scope of prescription drugs and related products to which Canadians should have access under national universal pharmacare.

So, keep watching this to see if the federal and Ontario provincial government enter into an agreement which will increase funding for pharmacare coverage, specifically for prescription drugs and products for the treatment of diabetes.

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Ontario Provincial Council
TIMELINES FOR THE 2025 RESOLUTIONS**

| DEADLINE DATES | RESOLUTIONS TASKS/ACTIVITIES | RESPONSIBILITY |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| October 31 | Submit resolution topics to your Diocesan Social Justice Chair. | Councils/members |
| December 15 | Forward the topics for your planned resolutions via email to the Ontario Provincial Social Justice Chair. | Diocesan Social Justice Chairs |
| January 31 | Send via email, a copy of the draft resolutions with the resolved clause(s) and the works cited to the Ontario Provincial Social Justice Chair. | Diocesan Social Justice Chairs |
| March 1 | Send feedback from the OPC Resolutions Reading Team to the Diocesan Social Justice Chairs who have submitted draft resolutions. | Provincial Social Justice Chair |
| March 15 | Prior to the Diocesan Convention Prepare the final draft resolution copy that will be presented at the Diocesan Convention once it is approved by the Diocesan Executive to Ontario Social Justice Chair. | Diocesan Social Justice Chairs |
| April/May | Immediately Following the Diocesan Convention (adoption of the resolution) - Prepare and print a letter stating that the resolution was adopted at the Diocesan Convention and sent by email within one (1) day at close of the Diocesan Convention. | Diocesan Social Justice Chairs |
| | In addition, complete the following within 5-7 days of the convention. - Prepare resolution(s) packages including resolution as adopted (3) copies of each resolution and supporting materials including completed resolutions checklist for each. - Finalize letter on diocesan letterhead for the adopted resolution(s) which must be signed by the Diocesan President and Secretary, sent with the resolution package(s) to the Ontario Provincial Social Justice Chair by email and hard copy by courier. Note: If the provincial rep your convention is a member of the resolutions committee, please give them your copies instead of sending them by courier. | |
| May/June | The Provincial Resolutions Review Committee meets to review all submitted adopted diocesan resolutions received from the Diocesan Social Justice Chairs. - Send disposition outcome letters to the diocesan councils that submitted a resolution for consideration at the Provincial Convention/ Annual Meeting of Members (AMM). | Provincial Resolutions Review Committee Provincial Social Justice Chair |
| July | Ontario Provincial Council Convention/Annual Meeting of Members (AMM) | |

| DEADLINE DATES | RESOLUTIONS TASKS/ACTIVITIES | RESPONSIBILITY |
|----------------|--|--|
| | <p>OPC Resolutions Dialogue Session This is an informal session held before the official start of the provincial convention/AMM with convention delegates. It provides an opportunity to better understand the resolutions being presented and hence makes the formal presentation run smoothly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Members (voting/accredited) proposing changes to the resolution should also be present at convention to make the motion. | Provincial Social Justice Chair |
| | <p>OPC Resolutions Convention Presentation Resolutions are brought forward to the convention assembly. If adopted, they will be acted on by the level destined (i.e., provincial or national).</p> <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resolutions cannot be acted on until they have been adopted at the level to which they are destined. - Resolutions directed to national for consideration that are not accepted or adopted, do not become publishable or pursuable at any level. | Provincial Social Justice Chair. |
| | Send disposition letters to the diocesan/provincial councils whose resolution(s) were presented at the Provincial Convention/Annual Meeting of Members (AMM). | Provincial/National Social Justice Chair |
| August | Prepare resolution packages for meeting with the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO) in Toronto attended by the OPC president and VP. | Provincial Social Justice Chair |
| September | Send out a directive or via OPC Online newsletter on adopted resolutions and action plans. | Provincial Social Justice Chair |
| | <p>Resolutions and Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For meetings held in November meetings are arranged with the provincial government through MPPs and direct contact with opposition party members. - For meetings held in spring planning should start in January. | Provincial Social Justice Chair |
| Resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 618 Resolutions Handbook - 620 Resolutions Guide - Adopted Resolutions: See Provincial and National websites | |

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Ontario Provincial Council
RESOLUTIONS ARCHIVED IN 2024**

| Resolution # | Topic | Standing Chair |
|---------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| ON.18.03 | To Fully Implement Alternative Sentencing to Incarceration of Indigenous Offenders | Legislation |
| ON.17.01 | Full Implementation of the Supreme Court's Gladue Decision (1999) for Indigenous Women Offenders | Legislation |
| ON.16.04 | Training for Safe Operations of All-Terrain Vehicles by Youth under the age of 16 | Legislation |
| ON.15.05 | Reinstatement of the Mandatory Long-Form Census | Legislation |
| ON.15.03 | Mandatory Police Vulnerable Sector Checks for the Supervision of Minors | Legislation |
| ON.14.01 | Mandatory Labelling of Genetically Modified Food Products | Education & Health |
| ON.14.02 | <i>Feather of Hope</i> - Empowering First Nation Youth | Community Life |
| ON.12.01 | Infrared Breast Screening Thermography | Education & Health |
| ON.11.03 | Raising Awareness of Colorectal Cancer and the Importance of Early Detection | Education & Health |
| On.09.05 | Support Canadian Food for Children | Community Life |
| ON.08.02 | Creating a National Strategy to End Child Poverty | Community Life |
| ON.06.05 | Plastic Bags: The High Cost of Convenience | Education & Health |
| ON.06.04 | Ontario Works Recipients: Income Increase | Community Life |
| ON.06.01 | Amending the Greenbelt | Legislation |
| ON.05.08 | Supporting Fair Trade Chocolate and Cocoa | Community Life |
| ON.05.01 | Comfort Allowance | Education & Health |
| ON.04.04 | Ontario Disability Support Program | Community Life |

| Resolution # | Topic | Standing Chair |
|---------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| ON.02.02 | Income Supplement Programs for Seniors | Community Life |
| ON.02.01 | Accessibility of the Workplace For Persons With Disabilities | Community Life |
| ON.99.06 | Sexual Harassment in the Workplace | Community Life/Legislation |
| ON.99.01 | Banning the Cloning of Human Embryos | Legislation |
| ON.98.03 | Ionization Type Smoke Detectors | Legislation |
| ON.96.06 | Licensing of Recombinant Bovine Somatotropin (rBST) | Legislation |
| ON.95.06 | Cults | Community Life |
| ON.93.06 | Euthanasia | Legislation |
| ON.91.09 | "Humane Vitae" A response to the erosion of human values in to-day's society | Christian Family Life |
| ON.89.11 | Child Poverty in Canada | Community Life |
| ON.89.10 | Definition of "Human Being" in Section 206 of the Criminal Code to be Revised to Include the Unborn | Legislation |
| ON.89.05 | Street Kids | Legislation |
| ON.86.06 | Nuclear Arms | Community Life |
| ON.82.01 | Niagara River Pollution | Education & Health |