



NOTICE OF MOTION TO AMEND THE *CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS*

In accordance with Article XX (c) of the *Constitution & Bylaws (2023)*, notice is hereby given that the following motions proposing amendments to the *Constitutions & Bylaws (2023)* will be presented at the 106th national annual meeting of members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in 2026.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #1:

Proposal to Amend Part III, Section 1

To replace Section 1 with:

The crest, as designed and adopted in 1922, shall be the cross, symbolic of faith, surmounting 13 maple leaves, symbolic of the provinces of Canada and three territories, with the words "THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA FOR GOD AND CANADA" enclosed in an unbroken circle, symbolic of constant service to God and Canada. The colours of the crest shall be blue, chosen for Our Lady, and the papal colours, white and gold.

Proposed wording changes (deletions struck through; additions shown in bold):

Section 1: Crest

The crest, as designed and adopted in 1922, shall be the cross, symbolic of faith, surmounting ~~10~~ **13** maple leaves, symbolic of the provinces of Canada **and three territories**, with the words "THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA FOR GOD AND CANADA" enclosed in an unbroken circle, symbolic of constant service to God and Canada. The colours of the crest shall be blue, chosen for Our Lady, and the papal colours, white and gold."

Rationale:

1. The League crest has been an enduring and treasured symbol for over 100 years. In the last redesign in 1950, it was determined that the maple leaves represented the 10 provinces of Canada. This redesign was made following Newfoundland's inclusion in the Confederation of Canada in 1949. Newfoundland was renamed Newfoundland and Labrador in 2001. It was clear in 1949 that the League was a forward-thinking organization, willing to be all-inclusive.
 2. Over the last 74 years, the composition of Canada has changed again with the addition of the third territory, Nunavut, in 1999. For many years, Indigenous peoples have fought to fundamentally shift the national narrative away from a culture of domination and oppression towards a culture of respect, reciprocity and understanding (*Truth and Reconciliation/Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada*).
 3. The League commits to "walking together" with Indigenous peoples in Canada. The League recognizes that reconciliation is a process of healing relationships requiring changed hearts and attitudes (*Position Paper on Truth and Reconciliation*, the League). The position paper's supportive actions indicate that the League "will express solidarity through land acknowledgement." However, the three territories have never been represented on the League's crest.
 4. This proposal acknowledges all of Canada by including the three territories on the crest, represented by the addition of three maple leaves. This would not change the intent of the 10 provinces but would be inclusive of the whole of Canada.
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PROPOSED AMENDMENT #2:

Proposal to Amend Part IX

To replace (a)(i) with “The spiritual advisor, in cooperation with the chairperson of faith, shall provide advice and guidance for the spiritual program. (Part VI)”

Proposed wording changes (deletions struck through; additions shown in bold):

Part IX: The League and the Church

(a) Role

- (i) The spiritual advisor, in cooperation with the chairperson of ~~spiritual development~~ **faith**, shall provide advice and guidance for the spiritual program. (Part VI)

Rationale:

1. Under the new League structure, there is no longer a chairperson of spiritual development.
 2. The proposal reflects the new offices under the League’s current structure, in which spiritual programming falls under the duties of the chairperson of faith.
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PROPOSED AMENDMENT #3:

Proposal to Amend Part XIV, Section 6

To replace Section 6(d)(ii) with “transportation expenses and registration fees for honorary life members to attend the national annual meeting of members”

Proposed wording changes (deletions struck through; additions shown in bold):

PART XIV: Meetings and Quorums

Section 6: Expenses for Voting Delegates

(d) At national level, the national treasury shall pay:

- (ii) transportation expenses **and registration fees** for honorary life members to attend the annual national meeting of members

Rationale:

1. Several years ago, the national executive/board approved that the registration fees of honorary life members (past national presidents) would be paid for by the national treasury when they attend the national annual meeting of members.
 2. It has since been the practice, but not captured in the C&B.
 3. This proposal is being made to clearly state in the C&B what is already a League practice, thus providing clear and accurate direction and allowing for total transparency for members.
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PROPOSED AMENDMENT #4:

Proposal to Amend Part XIV, Section 9

To replace Section 9 with “Notice of the date, time and place of a meeting of members shall be given to each member entitled to vote at the meeting as follows:”

Proposed wording changes (deletions struck through; additions shown in bold):

Section 9: Due Notice

Notice of the **date**, time and place of a meeting of members shall be given to each member entitled to vote at the meeting as follows:

Rationale:

1. Notice of a meeting must include the date.

2. The date of meetings is essential to ensure advance notice respects the deadlines required as stated in C&B, Part XIV, Section 9(a) and (b) (60 days for national and 21 days for parish, diocesan and provincial).
3. This proposal is being made to correct an omission.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #5:

Proposal to Amend Part XV, Section 1

To replace Section 1(b) with:

- (i) Each parish council in the diocese concerned may appoint TWO accredited delegates to the annual diocesan meeting of members and ONE accredited delegate to the annual provincial meeting of members.
- (ii) Each diocesan council in the province concerned may appoint TWO accredited delegates to the annual provincial meeting of members and TWO accredited delegates to the annual national meeting of members.
- (iii) Each provincial council may appoint TWO accredited delegates to the national annual meeting of members.

Proposed wording changes (deletions struck through; additions shown in bold):

PART XV: Representation at Annual Meetings of Members

Section 1: Delegates

(b) Accredited Delegates

- (i) Each parish council in the diocese concerned may ~~send~~ **appoint** TWO accredited delegates to the diocesan annual meeting of members and ONE accredited delegate to the annual provincial meeting of members.
- (ii) Each diocesan council in the province concerned may ~~send~~ **appoint** TWO accredited delegates to the annual provincial meeting of members and TWO accredited delegates to the national annual meeting of members.
- (iii) Each provincial council may ~~send~~ **appoint** TWO accredited delegates to the annual national meeting of members.

Rationale:

1. Because accredited delegates have voting powers, they should be appointed. A voting member's accredited status is validated by the president's and secretary's signatures on the accredited delegate form.
2. Some councils pay for some or all of an accredited delegate's expenses. Therefore, the appointment should be registered in the council's minutes to support the expenses.
3. This vocabulary aligns with that of the National P&P. The word "appoint" clarifies that a process was undertaken that is recorded in the council's minutes.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #6:

Proposal to Amend Part XVI, Section 2

To replace Section 2(b) with:

(b) An elected or appointed officer shall serve but not exceed one full term in the same office except the chairperson and treasurer (secretary-treasurer at national level) who may be elected to a second consecutive term. A chairperson shall be given a different standing committee during each term. A treasurer may serve a total of two terms only in this position.

Proposed wording changes (deletions struck through; additions shown in bold):

PART XVI: Eligibility, Nominations and Elections

Section 2: Term of Office

(b) An elected or appointed officer shall serve but not exceed one full term in the same office except the chairpersons and treasurers (secretary-treasurer at national level) who may be elected to a second consecutive term. A chairperson shall be given a different standing committee ~~in her second consecutive~~ **during each term. A treasurer may serve a total of two terms only in this position.**

Rationale:

1. A member may take a pause between elections. At the parish level, a member may stand for a new office at any time if she meets the eligibility requirements for that office. At the diocesan, provincial and national levels, a member remains eligible as long as she meets the eligibility criteria for three election periods. (C&B, Part XVI (a) (b-iv), (c-iv) and (d-iii).
2. The intent of this section is to state that a member is eligible to hold the position of treasurer twice or be elected as a committee chairperson twice. This is to discourage members from holding the same office for too long.
3. This proposal is being made to clarify the intent of this section in the C&B and to align it with the practice stated in the National P&P.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #7:

Proposal to Amend Part XVII, Section 2

To replace Section 2(a) with “At parish level, all financial projects shall be approved by the members at a council meeting.”

Proposed wording changes (deletions struck through; additions shown in bold):

PART XVII: Finance

Section 2: Financial Projects

(a) At parish level, all financial projects shall be approved by the members at a council meeting ~~in consultation with the spiritual advisor.~~

Rationale:

1. The current wording implies the spiritual advisor has a say in approving financial projects, which can be a source of conflict between the council and its spiritual advisor if they do not agree.
2. Providing for the spiritual advisor to have a say in approving financial projects of a council impedes the autonomy given to councils with their finances (treasury) and it could interfere with the distribution of funds raised by a project.
3. This proposal is being made to ensure each council’s autonomy over its finances.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #8:

Proposal to Amend Part XX

To replace subsection (b) with “The amendments committee shall be composed of the national past president as chairperson, the national president, the national vice-president and other members as required, appointed by the national president.”

Proposed wording changes (deletions struck through; additions shown in bold):

PART XX: Amendment of *Constitution & Bylaws*

(b) The amendments committee shall be composed of the national past president as chairperson, the national president, **the national vice-president** and other members as required, appointed by the national president.

Rationale:

1. Upon review of the National P&P, which states that amending the C&B is a two-year process, the suggestion is to include the national vice-president as a permanent member of the amendments committee to ensure continuity throughout the time of this process.
2. This proposal is being made to ensure continuity throughout the C&B amendment process.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #9:

Proposal to Amend Part XI, Section 4

To replace Section 4(c) with:

In the event of a vacancy in the office of vice-president during her term, the secretary shall perform the duties of the vice-president until the next election. She shall not be appointed to the office of vice-president nor assume the office of president.

To replace Section 4(d) with:

In the event of a vacancy in the office of vice-president after an election is held, an “acting” vice-president may be appointed by the president in consultation with the executive and the spiritual advisor. The “acting” vice-president shall perform the duties of the vice-president until the next election. She shall not automatically move to the office of president at the time of the next election. She may be nominated and elected to the position of president as long as she meets the eligibility criteria and has not held the office of president on that council before.

To rename current Section 4(d) as Section 4(e) and replace with:

In the event of a vacancy in any other office than president or vice-president, a member shall be appointed by the president in consultation with the executive and the spiritual advisor and shall serve until the next election.

Proposed wording changes (deletions struck through; additions shown in bold):

PART XI: Officers

Section 4: Vacancies at Any Level of the League

- (c) In the event of a vacancy in the office of vice-president **during her term**, the secretary shall perform the duties of the vice-president until the next election. She shall not be appointed to the office of vice-president nor assume the office of president.
- (d) **In the event of a vacancy in the office of vice-president after an election is held, an “acting” vice-president may be appointed by the president in consultation with the executive and the spiritual advisor. The “acting” vice-president shall perform the duties of the vice-president until the next election. She shall not automatically move to the office of president at the time**

of the next election. She may be nominated and elected to the position of president as long as she meets the eligibility criteria and has not held the office of president on that council before. ~~In the event of a vacancy in any other office, a member shall be appointed by the president in consultation with the executive and the spiritual advisor and shall serve until the next election.~~

- (e) In the event of a vacancy in any other office **than president or vice-president**, a member shall be appointed by the president in consultation with the executive **and the spiritual advisor** and shall serve until the next election.

Rationale:

1. After an in-depth two-year review of the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* (National P&P), it became evident that there were stipulations and practices present in the National P&P that were not explicitly stated in the *Constitution & Bylaws* (C&B). As the two documents are to work in tandem, it is important to state these considerations explicitly.
2. In this case, the C&B was not explicitly clear about the possibility, or not, if a member “appointed” as vice-president could or could not move up automatically to the position of president. However, the National P&P clearly states that the position of president must be selected by election. Thus, an appointed vice-president has not been elected and should therefore not automatically move to the position of president. An appointed vice-president may run for election for the position of president if she meets the eligibility criteria.
3. This proposal is being made to align the C&B and the National P&P. Moreover, this is proposed to explicitly state that an appointed acting vice-president (be she the secretary, who takes on the vice-president’s duties, or another member appointed as acting vice-president), not having been elected, does not automatically become president of a council.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #10:

Proposal to Amend Part XVI, Section 5

To replace Section 5(e) with:

Any office, other than the offices of president and vice-president, left vacant following the election shall be filled from those eligible for nomination to office in that council. In special cases, an “acting” president or “acting” vice-president may be appointed by the executive in consultation with the spiritual advisor.

Proposed wording changes (deletions struck through; additions shown in bold):

PART XVI: Eligibility, Nominations and Elections

Section 5: Election of Officers

- (e) Any office, **other than the offices of president and vice-president**, left vacant following the election shall be filled from those eligible for nomination to office in that council. **In special cases, an “acting” president or “acting” vice-president may be appointed by the executive in consultation with the spiritual advisor.**

Rationale:

1. This section specifically refers to what happens immediately following an election. This section of the C&B was not in line with the League’s practice, which holds that the position of president must be elected and that an appointed or “acting” vice-president is not considered elected and thus not eligible to become president automatically.
2. This section should be in line with C&B, Part XI, Section 4(c), (d) and (e) as proposed above.

