



ONTARIO PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

Ontario Provincial Council Government Visit Report

Visit Date: Thursday April 23, 2026
Prepared By: Hilarion Mitchell, Social Justice Chair, 2024-2026

OPC Government Visit Team

Colleen Martin, President; Hilarion Mitchell, Social Justice Chair; Karen McDonald, Vice President; Linda Squarzolo, Past President and Sue Lubowitz, Service Chair. Lisa Henry, Secretary, created the slide presentation that was shown during the visit, took photos, created social media posts and updated the OPC website.

Member of Provincial Parliament Sponsor

The Honourable Charmaine Williams, MPP for Brampton Centre and Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity, served as the sponsor for the Ontario Provincial Council of *The Catholic Women's League of Canada* Government Visit to Queen's Park.

Minister Williams introduced our delegation as special guests in the Legislative Assembly Gallery prior to Question Period. A non-partisan luncheon followed from 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm in Room 230, providing an opportunity for members to meet with Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) and their staff.

Approximately 40 MPPs and legislative staff attended the luncheon, including The Honourable Silvia Gualtieri, MPP for Mississauga East–Cooksville, Parliamentary Assistant to the Solicitor General, and a member of *The Catholic Women's League of Canada*, Toronto Diocese.

Purpose of the Government Visit

As the lead for our visit, an overview of The Ontario Provincial Council of *The Catholic Women's League of Canada* was provided at the start of the luncheon. It included that the provincial council represents more than 30,000 women of faith and service across Ontario, purpose of annual Government Visit and the resolutions process.

- Build and strengthen relationships with Members of Provincial Parliament.
- Engage MPPs and their staff through both formal and informal dialogue.
- Present League resolutions that call for provincial government action on issues affecting individuals, families, and communities.

League resolutions originate from grassroots concerns identified by individual members, parish or regional councils in response to a social need, legislative gap, or injustice. They reflect the concerns of Canadian women, families, and communities, with particular attention to those who are marginalized and vulnerable. Through a comprehensive review and adoption process, resolutions progress from the parish level through diocesan, provincial, and national councils.

Although many resolutions have had government action, their resolved clauses may be only partially implemented or remain outstanding. The requested actions typically call upon the government to:

- develop or amend legislation and public policy;
- provide funding, programs, or resources;
- strengthen enforcement, oversight, or government intervention; or
- undertake other actions necessary to address the issue identified in the resolution.

During this year's Government Visit, ten CWL provincial resolutions, adopted between 2003 and 2024, were presented to MPPs and legislative staff.

To support these discussions, a comprehensive Briefing Note was prepared for each resolution. Each briefing note summarized the background of the issue, the resolution's resolved clause(s), government action taken since the resolution was adopted, remaining gaps, and recommendations for further action.

Members of the Ontario Provincial Council Government Visit Team were each assigned two resolutions to discuss with MPPs and legislative staff, ensuring informed and meaningful dialogue on the League's advocacy priorities.

- ON.24.01 [Elimination of the Mature Minor Doctrine in Mental Health](#)
urge the Ontario provincial government to enact legislation to include parents/legal guardians in the assessment, development, modification and ongoing implementation of mental health treatment plans for children under the age of 16, thereby eliminating the practice of mature minor doctrine.
- ON.23.01 [To Establish a Sustained Universal Intermittent Catheter Coverage](#)
urge the Ontario provincial government to establish a sustained, universally funded, intermittent hydrophilic-coated (HC) or gel reservoir catheter coverage plan for all individuals for whom it has been diagnosed and prescribed as medically necessary.
- ON.22.01 [Improve Care in Long-term Care Homes](#)
urge the Ontario Provincial Government to prioritize and further increase funding Strengthening PSW training, regulation, and professional standards; increasing staff to resident ratios; dating infrastructure and increasing the frequency of scheduled and unscheduled provincial inspections
- ON.19.01 [Psychotherapy Pilot Project for Adults](#)
urge the Government of Ontario to fully fund and implement a community-based psychotherapy pilot project for adults, that provides psychologists and other appropriately trained health care providers, to determine the viability of a long-term program.
- ON.19.02 [Abortion and the Effects on Mental Health](#)
urge the Government of Ontario to require all referring and/or attending medical professionals to disclose the mental health risks that may follow an abortion procedure to each patient well before the abortion procedure is performed.

- ON.19.03 [Long Term Care Beds in Ontario](#)
urge the Government of Ontario to advance the addition of 30,000 LTC beds from year 2030 to 2025.
- ON.15.04 [Provision of Regulated Housing for the Chronic, Severely Mentally Ill](#)
urge the Ontario provincial government to increase provision of regulated safe, appropriate, and geared-to-needs housing for those suffering with severe, chronic mental illnesses.
- ON.11.01 [Safe, Potable Water for First Nations Communities](#)
urge their members to advocate for consultation with the Assembly of First Nations to establish training programs that support the need for qualified personnel to operate and maintain the facilities being installed.
- ON.10.02 [Financial Assistance for Diabetes Supplies](#)
urge the provincial government to fully cover the costs of injection materials and all other related medical supplies for persons who are insulin dependent diabetics.
- ON.03.04 [Widening of Highway 69](#)
urge the Premier of Ontario and the provincial minister of transportation to a) provide a plan of action to widen Highway 69 from Sudbury to Parry sound; b) publicly disclose the plan of action; c) implement the plan of action immediately.

A Resolutions Package was available for the MPPs and legislative staff. The package included the Briefing Notes for each resolution and an overview of the Ontario Provincial Council (i.e., who we are, our reach, key areas of focus).

Our visit does not mean that the government will act immediately on the resolutions discussed. It may take months or years before action occurs. As members and the Provincial Council, we must continue our advocacy efforts (i.e., monitor government actions, write letters, and speak out on the issues) until the actions requested in the resolutions are addressed or resolved by the government.



















