



**The Catholic Women's League of Canada**  
**London Diocesan Council**

To: All Parish Presidents, Education and Health Chairperson  
CC: London Diocesan Council, Karen McDonald OPC Education and Health Chairperson  
From: Mary Clare Latimer  
Date September 15, 2021

**Directive # 3**

*Ask Him.....to help you want to serve instead of wanting to be served*  
*Jane Trufant Harvey*

**Greetings League Sisters!**

**Smart Phone Application Survey** remains open until **October 31, 2021.**

The survey asks, "Would you use a Catholic Women's League Smart Phone Application?"  
Direct link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CWLAPP>

Please take the time to participate ... our feedback is important. Those who do, and choose to provide their information, will be entered into a draw.

**Earth Action Initiative** sponsored by the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO). **As members, we are being Called to Action during the month of September!**

- Organize a plastic and waste clean-up event at your nearest ocean beach, lakefront, or riverbank, along roadways, ditches, and in public spaces.
- Organize an event to educate the public about the plastic waste crisis.
- Advocate for better landfill practices particularly in areas subject to environmental conditions that could result in waste entering a water system.
- Advocate for the elimination of single-use plastics and the re-use and recycling of disposable plastics.
- Change your ways: 1) Reduce your own use of plastic products. 2) Re-use your plastic containers as often as possible. 3) Recycle plastics that you can no longer use. 4) Ensure that plastics are not contaminated (i.e. food waste) before recycling

Members are encouraged to do whatever they are able to in order to take part in this important initiative to help save our Earth's water resources. If you are taking part as a group, kindly adhere to pandemic guidelines and keep safe!

**Ontario Optometrists Withdraw OHIP services** after negotiations with the province stalled. As of Wednesday Sept 1, 2021, optometrists across the province began job action and are no longer serving patients covered by OHIP. Optometrists not only diagnose eye diseases but they can diagnose other diseases in the body like diabetes and hypertension. Under Ontario law, optometrists aren't allowed to take any payment from OHIP-covered patients, during this time.

The base of the job action is that doctors are only reimbursed by the government about \$45 for each patient, but the argument is that the real cost of an appointment is about \$80.

The province did offer a \$39 million retroactive payment to be split among 2,500 optometrists, equally about \$16,000 each.

The government also offered to increase the \$45 reimbursement to \$49, but the Optometrist Association of

Ontario (OAO) says that's not enough.

The OAO is not willing to go back to the bargaining table until the province commits to covering the full \$80 operating cost per patient.

When asked to comment on Thursday, Christine Elliott, Ontario's Minister of Health responded

"I want to be clear that our government will continue to fund these optometry services through OHIP. Any decision to withdraw services is the decision of individual optometrists," Health Minister Christine Elliott said in an emailed statement. "The College of Optometrists of Ontario has made clear that if an individual optometrist decides to withhold care from a patient, they are expected to take steps to ensure the patient can continue to receive appropriate care."

Elliott also called the government's offer "fair and reasonable" and said she is disappointed with the OAO's decision to decline to resume mediation.

Members should continue to rely on their optometrists to help navigate their options during this period of service withdrawal and are encouraged to still call with urgent needs.

Members are encouraged to contact their Member of Parliament regarding the urgency of resolving this work dispute. Pray that the OAO **will resume talks** and that our Provincial government **response will include fair and equitable reimbursement** to all Ontario optometrists.

**Please do not hesitate to reach out to me via email [edhlncwl@gmail.com](mailto:edhlncwl@gmail.com) or by phone 519-358-6705, especially if you come across an educational or health concern that would be of interest to other members!**

**Blessings to all of you!**

**Mary Clare**