



London Diocesan Council
Of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada
One Heart, One Voice, One Mission

To: All Parish Presidents, Education and Health Chairpersons

CC: London Diocesan Council

From: Mary Maxwell, London Diocesan Chairperson, Education and Health

Date: May 23, 2015

Directive # 6

This directive was created with information from Carol Richer, the Provincial Education and Health Chair.

Catholic Education- In an effort to strengthen connections across the province, the Ontario Catholic School Trustees has created a vehicle for sharing "Good News" happening in Ontario's Catholic schools with more members within the Catholic community. The new "Our Catholic Schools" newsletter is shared with parents, students, trustees, teachers, the Catholic Women's League, the Knights of Columbus, parish communities and anyone interested in Catholic Education in this province. To get on this list and to start receiving this weekly newsletter, please sign up at <http://www.faithinourfuture.ca/support>

The Institute for Catholic Education (ICE) as instructed by Cardinal Thomas Collins, continues to review the new **Health and Physical Education Curriculum**, and will produce resources that will support teachers so that the new curriculum is implemented in a way that is consistent with our Catholic teachings and appropriate within the context of a Catholic classroom. The Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario and groups representing Catholic school board educators say that they are confident that the new curriculum can be taught through a Catholic lens.

Health, Education and First Nations Youth- Resolution ON.14.02 Feathers of Hope- Empowering First Nations Youth calls us to search for ways in which we can improve the lives of First Nations children. One small way that members can be involved in empowering First Nations Youth by participating in the fourth annual **Our Dreams Matter Too** walk and letter writing event.

First Nations children get less fundraising for services like education, health and child welfare than all other children enjoy, making it hard for these children to achieve their dreams and grow up proud of who they are. This walk is to show how many people support First Nations Children receiving the same opportunity to succeed as all other children in ways that respect their cultures



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and languages. A sample letter and tips on how to organize an Our Dreams Matter Too Walk are enclosed with this directive. For additional information visit the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada website, and check under 'Events'

This peaceful and respectful walk supports three campaigns: Shannen's Dream (www.shannensdream.ca) Jordan's Principle (www.jordansprinciple.ca) and I am a witness (www.fnwitness.ca) On June 11th, give First Nations children the chance to grow up safely at home at home, get a good education, be healthy and be proud of their cultures.

Please remember The Papal prayer intention for June is:

- That immigrants and refugees may find welcome and respect in the countries to which they come.
- That the personal encounter with Jesus may arouse in many young people the desire to offer their own lives in priesthood or consecrated life.

As we finally enjoy the spring and summer weather, we appreciate the goodness of God's creation and we allow our environment to inspire us.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Maxwell



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THE FOLLOWING TIPS WILL HELP YOU ORGANIZE AN "OUR DREAMS MATTER

TOO" WALK AND LETTER WRITING EVENT IN YOUR COMMUNITY:

When is Our Dreams Matter Too Day? It is on **June 11** which is the anniversary of the [Prime Minister's apology for Residential Schools](#).

Can I just send a letter instead of walking? Yes you can. While we encourage the walks we also very much appreciate people who take the time to send letters .

What do I need to do to organize an Our Dreams Matter Too Walk?

- Encourage people to write letters to the [Prime Minister](#), Premier and their [Member of Parliament](#) using the [sample letter](#) as a guide. People should write these letters before the walk if possible so get teachers involved in your communities to invite children to write too! Have extra print outs of the letter on hand so people can write them out at the walk. Remember no postage is needed to send letters to the Prime Minister, Premier or Members of Parliament so people of all income levels can participate!
- Build a mailbox that represents the dreams, hope and dignity of First Nations children and this mail box then becomes the destination for your walk. Set up a meeting point and time for your walk (any time you choose on June 11).
- In some areas, you may need a permit for the walk from the First Nations Government or Band Council or Municipal Government. Contact them to find out if one is needed.
- Remember safety is a top concern so have people help direct the walkers to make sure no one gets in the way of traffic, and everyone finds their way to the mailbox destination safe and sound! As with any public event, it is always a good idea to have the phone numbers of emergency services (police, fire, first aid and ambulance) and to make sure all people assisting with the walk know how to contact these services if needed.
- Place your mailbox at your walk destination point and set up a meeting place for the walk to begin. Put the meeting point, walk destination and the time of your walk on this sample poster. You can even use a Canada Post mailbox as your walk destination point if you do not have time to build a mailbox.
- Visit the [Shannen's Dream](#), [Jordan's Principle](#) and [I am a witness](#) websites and print off posters or order pins for participants to wear during the walk. Get your community members involved in creating their own Our Dreams Matter Too walk banners and posters!



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- On the day of the walk, get everyone to meet at the meeting point and begin walking to the mailbox. Once at the mailbox, have people put their letters into your mailbox and then count the number of walkers and letter writers. Enter those numbers onto the [Our Dreams Matter Too website](#) and see where other walks are happening across the country!
- Put the letters into a Canada Post mailbox. So long as each letter is [addressed to the Prime Minister or Member of Parliament](#) postage is free. You can also put several letters into a larger envelope.
- **If you need more information contact info@fncaringociety.com**



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Sample letter. Address to Prime Minister Harper, your Member of Parliament or the Premier of Ontario.

OUR DREAMS MATTER TOO!

June 11, 2015

House of Commons
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada
K1A 0A6

Dear _____

The dreams of First Nations children matter too!

First Nations children should not have to fight for services all other Canadians enjoy.

Give First Nations children the same chance to grow up safely at home, get a good education, be healthy, and be proud of their cultures as all other children in Canada.

Yours truly,



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