



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: November 21, 2015

Directive # 8

As the season of Advent approaches, we look forward to reconnecting with the Lord as we prepare our homes and souls for the birth of our Saviour at Christmas. This time of year can be very busy but Advent can be a time to refocus our hearts and minds to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the reason for the season. Please take some time to share this information with your councils.

These two items under Health are action items from our National and Provincial Councils.

### **Health**

1. Health Canada has approved into law the abortion pill RU486. Write to your MP with copies to the federal Minister of Health informing them that you disagree with the decision and that it should be revoked. More details on the drug and the decision is available on the Health Canada website [http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/prodpharma/rds-sdr/drug-med/rds\\_sdr\\_mifegymiso\\_160063-eng.php](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/prodpharma/rds-sdr/drug-med/rds_sdr_mifegymiso_160063-eng.php)
2. The government has established a panel for public consultation on drafting legislation on physician assisted suicide at <http://ep-ce.ca/en/home/> We need to have our voice be heard. The government needs to invest more on hospice and palliative care and we need to stress that no law that begins with the premise of anyone, especially a doctor, can help anyone to end their life. We also support the rights of physicians to do no harm, to protect conscientious objections for those physicians who would refuse to participate in assisted suicide.

### **Mental Health**

To assist us with our resolution **ON.13.01 Reduce the Stigma Attached to Mental Illness**, become aware of the resources available through the Canadian Mental Health Association <http://www.cmha.ca/> Brochures can be downloaded from the site by clicking on the Mental Health tab. In addition under the Public Policy tab the website contains research related to our resolution **ON.15.04 Provision of Regulated Housing for the Chronic, Severely Mentally Ill**. All documents are downloadable and printable to share with those members who do not have internet access.

Committee: Education & Health

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**Environment**

Pope Francis' latest encyclical on the environment **Laudato Si** challenges us to show our concern for nature. Development and Peace has a new program pamphlet entitled Create a Climate of Change [devp.org/climateofchange](http://devp.org/climateofchange). We need to switch to a way of life that protects our world today and for future generations. Action steps are change your lifestyle, change your community, and change your country.

**Recommended Reading**

Teachers of a Nation -Jesuits in English Canada written by Joseph Gavin SJ tells the story of the Jesuits' role in education in Canada throughout our history. The book can be ordered through Novalis at [www.novalis.ca](http://www.novalis.ca)

May our Lady of Good Counsel continue to bless our work "For God and Canada"

*Mary Maxwell*