



The Catholic Women's League of Canada
London Diocesan Council



Environment Care

To: All Parish Presidents, Education and Health Chairpersons, Wilma Vanderzwaag OPC
Education and Health Chairperson

CC: London Diocesan Council, Dara Hartman and Mary Kennedy (sub-committee members)

From: Mary Bannon, First Vice-President, Education and Health

Directive # 6

May, 2019

“A well-educated mind will always have more questions than answers.”

Helen Keller

I enjoyed seeing and talking with so many of you at our Diocesan Convention!



Health: The United Nations General Assembly has designated June 15 as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. It represents the one day in the year when the whole world voices its opposition to the abuse and suffering inflicted to some of our older generations. Around 1 in 6 older people experienced some form of abuse in the past year. Rates of abuse may be higher for older people living in institutions than in the community. Already we know that the personal care of bathing, combing hair etc. is limited to six minutes per day per person. Elder abuse can lead to serious physical injuries and long-term psychological consequences and is predicted to increase, as many countries are experiencing rapidly aging populations. The global population of people aged 60 years and older will more than double, from 900 million in 2015 to about 2 billion in 2050. You and I will be part of this growing population. Let's keep our eyes open for any changes (such as cutbacks in elder care) that Mr. Ford's government may make.



Education: Once again there are “rumblings” in the news about amalgamating public and separate schools. This legislation is enshrined in our first constitution at confederation, the British North America Act of 1867. Amalgamation will **not** save money and will likely lead to more high level administration rather than front-line workers. Please write Lisa Thompson Minister of Education and your local MPP. Save our Catholic schools!



Environment: Premier Ford would like to cut the tree planting program. The trees planted by this program offset emissions equivalent to taking 1.1 million cars off the road for an entire year, in addition to delivering \$82 million annually in environmental benefits from flood prevention to pollination. These short-sighted cuts also disregard the 310 full time jobs provided by this program. Go to <https://www.change.org/p/doug-ford-bring-back-ontario-s-50-million-tree-program> to sign the petition to rescind the order to cut the 50,000,000 trees program.

Mary