



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

To: All Parish Presidents, Legislation Chairpersons and Resolutions Chairpersons
CC: London Diocesan Council
From: Rebecca McCarrell, 1st Vice-President/London Diocesan Chairperson, Legislation & Resolutions
Date: March 2016
Directive #10

How blessed are those who keep justice, Who practice righteousness at all times!
Psalm 106:3

As I conclude this term of office, I wanted to tell each of you how proud I am of the work you have accomplished in your individual councils and as a collective! I have witnessed how you have come together to support one another and the plights of those less fortunate.

To recap, we saw a resolution last year from St. Michael's in London on housing for those suffering from chronic mental illness. And, away it went...soaring through Provincial, approved for distribution to all provinces and territories, and now is making it's way to the Ontario Provincial government. The legislation committees are doing their best to support the resolution. Letters, emails, phone calls and more letters need to continue until the requested changes are made to legislation and FOLLOWED in the communities. You are on the right path...now we need to make it a paved road!

At last year's convention (even though protest was coming from our National President) I chose to continue with the resolution changes on the convention floor to use the process as a teaching tool. And, a bit into the session, President Barb Dowding recognized the method to my madness. So, this year we all know that THE WHEREAS CLAUSES CANNOT BE CHANGED AS THEY ARE BASED ON FACT. I am confident that our resolutions session will advance more efficiently.

There have been multiple legislative issues in many areas – from our individual communities to our national government. You have been great stewards in your diligence to follow up with last year's resolution, human trafficking issues, health concerns, euthanasia issues and much more. And, this year before we could promote our resolution, Cassie and Molly's Law has been championed and has been accepted into the House of Commons C-225. Your support through petitions, phone calls, letters to your MP's is appreciate by St. Michael's Leamington who worked with Jeff Durham (Molly's dad) to present our 2nd resolution: Unborn Victims of Crime. We continue to work on this resolution to see how we can change it as it stands to support the Bill already in progress. Come to the convention prepared to add to this great submission.

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The farming and greenhouse industry is critical to the economy of this diocese. The changes to the rules of stay for immigrants. In speaking with some of the greenhouse companies in the Essex County area, I found out how much this affects the businesses. This particular greenhouse was looking at a change of staff every 8 months. This means retraining, housing issues, language issues, travel costs and loss of production. These immigrants rely on our economy to assist them to live. Most of them support a huge family in their homelands as well as themselves in our area. Closely look at our first resolution "A change in the Immigration Act" Please research the classifications of workers for immigration.

Lastly, this brings us full circle to refugees and our support is so badly needed for these people in crisis. The operative word is crisis. Refugees that are coming from a place of conflict, or where torture is common can come to Canada under refugee status. They do not need to meet the strict immigration law and classifications of persons. London Diocese is known for their generosity, and you certainly have exemplified this in your embracing of these people into your communities.

Once again, I urge you to write letters in support of our resolution **Provision of Safe, Appropriate, Geared-to-needs Housing for the Chronic, Severely Mentally Ill**. Please write to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and his Associate:

Hon. Eric Hoskins, MPP
Ministry of Health and Long-Term
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10th Floor, Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor Street
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May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide you in support of issues affecting society today! See you at convention!

God bless,