



The Catholic Women's League of Canada
London Diocesan Council



To: All London Parish Presidents, Legislation and Resolutions Chairpersons
CC: London Diocesan Council, OPC Chairpersons, Margie Royle and Wilma Vanderzwaag
From: Helga Stuermer, Legislation Chairperson and Joan Lobsinger, Resolutions Chairperson
Date: May 2020

Directive

**“I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?”
Then I said, “Here am I Lord send me!” (Isaiah 6:8 KJV)**

Legislation update:

I strongly urge you to write letters to oppose Bill C-7. On February 24th, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada introduced Bill C-7, an Act to amend the Criminal Code (**Medical Assistance in Dying**) This bill claims to amend the euthanasia law based on a Quebec court decision in September 2019 that struck down the requirement that a person be terminally ill to qualify. Bill C-7 is in the first reading (<https://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/43-1/bill/C-7/first-reading>) and there are serious concerns. It allows MAiD by advanced request which will allow cases of MAiD for incompetent people; it eliminates the ten-day waiting period; and it does not prevent MAiD for people who are mentally ill. If Bill C-7 is passed it will give Canada the most permissive MAiD regime in the world. Some Doctors are now worried that due to Covid-19 isolation, increased loneliness will result in more applications for the MAiD Program. We must write letters now to protest the amendments in this bill.

Attached is a sample letter to send to your MP.

Resolutions update:

I hope you had the opportunity to read the resolutions article regarding long-term care homes found on page 13 in the OPC May on-line newsletter.
http://cwl.on.ca/sites/default/files/newsletter/2020_May_OnLineNewsletter.pdf In the article Wilma, our OPC Resolutions Chair encouraged you to write to your MPPs and to ask an open-ended question so you'd receive a response. If you received a response, please email me with “long-term care response” in the subject line at joanlobsinger@sympatico.ca. As a follow up, Wilma now urges you to write to Premier Ford requesting a public inquiry into long-term care in Ontario. I have attached her sample letter.
Cathy Bouchard, National Resolutions Chair is seeking feedback regarding the questions in the annual report. I have attached a copy of the questions to help you give me your feedback. Again, please email this to me with “annual report feedback” in the subject line. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Stay safe and follow health guidelines.

*Your Sisters in Christ,
Helga and Joan*

Dear Member of Parliament,

As a constituent, I wish to express my deep concern at the rush to expand euthanasia and assisted suicide in Canada. The introduction of Bill C-7 will allow more Canadians to seek euthanasia with the full endorsement of the state. I do not support this legislation. The brief consultation process initiated by the government assumed that all Canadians support euthanasia, which is not the case. Many Canadians, especially those experiencing severe suffering need assistance in living, which will affirm their inestimable value and dignity as human beings. To protect all human life, in all its stages and conditions, and to advocate for ways to ease suffering – ways that do not include killing people - I ask you to advocate for the following:

- Immediately prioritize access to palliative care for every Canadian – much has been promised with little delivered. If every Canadian had access to quality palliative care, it would reduce the number of requests for euthanasia.
- Increase support and care for persons suffering from chronic conditions, including those in long-term care. People in long-term care suffering from challenging and difficult illnesses and conditions, but who nevertheless do not wish to have MAID should be protected so that they can live a life of meaning and dignity.
- Press pause on the process. The federal government committed to reviewing the law passed in 2016 within five years before making amendments. This timeline is now much sooner. Recognizing that at least 13,000 Canadians have chosen euthanasia over the past four years, a careful review is essential given the impact on patients, health care providers and medical professionals. This legislation is indeed a matter of life and death – so caution and diligence are critical.
- Consider the position of constituents that oppose the expansion of euthanasia in our country. For health care professionals who do not support MAID and many that form our most vulnerable patient population, this is a human rights issue.

Stand up to the courts and re-establish the authority of Parliament as the voice of the people of Canada. As a Canadian I want our country to be one that supports all people - in all stages of life. I respectfully request that you make every effort to raise the points noted above with your colleagues as soon as possible. Know that I very much appreciate the changes to the legislation that protects those with mental health concerns and trust that you will continue to advocate for us your constituents. .

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

ADDRESS:

(Your name, address and date)

Hon. Doug Ford, Premier's Office
Legislative Building, Queen's Park, Room 281,
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford,

There is data to suggest that decades of underfunding, staff shortages, inadequate regulations and more privatization under suggestive governments has resulted in a long-term care system that is broken. The residents in these homes helped to build the province of Ontario that we are privileged to live in and enjoy. As a member of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, I have been informed that there is motion for a public inquiry on long-term care in Ontario to be debated. I urge you to launch public inquiry to examine conditions and problems in the present system. I agree with you that we need to put an "iron ring" around these cherished residents of Ontario and a public inquiry would be a good place to start to see changes needed.

Sincerely,
(Your signature)

Cc your local MPP

You can also cc to Minister of Home Care and Long Term Care, Hon. Merrilee Fullerton, 6th Floor, 400 University Ave., Toronto, ON M7A 1T7 and Long Term Care Critic, Teresa J. Armstrong-Legislative Office Room 159 Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park, Toronto M7A 1A5

(Your name, address and date)

Hon. Doug Ford, Premier's Office
Legislative Building, Queen's Park, Room 281
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford,

As a member of the Catholic Women's League of Canada, I urge you to immediately increase the long term care accommodation subsidies to enable long term care owners and operators to maintain the \$4.00 increase to base wages of **all** long term care staff and to ensure an adequate staffing ratio ie. 4 hours of daily direct care per resident, to safely meet the complex needs of the current long term care population.

I also ask that the recently announced commission into long term care homes be non-partisan and independent of owners and operators. This is to enable impartial review of the current long term care best practises in both public and privately owned sectors. Please also ensure that the commission is tasked with recommending best practise standards of care with associated funding levels, that include effective accountability protocols regarding documentation, peer reviews and resident/family reviews.

Sincerely,
(Your signature, printed name, name of Parish Catholic Women's League Council)

cc. your local MPP;
Minister of Home Care and Long Term Care, Hon. Merrilee Fullarton,
6th Floor, 400 University Ave., Toronto, ON M7A 1T7;
Long Term Care Critic, Teresa J. Armstrong-Legislative Office Room 159
Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park, Toronto M7A 1A5

Resolutions Annual Survey - 2019

ID. Council Code (e.g. H-099)
name

Introduction

Thank you for participating in the annual report survey. As parish council resolutions chairpersons, your report adds value to our diocesan, provincial and national perspective.

You will see questions to "skip" if you do not have a standing committee chairperson for the position. The intent of this question is to determine what personal growth the chairperson had. We absolutely want to hear if your council was still able to make progress related to that question. You can identify the work accomplished by the council near the end of the survey where it asks to share any other council activities not yet reported. (Questions followed by a * must be answered to move on.)

Councils ask why their information is important. The report gives individual councils the opportunity to tell members across Canada what they are doing. The information lets us know what is being done and help us make decisions knowing what the councils are emphasizing. We measure success in terms of how many councils acted on resolutions or a campaign. This information can become a great marketing tool.

The survey is very comprehensive and broken into each sub-heading. Please do not feel daunted by the length of the survey. There are many options, but we understand that councils will focus on just a few of the priorities listed. It is perfectly okay to leave questions unanswered if your council has not pursued a certain topic or was unable to recruit a resolutions chairperson.

Parish councils are required to complete and submit their annual reports electronically by January 15th of each year.

Please feel free to share both your experiences and challenges which will help me better understand and serve as a basis for future programs or projects in this standing committee. Thank you for completing this annual survey. It will help us to know better what your council is doing and what your members interests are.

Cathy Bouchard, National Chairperson of Resolutions

About You

Q1 Parish Council Name:

Q2 Parish Council Registered Town:

Q3 Parish Council ID Number:

Q4 Reporting to:

Q5 What is your name?

Q6 Is this position filled or vacant?

Filled

Vacant

Q7 If filled, is this position filled by election or appointment?

Election

Appointment

Q8 If filled, is this position shared with the legislation standing committee?

Yes

No

Leadership Profile

As the implementation committee begins its research into leadership in the League, your input into the profile of leadership is important. We invite you to answer the following three questions. (Note: Responses are voluntary.)

Q9 How long have you been a member?

Less than 5 years

16-20 years

6-10 years

21-25 years

11-15 years

more than 25 years

Q10 Have you held this position previously?

yes

no

Q11 What is your age?

under 18

55-64

18-24

65-74

25-34

75-84

35-44

85+

45-54

Q12 Share a success story from this standing committee.

Q13 What is your biggest challenge in this committee and do you have plans to address it?

Q14 Do you have any new ideas, projects, workshops you have used that have good results?
Please share.

Q15 Did you contact your local government representative by:

letter Yes No

- phone call
- in person visit

Q16 Did you contact your provincial government representative by:

- | | Yes | No |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| letter | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| phone call | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| in person visit | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Q17 Did you contact your federal government representative by:

- | | Yes | No |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| letter | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| phone call | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| in person visit | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Research and Preparation of Resolutions and Briefs

A resolution is similar to a motion in that it introduces new business to an assembly. The new business is introduced in the form of a resolution because of its formality, its length or its complexity.

Q18 For your own personal development, have you attended any workshops that outline the resolutions process in the League?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> diocesan, provincial or national convention | <input type="checkbox"/> Catch the Fire or S'Mores |
| <input type="checkbox"/> diocesan or provincial development days or workshops | <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> other |

Other, please specify.

Q19 Do you refer to communiques and/or annual reports from other levels?

- yes no

Q20 Has your council considered and studied issues that might become resolutions?

- yes no

Q21 Have you discussed these ideas with your council and considered forming resolutions?

- yes no

Q22 What one issue was your council particularly passionate about in 2019? If none, choose "no".

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> abortion | <input type="radio"/> home care |
| <input type="radio"/> abuse of seniors | <input type="radio"/> indigenous issues |
| <input type="radio"/> Canada's commitment to the United Nations <i>Convention on the Rights of the Child</i> | <input type="radio"/> lyme disease |
| <input type="radio"/> Canada's support for the United Nations <i>Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons</i> | <input type="radio"/> medication and food labelling |
| <input type="radio"/> diabetes | <input type="radio"/> oral health |
| <input type="radio"/> employment insurance | <input type="radio"/> palliative care |
| <input type="radio"/> ethical vaccines | <input type="radio"/> pollution |
| <input type="radio"/> euthanasia and assisted dying | <input type="radio"/> pornography |
| <input type="radio"/> exploitation of migrant workers | <input type="radio"/> post traumatic stress disorder |
| <input type="radio"/> genetically modified foods | <input type="radio"/> wind turbines |
| <input type="radio"/> gender identity | <input type="radio"/> youth mental health |
| <input type="radio"/> grandparents rights | <input type="radio"/> other |
| <input type="radio"/> healthy eating | <input type="radio"/> no |

Other. Please specify.

Q23 Has your parish council prepared a resolution on the issue? If so, choose "yes". Otherwise, please select one of the other options.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> no chairperson | <input type="checkbox"/> actions already done by other councils or levels |
| <input type="checkbox"/> council is too small | <input type="checkbox"/> n/a, we had no issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> no one interested | <input type="checkbox"/> other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> no time | <input type="checkbox"/> yes |

Other, please explain.

Q24 Please list resolutions written by your parish council in 2019. If none, skip the next two questions.

Q25 How far did the resolution proceed?

| | adopted | presented, not adopted | not presented |
|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| diocesan council | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| provincial council | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| national council | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Q26 If not presented, what reasons were given?

Q27 What changes would you like to see in regard to resolutions which would be helpful to your council?

Study and Implementation of Resolutions Adopted by Other Levels

Resolutions are only words on paper until action is taken. Impementation is a larg epart of the annual work of League members.

Q28 Has your council become familiar with the 2019 resolutions that require action as listed on cwl.ca?

yes

no

Q29 Please name any provincial resolutions that your council acted upon in 2019. If the answer is none, please do not answer this question. Go on to the next question.

Q30 Please name any diocesan resolutions that your council acted upon in 2019. If the answer is none, please do not answer this question. Go on to the next question.

Q31 What specific actions has your council undertaken this year to support resolutions adopted at any level?

signed petitions

wrote to federal or provincial governments

made members aware through meetings, e-mail or newsletters

arranged for a guest speaker

organized demonstrations

held letter writing sessions

mobilized members to address the issue locally through outreach

met with local member of parliament

other

nothing

Other, please specify.

Summary and Final Thoughts

Q32 Is there anything else you would like to share about your council's resolutions activities?

Q33 What was your biggest challenge in completing the survey?

Q34 If you attended a resolutions dialogue session at national convention, I would appreciate feedback on what you would find most helpful in a future session.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire. Your council's initiatives will be added to the strong voice of Catholic women across Canada.

To have a record of your council archives and to have your voice heard, you must first **PRINT** your questionnaire by pressing "print". Then you must **SUBMIT** your questionnaire by pressing "submit". Please note, once you have pressed "submit", you will no longer be able to **SAVE** or **PRINT** your results.