



## The Kingston Diocesan Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada

*One Heart, One Voice, One Mission*

### **Directive#1**

**Date:** October 24, 2015

**To:** Parish Council Education and Health Standing Committees

**From:** Maureen Laurin, Diocesan Education and Health Standing Committee Chair

**CC:** Diocesan Executive, Provincial Education and Health Standing Committee Chair

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As Catholic women in an increasingly secular world, we are called upon to focus on vital issues which for some of us can be disturbing and uncomfortable but it is essential that we have knowledge of these topics and be prepared to act on them.

The Canadian Medical Association has drafted a proposal known as "Principles Based Approach to Assisted Dying in Canada" and has presented this to their general council on August 26, 2015. Three organizations within the CMA the Christian Medical and Dental Society, the Canadian Federation of Catholic Physician's Society and Canadian Physicians for Life helped formulate this document which will not compel a physician to refer or participate in Assisted Death. I have a copy of this document if anyone wishes further information on this topic.

MaterCare International has issued a statement in August 2015 regarding the government of Canada's decision to approve the use of RU486 (Medical Abortion Pill). They are opposing the use of this pill, warning of the negative consequences of medical abortion and informing the Canadian public that a reversal of this procedure is possible. This group also is promoting healthy alternatives to the use of this pill.

The National Organ Waitlist Registry was established in June of 2012. This assists in the inter-provincial sharing of organs and transplants in Canada. In 2011, the Catholic Women's League proposed Resolution 2011.03 National Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Registry which is on step closer to being achieved.

Nancy Simms, National Chairperson of Education and Health, has recommended a book entitled "Teachers of a Nation" by Joseph Gavin for our perusal. This is the story of the Jesuits' role in education in Canada and can be ordered through Novalis.

The Catholic Women's League has a National Bursary Fund which is awarded annually. The deadline for applying for this fund is May 31<sup>st</sup>. The maximum amount that can be given is \$1,000. Financial assistance is also considered for courses in spirituality growth, faith formation, youth ministry, palliative care ministry, parliamentary procedures and with literacy tutoring.

If you are interested in genetics, the book "The Healing Cell" by Robin L. Smith M.D., Msgr. Tomasz Trafny and Max Gomez, Ph.D deals with the science of adult stem cells.

Pope Francis is asking us to be good stewards of the earth and to promote the use of abundant water, clean air, respect and dignity for all persons.

As the Year of Mercy is fast approaching, consider how we might incorporate a project for each Council across our Diocese in focusing on this virtue.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maureen Laurin