



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

Education and Health

Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call

Directive #3

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Date: October 20, 2018

To: Parish Council Education and Health Chairpersons

From: Wilma Turcotte, Diocesan Education and Health Chairperson

CC: Diocesan Executive, Provincial Education and Health Chairperson

Attachments: None

The Poor Man Cried and the World Heard Him

Ps 34:6

Welcome to all Education and Health Standing Committee Chairpersons, whether you are in your first or second year. Hope you had a great summer, September is here, and it is time to start our meetings for another year.

I have been a member of The Catholic Women's League since 2005 and have held many positions at Parish Council level and I am on the second year of my third term on Diocesan Council level.

We are continuing with homelessness for the final year of our term. World Homeless Day was on October 10, 2018. Pope Francis has declared November 18, 2018 as the second World Day of the Poor. We should be checking with our community or planning an event to better understand why people become homeless and how we can each do our part. Sometimes just having sympathetic ear and hearing their story can help them, respect the person, give them their dignity. Local elections are coming up in October, listen to the candidates and see how they address this issue—does it align to your view?

Health

Last winter the Provincial Education and Health chair ask members the top three things that were the most frustrating when dealing with getting a loved one in long term or palliative care. The answers were very compelling and show that there is plenty of room for improvement in all areas pertaining to this difficult issue. People are exhausted and emotionally spent when having to begin this process. The following are the answers to this question:

- One frustration was that they received little or no direction or guidance in how or where to begin looking for placement. Better communication and co-ordination

between agencies and family members is desperately needed. Also, that there was no explanation between long term care and supportive housing.

- There are not enough beds in **quality** nursing homes or hospice.
- Lack of dignity in the treatment of the dying. In hospital palliative care unit, when a loved one is in the final stages of life, he/she should be with family in a private room. Give the family and loved one privacy when saying final good-bye. Attitude of medical professionals and nursing home staff can cause issues, residents treated as a business rather than focus on residents and making a home-like setting.

Other noted concerns:

- Lack of extra assistance by CCAC in helping family members to keep a loved one at home in final stages of life.
- Lack of qualified staff in nursing homes.
- How to care for a family member while waiting for placement.

At the National Convention, a resolution was passed that involves palliative care services. Resolution 2018.03 **Legislate Designation of Hospice/Palliative Care Services in Facilities to Exclude Medical Assistance in Dying**. Read about this Resolution and participate in the action plan.

Environment

There was another resolution that was passed that pertains to this standing chair: Resolution 2018.02 **Setting a Standard for Products Marketed as Flushable**.

Products are being marketed as flushable when they are causing issues in our sewer collection systems. This resolution stated that we are spending over \$250 million in repairs and maintenance of our sewer systems because of inappropriate disposal of products marked "flushable". Read the resolution, educate our members and encourage them to implement the action plan.

Education

Province of Ontario repeal of the 2015 Health and Education Curriculum. The Catholic School Boards will continue to deliver content through our Family Life Curriculum in the current *Fully Alive* program and work through the Catholic lens to meet the expectations of the revised 2010 curriculum set by the Province.

Information taken from Provincial Education and Health Chairperson Directive #8

Respectfully submitted.