



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

### **Education and Health**

#### ***'Care for our Common Home'***

#### **Directive #2**

**Pages: 2**

**Date:** February 15, 2020

**To:** Parish Council Education and Health Chairpersons  
**From:** Colleen Hill, Diocesan Education and Health Chairperson  
**CC:** Diocesan Executive, Provincial Education and Health Chairperson

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*"God, through Jesus, has made our bodies sacred places where God has chosen to dwell. Our faith in the resurrection of the body, therefore, calls us to care for our own, and one another's with love."*

*from Bread for the Journey by Henri J.M. Nouwen*

#### **Attachments (2)**

- 1. Report from Ontario Health Coalition (Jan. 24)**
- 2. List of addresses of elected officials for purpose of letter-writing**

#### **Catholic Education**

In August 2019, a revised Health and Physical Education Curriculum was released. This revised curriculum includes much of the content first introduced in 2015. The curriculum continues to address a number of important topics including mental health, online safety and the risks of sexting, respect for self and consent within healthy relationships. The revised curriculum is being implemented in the 2019-2020 school year. I think it is important for us to be aware of the terms and concepts that our Catholic teachers are hoping to teach our young students. To download a copy with information on this curriculum, go to Institute for Catholic Education and click the link to 'Health and Physical Education Resources': A Parent's Guide to Understanding Family Life Education in Catholic Schools.'

<https://iceont.ca/health-physical-education-resources/>

As well, 'in person' support in our schools is really valuable – giving witness as a Catholic adult in your local school can be rewarding too – by volunteering to read, providing hot lunches, helping with a breakfast club etc.

#### **Environment**

I hope by now you are doing your personal best to reduce the use of plastics. Let's make commitments to support and praise businesses that promote reusable bags, produce bags etc. Communicate with elected officials that you are willing to work with them to make our environment more sustainable. Get involved with local groups who have a sustainability mandate. Invite a speaker on 'Recycling' to one of your meetings. Consider a sewing circle to make your own produce bags.

## **Wellness and sickness/disease**

Does your parish have a Pastoral Care Team? Do your members visit the sick and home-bound? Is there a ride-sharing activity among your members to assist people who need transportation to come to Mass? In times of illness, disability, parishioners *need* the reception of the Eucharist, the recitation of prayers and the participation in spiritual traditions– let's find ways to include them in parish life. Many of these activities address our provincial theme of loneliness too.

Lastly, regarding Resolutions: Karen McDonald, provincial Education and Health Committee Chairperson reminds us of **three resolutions relating to *Education and Health*** that were passed at the 2019 provincial convention. Members are asked to read them and follow up on the Action Plans. Why not host a letter-writing activity at one of your meetings and address your personal concerns to elected officials?

**ON.19.01 Psychotherapy Pilot Project for Adults**<sup>SEP</sup> (for the full text ... go to <http://cwl.on.ca/sites/default/files/resolutions/1955.pdf>)

**ON.19.02 Abortion and the Effects on Mental Health**<sup>SEP</sup> (for the full text ... go to <http://cwl.on.ca/sites/default/files/resolutions/1934.pdf>)

**ON.19.03 Long Term Care Beds in Ontario**<sup>SEP</sup> (for the full text ... go to <http://cwl.on.ca/sites/default/files/resolutions/1935.pdf>)

Another topic to consider in your letter-writing might include the following focus: Ontario hospital funding is the lowest per capita in Canada. A report was issued Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> by the Ontario Health Coalition regarding the state of emergencies in hospitals due to reduction of beds, closing of wings, closing of operating rooms and general underfunding (attached).

In closing ladies, if you have any important issues from your councils that you feel ought to be shared from this Committee's perspective, kindly get in touch with me and I will respond to you directly for a discussion.

Respectfully submitted.