

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
MANITOBA PROVINCIAL COUNCIL**



**SOCIAL JUSTICE
HERE I AM LORD SEND ME!**

DATE: SEPTEMBER 2024

COMMUNIQUE #

TO: Diocesan Presidents to be forwarded to councils' parish presidents.

CC: Provincial Executive (for information)

FROM: Chris Carlyle - Mb Provincial Social Justice Chairperson

Dear Sisters of the League

Who am I? I am Chris Carlyle, Winnipeg Diocesan Past President and now your newly elected Social Justice Chairperson for the MB Provincial Council. I have been a CWL member for over 25 years and am a retired nurse who had the privilege to end my professional career working in palliative care.

There are always learning curves and challenges when taking on a new position. With the support of predecessors and prayers we hope to experience success. I am excited to accept this new challenge, to learn my role and to listen to Manitoba CWL members!

Social Justice is a corner stone of The Catholic Women's League of Canada. As an organization, we continue to recognize the needs of the community and learn how to address these needs with governments.

Everyone is familiar with resolutions! There are many informative brochures, guidelines and cheat sheets found at www.cwl.ca under "Resources" to help you develop your own resolution. Check out the resources, study them, choose a topic you are passionate about, strike a committee, then write and submit a resolution for your Parish Council. Once adopted by your Parish Council, your resolution will move through the levels of CWL to reach it's intended destination. (Note: not all resolutions are appropriate to be voted on at the national level. They may be directed to provincial or municipal governments)

We await your proposals for resolutions that will start change in our communities.

Three resolutions were adopted at the National Convention held August 11–14th, 2024, in Saskatoon:

2024.01: *Increase Supported Housing for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness with Mental Health and Mental Illness Issues.*

2024.02: *National Universal Pharmacare Program to Include Prescription Drug Coverage for People Experiencing Mental Illness.*

2024.03: *Grant the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise Legal Authority to Investigate Environment and Human Rights Abuses.*

Keep your membership informed by reviewing the resolutions, briefs and action plans found under “ACT” at www.cwl.ca.

Congratulations to Kee Pas Diocesan Council for preparing Resolution 2024.02. It met the criteria for presentation at the 104th National Convention in Saskatoon and was adopted.

The Social Justice Standing Committee is much more than resolutions. I encourage you to consider some ideas that will hopefully inspire you and your councils.

1. ***Uphold the life and dignity of the human person*** - advocate for palliative care, affordable housing, support services, daycare, peace, reconciliation, participate in Walk for Life or National Week for Family and Life
2. ***Advocate for the poor and the vulnerable and their inclusion in society*** - the unhoused, access to medications, mental health supports, addictions, refugees from war zones, human trafficking
3. ***Advocate for the dignity of work and equal rights of workers*** - fair wages, employment, safe work environments....
4. ***Care of God’s creation*** - Be aware of food loss and waste, safe drinking water, water conservation, textile waste, use only what you need responsibly.
5. ***Educate members / keep informed of relevant social justice issues*** - monitor social needs in the community, pending legislation, resolutions presented to government, invite speakers addressing issues in community....
6. ***Initiate a resolution on relevant issues*** - prepare a resolution on a topic important to you, your community and council....

Important Updates:

- Review updated Position Papers at www.cwl.ca under the tab “ACT” 1) “Matrimony and Same-Sex Unions” and 2) “Human Trafficking”.
- Glenda Carson, National Social Justice Chairperson has issued a very information communique this week. You will find it either in your inbox or at www.cwl.ca. Please review her updates on current legislation as related to past resolutions.

- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30th. How is your council recognizing this day?

“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.” Barak Obama

Chris Carlyle
Social Justice Chairperson, Mb Provincial Council