

The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Manitoba Provincial Council

**RESOLUTIONS**



**DATE August 25, 2017**

**Communique # 1**

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

TO: Diocesan Chairpersons of Resolutions  
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)  
CC: National Chairperson of Resolutions (for information)  
  
FROM: Con Marks, Provincial Chairperson of Resolutions

Greetings! I hope that everyone has been enjoying our summer weather and has had the opportunity to unwind, de-stress and are ready to return with eager anticipation of all things happening in the Catholic Women's League of Canada.

Just a quick note of introduction for those who may not know me...I am Con Marks. I have been a member of the League since 2001 at St Anthony of Padua in West Kildonan. I am married but we do not have children unless one counts the 35 – 45 teenage boys who play football on a high school team that my husband has coached for many, many years. He managed to convince me to become the team trainer for 9 ½ of those years. It was a natural fit as I am a nurse. I am excited to represent you as Manitoba Provincial Chairperson of Resolutions.

Manitoba provincial council submitted one resolution "2017.01 Multiple Chemical Sensitivity {MCS} and Environmental Sensitivities" for consideration by the national resolutions committee. Their reply was as follows: "The committee will be recommending this resolution be forwarded to the national chairperson of education and health for study and further action and to the other ten provincial councils, encouraging them to become aware of this issue as it pertains to their province/territory, and to act on it, as deemed necessary/prudent. The committee determined that the federal government already has a number of awareness initiatives in place..."

The following four resolutions and their action plans were adopted at the 97th Annual National Convention in Prince Edward Island:

- [2017.01 Full Implementation of the Supreme Court Decision in R. v. Gladue for Indigenous Offenders](#) (Community Life)

**Action Plan:**

1. Write to the prime minister, minister of justice and your member of parliament urging them: to become aware of the need to fully implement the Gladue Decision so that

comprehensive, individualized reports are made and used in correctional decision making for each Indigenous offender when they enter the correctional system, and for those already in the system for whom this overarching document has not been completed to ensure that judges, lawyers and legal personnel ask for and use comprehensive, individualized Gladue reports in correctional decision-making for Indigenous people.

2. Councils invite an Indigenous person who has come into contact with the correctional system to share their story with them.
  3. Monitor the federal government's response to the request of this resolution.
- [2017.02 Mandatory Age Verification Mechanisms for Adult Pornographic Websites](#) (Communications)

**Action Plan:**

1. Contact Members of Parliament, the Federal Minister of Justice, and the Prime Minister, requesting that legislation be created to ensure that adult websites verify the age of their users.
  2. Encourage members to become educated on internet safety and responsible and appropriate technology use.
  3. Make members aware of the lack of age verification controls on adult websites. Encourage them to speak to family members about the lack of age verification, and its possible effects on younger family members.
  4. Monitor the response of government officials to request for new legislation.
- [2017.03 Zero-Rated Status Under the Goods and Services Tax Provisions of the Excise Tax Act for Child Safety Products](#) (Legislation)

**Action Plan:**

1. Write letters to the federal government requesting the removal of the federal portion of tax from child safety products.
  2. Invite a guest speaker to educate members on the requirements for the child safety products.
  3. Hold a fundraiser for a local young mothers group to purchase safety products for those in need.
  4. Study the list of products in the Canada Safety Act and ascertain if any other products should be listed as well.
  5. Educate the public on the provincial rebate for child safety products.
  6. Continue to monitor this issue.
- [2017.04 Protection from Coercion of Conscience for Healthcare Professional](#) (Legislation)

**Action Plan:**

1. Write to the Prime Minister and Attorney General with copies to your local member of parliament urging them to make it an offence under the Criminal Code of Canada for healthcare professionals to be coerced into performing or referring patients for procedures that are in opposition to their conscience.
2. Educate members and the community on the importance of healthcare professionals' right of conscience.
3. Find ways to support healthcare workers who will not perform procedures that are in opposition to their conscience.

Complete information on these resolutions may be found on the national website [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca). I urge you to check out the website.

Following each resolution I listed the committee that it belongs to. I urge the chairpersons of these committees to implement an activity according to the action plan. I would appreciate feedback of the activity you have chosen and acted upon. I also would appreciate feedback from councils that do not have a resolution chairperson but have acted upon an activity.

I am pleased to announce that a Resolutions Workshop will be held November 25, 2017. Mark your calendars! Further information will follow.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide you always in your endeavours.

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Manitoba Provincial Council**

**RESOLUTIONS**



**DATE November 2017**

**Communique # 2**

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

TO: Diocesan Chairpersons of Resolutions  
TO: Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils)  
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)  
CC: National Chairperson of Resolutions (for information)  
  
FROM: Con Marks, Provincial Chairperson of Resolutions

December is fast approaching with its myriad activities. Your annual reports should be entered online to national by December 15<sup>th</sup> in order to be included in the compiled reports sent on to your diocesan council which will eventually make its way to provincial council for our annual reports. I am looking forward to reading what councils have done under resolutions.

A successful Resolutions Workshop was held November 25<sup>th</sup>. Analyzing an existing resolution that was adopted at the 97<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention held in Charlottetown, PEI (*2017.04 Protection from Coercion of Conscience for Healthcare Professionals*) followed by a Legislation Workshop culminated in letter writing by participants regarding this very important issue.

Hopefully some parish councils will be inspired to create a resolution. Parish councils working on a resolution should feel free to contact your diocesan or provincial chairpersons of resolutions should you require help. We are only a phone call or email away.

Your best guide when creating a resolution is the "Resolutions Supplement to the Executive Handbook" which is found on the national website [cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca) under manuals. It is free to download. All resolutions chairpersons should have a copy of this resource.

Don't forget that the action plan of adopted resolutions ie. inviting a guest speaker for your council, a letter writing campaign, etc. continues needing to be acted upon. The chairperson of the standing committee that the resolution exists under should be the one enacting the action plan with the help of your council's chairperson of resolutions. It is important that we educate ourselves about these issues of concern. When writing a letter to government, you are letting them know that you support or not; as the case should be, certain issues that have rallied the members of the Catholic Women's League of Canada to speak out. It is also valuable to write our politicians and thank them if they have addressed issues that hold our concern.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide you always in your endeavours.

The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Manitoba Provincial Council

**RESOLUTIONS**



**DATE February 2018**

**Communique # 3**

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

TO: Diocesan Chairpersons of Resolutions  
TO: Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils)  
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)  
CC: National Chairperson of Resolutions (for information)  
  
FROM: Con Marks, Provincial Chairperson of Resolutions

“The nation doesn’t simply need what we have. It needs what we are.”  
-St. Teresa Benedicta

How apt a quotation! We are members of the Catholic Women’s League of Canada. We are working towards the betterment of our fellow man. Resolutions in particular can be very far-reaching and effective. We can help effect change to any and all levels of government by formulating resolutions that indicate what our concerns are for others. And because we do so, we are in keeping with our Catholic social teachings. Resolutions are just one more way to practice our faith!

We are all now working towards our conventions as we are now well into 2018. Councils should be finessing their resolution as you will be bringing it to your parish councils and then your diocesan council. The diocesan resolution chairperson will then scrutinize the resolution and make any necessary changes in readiness for presentation to provincial council before bringing it to your diocesan convention.

At the Resolutions and Legislation Workshop held in November 2017 electronic templates were emailed to all attendees. It is important that these templates be used when working on your resolutions as they allow for easy transfer to the next level council and an even easier way to incorporate changes, corrections, etc. They contain prompts to remind you what information goes where in highlighted yellow areas and suggestions as to what should be included as indicated by greyed areas.

I suggest that resolutions adopted at parish councils be forwarded to respective diocesan councils within two (2) weeks with all supporting documentation, including e-files. I also suggest that resolutions adopted at diocesan conventions be forwarded to provincial council within one (1) week with all supporting documentation and e-files. By sending these resolutions on in a timely manner, any necessary changes may be worked on and implemented for the next level. Be sure to include the checklist which can be found in the Resolutions Supplement to the Executive Handbook on the national website and downloaded for free.

I am pleased to announce that next year’s Resolution and Legislation Workshop will take place on **Saturday November 17, 2018**. Be sure to mark your calendars!

The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Manitoba Provincial Council

RESOLUTIONS



September 2018

Communique #4

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

TO: Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils)  
TO: Diocesan Chairpersons of Resolutions  
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)  
CC: National Chairperson of Resolutions (for information)

FROM: Con Marks, Provincial Chairperson of Resolutions

September is the month of new beginnings. I say that because classes begin, people are getting back into routines after relaxing over the summer and we are all gearing up for our first parish council Catholic Women's League meeting after the summer hiatus. I know that many of you attended and volunteered at our National Convention this past August as it was hosted here in Winnipeg by Manitoba. Give yourselves a hug for doing so! Extra effort was called upon and you rallied to do so. It was a wonderful convention and I only heard good things about it.

Another reason it was so wonderful...our Manitoba resolution that was adopted at our 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Provincial Convention at Mary, Mother of the Church on June 3, 2018 had been accepted by National for presentation and consideration at convention. Even better, our resolution stimulated much discussion on the floor and was adopted! Congratulations to everyone involved in bringing this resolution to fruition! This resolution follows the Catholic social teaching: Care for God's Creation whereby respect for the Creator is shown by our stewardship of creation. It is our duty as Catholics to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation.

At the National Convention the following resolutions were adopted:

- **2018.01 Attestation Requirement on Canada Summer Jobs Program**
- **2018.02 Setting a Standard for Products Marketed as Flushable**
- **2018.03 Legislate Designation of Hospice/Palliative Care, Free From Medical Assistance in Dying**

Once the National website is up and running, please check out these resolutions in order to follow up on their action plans.

I had promised to include the link to the city of Winnipeg's master plan for our sewer system when we adopted the resolution at our provincial convention. Please use this link to the almost 600 page document: *The City of Winnipeg CSO Master Plan Preliminary Proposal*: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries/3205.1citywpgcso/> I would also like to include the letter that the city received from the Province on November 24, 2017 accepting the Preliminary Proposal that was submitted in December 2015.

A copy of the letter can be found here: [http://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries/3205.1citywpcso/2017-11-24\\_file3205\\_10\\_eal3042\\_noa\\_approval.pdf](http://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries/3205.1citywpcso/2017-11-24_file3205_10_eal3042_noa_approval.pdf) and as a final note, the City is required to submit the final Master Plan by **August 31, 2019** We should remain vigilant monitoring this as Margaret Mead said “We won't have a society if we destroy the environment.”

I am pleased to announce that this year's Resolution and Legislation Workshop will take place on Saturday November 17, 2018. See you there!

May Our Lady of Good Counsel always guide you on your journey.

Con Marks

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“I can find God in nature, in animals, in birds and the environment.” Pat Buckley

The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Manitoba Provincial Council



**RESOLUTIONS**

October 2018

Communique #5

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

TO: Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils)  
TO: Diocesan Chairpersons of Resolutions  
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)  
CC: National Chairperson of Resolutions (for information)  
  
FROM: Con Marks, Provincial Chairperson of Resolutions

Autumn is here...my favourite time of year! Soon winter comes and many spend their time indoors. What better time than to act on the following...In my previous communique I mentioned which resolutions had been adopted at the national convention. In case you were unable to check them out on the national website, I am including the resolutions' action plans. I urge the chairpersons under which each resolution falls to use them as a guide for activities. It is important that we continue to monitor our government to see what is happening with our concerns. Writing letters is an effective way of showing that you are concerned and it is appropriate to let them know that you are monitoring their progress and will continue to do so. Remember when writing to government that you are writing as a private citizen. At the end of your letter after voicing your concerns, ask them a question that you expect a response to. It may take a bit of time but generally they do respond. I will attach a sample letter to this communique as a guide to follow.

**2018.01 Attestation Requirement on Canada Summer Jobs Program (Community Life)**

- urges the federal government to remove the attestation for all future Canada Summer Jobs programs.

**Action Plan**

1. Write to the prime minister, the minister of employment and social development with copies to your local member of parliament urging the removal of the attestation from the Canada Summer Jobs program to respect the rights of freedom of religion and conscience as set in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
2. Educate members on the importance of understanding the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms as it applies to the lives of Canadian citizens and encourage members to speak to family and friends. Have them contact relevant government officials to support removal of the attestation for all future Canada Summer Jobs programs.
3. Sign available petitions, or in absence of one in your area, start a petition following the current federal government guidelines:  
<http://www.ourcommons.ca/marleaumontpetit/DocumentViewer.aspx?Lang=E&Sec=Ch22 &Seq=3>
4. Monitor the federal government's response to the request contained in this resolution.



**2018.02 Setting a Standard for Products Marketed as Flushable (Education and Health)**

- urges the federal government to establish a national standard of testing and labelling of products marketed as “flushable”.
- provincial councils are encouraged to become aware of this issue as it pertains to their province/territory, and to act on it, as deemed necessary/prudent.

**Action Plan**

1. Write letters to the prime minister and the department of environment and natural resources with copies to your local member of parliament urging the federal government to establish a national standard of testing to be met by manufacturers of products marketed as “flushable”.
2. Request an awareness campaign of the consequences of inappropriate disposal of products in our sewer system through municipal and provincial governments.
3. Hold a speaker presentation on the harmful effects of flushing so-called “flushable” products.
4. Monitor the federal government’s response to the request contained in the resolution.

**2018.03 Legislate Designation of Hospice/Palliative Care, Free From Medical Assistance in Dying (Legislation)**

- urges the federal government to legislate the designation of hospice/palliative care services in facilities to exclude medical assistance in dying.
- provincial councils are encouraged to become aware of this issue as it pertains to their province/territory, and to act on it, as deemed necessary/prudent.

**Action Plan**

1. Write to the prime minister, ministers of justice and health, and your member of parliament, urging the federal government to legislate designation of hospice/palliative care free from medical assistance in dying.
2. Educate members on keeping hospice and palliative care free from medical assistance in dying.
3. Where hospices are performing medical assistance in dying, withdraw all funding. Write to the board of directors of hospices stating the reason for the withdrawal of donations.
4. Monitor the federal government’s response to the request contained in the resolution.

If your council is working on or planning to create a resolution I would appreciate a heads-up. I need to know the topic and which government is your end point ie. municipal, provincial or federal.

I am pleased to announce that this year’s Resolution and Legislation Workshop will take place on Saturday November 17, 2018. I hope to see many of you there! A poster and registration form will be attached to this communiqué.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel inspire you as you work on resolutions this year.

*“Start by doing what’s necessary; then do what’s possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.” – Francis of Assisi*

The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Manitoba Provincial Council

Resolutions

February 2019



Communiqué #6

*Care for our Common Home*

TO: Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils)  
Diocesan Chairpersons of Resolutions  
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)  
CC: National Chairperson of Resolutions (for information)  
FROM: Con Marks, Provincial Chairperson of Resolutions

What better way to spend a cold, snowy, wintery day than by working on a resolution? We've had plenty of them! There are potentially three resolutions coming forward from parish councils. Ideally these are due to your diocesan council by March 1<sup>st</sup>. They deal with food waste, hydraulic fracking and recycling beverage containers.

The timeline for a resolution is as follows:

1. Adoption by parish council early in the year.
2. Forward to diocesan council ideally by March 1<sup>st</sup> in order to allow time to prepare for diocesan convention. Please check with your respective diocesan resolutions chairperson for their deadline date.
3. One week after adoption at a diocesan convention, resolution is forwarded to provincial council in paper form and electronically with all accompanying documents to allow time to prepare for presentation at provincial convention.
4. Once adopted at provincial convention, the resolution destined for national level is forwarded in paper form and electronically to national office immediately post-convention.
5. Per National Chairperson of Resolutions Cathy Bouchard: "Action on a resolution can be carried out at provincial level after a letter of disposition has been received from the national resolutions committee even if the resolution is not accepted by the national executive."
6. Once adopted at national convention, the action plan directed to the federal government (if applicable) comes into effect.
7. Parish councils are asked to inform their diocesan resolution chairperson of any resolution they are working on (title and topic) as soon as possible in the fall. This information should be immediately forwarded to the provincial chairperson who will then inform the national resolution chair by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Resolution 2018.01 Attestation Requirement on Canada Summer Jobs Program** generated successful letter writing campaigns and petitions across Canada to the federal government. On January 10, 2019 the CCCB released the following: "*The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) is pleased with the*

*positive revisions which the Government of Canada has made in the 2019 version of the Canada Summer Jobs application and welcomes the same changes, which not only indicate a willingness to listen seriously to faith-based organizations, but likewise the importance of respect of conscience and freedom of religious expression...”* This shows how we can make an impact! Here is the link:

<http://www.cccb.ca/site/eng/media-room/statements-a-letters/5051-statement-by-the-canadian-conference-of-catholic-bishops-on-the-2019-canada-summer-jobs-program>

Our national theme *“Care for our Common Home”* is focusing on the topic of water in 2019. The League still has active resolutions on water. During their visit to the federal government in November 2018 our National President, Anne-Marie Gorman, with President-Elect, Fran Lucas, and Chairperson of Resolutions, Cathy Bouchard, re-visited **Resolution 2001.04 Water Quality in Canada** which urges the federal government to protect Canada’s water from contamination and to enact legislation that will ensure national water quality standards for Canada’s present and future water and also encourage members to become knowledgeable about water quality in their own community. *“During the discussions [they] were advised that the federal government has been working to lift all long-term public system drinking water advisories on reserves by 2021 and have succeeded in providing access to clean water to be shared in communities.”*

**Resolution 2018.02 Setting a Standard for Products Marketed as Flushable** which urges the federal government to establish a national standard of testing and labelling of products marketed as “flushable” was also presented to the federal government as part of national’s visit. *“The Hon. Rob Nicholson (Niagara Falls), former minister of justice and attorney general of Canada and a strong supporter of the League’s work. He indicated that resolution 2018.02 on “flushable” products was sound and that municipal, provincial and federal governments should work on it.”* Please read the full report by Cathy Bouchard: *“The Catholic Women’s League of Canada Delegation Visit to Federal Government November 2018”*. It shows your voice does have an effect on government! <https://cwl.ca/the-catholic-womens-league-of-canada-delegation-visit-to-federal-government-november-2018/>

The fully functional Manitoba website also lists resolutions that are active. Pick one or two (or more!) that relate to our national theme *“Care for our Common Home”* and use their action plans to plan an activity for your council’s members to work on or attend. Resolutions that were adopted at the national have a blue link to the national website. Active Manitoba resolutions have the following disclaimer: *“This resolution was NOT ADOPTED at national level. No action can be directed to the federal level. This resolution has a provincial component that can be acted on as a private citizen; you may state you are a CWL member but you cannot state you are writing on behalf of a CWL council, nor can you write to government using League letterhead.”* If you write your MP it must be answered. Letters are most effective if they are hand written and personalized. A hand written letter has the most impact. *“It is considered that one hand written letter is equivalent to 1,000 people/votes.”* Here is the link to the Manitoba website: [www.cwlmanitoba.ca](http://www.cwlmanitoba.ca)

I am pleased to announce that a Resolutions and Legislation Workshop will be held Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup> at the Keewatin-The Pas Diocesan Convention at Our Lady of the Snows Parish in Snow Lake.

***“The nation doesn’t simply need what we have. It needs what we are.”***  
***-St. Teresia Benedicta (Edith Stein)***