



The Catholic Women's League
Manitoba Provincial Council
71st Annual Convention
June 9, 2019
ORAL REPORT
Resolutions
Con Marks, Chairperson

My report can be found on pages 54-56 of your Convention Book.

For some reason as chairperson of the resolutions standing committee, I expected a lull in activity at some point in the year. This has not been the case. While waiting for resolutions to be submitted to provincial council, there was a great deal of information flow between the national chairperson of resolutions, Cathy Bouchard, and the rest of the provincial chairs across Canada. The resolution process is being changed and we will get our first glimpse at national convention in Calgary this August.

We have been blessed with the gift of two resolutions this year:

2019.01 Moratorium on Hydraulic Fracking in Canada

2019.02 Establishment of refundable deposits and return depots for recyclable beverage containers

Once these resolutions were received, the resolutions committee held a series of meetings in order to vet them. They were clarified but their intent remained the same. We attempted to strengthen each one by using the most current research we could find. It had been a number of months since each was written and research pops up fairly quickly in this age of the internet.

Keewatin-The Pas Diocesan President Lucille Rossington requested that a resolutions and legislation workshop be done for our sisters in the north. Since she wished them to receive the same workshop that had been done in November 2018, the opportunity to create a Power Point presentation was taken as much of the material was already in place. Again, the slant was to take an existing resolution and dissect it down to show how it came about and what changes occurred at each level as the resolution passed from parish to diocesan to provincial to national level. As the action plan of most resolutions suggests writing letters to government, it is only natural to have a mini workshop on letter writing and petitions, ending with actual letters being written. A total of 23 letters were written to government that day. Not bad for 30 attendees, hey?

During this term I have had the honour of presenting a total of 3 resolutions and legislation workshops. President Rolande Chernichan suggested combining resolutions and legislation in one workshop and I am glad she did. At the workshop, changes made at each level illustrated what was done while strengthening it for presentation to the next level with the ultimate goal of presentation to the federal government by national. Writing letters allowed us to act on the action plan. Resolutions were presented to Premier Pallister and members of his government last August which resulted in information sharing and we were able to educate them a little bit. It also showcased the social justice side of the Catholic Women's League that often people don't realize exists. Lastly, I created my first Power Point presentation...the mystique is gone! It's just like creating any paper but you are simply using a different tool.

Should you be asked to join a resolutions committee, I urge you to accept. You will learn so much and get the opportunity to see others' gifts that are drawn out while working on resolutions.



The Catholic Women's League
Manitoba Provincial Council
70th Annual Convention
June 3, 2018
ORAL REPORT
RESOLUTIONS
Con Marks, Chairperson

My report can be found on page 54 to 57 of your Convention Book.

To councils who submitted resolutions thank you for your gifts. The resolution committee spent much time vetting them and know just how difficult and time-consuming it can be wording your whereas and resolved clauses let alone researching your resolution. Resolutions are the work horse of the League. It is our way of speaking up to governments for those who are unable to do so. It is our way of affecting change in our governments for the betterment of others. Most resolutions are not about the League but occasionally some are as you have/will see/n today.

One resolution that was submitted will not/was not brought forward to the floor today. It was titled "A Call to Save Lake Winnipeg". The intent of this resolution was to "urge the Manitoba Provincial Government to use whatever resources at its disposal to work with the City of Winnipeg to develop and implement a long-term sustainable plan to stop the practice of discharging effluent into the Red River". Upon researching by the resolutions committee, it came to light that Bill 46 - *THE SAVE LAKE WINNIPEG ACT* came in being in 2011. Winnipeg has a Master Plan that they are working on. This master plan is in accordance with the province's wishes. One member of the committee went so far as to contact a city of Winnipeg representative to find out what the Master Plan was specifically about. The city is required to submit the final Master Plan by August 31, 2019. I will include the link to this 593-page document in my next communique. It was determined that the intent of the resolution was being addressed and as such it was recommended that the resolution had been dealt with in accordance with the intent of the resolved clause. The fact that governments move slowly indicates that we members of the League should monitor the progress of the Master Plan and let city and provincial officials know we are doing so. Since this is an environmental issue I suggest that all Chairpersons of Education and Health educate their councils' members about this issue and write letters encouraging Winnipeg to move more swiftly in accomplishing the goals of the Master Plan which says that the deadline is December 31, 2045. Another support measure would be to urge the provincial government to allot more monies to this cause.

The resolutions committee had numerous meetings which were held in the evenings as a few of us still have day jobs, me included. I would like to point out the difficulty of working all day then meeting until 11 PM or midnight and then getting up early the next day for work again. To potentially alleviate this, I ask that councils working on a resolution ask their diocesan or provincial chairperson of resolutions for assistance. We will not do the resolution for you, but we may make suggestions that can help clarify your intent and suggest areas of acceptable research containing valid sources. Most of all, it is important that you form a committee to work on your resolution. It is a great way to bounce ideas off each other and creating a resolution won't seem so daunting. There are many gifted individuals who are willing to share their talents if only asked. I know, as I have asked some of them to be on the resolutions committee. I just want you to know that if I can work on resolutions, anyone of you can, too!

Finally, please save **Saturday November 17, 2018** for the next Resolutions and Legislation Workshop.