



**THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA**  
**Ottawa Diocesan Council**  
**Education and Health Standing Committee**



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

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**COMMUNIQUE #1**

**JUNE 2017**

TO: Education and Health Parish Standing Committee Chairpersons  
From: Sandra Blais, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Education and Health Diocesan Chairperson

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Many thanks to those who have filled this position before me. As I begin this new position I pray that Our Lady of Good Counsel will empower me to motivate you.

EDUCATION:

The Catholic Education Foundation of Ottawa Annual General Meeting was held May 30<sup>th</sup> 2017 following a light supper. The meeting was extremely well organized and called to order at 5:35 p.m. Hard copies and verbal reports were presented in a timely manner. The reports consisted of the allocation of funds to the selected schools, projects, fundraising and the projected budget for 2017-2018. The management of funds in the amount of over \$400,000 is being well handled by these professional Directors and Trustees. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 PM. The Board of Directors meeting, followed, consisting of Special Grant Applications. I thank the CEFO for their kind welcome and information.

HEALTH:

In a memo dated May 15<sup>th</sup>, from our national president, Margaret Ann Jacobs, we are advised that The Catholic Women's League of Canada does not support medical assistance in dying (MAiD) and therefore councils should withdraw funding to such facilities that offer MAiD, or alternatively, request that a council's donation be channeled elsewhere in that facility. Volunteers should conscientiously object to being directly involved in MAiD while continuing to support individuals and their families who do not want to choose euthanasia or physician assisted-suicide. It is important for volunteers to explain their position to those in charge and request assurance that their rights of conscience would be upheld if they continued to volunteer.

ENVIRONMENT:

Our Holy Father has strongly suggested the need for us to care for our environment; asking consumers to modify their lifestyles by reducing waste.

An example of what the Holy Father has asked of us, is the Recycle and Reuse Program, initiated by Our Lady of the Visitation Council. It is a program that all of us can support, by collecting milk bags to make sleeping mats. The Recycle and Reuse Program is in need of crafters to make these sleeping bags. Even our small gestures make a difference. Spread the word to all you meet:

1. Pop tabs - to support students with severe disabilities.
2. Used postage Stamps – one used postage stamp feeds one hungry child for one day.
3. Eyeglasses – supports the visually impaired.
4. Milk bags into sleeping mats – reducing plastic to the landfill sites to benefit those who would otherwise be sleeping on the ground.

This quote from Ruth Smeltzer is worth repeating: "You have not lived a perfect day unless you have done something for someone who will never be able to repay you."

*"Whatsoever you do to the least of my brethren that you do unto me." Matthew 25: 40-45*