

Ottawa Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Centered on Faith & Justice
Led by the Spirit

Directive #1

September 24th 2011

To: Ottawa Parish Council Resolutions/Legislation Chairs and Presidents

From: Onagh Dooley, Ottawa Diocesan Council Resolutions/Legislation Chair

As a result of last year's survey on Resolutions Review for years, 2003, 2005 & 2010, here are some of the Resolutions Provincial Council has asked us to continue to monitor:

ON.2003.02 Funding for the Assessment and Education of Students with Disabilities

ON.2005.01 Comfort Allowance – funding has been raised to \$130,000 as of November 1, 2010,

Continue to write letters, this is still not equal to the cost of living increase

ON.2005.04 Keep Music Education Alive in our Schools – programs are still being cut in schools,

Continue to advocate for the importance of music in the schools – letter writing Campaigns to MMP's.

ON.2005.05 Merit-Based Appeal for Refused Refugee Claimants - no change has occurred.

It is worth noting that Resolution ON.2003.01 Age of Consent (remember the WRAP campaign) was the only one that had the highest # of Councils involved and it has passed Legislation.

St. Maurice parish has done some work on National Council's (2010) resolution on Chrysotile Asbestos by designing a postcard addressed to Member of Parliament, Hon. John Baird. On one side is an image referencing the dangers of asbestos and on the other side room for a message (a choice of 3 examples). If any other council is interested in continuing this work with St. Maurice parish please contact Judi Cumming (cummingjma@hotmail.com) Worth noting is the fact that the federal government spent millions to rid Parliament, under the strictest protective guidelines, of its remaining asbestos, however the Canadian government continues to see nothing wrong with the continued mining and export of deadly Canadian asbestos to unprotected developing nations.

Three resolutions were presented and passed at the Provincial Convention and were forwarded from the convention floor to the National Resolutions Committee for review.

The national committee accepted the directives provided in these three resolutions. They have been forwarded to the national chairperson of education and health so that members may become aware of the issues and take action.

ON.11.01 Safe, Potable Water for First Nations Communities (E&H)

ON.11.02 Limit the Sodium in Our Food (E&H)

ON.11.03 Raising Awareness of Colorectal Cancer and the Importance of Early Detection (E&H)

Full resolutions can be viewed on our provincial website. (www.cwl.on.ca)

91st Annual National Convention – Toronto, ON

Five resolutions were presented to the 2011 annual national convention. Four were adopted by the delegates:

- 2011.01 Prohibition of Practices re Human Reproductive Material (CFL)**
2011.02 Children of Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women (CL)
2011.03 National Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Registry (E&H)
2011.04 Caffeine in Energy Drinks (E&H)

Full resolutions can be viewed on the national website. (www.cwl.ca)

Action (Requested by the National Chair of Resolutions Anne-Marie Gorman)

“Standing committees are encouraged to have members write letters under the respective committee and to keep an account of the letters written to the federal government and responses received.

When parish councils are completing annual reports, simply include the number of letters written supporting the resolutions adopted in 2011 as well as letters written in support of resolutions adopted at previous conventions. I look forward to reporting that our more than 95,000 members have written thousands of letters this year”.

Resolutions start with simple beginnings. Take note of your surroundings; pay special attention to local issues. A resolution dealing with a diocesan/regional issue is as valuable as one going to provincial and/or national; perhaps it is even more important because it could be a unifying opportunity within communities in a diocese or a grace-filled moment to make a local difference.

The provincial election will be important to all of us; get the word out to vote and especially to vote responsibly. The included guides will assist in making informed decisions. Please share them with your members, families, friends, parishes and communities. Remember to pray for our elected officials, they have enormous responsibilities.

Moving Forward:

It is time to begin thinking about your ideas for resolutions. The 2010 resolutions supplement is a wonderful resource to work through the process of developing a resolution. It is available as a free download from the national website. Here are some highlights to note:

At All Levels

1. Become familiar with the contents of the resolutions file. This should include
 - official correspondence, including memos or communiqués from chairpersons at other levels
 - a contact list for resolutions chairpersons at other levels
 - the *Constitution & Bylaws*
 - the resolutions section of the *Executive Handbook*
 - the legislation section of *Executive Handbook* (both chairpersons must work closely together)
 - the *Resolutions Supplement to the Executive Handbook*
 - diocesan, provincial and national resolutions for the past three years
 - annual reports for the past three years
 - replies from government and other organizations
 - resource information on current and potential resolutions

As we're in the 2nd day of Fall and our Parliament has resumed its seat, I will continue to monitor the Legislation before them as it pertains to our theme of 'Faith & Justice'.
God Bless