



Timmins Diocesan Council
of The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Resolutions Standing Committee



Care for our Common Home

Directive #4

Pages: 2

May 2020

To:	Parish Resolution Standing Committee Chairpersons
From:	Colleen Landers, Diocesan Resolution Standing Committee Chairperson
cc:	Parish Presidents, Diocesan Officers, Provincial Resolution Standing Committee Chairperson Wilma Vanderzwaag Sub-committee members: TBA

"The pandemic reminds us there are no differences or borders between those who suffer. We are all frail, all equal, all precious. May we be profoundly shaken: Now is the time to eliminate inequalities and heal the injustice undermining the health of the entire human family!" Pope Francis

It is May and the last six weeks have been very trying and challenging. I hope that you are all healthy and coping with staying at home. I have found this past month one that was filled with many different experiences. There are so many Catholic YouTube viewings from spiritual reflections, Masses and prayers. In one day I went from coast to coast-it was wonderful to hear the many priests and bishops and their homilies or reflections. It was exciting to see churches from all across our country doing what they can to keep in contact with their parishioners. Who knows how many Catholics may be called "back home" after watching some of these creative priests and bishops.

Resolution Directive from Wilma Vanderzwaag, Ontario Provincial Council Resolutions Chair, the following message was received.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to light that changes are required in the future in order to keep our seniors in long-term care homes safe. In my May Online submission, I asked members from across the province to write to Merilee Fullerton, Minister of Long-Term Care and Christine Elliott, Minister of Health as well as their critics asking for change. Included in my submission were the names, addresses of both ministers as well as the critics. I also asked that members to inform their Diocesan Resolution Chairs that they have written a letter. I would like to keep track of all the letters sent on behalf of these vulnerable people, who need us to speak up for them. Dr. Moira McQueen, Executive Director of the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute states:

"Something has to change! When it does, Catholic social teaching can help to point the way: we should focus on the individual dignity of our elderly loved ones AND the common good of all the elderly in our society; focus on subsidiarity, such as more federal /provincial/ charitable support for long term care and nursing homes AND solidarity through a better response from younger generations towards the support of their own elderly relatives and in recognition of what is owed to the more poorly paid health care workers in this sector."

Please encourage your members to write and send to me how many from your Diocese have written. Individual letters are the best way to communicate with our MPPs. I have attached my May submission for your reference.

Cathy Bouchard, National Resolutions Chair has asked for feedback regarding the questions in the annual report. I have attached a copy to this directive to help you give me your feedback. I will then forward all the input on behalf of all the dioceses in Ontario. I thank you all in advance for your assistance.”

What is happening in our long-term care homes is such a tragedy. As of April 24, 2020, of the 713 COVID-19 deaths in Ontario, 72% or 516 of those deaths, have occurred in long-term care facilities. There are currently outbreaks in 132 nursing homes and there are outbreaks in 63 retirement homes. A long hard look into the long-term care homes is required when we get to the other side of this pandemic. While we are all self-isolating at home, PLEASE take the time to write a letter to each of the MPPs listed below about the long-term care homes. We have a resolution asking for more long-term care beds BUT before these are built, a complete review of how these homes are run is required to keep the residents safe and protected. What long-term care needs is funding for staff. Personal support workers and more registered nurses are required. It has also been noted that homes with single rooms only would have gone a long way towards changing the outcomes in some of the hardest hit homes. In our province, medical specialists were sent to long-term care homes to assist. This is an opportunity for their eyes to be opened to the requirements and difficulties the staff are required to deal with daily. They too can become advocates for change.

Minister of Health
Hon. Christine Elliott
Unit 22, 16635 Yonge St.
Newmarket, ON
L3X 1V6

Minister of Long-Term Care
Hon. Merilee Fullerton
Suite 100, 240 Michael Cowpland Dr.
Kanata, ON
K2M 1P6

Opposition Critics

Health Critic
Teresa J. Armstrong NDP

Home Care and Long-Term Care Critic
France Gelinis NDP

155 Clarke Rd.
London, ON
N5W 5C9

Hanmer Valley Shopping Centre
Suite 15, 5085 Hwy 69 N
Hanmer, ON P3P 1P7

Please write a letter to each of the above regarding our long-term care homes and the need to change how they are staffed and built so that there really is an IRON RING around these precious residents. When you write to each of these ministers and critics be sure to cc that you have sent letters to the 3 others as well. This will help to make sure they take notice. Be sure to ask an open-ended question in your letter so they are compelled to respond to you. You can a question like—Don't you agree that things need to change in our long-term care homes? Please let your Diocesan Resolution Chairs know if you receive a response. Thank you for helping

some of our most vulnerable—they deserve our attention.
Blessings and hugs, Wilma Vanderzwaag

Each of the Presidents can reach out to their members to write these letters. If you can ask your council members to let you know if they wrote a letter and to whom, **then** you can let **me** know so I can inform Wilma how many letters have been written from **our** Diocese.

Also attached is a Resolution Annual Survey from Cathy Bouchard, National Resolutions Chair. If each council Resolution chair or the President, **if** no resolution chair, **would** complete these surveys and send them to me **then** I can send Wilma a response from all councils in our diocese.

Also attached is a Resolution Annual Survey from Cathy Bouchard, National Resolutions Chair. If each council Resolution chair or the President of no resolution chair to complete these surveys and send them to me so I can send Wilma a response from all councils in our diocese.

Stay Safe! Stay Well!

Colleen Landers,

Timmins Diocesan Resolution Chair, clanders@fibreop.ca