



Directive #1

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

Care for our Common Home

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October 2019



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:

*Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord,
knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.*

1 Corinthians 15:58

It's October and fall colours are vibrant. I am honoured to be appointed as the Timmins Diocesan Resolution Standing Committee. I am a Past President of the St. Anthony of Padua CWL and have been a member for 17 years. I volunteer at the parish level as a Eucharistic minister, lecturer, a cantor and a choir member.

This is my first Directive as Resolution Chair and I request that Parish Presidents read and distribute this information to the Parish Resolution Chair and if none to members at the parish level. I am asking each parish president to discuss with their members if there is a resolution that they would like to bring forward to diocesan level that is pertinent to our area. I am looking for sub-committee members so please reach out to me if you are interested in being on the resolution sub-committee.

This information I thought might be interesting for all parish councils as they consider bringing forward a new resolution. You may remember from the resolutions dialogue that to be presented at the annual national convention, a resolution must:

- be acceptable as a League position
- be established as policy of the League (or proposed as policy of the League)
- be in accordance with the teachings of the church
- not be previously developed and researched by other groups
- be on a topic the League has not already set a position on

The first three points are easy to understand. To clarify the fourth point, "not be previously developed and researched by other groups," refer to page three of the *Resolutions Supplement to the Executive Handbook*:

On occasion, resolutions of other kindred groups were presented through the resolutions standing committee and rose through provincial and national levels as League resolutions. Members should exercise great care to ensure that the League does not become a vehicle to express the concerns of other organizations or groups. The League must seek to give expression to the concerns of its own members, by means of resolutions which have been developed and researched by members, as opposed to other groups. *Resolutions developed and researched by other groups or organizations will not be accepted as resolutions of The Catholic Women's League of Canada.*

In speaking to government, the League loses the power of the number of women's voices it represents when bringing forward another group's resolutions. Working on, researching and presenting resolutions from members rather than relying on another group's work, ensures resolutions that truly reflect The Catholic Women's League of Canada.

Whereas Clauses: These clause(s) state the reason(s) for the requested action of a resolution. The first whereas clause defines the issue. Additional clauses “provide, in a logical order, the strongest reasons for requesting action. These clauses should be worded positively, based on documented, accurate facts and be clear and concise” (*Resolutions Supplement to the Executive Handbook*, page 5). Members asked whether parish, diocesan and provincial councils should continue to craft resolutions using whereas clauses. At the national level whereas clauses are no longer considered as part of the resolution. When presented on the convention floor, these clauses are not included for debate. Continued use of them at other levels is up to your discretion and policies. I suggest using whereas clauses to form the topic sentences for the brief. The national resolutions committee needs to know the reasons (whereas clauses) for the concerns; however, the reasons are not debated. These provide the background for the issue summary published in the fall issue of *The Canadian League* magazine.

From our Provincial Resolution Chair Wilma Vanderzwaag:

The National Council introduced a new process for resolutions at the National Convention in Calgary, Alberta. Here are some of the highlights of the new process. At the resolutions dialogue, members received only the “resolved clauses” and briefs to focus on. Members then reviewed the resolution, keeping in mind the following questions:

- 1) Is this an issue for the League?
- 2) Is this resolution timely/emergent?

Whereas clauses were not presented as part of the resolution. The committee gave any recommendations to the resolutions committee, at the resolutions dialogue, rather than on the convention floor and worked on. Any issue/input on the resolution was to be timely or urgent or spoke to the concerns of the membership.

The National Resolutions Chair, Cathy Bouchard also reminded us that once a resolution is gifted to the National Council, it becomes their resolution to adopt and act upon. The resolutions with briefs are on the provincial website, cwl.on.ca if you wish to review the information in the briefs as well.

Blessings,

Colleen Landers

Timmins Diocesan Resolution Chair

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