

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

Directive #6

January 10, 2019

To: Parish Community Life Standing Committee Chairs  
cc: Diocesan President, Parish Presidents  
Chairpersons of Diocesan Standing Committees and  
Provincial Community Life  
From: Diocesan Community Life Standing Committee  
Chairperson, Frances Freeman

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Care for our  
**Common Home**

*“Truly I tell you, whatever you do for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you do for me” Matthew 25-40*

The National Theme for the next two years,  
“Care For Our Common Home”

We are proud of our League and the work being done at all levels.

In November of 2018, our National executive members, President, Anne-Marie Gorman, along with President-Elect, Fran Lucas, and Resolutions Chair, Cathy Bouchard met with Parliamentarians in Ottawa, representing 80,000 members of The Catholic Women's League.

They are optimistic that there may be changes to the Canada Summer Jobs attestation.

The delegation also brought forward the Palliative Care Resolution calling for the League to “urge the federal government to legislate the designation of hospice/palliative care services to exclude medical assistance in dying”. They also expressed concern for conscience rights of physicians and health care providers.

Our National Council representatives spoke to the Indigenous Affairs minister about improving conditions for water, education and children on reserves. Imagine not being able to turn on the tap to get a glass of clean drinking water, or sending your kids to school with dirty clothes and unwashed bodies because the water isn't safe to wash in. This is the reality for more than 100 First Nations in Canada. Everyone in Canada has a right to clean drinking water. The federal government promised to end drinking water advisories in First Nations within five years of being elected. Let us keep watch to ensure the federal government lives up to its promise to end long-term drinking water advisories in First Nations communities by 2021.

Representatives from our Ontario Provincial Council of the Catholic Women's League had a breakfast reception with Ontario's MPP's in November as well.

Resolutions that were brought to the Provincial table were:

- the resolution on Palliative Care and our members concerns regarding medical assistance in dying.
- the resolution to amend the Canada Health Act to include Home Care as an insured health service.
- ATV safety training courses for youth under age 16.
- Increased early access intervention to children and youth mental health services.

It was noted that the party in power has committed to investing 1.9 billion over 10 years to mental health services and to add 2400 long term care beds.

Homelessness, and housing were topics of discussion as well. For more detail on these government visits, see the respective websites.

Thank you for your generous response to the Warmth and Comfort Project. Communication Chairpersons will be reporting the results tallying the total pairs of socks, jars of peanut butter and boxes of crackers collected in Ontario.

Operation Christmas Child, Canadian Food For Children, Save a Family Plan, area food banks are some of the ways councils can and do “**care for our common home**”.

We also need to be aware of our huge plastic pollution problem. Often we use plastic once or twice and end up throwing it in the trash but it never disappears. It lasts hundreds or thousands of years. Marine animals often mistake plastic for food, and actually it becomes more toxic in the ocean, sponging up pollutants and pesticides.

What can I do?

1. Talk to local and national decision makers.
2. Drive the Market- Buy products with non plastic packaging
  - Support restaurants that offer biodegradable take-out containers and utensils
  - Refuse a plastic straw
  - Voice your concern
3. Bring your own container, mug, shopping bags
4. Be social
  - Challenge others to go “no plastic”
  - Use social media to tell others
  - pick up garbage and litter
5. #5 Remember the 5 Rs
  - Rethink
  - Refuse
  - Reuse
  - Repair
  - Recycle

In 2018, Canada pushed the G7 partners to sign a NO PLASTICS PLEDGE to save the oceans. We all are trying to do more recycling and composting but Canadians have been among the most wasteful people in the developed world. Ask yourself “Can I do better?”

