

**Timmins Diocesan Catholic Women's League of Canada
Resolutions and Legislation Standing Committee**

Directive 6

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To: Parish Resolution and Legislation Standing Committee Chairpersons

From: Shirley Gravel, Timmins Diocesan Resolutions and Legislation
Chairperson

cc: Provincial Resolutions Standing Committee Chairperson, Colleen Martin
Provincial Legislation Standing Committee Chairperson, Karen McDonald
Timmins Diocesan President, Audrey Shelton
Timmins Diocese Parish Presidents

Care for our Common Home

*Lord, season after season, You continue to renew the face of the earth,
"For from the greatness and beauty of created things comes a corresponding
perception of their Creator."*

*Teach us, Lord, as members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, to
become attuned to our need to protect*

*the beauty of our common home. May our efforts lead us to sustain its
natural order, so that, in the words of Pope Francis, our heritage is never
"deprived of physical contact with nature."*

*Mary Ryan, Past President,
St. Dunstan Parish Council
Fredericton, New Brunswick*

One of the resolutions approved at the 98th National Convention was:

Setting a Standard for Products Marketed as Flushable.

At present, there is no national standard of testing and labelling of products marketed as "flushable". Products are being sold labelled as "flushable" with no regulation on that term. Canadians are spending over \$250 million a year for maintenance and repair of sewer collection systems because of inappropriate disposal of products marketed as "flushable".

Baby wipes have claims on their packaging that states they are “flushable” but most have rayon or viscose in them which do not break down and basically clog sewer systems.

To add to the problem, grease, dental floss, hair, contact lens, tampons, and other items are being put into the sewer system. Grease hardens and when the wipes, floss, tampons, and Kleenex are mixed in, the result is a fatberg. Like an iceberg, a fatberg can be big and nasty. You may have heard of the fatberg in London, England in 2017. It was 250 meters long. In January 2019, they mentioned another fatberg that was 64 meters long.

Broken sewer pipes can release harmful bacteria into your home, such as E. coli, and salmonella, which cause major problems with the digestive tract.

You could also become infected with cholera, amoebiasis, jaundice or hepatitis A from the bacterias found in raw sewage. These problems are caused if you come into contact with the bacteria and it gets inside your body. For example, if you touch an infected surface and you have a cut, or if you touch your eyes or your mouth, the bacteria can enter your body.

TAKE ACTION

1) Invite the town/city water and waste management superintendent to explain the harmful effects of flushing so-called “flushable” products in your town/city.

To prevent further problems with the sewer system and the environment, ask how you are to properly dispose of household materials such as grease, greasy products (salad dressing), dairy products, baby wipes, Kleenex, medications, household hazardous waste....

2) Write letters to the prime minister and the department of environment and natural resources with copies to your local member of parliament urging the federal government to establish a national standard of testing to be met by manufacturers of products marketed as “flushable”.

Legislation and Resolution Chairperson,
Shirley Gravel