



**The Catholic Women's
League of Canada**

**Constitution & Bylaws
2006**

Mission Statement

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
is a national organization
rooted in gospel values
calling its members to holiness
through service to the people of God.

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Inv. No. 46

Second Printing, November 2007
Printed in Canada

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FOREWORD

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

- organized nationally June 17, 1920
- granted federal incorporation December 12, 1923
- officially recognized by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) as a national private association of the faithful, 2005
- affiliated in 1921 with the International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues, now titled World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO), a world-wide federation holding membership in the conference of International Catholic Organizations (ICO) and having consultative status with agencies of the United Nations
- organized and pledged to serve with all citizens of goodwill

FOR GOD AND CANADA

ARTICLE I: Name

The association shall be known as **THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA**, hereinafter called the "League."

ARTICLE II: Patroness

The patroness of the League shall be the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title of "Our Lady of Good Counsel."

ARTICLE III: Crest, Corporate Seal and Flag

Section 1: Crest

The crest, as designed and adopted in 1922, shall be the cross, symbolic of faith, surmounting 10 maple leaves, symbolic of the provinces of Canada, with the words "**THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA FOR GOD AND CANADA**" enclosed in an unbroken circle, symbolic of constant service to God and Canada. The colours of the crest shall be blue, chosen for Our Lady and the papal colours, white and gold.

The crest shall be authentically reproduced and used with dignity and respect. Members shall make written request to the national executive for authorization to reproduce the crest.

Section 2: Corporate Seal

The corporate seal shall conform in design to that of the crest and shall be held in the custody of national office.

Section 3: Flag

The flag, adopted in 1990, is the permanent public symbol of the League.

ARTICLE IV: Objects

The Objects of the League shall be to unite Catholic women of Canada:

1. to achieve individual and collective spiritual development
2. to promote the teachings of the Catholic church
3. to exemplify the Christian ideal in home and family life
4. to protect the sanctity of human life
5. to enhance the role of women in church and society

6. to recognize the human dignity of all people everywhere
7. to uphold and defend Christian education and values in the modern world
8. to contribute to the understanding and growth of religious freedom, social justice, peace and harmony

ARTICLE V: Policy

The policy of the League shall be:

1. to have membership and operation based on the parish unit, with diocesan, provincial and national representational levels
2. to operate on a system of standing committees and to make the fullest possible use of these committees in the involvement of all members
3. to develop leadership qualities and provide training to enable members to take active roles in the affairs of their faith, community, and society
4. to maintain affiliation with the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations

5. to cooperate at all levels with other organizations where and in whatever manner the council concerned agrees is necessary or desirable to accomplish the Objects of the League
6. to maintain liaison with pastoral councils in accordance with the *Code of Canon Law*
7. politically non-partisan

ARTICLE VI: Spiritual Program

Under the guidance of the spiritual advisor, in cooperation with the chairperson of spiritual development, the spiritual program shall express the religious renewal of the people of God as envisioned by documents of Vatican II. (Article IX, Section 1.(a))

Council meetings shall endeavour through the spiritual development program to foster and advance the spiritual growth of members.

Councils shall honour, in a special way, Our Lady of Good Counsel, patroness of the League.

ARTICLE VII: Membership

Section 1.

Membership is established and maintained by payment of the annual prescribed membership fee through a local parish council in accordance with Article XVI, Section 4.

Categories:

- (a) **General Membership:** A Catholic woman 16 years of age or over may become a member, with voting privileges and with eligibility for office by election or appointment.
- (b) **Life Membership:** A member, nominated by a diocesan or provincial council, fulfilling the criteria established by the national executive, may be awarded a life membership in national council.
- (c) **Honorary Life Membership:** A distinctive honour bestowed on a member who has served as national president.
- (d) **Associate Membership:** A non-Catholic woman 16 years of age or over may become a member, with voting privileges, but without eligibility for office by election or appointment.

Section 2.: Transfer of Membership

A member may transfer to another council and shall not be required to pay a further membership fee for the current year. A member shall hold membership in only one council at any one time.

Section 3.: Withdrawal of Membership

Members wishing to withdraw membership may do so by tendering their resignation in writing to the executive through the secretary.

ARTICLE VIII: Organization

The League shall be composed of parish, diocesan, and provincial councils and a national council.

Section 1.: Composition of Councils

(a) **Parish Council:** shall be composed of the individual members.

- (b) **Diocesan Council:** shall be composed of its officers, presidents of parish councils in the diocese, parish delegates accredited to the diocesan convention, and honorary life members and life members holding a membership in the diocese.
- (c) **Provincial Council:** shall be composed of its officers, presidents of diocesan councils in the province, diocesan and parish delegates accredited to the provincial convention, and honorary life members and life members holding a membership in the province.
- (d) **National Council:** shall be composed of its officers, presidents of provincial councils, honorary life members, life members and provincial and diocesan delegates accredited to the national convention.

Section 2.: Executive

- (a) **Parish:** The parish executive shall be composed of the elected officers of the council.

- (b) **Diocesan, Provincial and National:** The diocesan, provincial and national executive shall be composed of the elected officers of the appropriate councils and presidents of the councils composing the level as stated in Article VIII, Section 1.(b), (c) and (d).

Section 3.: Responsibilities of the Executive

The executive shall:

- (a) direct and administer the affairs of the League
- (b) coordinate and organize programs to promote the Objects of the League
- (c) represent League members in spiritual, social and political issues
- (d) develop League policy and long-term planning

Section 4.: National Administrative Committee

- (a) There shall be a national administrative committee composed of the president, president-elect, first vice-president, second vice-president, secretary-treasurer, past president, and the spiritual advisor in an ex officio capacity. The president shall chair this committee.

- (b) The committee shall be responsible for the planning and formulation of recommendations for presentation to the national executive in matters of personnel, magazine and finance.
- (c) The committee shall meet immediately before scheduled meetings of the national executive and may meet in emergency session at the call of the president. All proceedings of meetings of the committee shall be reported promptly to the national executive.
- (d) The committee shall delegate appropriate responsibility for implementation of plans and policies to the executive director. (Article XVII, Section 2.(c))

Section 5.: Certificates of Organization

Every parish, diocesan and provincial council when organized shall apply for and receive a Certificate of Organization in accordance with the regulations outlined in the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*.

Section 6.: Special Norms

- (a) In the military ordinariate or a province where there is but one diocesan council, that council shall also fulfil the function of a provincial council.
- (b) **Regional Committees**
 - (i) Upon request of the majority of parish councils in the area concerned and where it is agreed by motion by diocesan council, regional committees may be established to function under regulations set by the diocesan council concerned.
 - (ii) Upon request of the majority of diocesan councils in the area concerned and where it is agreed by motion by provincial council, regional committees may be established to function under regulations set by the provincial council concerned.
 - (iii) The regional committee shall be composed of a chairperson, the presidents of the parish or diocesan councils concerned and other members as required.

- (iv) Where it is agreed by motion by diocesan or provincial councils, the chairpersons of regional committees may be members of that council. (Article VIII, Section 1.(b) and (c) and Article XIV, Section 2.(d))

ARTICLE IX: The League and the Church

Spiritual Advisor

There shall be a spiritual advisor for each council.

(a) Role

- (i) The spiritual advisor, in cooperation with the chairperson of spiritual development, shall provide advice and guidance for the spiritual program. (Article VI)
- (ii) The spiritual advisor shall receive due notice of all executive and council meetings and conventions and shall attend and participate in all such meetings and conventions when possible, in an ex officio capacity.

(iii) At national level, the spiritual advisor shall receive due notice of the national administrative committee meetings and shall attend and participate when possible.

(b) Appointment

(i) The spiritual advisor of the parish council shall be the pastor of the parish. Where this is not possible, the pastor, in consultation with the council executive and the ordinary of the diocese, shall appoint a spiritual advisor.

(ii) At other levels, the spiritual advisor shall be named by the appropriate level of the hierarchy.

(iii) A spiritual advisor may not serve simultaneously on any two levels above parish level.

(c) Term of Service

On levels other than parish, a spiritual advisor's term of service shall not exceed five years. The council concerned shall give six months advance notice of the expiry of a spiritual advisor's term to the authority responsible for naming a successor.

ARTICLE X: Officers

Section 1.

Officers at **parish** level shall be:

- president
- president-elect (optional)
- first vice-president
- second vice-president (optional)
- secretaries (one or two)
- treasurer
- past president
- chairpersons as required for the standing committees

Section 2.

Officers at **diocesan** and **provincial** levels shall be:

- president
- president-elect
- first vice-president
- second vice-president (optional)
- secretaries (one or two)
- treasurer
- past president
- chairpersons as required for the standing committees

Section 3.

Officers at **national** level shall be:

- president
- president-elect
- first vice-president
- second vice-president
- secretary-treasurer
- past president
- chairpersons of standing committees (five)

Chairperson's eligibility for all officers shall be as described in Article XV, Section 1.

Section 4.: Vacancies at Any Level of the League

- (a) Resignations from office must be made in writing to the executive, submitted to the secretary.
- (b) In the event of a vacancy in the office of president, the president-elect shall complete the unexpired term of the president.

- (c) In the event of a vacancy in the office of president-elect, a vice-president shall perform the duties of the president-elect until the next election. She shall not be appointed to the office of president-elect nor assume the office of president.
- (d) In the event of a vacancy in any other office, a member shall be appointed by the president in consultation with the executive and shall serve until the next election.

Section 5.: Removal of Officers at Any Level

Officers whose conduct or activities are detrimental to or incompatible with the Objects and Policy of the League may be removed or suspended from office. The matter shall be dealt with by the executive at a meeting. *Notice of Motion* for removal or suspension of any member must be given to the member concerned and to all members of the executive one month before such meeting, and the motion to remove or suspend must be passed by a two-thirds majority at such meeting.

ARTICLE XI: Duties of Officers

Section 1.: President

The president as the chief officer shall:

- (a) inform the membership of the position of the League on current issues and priorities and new programs
- (b) foster open communication with the spiritual advisor on all League matters
- (c) preside at all meetings and conventions of the council concerned
- (d) be a signing officer for all official documents
- (e) provide active leadership
- (f) initiate policy, in consultation with the officers of the council concerned
- (g) keep fully informed on the operation of the League and report annually to the membership
- (h) be an ex officio member of all committees except the nominations and elections committee
- (i) be the official spokesperson for her council
- (j) perform such other duties as may be incumbent upon her office
- (k) appoint committees

(l) at **national** level:

- chair the national administrative committee
- be the chairperson of international relations
- be a member of the national amendments committee
- be an ex officio member of all other committees except the elections committee

Section 2.: President-elect

The president-elect shall:

- (a) become president automatically after serving her elected term as president-elect
- (b) perform the duties of the president in her absence or inability to serve
- (c) be the chairperson of organization
- (d) be responsible for League development and leadership training
- (e) perform such other duties as may be delegated to her by the president

Section 3.: Vice-Presidents

- (a) In the absence or inability of the president-elect to serve, the vice-presidents, in order of rank, shall perform her duties.
- (b) In the temporary absence or inability to serve of both the president and president-elect, the first and second vice-presidents shall perform the duties of the president and president-elect respectively.
- (c) Each vice-president shall:
 - (i) be the chairperson of a standing committee
 - (ii) perform other duties delegated by the president

Section 4.: Secretary(s)

The **recording** secretary shall:

- (a) record the minutes of all meetings and conventions of the council concerned and retain as a permanent record
- (b) be a signing officer for all official documents
- (c) have charge of all papers and records of the council concerned
- (d) be responsible for reports as required

The **corresponding** secretary (may be appointed) shall attend to correspondence as required.

Section 5.: Treasurer

The treasurer shall:

- (a) maintain the financial records of the council concerned and have them appropriately audited or examined annually
- (b) receive all League monies and pay all accounts as authorized
- (c) be a signing officer for all official documents
- (d) present a report of revenues and expenditures at meetings
- (e) prepare and monitor annual budget

Section 6.: National Secretary-Treasurer

At **national** level the secretary-treasurer shall:

- (a) be a signing officer for all official documents
- (b) maintain a close liaison and work in cooperation with the executive director in all financial matters
- (c) perform other duties as specified

Section 7.: Past President

The past president shall:

- (a) serve in a consultative capacity
- (b) be responsible for archives and history
- (c) facilitate the study and implementation of the *Constitution & Bylaws*
- (d) perform other duties as assigned by the president
- (e) be chairperson of laws at **national** level (Article XII, Section 1.(10))

Section 8.: Chairpersons of Standing Committees

The chairpersons of standing committees shall:

- (a) acquire knowledge of and fulfil the duties of the committee assigned
- (b) appoint a sub-committee to share the work
- (c) consult with chairpersons of other standing committees to maximize team effort and avoid duplication
- (d) prepare and submit promptly monthly and annual reports as required
- (e) be responsible for long-term planning

Section 9.: Signing Officers

- (a) Signing officers shall be the president, the treasurer and the recording secretary.
- (b) All cheques must be signed by two of the signing officers.
- (c) On the duly recorded decision of the council concerned, an alternate signing officer may be designated annually from among the elected officers.
- (d) At **national** level, the president and secretary-treasurer shall certify all documents under the corporate seal.

ARTICLE XII: Standing Committees

Chairpersons shall be elected; if insufficient are elected, appointments may be made by the president in consultation with the executive. In order to allow councils maximum flexibility, each council shall determine the number of standing committees it requires, which shall include spiritual development and organization. Immediately after the annual meeting or convention, the elected officers shall meet for the assignment of standing committees from the following designated list:

Section 1.

The standing committees shall be:

(1) Spiritual Development

- (a) spiritual growth of members
- (b) study of Catholic teachings
- (c) role of women in the church
- (d) evangelization and mission assistance
- (e) lay ministries
- (f) ecumenism and interfaith endeavours

(2) Organization

- (a) recruit members and maintain membership
- (b) leadership development
- (c) League resource material
- (d) annual reports
- (e) life membership

(3) Christian Family Life

- (a) marriage and family
- (b) sanctity of life
- (c) ministry to:
 - (i) youth
 - (ii) disabled
 - (iii) seniors
 - (iv) widowed
 - (v) separated
 - (vi) divorced
- (d) vocations

(4) Community Life

- (a) dignity and rights of persons
- (b) social and economic justice
- (c) refugees, immigration and citizenship
- (d) Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP)
- (e) developing countries

(5) Education and Health

- (a) Catholic education
 - (i) Catholic schools and catechesis
 - (ii) Rites of Christian Initiation
- (b) literacy and continuing education
- (c) scholarships and bursaries
- (d) wellness and sickness/disease
- (e) environment
- (f) genetics

(6) Communications

- (a) *The Canadian League* magazine
- (b) media:
 - (i) for evangelization
 - (ii) to promote the League
 - (iii) evaluation and promotion of good content
 - (iv) newsletters and bulletins
- (c) media relations
- (d) pornography

(7) Resolutions

- (a) research and preparation of resolutions and briefs
- (b) study and implementation of resolutions passed by other levels
- (c) at provincial and national levels, presentation of resolutions to government

(8) Legislation

- (a) monitor and study legislation at all levels of government
- (b) preparation of briefs and position papers on proposed legislation

(9) Parish Activities (parish level only)

- (a) liaison and cooperation with pastoral councils
- (b) parish assistance

(10) Laws (national level only)

- (a) facilitate the study and implementation of the *Constitution & Bylaws*
- (b) interpret the *Constitution & Bylaws* in consultation with the national president
- (c) chair the national amendments committee (Article XIX)
- (d) advise on parliamentary procedure

(11) International Relations (national level only)

- (a) liaison with World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO)
- (b) other international programs

ARTICLE XIII: Meetings, Conventions and Quorums

Section 1: Official Language

The official language is English.

Section 2.: Parish Council

- (a) Normally the executive of the parish council shall meet prior to each regular meeting. A majority of the executive shall constitute a quorum.

- (b) Normally the parish council regular meeting shall be held monthly.
- (c) The parish council annual meeting shall be held in January or February for the purpose of receiving reports and for the election of officers if applicable.
- (d) The elected officers shall meet for the assignment of standing committees immediately after the annual meeting.
- (e) Due notice having been given of regular and annual general meetings, the members present shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3.: Diocesan and Provincial Councils

- (a) The executive of diocesan and provincial councils shall meet at least twice a year, prior to and after their annual conventions. Due notice having been given, a majority of the members of the executive shall constitute a quorum.

- (b) The diocesan and provincial councils shall meet in annual convention, diocesan in April or May, provincial in June or July, for the purpose of promoting the Objects and Policy of the League, planning future programs, receiving annual reports, and the election of officers if applicable. Due notice having been given, the voting members present shall constitute a quorum.
- (c) The elected officers shall meet for the assignment of standing committees immediately after the annual convention.

Section 4.: National Council

- (a) The executive of the national council shall meet at least twice a year, immediately before and after its annual convention. Additional meetings may be called at the discretion of the president. Due notice having been given, a majority of the members of the executive shall constitute a quorum.

- (b) The national council shall meet in annual convention in August, for the purpose of promoting the Objects and Policy, planning future programs, receiving annual reports and the election of officers if applicable. Due notice having been given, 25 members of the council shall constitute a quorum.
- (c) The elected officers shall meet for the assignment of standing committees immediately after the annual convention.

Section 5.: Annual Convention Site

It shall be the place designated by the executive of the council assembled, giving due consideration to the rotation of the site and invitations received.

Section 6.: Expenses for Voting Delegates

- (a) Each level shall determine the expenses to be paid by its treasury for executive meetings, annual or other meetings or conventions except as stated in (b), (c) and (d) of this section.
- (b) **Parish councils** shall pay the expenses of their voting delegate to the annual diocesan convention.

- (c) **Diocesan councils** shall pay the expenses of their voting delegate to the annual provincial convention.
- (d) At **national** level, the national treasury shall pay:
 - (i) the expenses of the national executive to attend national executive meetings, the annual national convention and other meetings as required
 - (ii) transportation expenses for honorary life members to attend the annual national convention

Section 7.: Registration Fees

Annual convention registration fees shall be prescribed in each case by the executive of the council assembled and shall be the funds of said council.

Section 8.: Annual Convention Committees

Convention committees shall be formed as required in accordance with the guidelines in convention handbooks.

ARTICLE XIV: Representation at Annual Conventions

Section 1.: Delegates

- (a) **Voting delegates** are the presidents of each council comprising the council in session. If the president is unable to attend the annual convention, the president-elect, a vice-president or an appointed executive member shall be the designate.
- (b) **Accredited Delegates**
 - (i) **Each parish council** in the diocese concerned may send **TWO** accredited delegates to the annual diocesan convention and **ONE** accredited delegate to the annual provincial convention.
 - (ii) **Each diocesan council** in the province concerned may send **TWO** accredited delegates to the annual provincial convention and **TWO** accredited delegates to the annual national convention.
 - (iii) **Each provincial council** may send **TWO** accredited delegates to the annual national convention.

Section 2.: Voting Powers

- (a) **Voting delegates** shall take part in all proceedings and shall have the power to vote on all questions.
- (b) **Accredited delegates** may take part in the business sessions of the annual convention and vote on any question **except** the election of officers, amendments to the *Constitution & Bylaws* and increase in per capita fees.
- (c) Officers of the council assembled, honorary life members and life members shall have accredited delegate status. (Article VIII, Section 1.)
- (d) Chairpersons of regional committees shall have accredited delegate status if granted by diocesan or provincial councils. (Article VIII, Section 6.(b)(iv))

Section 3.: Instructed Vote

- (a) An instructed vote requires the voting delegate to vote according to the instructions of the council represented.
- (b) *Notice of Motion* requiring an instructed vote shall be circulated to all councils at least six months before the annual convention.

- (c) The voting delegate carries an instructed vote for:
 - (i) election of officers (Article XV, Section 5.(a))
 - (ii) increase in per capita fees (Article XVI, Section 1. (b))
 - (iii) amendments to the *Constitution & Bylaws* (Article XIX (a))

Section 4.: Members

Any member may attend annual meetings or conventions at any level and may speak at business sessions at the discretion of the chair.

ARTICLE XV: Eligibility, Nominations and Elections

Section 1.: Eligibility for Office

- (a) **Parish:** At parish level, only members, in accordance with Article VII, Section 1.(a), (b), (c), shall be eligible for nomination to office, subject to the provisions of Article XV, Section 2.

- (b) **Diocesan:** At diocesan level, members eligible for nomination to office shall be:
 - (i) present officers who, at the time of election, have served a full term, subject to provisions of Article XV, Section 2.
 - (ii) parish council presidents who, at the time of election, have served a full term
 - (iii) A member eligible for nomination to office at diocesan level in one diocese shall be eligible for nomination to office at diocesan level in any other diocese to which she has moved.
 - (iv) Diocesan officers and parish council presidents shall remain eligible for **three** elections following the last term served.
- (c) **Provincial:** At provincial level, members eligible for nomination to office shall be:
 - (i) present officers who, at the time of election, have served a full term, subject to provisions of Article XV, Section 2.
 - (ii) diocesan council presidents who, at the time of election, have served a full term

- (iii) A member eligible for nomination to office at provincial level in one province shall be eligible for nomination to office at provincial level in another province to which she has moved.
- (iv) Provincial officers and diocesan council presidents shall remain eligible for **three** elections following the term last served.
- (d) **National:** At national level, members eligible for nomination to office shall be:
 - (i) present officers, except for the national past president, who have served a full term, subject to provisions of Article XV, Section 2.
 - (ii) provincial council presidents who, at the time of election, have served a full term
 - (iii) National officers, except for the national past president, and provincial council presidents shall remain eligible for **three** elections following the term last served.

(e) **At all levels:**

- (i) A member shall hold only one office at a time at the level concerned. The president-elect (if applicable) and vice-president(s) shall chair a standing committee which shall be considered one office.
- (ii) If an officer, at any level, has been removed in accordance with Article X, Section 5., her existing eligibility is forfeited.

Section 2.: Term of Office

- (a) At **parish, diocesan, provincial** and **national** levels, the term of office for elected officers shall be two years.
- (b) An elected or appointed officer shall serve only one full term in the same office except the chairpersons and treasurers (secretary-treasurer at national level) who may be elected to a second consecutive term.
- (c) If the time served by an appointed officer is more than one year, it shall be considered a full term.

Section 3.: Nominations and Elections Committee

A nominations and elections committee consisting of three experienced members of the council concerned shall be appointed by the president of that council in consultation with the spiritual advisor. The chairperson of this committee shall not be a candidate for office.

Section 4.: Nominations

- (a) All members or councils shall have proper access to a list of those eligible for nomination to office.
- (b) The consent of all nominees for office shall be obtained prior to the elections.
- (c) Nominations from the floor are not permissible.
- (d) At parish level, any member may nominate eligible members for office.
- (e) Each parish council executive shall nominate a slate of officers for the diocesan council from the list of those eligible, who have agreed to let their names stand for nomination.

- (f) Each diocesan council executive, at the pre-convention executive meeting, shall nominate a slate of officers for the provincial council from the list of those eligible, who have agreed to let their names stand for nomination.
- (g) Each provincial council executive, at the pre-convention executive meeting, shall nominate a slate of officers from the national council from the list of those eligible, who have agreed to let their names stand for nomination.

Section 5.: Election of Officers

- (a) For the election of officers, the instructed vote applies **on the first ballot only.**
- (b) If the voting delegate does not have an instructed vote from the executive, she forfeits her privilege to vote on the first ballot.
- (c) Election shall be by ballot vote unless there is only one candidate for an office or only the required number of candidates for the office of chairperson, in which case approval shall be by motion to declare the candidate(s) elected.

- (d) (i) Where a majority vote prevails, if three ballots fail to produce a majority vote for one candidate, then the candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. In the event of a tie vote on the third ballot, a fourth ballot using only the names of the tied candidates, will be taken.
- (ii) Where a plurality vote prevails, the required number of candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. In the event of a tie, further balloting shall continue until the required number of candidates are elected.
- (e) Any office left vacant following the election shall be filled from those eligible for nomination to office in that council according to the norms stated in Article X, Section 4.
- (f) Nomination forms and ballots shall be destroyed following the election.

ARTICLE XVI: Finance

Section 1.: Per Capita Fees

- (a) **National, provincial** and **diocesan councils** shall be financed by per capita fees remitted by parish councils.
- (b) Increases in per capita fees at diocesan, provincial or national level shall:
 - (i) be by instructed vote following due notice to the membership involved
 - (ii) require a majority vote of the voting delegates present

Section 2.: Financial Projects

- (a) At **parish** level, all financial projects shall be approved by the members at a council meeting in consultation with the spiritual advisor.
- (b) **National, provincial** and **diocesan councils** shall not impose financial obligations on parish councils without their consent.

Section 3.: Audit Year

The audit year, at all levels, shall be the period beginning January 1 and ending December 31.

Section 4.: Membership and Per Capita Fees

- (a) A membership fee is determined by each individual parish council and shall be due on January 1.
- (b) A membership fee shall include diocesan, provincial and national per capita fees.
- (c) Per capita fees are determined by diocesan, provincial and national councils at an annual convention.
- (d) Per capita fees shall be remitted promptly to the appropriate levels according to approved procedures.
- (e) Deliberate withholding of per capita fees shall constitute a violation of the *Constitution & Bylaws*.

Section 5.: Auditors and Audit of Accounts

At **national** level, auditors shall be appointed at the annual national convention to examine and audit all accounts and funds and report to the next annual national convention.

ARTICLE XVII: National Office and Executive Director

Section 1.: National Office

The League shall maintain a permanent national office.

Section 2.: Executive Director

The executive director of The Catholic Women's League of Canada shall:

- (a) be employed or dismissed by the national executive upon recommendation of the national administrative committee
- (b) be in charge of the national office
- (c) undertake duties assigned by the national administrative committee or the national executive
- (d) provide liaison between national executives, ensuring continuity of League business

ARTICLE XVIII: *The Canadian League*

- (a) *The Canadian League* magazine is the official publication of the League. The magazine promotes the Objects and Policy as set forth in Articles IV and V of the *Constitution & Bylaws*.

- (b) Annual membership fee includes subscription to *The Canadian League* magazine.
- (c) Subscriptions may be provided for spiritual advisors by the council concerned.

ARTICLE XIX: Amendment of *Constitution & Bylaws*

- (a) Upon the recommendation of the national amendments committee and with the approval of the national executive, the *Constitution & Bylaws* of this association may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting delegates present at an annual national convention.
- (b) The amendments committee shall be composed of the national past president (chairperson of laws) as chairperson, the national president, the national president-elect, the national spiritual advisor and other members as required, appointed by the national president.
- (c) Notice of the proposed amendments shall be circulated to all councils at least six months before the annual national convention.

- (d) The approval of the minister of Industry Canada and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) shall be applied for within 60 days of the annual national convention at which any amendment or amendments are made and no amendments shall enter into force or be acted upon prior to approval being received.

ARTICLE XX: Parliamentary Procedure

- (a) *Roberts' Rules of Order* shall apply to those questions of parliamentary procedure not specified in the *Constitution & Bylaws* and *Standing Rules of Order*.
- (b) A parliamentarian may be appointed for the convention at the discretion of the president.

The foregoing *Constitution & Bylaws (2006)*, ratified and confirmed by The Catholic Women's League of Canada at the 86th annual national convention was sanctioned by the minister of Industry Canada on the 3rd day of October, 2006, and by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops on the 29th day of November, 2006.

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