



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

MEMO

DATE: March 25, 2019

FROM: Cathy Bouchard, national chairperson of resolutions

TO: Parish chairpersons of resolutions

CC: Parish presidents, diocesan presidents, provincial presidents and life members (on request)

“A well-written resolution is a strong statement of the League position.”
Cathy Bouchard, resolutions communique 2

A new resolutions process will be presented at the 2019 annual national convention. A committee was struck to look for areas of improvement, particularly when members debate “wordsmithing” rather than the content of a resolution on the convention floor. The new process will be evaluated following the convention and, with revisions based on the testing of the process, will be formally adopted by the board.

To be presented at the annual national convention, a resolution must:

- be accepted as League position
- be in accordance with the teachings of the church and established policy of the League (C&B 9 Parts IV and V)
- not have been developed and researched by other groups
- be on a topic the League has not already set a position on
- be on a topic that is current and one that requires action by the federal government or a national organization
- be accompanied by an explanatory brief and sufficient support material to substantiate the resolution
- have been adopted by majority vote at a provincial convention and
- have been received by the national chairperson of resolutions by the deadline

At the resolutions dialogue, members will receive the “resolved clauses” and briefs, and will be invited to review the resolutions focusing on questions such as, “Is this an issue for the League? Is this resolution timely/emergent?” The resolved clause will be referred to as the resolution for the purposes of the motion/debate. The “whereas clauses” will no longer be presented as part of the resolution. The material that was previously contained in the “whereas clauses” will be part of the brief. Recommendations are provided to the resolutions committee at resolutions

dialogue (not on the convention floor) and worked on by the committee. Only expedient changes will be reviewed and are to be submitted prior to introduction on the convention floor. Suggested wording changes to the resolution will evolve from the resolutions dialogue. Input should reflect any new concern on this issue; is it timely or urgent? Does it speak to the concerns of the membership?

Presentation of the Resolution at the Business Session

During the business session a resolution will be presented in this format: **“RESOLVED that the national council of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada in xxth annual national convention assembled urge (the federal government) to ...”**

When the resolution comes to the convention floor, it is ready to be debated and adopted or defeated. The provincial council gifting the resolution will be first to speak to the resolution and only the resolved clauses will be discussed. The mover of a motion/resolution, or her designate, may speak to open and close debate. **No other member shall speak more than once on the same motion on the same day**, or longer than three (3) minutes without permission of the assembly granted by a two-thirds vote without debate.

When there is an amendment, it is a new motion, so each member can speak again. The chairperson (or whoever is keeping track) begins a new list of names. Following an amendment being carried or defeated then the assembly will return to the existing list for the main motion.

Action on a Resolution

Action on resolutions of a national nature shall be carried out only after adoption at national convention. If the resolutions committee recommends that a resolution not come to the convention floor as it is a provincial issue, it will be returned to the provincial council for action. If there is no provincial component to the resolution, the provincial council cannot act on the resolution; the motion is dead and another motion would need to be made to take a different action. Anything that has a provincial component adopted provincially can be acted on, even if the federal component doesn’t get adopted at national level. The provincial council cannot adopt and act on national components.

More information on the above is available in resolutions communique #2 at cwl.ca.



Cathy Bouchard
National chairperson of resolutions