



The Catholic Women's League of Canada Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

March 20, 2020

The national executive/board of The Catholic Women's League of Canada announces its **official response** to the impact of COVID-19 on councils at all levels of the League. The response is designed to instruct councils and recognize the public health and safety measures taken by provinces, territories, municipalities and dioceses in response to the current pandemic.

We understand the need to protect League members, their families, and the vulnerable in communities with whom they interact. We also acknowledge that the League, while comprised of regions, acts as one "For God and Canada". For this reason, the board of The Catholic Women's League of Canada is directing diocesan and provincial councils to cancel their 2020 conventions. Similarly, the annual national convention for 2020 is cancelled until further notice.

To effect this change, and to comply with the *Canada Not For Profit Corporations Act* and the *Constitution & Bylaws*, the board directs all diocesan, provincial and national councils to do the following:

1. Send out a Notice of Meeting declaring a date and a change of venue for the convention to a location in the presiding president's town. On the date published, the president (or her designate) attends the meeting at the venue, alone. As quorum will not be met, the president (or her designate), sets a time to adjourn the meeting. **No business is conducted, including the passing of resolutions, or conducting of instructed votes or elections.** This will fulfill the requirement to hold a convention according to the *Constitution & Bylaws*.
2. Once the state of emergency has been lifted in all provinces and municipalities in Canada, and it is safe to gather in numbers, the national board will provide information to assist diocesan and provincial councils with holding an "annual general meeting" that will satisfy the requirements of Part XIV: Meetings, Convention and Quorums, Sections 2 and 3 of the *Constitution & Bylaws*.

The "annual general meeting" or "AGM" is defined, for the purposes of this communications, as a meeting to conduct all business transactions required at convention. At the national level, these sessions are typically called "business sessions", and do not include the sessions allocated for speakers, workshops and social events.

The AGMs will be held within three months of the date of the board's announcement, with diocesan council AGMs arranged first, provincial council AGMs arranged next, and the national council arrangements made after the final provincial council AGM. Provincial councils will work with their diocesan councils, where applicable, to ensure the diocesan AGM dates precede the provincial AGM dates.

A pre-convention executive meeting will be held for each council, as per Part XIV: Meetings Convention and Quorums, Section 3.

All voting and accredited delegates will be invited by Notice of Meeting to attend the AGM as per Part XV: Representation at Annual Conventions.

The agenda for the AGM will fulfill Part XIV, Section 3(b), i.e. the council (voting and accredited delegates) will meet for the purpose of:

- Promoting the Objects and Policy of the League
- Planning future programs
- Receiving annual reports
- Conducting instructed votes not held due to lack of quorum at Spring conventions
- Electing officers, if applicable.

Election of Officers

As nominations may not take place outside of a pre-convention meeting, and voting in the League is only allowed within the context of voting delegates being both 1. in person and 2. carrying an instructed vote, all spring and summer 2020 elections are postponed. Current officers will continue in their positions until such time that an election can be held.

Instructed Votes on Other Matters

As voting in the League is only allowed within the context of voting delegates being both 1. in person and 2. carrying an instructed vote, all matters to be determined by instructed vote are postponed until such time that an AGM can be held.

Resolutions

The board strongly recommends that all matters of a non-urgent nature be deferred until 2021. Councils are asked to consider the urgency with which an issue must be dealt, and are encouraged to postpone resolutions, wherever possible, to allow for the full participation of interested members at the 2021 conventions.

The board understands these are difficult times that require difficult measures. We encourage you to remain hopeful, pray for those most affected by the pandemic, protect yourselves, and know “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”.

Stay safe. Meet later.

National Executive

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