



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

MEMO

DATE: September 24, 2021
FROM: Rolande Chernichan, national chairperson of resolutions
TO: Parish chairpersons of resolutions
CC: Parish presidents, diocesan presidents, provincial presidents and life members (on request)

I begin my journey as your companion and national chairperson of the standing committee for resolutions with joy, faith and enthusiasm. Some of you are new to the role of chairperson. Welcome! Some may be in the third year of an extended-term because of the pandemic—thank you for your commitment! I hope your summer has been rewarding and that you are feeling re-energized and enthusiastic about beginning another season in the League. I acknowledge and thank my predecessor, National Second Vice-President and Chairperson of Spiritual Development Cathy Bouchard, for her help and guidance since being assigned to the resolutions standing committee.

You are the vital link for the League's advocacy initiated by its members who desire specific action. "Resolutions play a major part in the League's work. Through them, policy may be established, programs planned, or concerns and views expressed to governments. ... When directed *within the League*, its purpose is to propose a plan, establish a policy, recommend action or censure. When directed to a group *outside the League*, its purpose is to influence others to take action that the League itself cannot take, to state the League's position on an issue, to petition or to express concern." (*Resolutions Supplement to the Executive Handbook*)

The lack of in-person meetings and the extended pause in several activities brought on by the pandemic affected the ability to introduce resolutions at all levels of the League. Resolutions were not brought forward at the 2020 and 2021 national annual meetings of members (AMM); therefore, meetings with federal government officials this fall will not be pursued. However, several national resolutions were archived at the 2021 AMM and added to the list categorized according to each standing committee found at cwl.ca/archived/.

With the availability of vaccinations and pandemic restrictions easing in some areas, members are optimistic as the work of the League resumes through in-person meetings. Councils have the opportunity for fresh starts and new beginnings!

You are best suited to promote resolutions, asking your members for ideas for a new resolution and forming a committee for research and development. Be guided by the *Resolutions Supplement to the Executive Handbook* (updated in 2020). It can be accessed and downloaded from the national website. Remember that your diocesan counterpart can also be of assistance for guidance. Are you perhaps able to participate in a resolutions workshop being offered by your diocesan or provincial council? For councils that were hard at work preparing a resolution during the pandemic, please continue your efforts so that they can be adopted by your council and submitted to your diocesan chairperson in time for the 2022 AMM.

The League is promoted by members “acting on resolutions to create positive change in the community.” (Kim Scammell) As chairpersons of resolutions, our responsibility includes encouraging letter writing by members in response to adopted resolutions. Members pride themselves on the impact that resolutions have. Their development is the work of a few in committee. Members across Canada share in the work and impact of resolutions when they act on those resolutions through letter writing and other proposals contained in an action plan. I encourage you to partner with a standing committee chairperson to whom a particular resolution pertains to coordinate a letter writing campaign by your members, either as part of a general meeting or as individuals from home. I would appreciate hearing that your council committed to writing in response to at least one resolution in the remaining months of this reporting year, as well as knowing how many letters were sent. You would then be able to share that information with me through your online annual report survey that must be completed and submitted electronically by January 15, 2022. If you are submitting a paper copy of your annual report survey, the last date to be received by national office is December 15, 2021.

Please convey my appreciation and affirmation for League sisters whose interest in current events and social justice provides the spark for a resolution and who are the inspiration and driving force behind the work that goes into research and development of a resolution. I encourage them to share their knowledge and enthusiasm for resolutions with other members and to invite involvement by others so that the purpose for resolutions is better understood and appreciated. Together, we contribute to the *Care for Our Common Home* as League resolutions give voice to making a better world.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide you in promoting resolutions through your efforts, example, and leadership as chairpersons. May the Lord of the Harvest bless your work and service “For God and Canada.”