



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

MEMO

DATE: October 3, 2022
FROM: Rolande Chernichan, national chairperson of resolutions
TO: Parish chairpersons of resolutions
CC: Parish presidents, diocesan presidents, provincial presidents and life members (on request)

We have come full circle! It has been a year since I began my journey as national chairperson of resolutions. During that time, councils at all levels made a concerted effort to meet in person and to take up League causes and activities. There have been conventions and elections. Welcome to new and returning chairpersons of resolutions as we begin a new season, refreshed by a summer break that seemed to pass all too quickly! As the development of resolutions is a learning process, it is a happy coincidence that the journey as resolutions chairpersons begins anew and coincides with the start of the school year.

The annual national convention in Kelowna, British Columbia, yielded a most timely resolution—2022.01 Enact Federal Legislation to Reduce Food Loss and Waste—gifted by Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council. The resolution in its entirety will be printed in the fall issue of *The Canadian League* magazine and is available to view or download from the national website cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Resolution-2022.01-Enact-Federal-Legislation-to-Reduce-Food-Loss-Waste-Final.pdf.

Annual report surveys reveal most parish councils do not have a chairperson of resolutions, and in some councils, the position is shared with the chairperson of legislation. The chairperson of community life would typically lead awareness and action on the resolution about food loss and waste. However, some councils have downsized in anticipation of the adoption of the amendments to the *Constitution & Bylaws*. Therefore, parish council executives are encouraged to become aware of the resolution's intent and to initiate plans for action by members on some of the suggestions contained in the Action Plan. Recent media reports about food loss and waste can help councils raise awareness and monitor the progress of this significant issue that impacts Canadians. Plans are underway to arrange for meetings with elected representatives of the federal government to present this year's resolution and others.

In the coming year, the League will transition to the new structure of the League, with its standing committees of faith, service and social justice. The resolutions standing committee will be phased out, and each member and council will bear the responsibility to continue the League's historical and significant advocacy through its resolutions. For this reason, I invite and encourage you and your council to initiate setting aside about 10-15 minutes in each general meeting (perhaps during the coffee break) for small group sharing. Members could be invited to bring forward a topic or issue in the news that concerns them and discuss whether a resolution could address the situation. Providing for small group sharing by faith-based women can contribute to social awareness and discerning whether there is potential for a Christian response to a particular topic or issue by a resolution.

Discussions may become the spark for an interest in learning how to research and develop a resolution. Small group sharing can be valuable in allowing members to get to know each other, contribute to meaningful discussions and hear and respect different viewpoints. Such discussions can help determine whether there is interest or merit to study the matter further and gather more information about a particular topic or issue before appointing a committee to develop a resolution.

The League directs that "Resolutions can be a powerful tool 'to infuse a Christian spirit into the temporal order' (Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity). The League can serve the church's mission and be a Christian witness through resolutions" (*Resolutions Supplement to the Executive Handbook*). General meetings that provide for small group sharing by members about current affairs and potential resolution topics are part and parcel of being *Catholic and Living It!*