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The CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE of CANADA

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MEMO

To: Parish Council Chairpersons of Resolutions
From: Jacqueline Nogier, National Chairperson of Resolutions
CC: Parish Council Presidents, Diocesan Presidents, Provincial Presidents and Life Members (on request)
Date: April 26, 2015

There are a couple of times during the year when the vastness of Canada hits home for me. Fall is one of those times. I live in the middle of the country, north of the 54th parallel, and Halloween is the dividing line between fall and winter. Some years there is snow for trick-or-treating, and some years there is not. Spring is another time of year that reminds me how huge this country is. While spring comes to the west coast early with blooming flowers and mild weather, I count myself lucky to have the snow melted from my front yard by the middle of April. In spite of, or perhaps because of, the huge differences in our country, we are united in the League from coast to coast to coast.

Resolutions are the action arm of the League. They serve as a roadmap (or maybe the GPS) for where we should go and how we should get there. Some believe that the culmination of a resolution is when the national delegation goes to Ottawa and speaks on behalf of members across Canada. We do this annually with great pride and responsibility, believe it or not—you all fit in our suitcases when we go! However, while meeting with federal government officials is important, it is only one destination. Municipalities, provincial/territorial governments and parishes are all other possible destinations. All members should become more involved with resolutions, if only because those resolutions serve as our voice amidst the noise of secular life in the country.

How can you become more involved with resolutions?

- Choose one or two resolutions adopted at the annual national convention this past year and learn about the topics. Choose one that interests you and bring it to your next meeting.
- Parish council meetings work best when they are 1/3 faith, 1/3 business and 1/3 fellowship. Make some of each third about a resolution. I challenge you to make that resolution reflect our collective heart, voice and mission.
- Have you hosted a letter writing party? Each year when the national delegation goes to Ottawa to meet with government officials, it is told that personal letters are the most effective way to make opinions known. Do not shake your head and wonder what can be done, and do not send an e-mail or simply sign a petition. Send a personal, handwritten letter, and ask a question so you receive an answer.
- Are you going to an annual diocesan, provincial or national convention? Read the proposed resolutions and accompanying briefs carefully. Plan to attend a resolutions dialogue/information session. Take part, ask questions and become part of the process that makes the League unique among women's faith groups in Canada.

Everyone knows that with the melting snow of spring and the beauty of the new blooms come conventions. Conventions are a time to look forward to. It is a time to see old friends, make new ones and spend time with like-minded women from near and far. Conventions are also a time when new resolutions are brought forward for consideration. Take the time during the 2015 conventions to learn about issues that concern all of us. Take that information back to your homes and parish councils, and let those resolutions serve as the GPS for where we should go and how we should get there.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacqueline Nogier". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and larger than the others.

Jacqueline Nogier
National Chairperson of Resolutions