



# The Catholic Women's League of Canada

National Spiritual Advisor  
Bishop William McGrattan

National President  
Margaret Ann Jacobs

National President-elect  
Anne-Marie Gorman

National First Vice-President  
Fran Lucas

National Second Vice-President  
Shari Guinta

National Secretary-Treasurer  
Janet McLean

National Past President  
Barbara Dowding

National Chairpersons  
Spiritual Development  
Jacqueline Nogier

Organization  
Anne-Marie Gorman

Christian Family Life  
Doreen Gowans

Community Life  
Betty Colaneri

Education and Health  
Fran Lucas

Communications  
Shari Guinta

Resolutions  
Joan Bona

Legislation  
Nancy Simms

International Relations  
Margaret Ann Jacobs

Laws  
Barbara Dowding

Provincial Presidents  
Alberta Mackenzie

Cathy Bouchard

B.C. & Yukon  
Evelyn Rigby

Manitoba  
Faith Anderson

Military Ordinariate  
Coreena Cole

New Brunswick  
Marie Rackley

Newfoundland and Labrador  
Ruby Sharpe

Nova Scotia  
Peggy MacNeil

Ontario  
Pauline Krupa

Prince Edward Island  
Irene Gallant

Quebec  
Ingrid Lefort

Saskatchewan  
Jean Reader

Executive Director  
Kim Scammell, CPA

August 17, 2017

Mr. Dan Lussier, Chair  
Catholic Health Alliance of Canada  
Annex C, Saint-Vincent Hospital  
60 Cambridge Street North  
Ottawa, ON K1R 7A5

Dear Mr. Lussier,

On behalf of the 754 members assembled in 96<sup>th</sup> annual national convention of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, I wish to express the League's appreciation for the legacy of Catholic healthcare in Canada offered through the Catholic healthcare institutions that the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada (CHAC) represent. These institutions are extremely important to the fabric of Canadian society and offer a place of sanctuary of healthcare services for all Canadians.

The League wishes to support and advocate for this critical mission. This is especially important as citizens are facing physician assisted-suicide or medical assistance in dying. Therefore, at the 96<sup>th</sup> annual national convention, national council "urged provincial councils to petition their provincial/territorial premiers and appropriate ministers to request that freedom of conscience of healthcare professionals be protected and to ensure the same protection for healthcare institutions when either they or individuals within them refuse to participate in medically assisted dying or refuse to make direct referrals for patients who request medically assisted dying, and that provincial councils petition the provincial/territorial colleges and/or associations of healthcare professionals urging them to recognize and respect their members' right to freedom of conscience."

League members throughout Canada support the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada's efforts to promote services that respect the dignity of the patient and the rights of healthcare professionals and institutions to not risk becoming complicit in acts that are morally wrong. May the Holy Spirit inspire and guide you in these challenging times, and may you be supported by our prayers.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Barbara Dowding  
National President

WM/BD

Cc: Most Rev. Douglas Crosby, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops