



THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, August 22, 2016—Seven hundred fifty-four members, spiritual advisors and guests attended the 96th Annual National Convention of The Catholic Women's League of Canada at the World Trade and Convention Centre, which also included the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO) North American Regional Conference. From across Canada, and for WUCWO from the United States and Italy, they gathered to pray, celebrate faith, hear reports, be inspired by outstanding speakers and discuss issues facing the world today.

In his homily at the Opening Eucharistic Celebration, Archbishop Anthony Mancini (Halifax-Yarmouth) noted League work is a call to fidelity to the Word in a world of many voices. Members are called to witness, to hear the Word and respond.

Speakers during the WUCWO sessions were Sr. John Mary (Sisters of Life) who spoke on *Women of Mercy United in One Heart, One Voice, One Mission* and Rita Janes on "*Laudato Si' An Invitation to Change Our Hearts*". Speakers at the League sessions were Fr. James Mallon on *I Am a Mission on This Earth* and Sr. Nuala Kenney, Sister of Charity, emeritus professor of bioethics at Dalhousie University and ethics and health policy advisor to the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada, on *Medically Assisted Death: Challenges for Christians Today*.

Five resolutions were adopted by the national council:

- **Resolution 2016.01 Equal Access to Permanent Resident Status, an Amendment to the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*** urges the federal government "to amend the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* so that foreign workers may apply for permanent resident status regardless of occupational classification".
- **Resolution 2016.02 *Eating Well With Canada's Food Guide*** urges the federal government "to revise *Eating Well With Canada's Food Guide* using evidence-based guidelines; to set policy to review the guide every five years; to publish the date of revision on the guide.
- **Resolution 2016.03 Warning Labels on Food and Drug Products for all Inactive Substances and Additives** urges the federal government "to require detailed warning labels on food and drug products containing all inactive substances and additives that may cause adverse reactions; to require that patient information sheets accompanying pharmaceuticals include a list of all inactive substances and potential adverse reactions; to engage in a program of public education focusing on the possible adverse effects of all inactive substances and additives."
- **Resolution 2016.04 Amend the *Canada Health Act* to Identify Palliative Care as an Insured Health Service** urges the federal government "to identify palliative care as an insured health service covered under the *Canada Health Act*: to develop a national strategy for uniform standards and delivery of palliative care as defined by the World Health Organization;" and asks the ten provincial councils to urge their provincial/territorial governments "to provide palliative care as an insured service covered under their provincial/territorial health act as deemed prudent/necessary".

- **Resolution 2016.05 Amend the *Canada Health Act* to include Home Care as an insured Health Service** urges the federal government “to amend the *Canada Health Act* to include home care as an insured health service.”

A letter of support was sent to the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada from the convention.

On Wednesday, August 17th Margaret Ann Jacobs (Elmvale, Ontario) was installed as national president. Ten other members were installed as executive officers.

About The Catholic Women’s League of Canada

The League, founded in 1920, is one of the largest organizations of women in Canada, with over 85,000 members represented in every province and territory, with military representation as well. The League is organized to serve all citizens and has often received the commendation and keen appreciation of federal, provincial, and municipal authorities for the voluntary services ably performed by its national membership.

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For more information or to request an interview, please contact Erica Johnson, communications coordinator at (204) 927-2310 or communications@cwl.ca.