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August 17, 2016

Dr. Jim Lane, President
Canadian Federation of Catholic Physicians' Society

Dear Dr. Lane,

On behalf of the 754 members assembled in 96th 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 by the Catholic physicians that the Canadian Federation of Catholic Physicians' Society represent. Catholic physicians are extremely important to the fabric of Canadian society and offer a place of sanctuary of healthcare 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 96th 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 Canadian Federation of Catholic Physicians' Society'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