



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

MEMO

DATE: April 18, 2017

FROM: Fran Lucas, National chairperson of health and education

TO: Parish chairpersons of health and education

CC: Parish presidents, diocesan presidents, provincial presidents and life members (on request)

The following information is a collaboration of the three sub-committee chairpersons, Rita Janes, Life Member Becky Kallal, Life Member Gabriele Kalincak, and me.

Bursaries

In the fall 2016 parish mailing, councils were reminded that bursaries were offered biannually in 2016. **Please note that there is a change for 2017.** Bursaries will be awarded only once on June 30th. We have quickly realized the interest generated from the bursary fund has dropped substantially to the point where operating funds are needed to bring it up to be able to pay out qualifying recipients. Last year, the first group accessed a greater amount of funds and only a modest amount remained.

Catholic Education

A communique was recently sent out on Catholic education to explain what the education portion of this standing committee is all about. Please refer to cwl.ca for sound direction.

Health

With time, work through resolutions shows remarkable inroads. Resolution 2015.03 Banning the Use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides saw action being taken with the proposal by Heath Canada for banning of neonicotinoids.

Palliative care

Please visit cwl.ca/12-hours-of-prayer-for-palliative-care/ to access a multitude of resources and information to hold a successful *12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care* on May 4th. Petitions are available at the above site. With the support of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, it is hoped that all councils are able to collect signatures in their parishes.

Alex Schadenberg, executive director of Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, is proud of Compassionate Community Care's work. It offers a help-line and a training model for people to become home visitors who
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would be with people as they are dying or experiencing chronic conditions. For more information visit compassionatecommunitycare.org.

Councils are encouraged to visit epcc.ca to order the *Caring Not Killing* pamphlets and *The Euthanasia Deception* documentary, which features powerful testimonies from Belgium and Canada exposing the deceptions used by euthanasia lobbyists.

Mental Health

May is the month set aside for mental health awareness. Resolution 2015.01 Increased Early Access and Intervention to Children and Youth Mental Health Services calls councils to lobby the federal government to provide early intervention and access to youth suicide prevention initiatives and programs and provincial governments to increase access to appropriate supports, treatment and care for youth mental health services. The postcard used last year to assist in this vital task is located at cwl.ca/early-intervention-and-access-to-children-and-youth-mental-health-postcard. Full instructions are there if you haven't already sent in your postcards.

Action on Climate Change

On October 4, 2016, the Global Catholic Climate Movement and the Canadian Jesuits made a joint statement addressing the fate of poor people in countries vulnerable to climate change: "Climate change is already affecting poor and marginalized communities globally, through drought, rising sea levels, famine and extreme weather. We are called to take a stand." (Peter Bisson sj, Provincial of the Jesuits in English Canada). The Canadian Jesuits, along with several other Catholic institutions from Europe, Asia, United States and Latin America, made a decision to sell all investments in oil, gas and coal.

Please visit cwl.ca for Rita's presentation on the environment at the 2016 annual national convention.

Canada celebrates its 150th anniversary this year in Charlottetown where it all began! We hope you will be able to join us there for convention in August.



Fran Lucas