



# The Catholic Women's League of Canada

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## MEMO

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**DATE:** October 5, 2017

**FROM:** Joan Bona, national chairperson of resolutions

**TO:** Parish council chairpersons of resolutions

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

As Canada celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> year as a country, the League is fast approaching 100 years as an organization of Catholic women. During the 1922 national convention, members were encouraged to “take up some work of a national character that affects into the life of the whole country”. Fresh from another annual national convention, where four resolutions were adopted, the League’s historic experience of advocacy remains as true today as it did in 1922. The work continues. The resolutions will be featured in the fall issue of *The Canadian League*.

Please find enclosed in this mailing the 2017 resolutions-at-a-glance. Encourage members of your council to actively engage and follow-up on the action plans. Many hours of hard work, research, consultation and discussion have been contributed to bring issues to the forefront. Support this work through advocacy and awareness. At the time of writing this memo, national office has been actively pursuing meetings with federal government officials about the adopted 2017 resolutions.

The town hall held in conjunction with the annual national convention in Prince Edward Island was a profound experience. It was a truly remarkable and innovative avenue for members to be involved. Technology provided members across the country and in the convention hall the opportunity to be part of the process of planning strategically. The connectivity and the culmination of responses allowed the voices of all participants nationwide to be heard as the League embarked upon a new frontier. Advocacy and social justice were common themes generated through the responses.

The annual reporting process begins in the near future with online reporting as the only mechanism available to parish councils to provide responses. Although it is anticipated that some of you may be challenged for technological reasons, you may always reach out to members who do have the expertise to assist.

One common challenge presented in the 2016 annual reports for this standing committee was the inability of councils to recruit a member to take on a position due to fear and a lack of understanding resolutions. To combat this concern, lean on diocesan and provincial councils to assist with workshops and perhaps organize a resolutions dialogue at conventions or leadership development days throughout the year. Consider teaming up with neighbouring sisters in the League to organize a learning event. These are some avenues that help engage members to take up some work.

As a new year of meetings and planning emerges, I want to express appreciation to you for taking an interest in advocacy and social justice through resolutions. It was wonderful to witness members actively engaged and who took a valid interest in resolutions through concerns and proposed amendments at the annual national convention. Women of God, inspired by the Spirit and called to action through resolutions – let us continue “to take up some work “that affects the life of the entire country.

May the Spirit enfold your work with fervour and zeal.

Blessings.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joan Bona". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joan Bona  
National Chairperson of Resolutions

## Resolutions At-a-Glance Adopted at the 2017 National Convention

Resolution	Standing Committee	Title/ Resolved	Action Plans
2017.01	Community Life	<p><a href="#"><u>Resolution 2017.01: Full Implementation of the Supreme Court Decision in <i>R. v. Gladue</i> for Indigenous Offenders</u></a></p> <p>urges the federal government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ To fully implement the <i>R. v. Gladue</i> decision by directing the courts of Canada to ensure that Gladue reports are provided to all judges before sentencing Indigenous offenders.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Write letters to the prime minister, the minister of justice and your member of parliament urging them: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To become aware of the need to fully implement the Gladue decision so that comprehensive, individualized reports are made and used in correctional decision-making for each Indigenous offender when they enter the correctional system, and for those already in the system for whom this overarching document has not been completed.</li> <li>• To ensure that judges, lawyers and legal personnel ask for and use comprehensive, individualized Gladue reports in correctional decision making for Indigenous people.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Councils invite an Indigenous person who has come into contact with the correctional system to share his/her story.</li> <li>3. Monitor the federal government's response to the request of this resolution.</li> </ol>
2017.02	Communications	<p><a href="#"><u>Resolution 2017.02 Mandatory Age Verification Mechanisms for Adult Pornographic Websites</u></a></p> <p>urges the federal government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ To enact laws requiring mandatory age verification mechanisms for adult pornographic websites.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contact members of parliament, the federal minister of justice and the prime minister, requesting that legislation be created to ensure that adult websites verify the age of their users.</li> <li>2. Encourage members to become educated on Internet safety and responsible and appropriate technology use.</li> <li>3. Make members aware of the lack of age verification controls on adult websites. Encourage them to speak to family members about the lack of age verification, and its possible effects on younger family members.</li> <li>4. Monitor the response of government officials to request for new legislation.</li> </ol>

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Resolution	Standing Committee	Title/ Resolved	Action Plans
2017.03	Legislation	<p><a href="#"><u>Resolution 2017.03: Zero-Rated Status Under the Goods and Services Tax Provisions of the Excise Tax Act for Child Safety Products</u></a></p> <p>urge the federal government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ To grant zero-rated status for regulated child safety products under the goods and services tax provisions of the <i>Excise Tax Act</i>.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Write letters to the federal government requesting the removal of the federal portion of tax from child safety products.</li> <li>2. Invite a guest speaker to educate members on the requirements for the child safety products.</li> <li>3. Hold a fundraiser for a local young mothers group to purchase safety products for those in need.</li> <li>4. Study the list of products in the <i>Canada Safety Act</i> and ascertain if any other products should be listed as well.</li> <li>5. Educate the public on the provincial rebate for child safety products.</li> <li>6. Continue to monitor this issue.</li> </ol>
2017.04	Legislation	<p><a href="#"><u>Resolution 2017.04: Protection from Coercion of Conscience for Healthcare Professionals</u></a></p> <p>urge the federal government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ To amend the <i>Criminal Code</i> of Canada to be consistent with the <i>Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms</i> by making it an offence to coerce healthcare professionals into referring for, or performing procedures that are in opposition to their charter rights of freedom of conscience and religion.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Write to the prime minister and attorney general with copies to your local member of parliament urging them to make it an offence under the <i>Criminal Code</i> for healthcare professionals to be coerced into performing or referring patients for procedures that are in opposition to their conscience.</li> <li>2. Educate members and the community on the importance of healthcare professionals' right of conscience.</li> <li>3. Find ways to support healthcare workers who will not perform procedures that are in opposition to their conscience.</li> </ol>