



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

MEMO

DATE: April 11, 2023
FROM: Margaret Schwab, national chairperson of education and health
TO: Parish chairpersons of education and health
THROUGH: Parish presidents and secretaries
CC: Diocesan and provincial presidents and secretaries and life members
(on request)

Happy Easter season! We have come through the dark of the winter and are enjoying the signs of new life.

National Hospice Palliative Care Week is from May 7th to 13th. At this time, many parish councils will use the 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care Kit to plan their celebrations. The kit is available on the national website (cwl.ca). In addition, please use the Palliative Care postcards available to download and print from the website. As the League has taken a position that urges the federal government to identify palliative care as an insured health service covered under the *Canada Health Act* and to develop a national strategy for uniform standards and delivery of palliative care as defined by the World Health Organization, it is essential to remind government officials that this has not been accomplished—mail postcards to the prime minister, federal health minister and your local member of parliament. The postcards may also be used as a parish campaign, so consider inviting parishioners to join you. As the government ponders changes to include more options for medical assistance in dying, members must continue to put forth the need for good palliative care.

The Catholic Health Alliance of Canada's national conference is on May 11th and 12th. The conference will be in-person in Montreal; however, an online forum will also be available. This year's theme is *Get to the Heart of It: Being, Caring, Doing—Awakening our capacity to be present in a broken world*. The conference goes from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (EST). For more information, visit chac.ca/.

Applications to the National Bursary Fund must be postmarked by May 15th. Please encourage members to look at the criteria and the types of educational opportunities available and to consider applying for these funds to enhance their Catholic education. Many avenues of education enhance the ministries members are already doing. Find the application form and criteria (#552) on the national website's To Organize page under 500 Series: Forms.

World Catholic Education Day is May 18th. It is a time to reflect on, recognize and celebrate Catholic education. Catholic Education Week celebrations vary from province to province. While

not all provinces have a Catholic school system, members can be involved in celebrating Catholic education within their parishes through ministries to children's liturgy and youth.

Canadian Mental Health Week is from May 1st to 7th. How can members help? Encourage members to remember that when someone is struggling, they don't need us to fix it—they need someone to *listen* to what they are saying and to understand. Please note there is a mental health postcard on the national website that can be downloaded and sent to the prime minister, federal minister of health and your local member of parliament. The postcard states the need for early intervention and access to children and youth mental health programs. Find more information and working kits at mentalhealthweek.ca.

As the League moves forward with the strategic planning initiatives, councils are in a state of renewal. Some may be working with chairpersons of faith, service and social justice, while others are still in the former configuration and have chairpersons of education and health. However you are functioning as a council, remember that with change comes some growing pains. Councils are encouraged to keep in mind that they continue to do great works for God by being *Catholic and Living It!*

May God bless you in your work, and Our Lady of Good Counsel walk by your side.