



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

MEMO

DATE: April 11, 2022
FROM: Margaret Schwab, national chairperson of education and health
TO: Parish chairpersons of education and health
CC: Parish presidents, diocesan presidents, diocesan presidents and life members (on request)

As you receive this message, I hope you are enjoying the early days of spring with thoughts of pandemics and restrictions in the past. At least you will soon be able to enjoy being in the outdoors again without layers and layers of clothing.

National Hospice and Palliative Care Week (May 1-7): At this time, parish councils will be using the 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care Kit to plan their celebrations. The kit is available on the League website (cwl.ca). Please make use of the palliative care postcards on the website, available to download and print.

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 develop a national strategy for uniform standards and delivery of palliative care as defined by the World Health Organization. It is crucial 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 by inviting parishioners to join you.

The Catholic Health Alliance of Canada will hold its national conference (May 12-13) in an online forum. This year's theme is *Looking Within: Creating Culturally Safe Environments of Care for Indigenous Peoples*. The conference goes from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST. Please see more information at dropbox.com/sh/ufw7efnq1ckcmvf/AACKUrXSamYxvb7etl5OGXz2a?dl=0 and chac.ca/.

Applications to the National Bursary Fund must be postmarked by May 15th. Encourage members to look at the criteria and types of educational opportunities available and consider applying for these funds to enhance their Catholic education. There are many avenues of education that enhance the volunteer work members are already doing—what a great way to have all or some of the costs of those courses covered.

World Catholic Education Day (May 26th) is a time to reflect on, recognize and celebrate Catholic education. Catholic Education Week celebrations vary from province to province.

As summer approaches, Canadian Blood Services (CBS) sees an increase in blood donations. The League is a partner with CBS and has a commitment to supply 200 units of blood. Last year, members were unable to meet this commitment, but with the help of family and friends, the League should be able to accomplish this goal. All are welcome to register under team CATH011269.

This year, Mental Health Week (sponsored by the Canadian Mental Health Association) is May 2–8 and focuses on the importance of empathy. Due to the pandemic, the number of people with mental illness has risen. More information and working kits can be found at mentalhealthweek.ca. Please note there is a postcard (#177) on cwl.ca, which can be downloaded and sent to the prime minister, federal minister of health and your local member of parliament. The postcards address early intervention and access to children and youth mental health.

Please mark your calendars for some of the events that will happen this fall:

World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations requests members choose one day in September for an earth action initiative. It could include a clean-up event in a park, riverbank or other appropriate sites, an educational event about plastic waste or water pollution, or a time to reflect on and change their usage of plastic disposables while recycling and composting more.

CIBC Run for the Cure: October 2nd in support of cancer research.

This October is **World Mental Health Month** (sponsored by the United Nations), with **Mental Illness Awareness Week** (coordinated by the Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health) from October 2-8. It is another good time to make use of the mental illness postcards.

National Catholic Health Care Week is also in October, with the specific dates yet to be announced.

Waste Reduction Week in Canada (October 17-23): Mark your calendar as it always starts on the third Monday of October. Check out wrwcanada.com for daily themes throughout the week.

Members are stewards of the beautiful earth and must continue to find ways to protect it.

As summer approaches, I wish you restful days, treasured times with loved ones and peaceful hours of prayer.

May God continue to bless your work in the League.