



**Hamilton Diocesan Council**  
of  
**The Catholic Women's League of Canada**  
*Inspired by the Spirit — Women Respond to God's Call*



Directive #1

Pages: 2

October 2017

**To:** Council Presidents, Council Legislative Standing Committee  
Chairpersons

**From:** Teresa DiFalco, Hamilton Diocese Legislation Standing Committee  
Chairperson

**cc:** Diocesan Officers, Committee Members

Dear CWL Sisters,

With warm greetings and blessings I welcome you to our journey together in our roles as Legislation Standing Committee Chairpersons. Inspired by the Spirit, and responding to God's call, may we faithfully serve Him and each other.

In this 1st Directive, I would like to highlight the important role the Legislation Standing Committee Chairperson plays, both within her Council and the Catholic Women's League of Canada.

The League's Constitution and Bylaws, Part XIII Section 8 (8), directs the role of Legislation Chairperson to:

- monitor and study legislation at all levels of government (municipal, provincial and federal).
- review ongoing and proposed legislation that pertains to League resolutions.

The CWL Executive Handbook (May 2014) states that Legislation is social justice in action, and is the carrying out of League resolutions to influence government policy.

Our work begins once a resolution(s) is adopted. Our first steps are to review the Action Plans that are found at the bottom of each resolution posted on the provincial and national websites. It is important that we review action plans and follow up on them, so to ensure that government enacts laws or makes affective changes.

Did you know that the Catholic Women's League is the only volunteer organization allowed to lobby Parliament, and with over 80,000 members Canada wide, our united voice can and does influence change for the betterment of humankind?

Our National Legislation Standing Committee Chairperson, Nancy Simms shared a recent example in her Directive, of how a 2017 League petition, requesting the federal government to specifically identify hospice palliative care as a defined

medical service covered under the *Canada Health Act*. The League gathered 32,741 signatures, and delivered the Petition to Member of Parliament - Cathy McLeod, to present in the House of Commons. Cathy McLeod is looking into the viability of developing a private Members Bill, as a result of the impressive number of signatures our League members gathered. In her Legislation Communique #5, Nancy Simms states *"This one gesture in legislation demonstrates how we should never be afraid to raise our voices for all that is good."*

The gospels tell us of a myriad of occasions when Jesus stood up to injustices and laboured for the betterment of the society of His day. Like the example of our Lord, we are also called to stand up to injustices and to improve and enhance the lives of all. I see serving as a Legislative Standing Committee Chairperson as an opportunity to work with others to model the example set by our Lord in the pursuit of human dignity and justice.

Working together through prayer and patience, and standing together united as sisters in faith, may the Holy Spirit and our Christian values guide and help us fulfill our work as Legislation Standing Committee Chairpersons.

I encourage each of you to build a relationship with other Legislation Standing Committee Chairpersons within our Diocesan. One way of doing this is to join the Diocesan Legislative Standing Committee. I am looking for representatives from each of our regions. No experience is necessary. Let us learn and grow together. I also encourage you to develop relationships with all levels of government, by introducing yourself to your Councillor, Mayor, MPP, and MP. You can do this by phone, email or a by a letter in the mail.

As you may be aware, Provincial President Anne Madden has asked that we focus on Homelessness during our two-year term. More information will be forthcoming regarding this initiative. And I will update you in the process as it relates to our portfolio.

I look forward to serving with you, and assisting you in any way I can. I invite you to contact me at any time. My phone number is 905-643-6819, and my email is [cta-associates@cogeco.ca](mailto:cta-associates@cogeco.ca)

I would like to end by sharing an excerpt from Directive #1 of our Provincial Legislation Standing Committee Chairperson, Karen McDonald - *"You have answered the call to serve on a committee that many shy away from. Through prayer and teamwork, using the gifts and talents that God gave us, we will learn from one another over the next two years and continue to be women of **action.**"*

May God bless you abundantly,

Teresa DiFalco, Diocesan Legislation Standing Committee Chairperson

