

Notice of Motion to Amend the *Constitution & Bylaws (2013)*

In accordance with Article XX (c) of the *Constitution & Bylaws (2013)*, notice is hereby given that the following motions proposing amendments to the *Constitution & Bylaws (2013)* will be presented at the 101st annual general meeting of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in 2021.

Amendment I: Annual Meetings of Members

A. Annual Meetings of Members - Replacements

That "**convention(s)**" be replaced with "**meeting(s) of members**" in the following references:

Page 30: Part XIV: Meetings, Conventions and Quorums

Section 3 a, b, c	Section 7
Section 4 a, b, c	Section 8 (thrice)
Section 5 title	Section 10 (twice)
Section 6 b, c, d(i), d(ii)	

Page 34: Part XV: Representation at Annual Conventions

Title	Section 2b
Section 1a, b(i), b(ii), b(iii)	Section 3b

Page 41: Part XVI: Eligibility, Nominations and Elections Section 4 f, g

Page 43: Part XVII: Finance

Section 4(c)	Section 5 (twice)
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Page 46: Part XX: Amendment of Constitution & Bylaws Section a, c, d

Page 47: Part XXI: Parliamentary Procedure

B. Annual Meetings of Members - Deletions

That "**convention**" be deleted in the following references:

Page 29: Part XIV: Meetings, Conventions and Quorums Title

Page 25 Part XIII: Standing Committees

C. Insertion of "Annual"

That "**annual**" be inserted before "**pre-convention**" on Page 41: Part XVI, Section 4 f & g

D. Insertion of "Annual"

That "**annual**" be inserted before "**convention**" on Page 47: Part XXI (b)

Rationale:

Under the legislative authority of the *Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act*, The Catholic Women's League of Canada is required to hold an meeting of members no later than 15 months following the last meeting of members. Traditionally, the League has held its annual meeting of members in conjunction

with an annual convention which promotes the Objects of the League, plans future programs, receives annual reports and the holds an election if applicable.

The *Constitution & Bylaws* governs the operation of the organization. The League is required by law to hold an annual meeting of members but not necessarily a convention. This does not restrict hosting a convention but ensures the legal business of the organization can be conducted.

Parish President: Call for a second, open for discussion and debate. Close debate and take the vote.

Amendment II: Patroness

A. Part II: Patroness

That Page 1: Part II: Patroness be amended by replacing “**Our Lady of Good Counsel**” with “**Our Lady of Guadalupe**” to read:

The patroness of the League shall be the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title of “Our Lady of Guadalupe”.

B. Part VI: Spiritual Program

That Page 4: Part VI: Spiritual Program be amended by replacing “**Our Lady of Good Counsel**” with “**Our Lady of Guadalupe**” to read:

Councils shall honour, in a special way, “Our Lady of Guadalupe”, patroness of the League.

Rationale:

Mary, under the title of Our Lady of Good Counsel (OLGC), was chosen as the patroness of the World Union of Catholic Woman’s Organizations (WUCWO) when it was organized in Belgium in 1910. The Catholic Women’s League of Canada affiliated with this worldwide federation in 1920.

Resolution 1923.01.b adopted OLGC as “The Heavenly Protectress of the CWL”. WUCWO has since changed its patroness to Mary, Queen of Peace.

Our Blessed Mother appeared as Our Lady of Guadalupe (OLG) to Juan Diego near Mexico City in December 1531. Past and present popes have honoured OLG. Pope Pius XII, Pope John XXIII, Pope John Paul II visited the site twice. Juan Diego was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2002.

In May 1990 Pope John Paul II again visited the shrine and called for Mary to be the “guiding star of the new evangelization” and referred to OLG as the “Mother and Evangelizer of the Americas”. Resolution 2000.01 encouraged members to respond to the call by Pope John Paul II for a new evangelization and to honour OLG and learn about her apparitions.

OLG is proposed as the new patroness for the League, for the following reasons:

1. Members can assist in the evangelization called for by present and past popes by promoting a lively devotion to OLG.
2. OLG is recognized as the “Mother and Evangelizer of the Americas.”

3. The League is attempting to attract a new and younger membership. Parishes and Catholic schools display the image of OLG. She is recognized by young women who can relate to her message.
4. The League adopted Resolution 2013.01 Building Relationships and Partnerships with Canada's Indigenous Peoples. By reaching out to indigenous peoples in conversation about OLG as patroness, new partnerships could be formed.

Parish President: Call for a second, open for discussion and debate. Close debate and take the vote.

Amendment III: Officers

A. Part XI, Section 1: Parish Officers

That Page 17: Part XI, Section 1 be amended as follows:

1. Remove **"president-elect"**
2. Remove **"first"** from **"first vice-president"**
3. Remove **"second vice-president (optional)"**
4. Replace **"secretaries (one or two)"** with **"secretary"**
5. Replace **"chairpersons as required for the standing committees"** with **"chairpersons of standing committees (three)"**

to read:

Section 1: Parish Officers

Officers at parish level shall be:

- **president**
- **vice-president**
- **secretary**
- **treasurer**
- **past president**
- **chairpersons of standing committees (three)**

B. Part XI, Section 2: Diocesan and Provincial Officers

That Page 17: Part XI, Section 2 be amended as follows:

1. Remove “**president-elect**”
2. Remove “**first**” from “**first vice-president**”
3. Remove “**second vice-president (optional)**”
4. Replace “**secretaries (one or two)**” with “**secretary**”
5. Replace “**chairpersons as required for the standing committees**” with “**chairpersons of standing committees (three)**”

to read:

Section 2: Diocesan and Provincial Officers

Officers at diocesan and provincial levels shall be:

- **president**
- **vice-president**
- **secretary**
- **treasurer**
- **past president**
- **chairpersons of standing committees (three)**

C. Part XI, Section 3: National Officers

That Page 18: Part XI, Section 3 be amended as follows:

1. Remove “**president-elect**”
2. Remove “**first**” from “**first vice-president**”
3. Remove “**second vice-president**”
4. Replace “**(five)**” with “**(three)**”

to read:

Section 3: National Officers

Officers at national level shall be:

- **president**
- **vice-president**
- **secretary-treasurer**
- **past president**
- **chairpersons of standing committees (three)**

D. Part XI, Section 4: Vacancies at Any Level

That Page 18: Part XI, Section 4 be amended by replacing “**president-elect**” with “**vice-president**” in (b), replacing three instances of “**president-elect**” with “**vice-president**” in (c), and replacing “**a vice-president**” with “**the secretary**” in (c) to read:

(b) In the event of a vacancy in the office of president, the vice-president shall complete the unexpired term of the president.

(c) In the event of a vacancy in the office of vice-president, the secretary shall perform the duties of the vice-president until the next election. She shall not be appointed to the office of vice-president nor assume the office of president.

E. Part VIII, Section 4: National Administrative Committee

That Page 8: Part VIII, Section 4 be amended by removing “**president-elect, first**” and “**second vice-president,**” to read:

There shall be a national administrative committee composed of the president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer, past president, and the spiritual advisor in an advisory capacity. The president shall chair this committee.

F. Part X, Section 1: Number of Directors

That Page 12: Part X, Section 1 be amended by replacing “**22**” with “**eighteen (18)**” and “**eleven (11) national officers**” with “**seven (7) national officers**” to read:

The number of directors shall be no more than eighteen (18) and shall be comprised of no more than seven (7) national officers and no more than eleven (11) presidents of provincial councils.

Rationale:

In accordance with *The Catholic Women’s League Plans Strategically* and the mandate of the Reorganization Working Group tasked with implementing the strategy *G1.C3: Streamline executive offices at all levels and create distinctive roles for each level*, it is recommended that the executive offices be reduced as amended above. The working group found through extensive research, consultation with members, and organizational model comparisons that the current structure is redundant and challenging to fill all positions at each level.

Parish President: Call for a second, open for discussion and debate. Close debate and take the vote.

Amendment IV: Duties of Officers

A. Part XII, Section 2: President-Elect and Section 3: Vice-Presidents

That Page 21: Part XII, Section 2: President-Elect and Section 3: Vice-Presidents be amended by removing **Section 2: President-Elect** and **Section 3: Vice-Presidents** and inserting **Section 2: Vice-President** that reads:

Section 2: Vice-President

The Vice-President shall:

- (a) become president automatically after serving her elected term as vice-president**
- (b) perform the duties of the president in her absence or inability to serve**
- (c) recruit members and maintain membership**
- (d) develop League resource material**
- (e) ensure annual reports are completed**
- (f) oversee life membership**
- (g) be responsible for League development and leadership training**
- (h) perform such other duties as may be delegated to her by the president**

B. Part XII, Section 4: Secretary(s)

That Page 22: Part XII, Section 4: Secretary(s) be amended by replacing “**Section 4**” with “**Section 3**”, removing “**and conventions**” from (a), inserting “**(e) attend to correspondence as required**”, inserting “**(f) be responsible for communications to council members**”, and removing “**The corresponding secretary (may be appointed) shall attend to correspondence as required.**” to read

Section 3: Secretary

The secretary shall:

- (a) record the minutes of all meetings of the council concerned and retain them as a permanent record**
- (b) be a signing officer for all official documents**
- (c) have charge of all papers and records of the council concerned**
- (d) be responsible for reports as required**
- (e) attend to correspondence as required**
- (f) be responsible for communications to council members**

C. Part XI, Section 5: Treasurer

That Page 22: Part XII, Section 5: Treasurer be amended by replacing “**Section 5**” with “**Section 4**”

D. Part XI, Section 6: National Secretary-Treasurer

That Page 23: Part XII, Section 6: National Secretary-Treasurer be amended by replacing “**Section 6**” with “**Section 5**”

E. Part XI, Section 7: Past President

That Page 23: Part XII, Section 7: Past President be amended by replacing “**Section 7**” with “**Section 6**”

F. Part XI, Section 8: Chairpersons of Standing Committees

That Page 24: Part XII, Section 8: Chairpersons of Standing Committees be amended by replacing “**Section 8**” with “**Section 7**”

G. Part XII, Section 9: Signing Officers

That Page 24: Part XII, Section 9: Signing Officers be amended by replacing “**Section 9**” with “**Section 8**” and removing “**recording**” before “**secretary**” in (a) to read:

Section 8: Signing Officers

a) Signing officers shall be the president, the treasurer and the secretary.

H. Part XV, Section 1(a): Convention Delegates

That Page 34: Part XV, Section 1: Delegates be amended by removing “**president-elect, a**” in (a) to read:

Voting delegates are the presidents of each council comprising the council in session. If the president is unable to attend the annual meeting of members, the vice-president or an appointed executive member shall be the designate.

Rationale:

In accordance with *The Catholic Women’s League Plans Strategically* and the mandate of the Reorganization Working Group tasked with implementing the strategy *G1.C3: Streamline executive officers at all levels and create distinctive roles for each level*, it is recommended that the duties be updated to realign with the new proposed streamlining of executive offices. The amended duties as described above are as a result of extensive research and consultation with members.

Parish President: Call for a second, open for discussion and debate. Close debate and take the vote.

Proposed Amendment V: Part XIII Standing Committees

A. Part XIII: Standing Committees - Preamble

That Page 25: Part XIII: Standing Committees be amended by inserting **“and spiritual advisor”** after **“executive”** and by removing **“In order to allow councils maximum flexibility, each council shall determine the number of standing committees it requires, which shall include spiritual development and organization.”** to read:

Chairpersons shall be elected; if insufficient are elected, appointments may be made by the president in consultation with the executive and spiritual advisor. Immediately after the annual meeting of members, the elected officers shall meet for the assignment of standing committees from the following designated list.

B. Part XIII: Standing Committees – Composition and Duties

That Page 25: Standing Committees by removing **“The standing committees shall be:”** and replacing current sections (1) to (11) with new sections (1) to (3) that read:

- (1) Faith: Chairpersons of faith shall evangelize, promote spiritual growth, and encourage all levels to**
 - (a) pray, individually and communally**
 - (b) uphold the sanctity of life**
 - (c) study Catholic teachings**
 - (d) stress the importance of the role of women in the church**
 - (e) foster vocations**
 - (f) advance ecumenical and interfaith endeavours**

- (2) Service: Chairpersons of service shall encourage all levels to**
 - (a) promote activities in service to members, the parish and the community**
 - (b) advocate for and support services that include but are not limited to homelessness, human trafficking, poverty, bullying and racism**
 - (c) educate members about charitable needs, especially mission assistance at home and abroad**

- (3) Social Justice: Chairpersons of social justice, guided by Catholic social teaching, shall encourage all levels to**
 - (a) uphold the life and dignity of the human person**
 - (b) advocate for the poor and the vulnerable and their inclusion in society**
 - (c) advocate for the dignity of work and the equal rights of workers**
 - (d) care for God’s creation**
 - (e) educate members and keep them informed of relevant social justice issues**
 - (f) initiate resolutions on relevant issues**

Rationale:

In accordance with *The Catholic Women's League Plans Strategically* and the mandate of the Reorganization Working Group tasked with implementing the strategy *G1.C1: Reduce the number of standing committees to three to align with the core values of faith, service and social justice*, it is recommended that the standing committees be reduced as amended above. The working group found through extensive research, consultation with members, and organizational model comparisons that the current structure and duties are redundant and challenging to fill all positions at each level.

Parish President: Call for a second, open for discussion and debate. Close debate and take the vote.

Amendment VI: Part XIV Meetings and Quorums

A. Part XIV, Section 2: Parish Council

That Page 29: Part XIV, Section 2 be amended by inserting “**(f) In the case of government declared emergencies, parish council regular and annual meetings of members may be held electronically for the purpose of making decisions to keep the League operational in unprecedented circumstances.**” to read:

Section 2: Parish Council

- (a) Normally the executive of the parish council shall meet prior to each regular meeting. A majority of the executive shall constitute a quorum for executive meetings.
- (b) Normally the parish council regular meeting shall be held monthly.
- (c) The parish council annual meeting of members shall be held in January or February for the purpose of receiving reports and for the election of officers when applicable.
- (d) The elected officers shall meet for the assignment of standing committees immediately after the annual meeting of members.
- (e) Due notice having been given of regular and annual meetings of members, ten percent of the voting members of the council shall constitute a quorum.
- (f) In the case of government declared emergencies, parish council regular and annual meetings of members may be held electronically for the purpose of making decisions to keep the League operational in unprecedented circumstances.

B. Part XIV, Section 3: Diocesan and Provincial Councils

That Page 30: Part XIV, Section 3 be amended by inserting “**(d) Notwithstanding (b), an annual diocesan / provincial annual meeting of members may be delayed and held on such date as determined by the diocesan /provincial executive in the event there is an order from an appropriate governmental authority which restricts social gathering. (e) In the case of government declared emergencies, diocesan and provincial council executive and annual**

meetings of members may be held electronically for the purpose of making decisions to keep the League operational in unprecedented circumstances.” to read:

Section 3: Diocesan and Provincial Councils

- (a) The executive of diocesan and provincial councils shall meet at least twice a year, before and after their annual meeting of members. Due notice having been given, a majority of the members of the executive shall constitute a quorum.
- (b) The diocesan and provincial councils shall meet in annual meeting of members, diocesan in April or May, provincial in June or July, for the purpose of promoting the Objects and Policy of the League, planning future programs, receiving annual reports, and the election of officers if applicable. Due notice having been given, ten percent of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.
- (c) The elected officers shall meet for the assignment of standing committees immediately after the annual meeting of members.
- (d) Notwithstanding (b), an annual diocesan / provincial meeting of members may be delayed and held on such date as determined by the diocesan /provincial executive in the event there is an order from an appropriate governmental authority which restricts social gathering.
- (e) In the case of government declared emergencies, diocesan and provincial council executive and annual meetings of members may be held electronically for the purpose of making decisions to keep the League operational in unprecedented circumstances.

C. Part XIV, Section 4: National Council

That Page 31: Part XIV, Section 4 be amended by inserting “(d) Notwithstanding (b), an annual meeting of members may be delayed and held on such date as determined by the national executive in the event there is an order from an appropriate governmental authority which restricts social gathering. (e) In the case of government declared emergencies, national council executive and annual meetings of members may be held electronically for the purpose of making decisions to keep the League operational in unprecedented circumstances.” to read:

Section 4: National Council

- (a) The executive of the national council shall meet at least twice a year, immediately before and after its annual meeting of members. Additional meetings may be called at the discretion of the president. Due notice having been given, a majority of the members of the executive shall constitute a quorum.
- (b) The national council shall hold an annual meeting of members in August, for the purpose of promoting the Objects and Policy, planning future programs, receiving annual reports and the election of officers if applicable. Due notice having been given, 25 members of the council shall constitute a quorum.

- (c) The elected officers shall meet for the assignment of standing committees immediately after the annual meeting of members.
- (d) Notwithstanding (b), an annual meeting of members may be delayed and held on such date as determined by the national executive in the event there is an order from an appropriate governmental authority which restricts social gathering.
- (e) In the case of government declared emergencies, national council executive and annual meetings of members may be held electronically for the purpose of making decisions to keep the League operational in unprecedented circumstances.

Rationale:

The Catholic Women's League of Canada is structured under the legislative authority of the *Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act*, which requires an annual meeting of members no later than 15 months following the last meeting of members. Notwithstanding the right of the members to attend meetings, care and concern for their protection is of utmost importance when restrictions are imposed by government officials.

The League has always been in the forefront of new ideas, innovative problem-solving and use of available technology as exemplified by the radio broadcast of the president's message in 1942 during World War II, live streaming of national convention speakers, live streaming of town hall session with virtual contributions from members not present, and live streaming of celebrations of the Eucharist and other events across the country.

Not-for-profit legislation does make provisions for voting electronically providing certain guidelines are followed.

Holding virtual annual meetings of members is not permissible under the League's current *Constitution & Bylaws*. Unprecedented circumstances have prevented the League from making decisions to keep it operational. It is necessary to revise the C&B to delay annual meetings of members and to add provisions to hold electronic meetings.

The details for holding electronic meetings will be outlined in the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*.

Parish President: Call for a second, open for discussion and debate. Close debate and take the vote.

Amendment VII: Part XVI Eligibility, Nominations and Elections

A. Part XVI, Section 2 Term of Office

That Page 39: Part XVI, Section 2 (b) be amended by replacing “**only**” with “**but not exceed**” and removing the word “**consecutive**” in both instances to read:

(b) An elected or appointed officer shall serve but not exceed one full term in the same office except the chairpersons and treasurers (secretary-treasurer at national level) who may be elected to a second term. A chairperson shall be given a different standing committee in her second term.

Rationale:

Confusion arises when a member who has served a term either takes a leave or is elected to a higher-ranking position and then chooses to let her name stand for election either as a treasurer or standing committee chairperson once again and considers herself eligible to re-serve because the terms were not consecutive. The word consecutive has been removed so that members realize that a position can only be held once.

Parish President: Call for a second, open for discussion and debate. Close debate and take the vote.

Amendment VIII: Part XVI Eligibility, Nominations and Elections

A. Part XVI, Section 5: Election of Officers

That Page 41: Part XVI: Section 5(a) be amended by replacing “**the instructed vote applies on the first ballot only**” with “**the instructed vote is deemed the first ballot. Should a candidate not be declared elected in the instructed vote, a second vote shall be taken. If a third vote is required, the same manner will be used.**” to read:

(a) For the election of officers, the instructed vote is deemed the first ballot. Should a candidate not be declared elected in the instructed vote, a second vote shall be taken. If a third vote is required, the same manner will be used.

Rationale:

The first ballot is an instructed vote of the members and has been duly registered with the nominations and election committee. Therefore, it is redundant to conduct this vote again in annual meetings of members. The president shall announce the name of the candidate with the majority votes (candidates in the case of a plurality vote) as declared elected.

Parish President: Call for a second, open for discussion and debate. Close debate and take the vote.