



London Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



To: All Parish Presidents, Education and Health Chairpersons

CC: London Diocesan Council

From: Denise Lalonde Morris, Education and Health Chairperson

Date: January, 2017

Directive # 4

What better way to promote our new theme than to promote a Healthy Body and Mind which will allow our spirit to respond to God's call. My spirit has responded by adopting inspiring woman in the Bible. I chose Naomi, the wife of Elimelech and mother-in-law of Ruth.

You may wonder how this has anything to do with Health and Education. After I started my research on Naomi I learned how her determination allowed Naomi to survive (i.e. finding shelter and food) the worst circumstances life could deal one person. I realized that her belief in God was never shaken and once she embraced his wishes, life became so much better. From this research on one elderly lady's survival I began to study how we can survive when decisions about how we spend our last days need to be made.

In previous directives, we have asked our members to make your wishes known on how you would like to be laid to rest. Many of your members may not have considered Advanced Care Planning. When planning future meeting, you can ask if the membership if they have had a discussion with family members or friends on what they would like. Ask them if they had ever spoken to a healthcare provider about their wishes for care The Canadian Hospice Care Palliative Care Association (CHPCA) developed the Speak Up: Start the Conversation about End-of-Life to raise awareness and to educate Canadians on Advance Care Planning. More information can be found out at www.advancereplanning.ca

To find out more information is to check out the FAQs or the fact sheet on Hospice Palliative Care that the CHPCA has produced. Some of the questions you may need to find answers for are as simple as –What is Palliative care? What is Hospice Care? Are they the same? Who pays for the services needed? How can I find out about palliative care services available in my area? Who benefits from palliative care? What is bereavement support? Where do you receive palliative care? How can I make my wishes known about the care I would like to receive when I am facing life-limiting illness? You just need to put Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association's name on the question line and you will find a great deal of information. They also have an information line you can reach at 1 800-668-2785. The Ontario Hospice Palliative Care information line is 1 800-349-3111.

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For those of you who want to find out what the provincial government is doing to help with our concerns you can contact Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Hon. Eric Hoskins, ehoskinsmpp@liberalola.org Tel 416 656-0943. When viewing the web site for the Ontario Government I viewed the Private Members Bills that are currently being worked on and found no one Bill that directly dealt with Hospice Palliative Care but I found some that dealt with parts of the issue in 2016 such as Bill 33: Time to Care (Long Term Care Homes Amendment), Bill 35: Empowering Home Care Patients Act, Bill 54 Homecare and Community /services Act Amendment Act, Bill 84 Medical Assistance in Dying Statute Law Amendment Act, and Bill 87 Protecting Patients Act.

There is also a documentary that was produced by CTV on Dr. Larry Librack who was a leader in bringing out the issue of Palliative care to the Public.

All of us should always keep our local political representatives both Federally and provincially abreast of our concerns. To access any of the representatives addresses just get on their individual sites and everything is listed. Don't forget the ongoing effects of Bill C-14!!

I hope your councils will embrace some of these ideas and find some new goals for the upcoming year.

As one of many women responding to God's Call,

God Bless and Happy New Year.

Denise Lalonde Morris