



**Ontario Provincial Council  
The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Education and Health Standing Committee**



***Care for our Common Home***

Directive #14

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February 5, 2019

To: Diocesan Education and Health Committee Chairpersons  
From: Wilma Vanderzwaag, Ontario Provincial Council, Sub Committee Chairs: Mary Lou Watson and Heather Sisk  
cc: Diocesan Presidents, Archbishop O'Brien, Ontario Provincial Council Executive, National Health and Education Standing Committee Chairperson

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*"The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace."  
Psalm 29:11*

I am starting this directive with a good news story that helps care for our common home and persons without a home. On February 4, 2019 Starbucks announced that it will donate all of its unsold food. Starbucks Canada has announced the launch of Starbucks FoodShare, a national effort to provide nourishing, ready-to-eat meals to people in need. The company is making a commitment to rescue 100 per cent of food available for donation from its more than 1,100 company-owned stores. They have found a way to safely donate chilled, perishable food, while preserving its quality. Building on a successful pilot with Second Harvest, the largest food rescue organization in Canada, the program will launch in Ontario starting with more than 250 stores in the GTA by February 22. Starbucks is actively working to expand the program to even more cities and provinces, with a goal to have a national solution in place by 2021. 58% of food produced in Canada is wasted which equals 35.5 million metric tonnes of food. Imagine if other fresh food providers were able to donate 100% of their food to local food banks and shelters. This would reduce the amount of food being dumped that could be helping others have nutritious quality foods that would improve their overall health.

Please pray for the upcoming meeting on the protection of minors being held on February 21-24, 2019 in the Vatican. Archbishop Scicluna, Adjunct Secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith stated, "a synodal meeting, the first ever of its kind to address the issue of sexual abuse of minors in the Church" and that it is "quite significant because it brings together the presidents of over 100 bishops conferences from around the world, and the heads of all the Eastern-rite Catholic churches".

Keep a sharp eye on our Provincial Government as there has been consultation documents that pose the question as to whether hard caps on class sizes should continue, and if they were removed, what would be an appropriate size. This is regarding the caps on class sizes in kindergarten and in Grades 1-3. Currently kindergarten class-size cap is 29 students and for primary grades it is 23. Those early years are crucial years for our children.

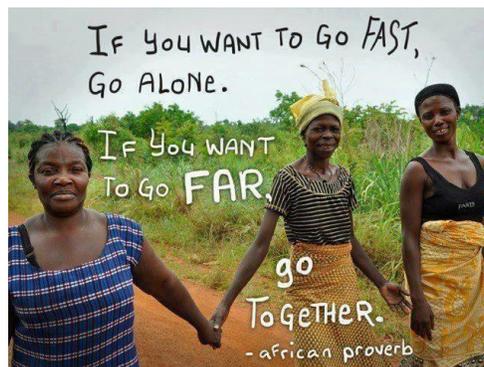
The Ontario government is backing off from key provisions in a bill introduced late last year that would have allowed local municipalities to open up the province's protected Greenbelt for development. This came about due to public pressure! Our voices matter.

I have attached the new Canada Food Guide and the healthy eating recommendations. It encourages eating meals with others and limit food high in sodium, sugars or saturated fats. Read your food labels and be mindful of what you are eating. It also encourages us to replace sugary drinks with water. Share this guide with members and your family.

Can you get yourself up out of bed, go to the washroom, take your medication (if any), brush your teeth, comb your hair and get dressed in six minutes? Personal Support Workers are expected to on average get long term care residents up and ready in that time. A physically able person would be hard pressed to get it all done in that time and it doesn't even account for residents that have mobility issues, hearing aids, dentures and incontinence products. France Gelinis MPP for Nickel Belt has introduced Bill 33, the Time to Care Act, as an amendment to the province's current Long-Term Care Homes Act. The proposed legislation would mandate a minimum standard of daily care that would see each resident in a long-term care facility receive at least four hours of direct, hands-on care from a personal support worker. There is currently no mandated standard for daily care in the province for the 78,000 residents living in these homes. Bill 33 must pass a third reading before it can become law. Despite support for this bill, Ontario Long Term Care Association, which represents nearly 70% of the province's long-term care operators, expressed concern about the practical application of the minimum standard of daily care as there is no mention of funding to support such an effort. France Gelinis has a petition for this bill. For copies of the petition contact her office at 705-969-3621 or 1-877-280-9990. You can also google the 6-minute challenge to see more and even try it yourself. Let us support this initiative and get members to sign the petition.

Dr. Moira McQueen from the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute prepared an article for the World Day of the Sick on February 11, 2019. We are encouraged to be a gift to the sick and suffering, which means to be a presence not a present. The article is attached to this directive. Please take the time to read and reflect.

If any Diocesan Education and Health Chairs receive information regarding an issue that everyone in the province should know about, please forward it to me so that it is included in a directive. When we all work together, we can make change happen.



Blessings and hugs, *Wilma*