



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

*Care for our Common Home*

**Directive #2**

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**December 10, 2019**

To: Diocesan Education and Health Standing Committee Chairpersons  
 From: Karen McDonald, Provincial Education and Health Standing Committee Chairperson  
 cc: Provincial Executive, Diocesan Presidents, Provincial Education and Health Sub-Committee and National Education and Health Standing Committee Chairperson

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*"Let us always meet each other with a smile, for the smile is the beginning of love."  
 (Saint Mother Teresa)*

In Advent, we reflect upon the past year and how, as women of faith, we have made the world a better place. Perhaps we touched the lives of those who are lonely. This time of year can be a lonely time for many people. In this most blessed season, why not reach out to a family member or friend that you haven't seen in a while ... a telephone call or a hug during a visit ... might just make their Christmas complete!

**Canadian Blood Services**

National Chairperson Faith Anderson advises the League is a proud supporter of the **Canadian Blood Services - Partners for Life** program. Is your council registered? Has it designated a specific number of donations for the year? Are members aware they can allocate blood donations to more than one organization? Councils are encouraged to register for the program under the League's unique partner ID (CATH011269). For more details, use this link:

<https://blood.ca/en/ways-donate/donate-partner?CloseMenu=&OpenDocument=>

**Health Teams**

The provincial government is introducing Ontario Health Teams across the province, *"... to provide a new way of organizing and delivering care that is more connected to patients in their local communities. Under Ontario Health Teams, health care providers (including hospitals, doctors and home and community care providers) work as one coordinated team - no matter where they provide care."*

(Ontario government website – Ministry of Health, Ministry of Long-Term Care <http://health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/connectedcare/oht/#OHT>).

As members, let us pray (and remain hopeful) that this new model will help to improve health care across this great province!

## **Vaping and E-Cigarettes**

In 2014, the League passed *Resolution 2014.02 – Electronic Cigarettes* (for the full text ... go to <https://cwl.ca/resolution-2014-02-electronic-cigarettes/>).

Since then, laws have been passed; however, it is important to educate ourselves, particularly in light of the latest 'press' about the possible negative effects of vaping.

- Health Minister Christine Elliot announced the Ontario provincial government will ban the promotion of vaping products in convenience stores and gas stations effective January 1, 2020 (National Post – October 25, 2019)
- The Ontario government is considering a ban on flavoured vaping products (Toronto Sun – December 5, 2019)
- NDP MPP France Gélinas introduced *Bill 151, Smoke-Free Ontario Amendment Act (Vaping is not for Kids), 2019* to prohibit promotion of vapour products. Click this link to read Bill 151: [https://www.ola.org/sites/default/files/node-files/bill/document/pdf/2019-11/b151\\_e.pdf](https://www.ola.org/sites/default/files/node-files/bill/document/pdf/2019-11/b151_e.pdf)

## **Federal Cabinet Ministers (new) and Ontario Minister of Education**

Contact information for three Ministers whose work pertains to *education and health*: (Mailing Address: **House of Commons, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6** - \* free postage)

Minister of Health – The Honourable Patty Hajdu (email: [Patty.Hajdu@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Patty.Hajdu@parl.gc.ca))

Minister of Seniors – The Honourable Deb Schulte (email: [Deb.Schulte@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Deb.Schulte@parl.gc.ca))

Ontario Minister of Education – The Honourable Stephen Lecce (email: [stephen.lecce@pc.ola.org](mailto:stephen.lecce@pc.ola.org)) or by mail: Ministry of Education, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, 438 University Avenue, Toronto, ON, M5G 2K8

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When I experience loneliness, I take comfort in these words from a favourite hymn:

*Because the Lord is my shepherd, I have everything I need. He lets me rest in the meadow and leads me to the quiet streams. He restores my soul and He leads me in the paths that are right:*

*Your goodness always is with me and your mercy I know. Your loving kindness strengthens me always as I go through life. I shall dwell in your presence forever, giving praise to your name:*

*Lord, you are my shepherd, you are my friend. I want to follow you always, just to follow my friend.*

*(Because the Lord Is My Shepherd by Christopher Walker)*

I wish all members and their families a most blessed and Holy Christmas!

Lots of love,

*Karen*