



ONE HEART VOICE MISSION

Alberta Mackenzie Catholic Women's League **Education and Health Communiqué** September 2015

Education and Health Resolutions:

2015.01 Increased Early Intervention and Access to Children and Youth Mental Health Services – requests letters be written to the prime minister, minister of health and local members of parliament urging the federal government to invest in pan-Canadian efforts to provide early intervention and access to youth suicide prevention initiatives and programs. Encourage members to also write letters to provincial and territorial governments urging them to increase access to appropriate supports, treatment and care for youth mental health services in our province. Councils are also asked to provide information and resources to members and the public regarding the need for youth mental health services, including early intervention and youth suicide prevention initiatives and programs. (from Nancy S's national communiqué #5)

2015.02 Ban Plastic Microbeads in Personal Care Products

California lawmakers ban use of plastic Microbeads, on Facebook:

<http://www.latimes.com/local/political/la-me-ln-california-lawmakers-approve-ban-on-plastic-microbeads-20150908-story.html>

More information on microbeads via Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/topic/Plastic-Microbeads/102285403166017?source=whrt&position=10&trqid=6191514177760077748>

Nancy S. says that this resolution asks that letters be written to federal/provincial/territorial ministers of health and environment urging protection of Canada's waterways through legislation banning plastic microbeads from personal care products Encourage members as well to write letters to the manufacturers of personal care products containing microbeads, urging them to switch to biodegradable alternatives. Become knowledgeable about the effects of plastic microbeads on the environment and avoid purchasing products containing microbeads by checking the list of polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP), polyethylene terephthalate (PET) or polymethacrylate (PMMA). Suggest councils invite a speaker dealing with health and/or environmental issues concerning plastic microbeads.

2015.03 Banning the Use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides – urges that letters be written to local members of parliament requesting a ban on the widespread use of neonicotinoid pesticides. Encourage members to avoid buying neonicotinoid treated seeds, seedlings, or products that contain neonicotinoids and purchase organic plant seedlings or grow plants from untreated seeds in organic potting soil for home gardens. Advise local nursery managers/greenhouses that only plants free of neonicotinoids will be purchased and ask managers to communicate this to their suppliers. Also avoid the use of systemic bee-toxic pesticides in gardens. These products may contain acetamiprid, clothianidin, imidacloprid, thiamethoxam, thiacloprid and dinotefuran as active ingredients and should be disposed of. Let's all work towards providing habitats for pollinators by planting untreated pollinator-friendly trees and flowers. (from Nancy's communiqué)



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Mental Health Review 2015

The Alberta Government is conducting a mental health review and is inviting all and any input from Albertans: clients, service providers, experts in the field, and other interested parties. Visit the following website for a downloadable copy of the questionnaire. Online and fax submissions will be accepted until midnight, October 23, 2015. Mailed submissions must be received by October 23, 2015. This is a golden opportunity for the Catholic Women's League to give their input. Our "comments will be used to help the Mental Health Review Committee develop recommendations that will assist the Alberta government in implementing an addiction and mental health strategy that aims to strengthen, and where needed, update the current system to provide more coordinated services and supports to Albertans." (taken from the front matter of the questionnaire)

<http://www.health.alberta.ca/initiatives/Mental-Health-Review.html>

Alex S. - Executive Director and Internal chair of Euthanasia Prevention Coalition states August 14, 2015 that the Ontario Government is spearheading its own expert panel on euthanasia and assisted suicide. Alex reports that this panel is pro-euthanasia; its members including Maureen Taylor (the widow of Dr. Donald Low who demanded the legalization of assisted dying in a video released after his death), who describes herself on Twitter as an advocate of assisted death; Jocelyn Downie, Canada's leading promoter of euthanasia and assisted suicide; and Arthur Schaefer, another long-time advocate of euthanasia and assisted suicide. Only one member of the committee opposed euthanasia and assisted suicide.

September 4 news:

The Quebec government is now preparing to institute its euthanasia law that will begin on December 10, 2015. See link:

<http://alexschadenberg.blogspot.it/2015/09/quebec-government-calls-for.html>

Media release: Quebec government calls for the falsification of death certificates in cases of euthanasia. See link:

<http://alexschadenberg.blogspot.it/2015/09/quebec-euthanasia-kit-offers-no.html>

More information can be found at <http://www.alexschadenberg.blogspot>

End of life ethics interview from CTV News, August 31, 2015, shows both sides:

[http://www.ctvnews.ca/video?](http://www.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=692686&playlistId=1.2540592&binId=1.810401&playlistPageNum=1&binPageNum=1)

[clipId=692686&playlistId=1.2540592&binId=1.810401&playlistPageNum=1&binPageNum=1](http://www.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=692686&playlistId=1.2540592&binId=1.810401&playlistPageNum=1&binPageNum=1)

Letters need to be written to Health Canada, members of parliament and the federal minister of health stressing the importance of all physicians' conscience rights and focusing more on and investing in more hospice and palliative care in Canada.

RU486

Health Canada has approved the use of the abortion pill RU486. This has numerous negative side effects for the mother and has caused the death of 15 women. Urge members to write to their member of parliament with copies to the federal minister of health and prime minister informing them that you disagree with the decision to approve RU486.



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National Bursary Fund

The deadline date for applications for a bursary is May 31 of each year. The maximum bursary award is \$1000. The criteria and guidelines are on the national website. Financial assistance will be considered for courses or workshops in spirituality growth, faith formation, youth ministry, ministry to patients in palliative care or shut-ins, parliamentary procedure or literacy tutoring.

Coady International Institute

Do you realize that donations to the Coady International Institute decreased by over \$2000 this past year? Coady creates positive change in the world and Nancy encourages us to go to its website at <http://www.coady.stfx.ca> . She also encourages us to learn about the wonderful work it does and share what we have learned with others. Then send in our donations through national office.

Professional Development/Education Fund

Primary candidates are Provincial and Diocesan Officers. Please review the criteria in the Provincial Council Policies. Applications must be received at least one week before a Provincial Executive Meeting (mailed or emailed). The next Provincial Executive meeting will be held in January 2016.

<http://www.Avaaz.org> is a global web movement to bring people-powered politics to decision-making everywhere.

- Online activist network
- Calls attention to new issues
- Targeted campaigns for social justice
- Sets priorities each year through member polls
- An ethic of servant leadership
- Works all over the world, using the Internet to get information to over 41 million members around the world.

Some examples of reports and calls for action:

August 20: reported that Mexican photo journalist Ruben Espinosa was found tortured and murdered, along with activist Nadia Vera and three other women. The issue is freedom of expression. You can add your voice by signing the petition at

https://secure.avaaz.org/en/ruben_global_1/?bjzfyeb&v=63617

September 2: Petition to support Tony Turner as he sings his political protest song about Stephen Harper – Harperman.

September 4: Lobbying Canadian government to do something about babies and families drowning as they seek refuge from war and hunger.

Please send questions and or issues for discussion to Education & Health Chair
Linda V at abmkprovedhealth@gmail.com .