



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL



RESOLUTIONS REPORT

Oral Report to Provincial Convention – June 6, 2015

Yellowknife, NWT

Once again the membership has been very busy since January with the work on the 2 resolutions presented and debated at the Convention today. It is through the dedication of ladies such as these, that the work of the CWL is accomplished.

These 2 resolutions will now be sent on to the National Resolutions Committee for review and possibly for presentation at the 95th Annual National Convention of The Catholic Women's League of Canada on Sunday, August 9, 2015.

A provincial resolutions committee was struck after the fall executive meeting to review Resolution 2014.03 Revoke Passports of Convicted Canadian Pedophiles which was rejected by the National Resolution Committee in 2014 based on the premise that the resolution might be an infringement on the rights of the individual. There was also concern that we could appear to be unfairly targeting a specific group.

The committee reviewed all information regarding the resolution and consulted with a lawyer who advised that proceeding against pedophiles could be considered discriminatory and that often innocent individual's names ended up on the Sex Offenders Registry and experienced a great deal of difficulty to get it off.

Taking this under consideration the committee then changed their focus to one of pedophilia as a disorder, recognizing no cure and suggesting that the passport could be revoked until such time as they were declared cured.

The committee's research found that pedophilia is indeed a disorder but many do not act on their urges and some are in treatment. Additionally, information from the RCMP report advised that most sex offenders are not pedophiles.

The committee then moved their focus to convicted sex offenders with the belief that pedophiles would be included in this group. A review of the Sex Offender Information Registration Act determined that travelling was not identified and consideration was given to asking the federal government to revoke the passports of Canadian convicted sex offenders until such time as their name was removed from the Sex Offenders Registry. However, given the comments received from the lawyer this still seemed to be unfair discrimination.

The committee then looked at the proposed amendment to Bill C-26 "*Tougher Penalties for Child Predators Act*" which includes an amendment to the *Sex Offenders Information Registration Act* to increase the reporting obligations of sex offenders to travel outside Canada and allows sharing of that information between police responsible for National Sex Offenders Registry and the Canada Border Services Agency.

The committee recommended that no further action be taken.

In her address in the spring issue of "*The Canadian League*", Jacqueline N., the National Chairperson of Resolutions, explains that writing the resolution and adopting it is only the first phase and that we should continue to speak with our federal, provincial and municipal representative to ensure that they know and understand what our position is on these issues, and asking them what their positions are on these topics.

I would like to add that, even if a resolution that is near and dear to your heart and doesn't get to the level you would like it to reach, the fact that the issue was brought up at your parish council or diocesan council and was discussed is a tremendous way to get issue out in the open and have a lively conversation about it.

Please continue to do the good works that were reported in the Convention booklet. Keep writing letters and taking action on those issues that are important to you and to the League. This concludes my report. Are there any questions?

Ruth B.
Resolutions Chairperson

--