



*"Inspired by the Spirit,
Women Respond to God's
Call" by striving to make a
difference in the world!*

Palliative Care • Home Care • Pharmacare
Coercion of Conscience Protection (Healthcare)
Child Safety Products (Zero-Rated GST Status)
Age Verification for Pornographic Websites
Age of Sexual Consent • Bullying • Sweatshops
National Organ Registry • Lyme Disease
Food Warning Labels • Health Care for Refugees
Temporary Foreign Workers • OAS Allowance
Microbeads • Asbestos • Pesticides
Seatbelts • Cell Phones • Bicycle Helmets, etc.

HELPFUL LINKS

- ▶ Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council
www.cwl.ab.ca/
- ▶ Calgary Diocesan Council
www.calgarycwl.ca/
- ▶ Edmonton Diocesan Council
www.edmontoncwl.org/
- ▶ The Catholic Women's League of Canada
www.cwl.ca/
- ▶ Resolutions Supplement & Checklist
www.cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Resolutions-Supplement-to-Executive-Handbook-2012.pdf
- ▶ MLA Format
Purdue Online Writing Lab
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/11/>
Citation Machine
www.citationmachine.net/mla8/cite-a-book
- ▶ Federal MP's & Cabinet Ministers
www.ourcommons.ca/en/
- ▶ Senators
www.sencanada.ca/en/
- ▶ Provincial MLA's & Cabinet Ministers
www.assembly.ab.ca/

SELF-TEST CHECKLIST

Ensure that your submission is approved by the Resolutions Committee at any level by following these key recommendations:

- ☑ **Resolution Checklist**
Used it before, during and after resolution development?
- ☑ **Research & Support Material**
Used recent and reliable sources (preferably Canadian) that firmly support the issue?
- ☑ **Works Cited**
Used MLA citation and format style? (Modern Language Association)



VALUABLE RESOURCES

Take advantage of the valuable communiques and newsletters on the diocesan, provincial and national websites. You'll also benefit from national's *Resolutions Supplement to the Executive Handbook, Personal Letter Writing Guide* – and access to countless resolutions dating back to 1954!

Questions?

This brochure provides a snapshot of the what, why and how of resolutions.

For more info, contact your Diocesan or Provincial Resolutions Chair

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

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Resolutions



Steps^{to} Success

*Individually and collectively,
we can all make a difference!*

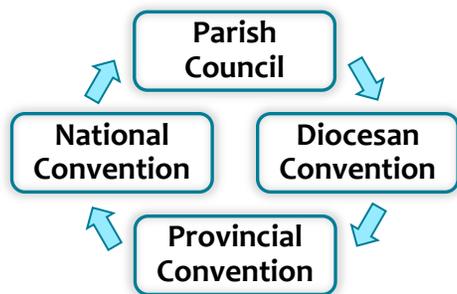
WHAT IS A RESOLUTION?

Typically, a resolution is a formal statement of opinion that identifies an issue of concern, provides background data and supporting arguments, and proposes solution-based actions by a specific group.

But resolutions are more than a piece of paper! The process is a cohesive strategy by members and councils to create awareness of disturbing social issues and advocate for positive change.

WHY DO WE DO IT?

Creating and supporting resolutions is an opportunity to unite with members from coast to coast in voicing our concerns to influence government policy and legislation. Buoyed by our Gospel values and concern for all of God's creation, resolutions are a means to channel our energies to enrich the wellbeing of society in Canada and beyond.



PROGRESSION CYCLE

Resolutions typically originate at the grassroots level – parish councils, although they may be submitted by standing committees at any level. All resolutions must be adopted by majority vote and progress in sequence to their intended level before any related actions may be taken.

THE POWER OF ONE

That's all it takes! One woman – one idea – and members' progressive support at parish, diocesan, provincial, and national levels. What often begins as the voice of one woman can amplify to the powerful voice of over 82,000 women across Canada!

GROUP BENEFITS

Researching and writing resolutions takes work. Consider teaming with another council to merge your talents and share the workload. Learn from each other and create new bonds of friendship. Everyone reaps the benefits of the group effort.

AAA FORMULA

Through collaborative awareness, advocacy and action, we can build healthier, more equitable and respectful communities.

- ▶ **Awareness** – What is the issue? Who is affected? What are practical solutions?
- ▶ **Advocacy** – How can you spread the message and engage others?
- ▶ **Action** – What is your strategy? What steps can members take to support the resolution and achieve positive results?

STRATEGIC STEPS

1. **Decide** on a topic; check that the issue isn't addressed in a previous resolution.
2. **Gather** support from your council and form a committee.
3. **Study** the Resolutions Supplement to the Executive Handbook.
4. **Research** and document all sources.
5. **Create** an outline; write and edit – using the same format as adopted resolutions.
6. **Test** your resolution on someone who is unaware of the issue!

ESSENTIAL CLAUSES

Write the resolution as one very long sentence using clear and concise text. Ensure that all clauses are based on accurate, documented facts.

Whereas,

- **Introduction** – State the key issue.

Whereas,

- **Rationale** – Use statistics, references and persuasive arguments to explain the facts and support the action requested in the "resolved" clause.
- State each argument in a separate clause, in priority order.

Resolved,

- **Conclusion** – State the issue, action requested and by which authority.
- Explain all issues in the "whereas" clauses.
- Must stand alone – be easily understood without the "whereas" clauses.

Resolved,

- **Bridging Clause** – State your council name and intent to move the resolution to the next League level (if applicable).

BUILDING BLOCKS

1. **Cover Letter** – Confirming that your council has adopted the resolution.
2. **Resolution**
3. **Brief** – Statement of fact; summarize the resolution and explain why it is needed.
4. **Works Cited** – List all researched and referenced sources (resolution and brief).
5. **Action Plan** – An essential component!
6. **Research Documents**
7. **Resolution Checklist** – Use it throughout!