

Resolutions Communiqué – #2 – November 2017

Hello...anyone out there? If you are reading this you may, or may not, be the Resolutions Chairperson of your council. I have sadly discovered that many councils do not have a chairperson for this committee. Perhaps you are the council president or a member of your council who is not even on the executive. That is okay! Read on... Even though many councils do not have a Resolutions Chair, it doesn't mean that your council can't do anything with Resolutions! So what can you do?

Work on already passed resolutions from 2017 or earlier!

As I stated in my first communiqué, the resolutions that have already been passed only come to life when we do something with them. If you try to work with all of them, it can simply be overwhelming. At a minimum, try to pick one from this year or earlier that you feel will speak to the majority of your council members. Copy and print the Resolution, Brief, Works Cited, and Action Plan and present this at one of your council meetings. Talk about what your council can do with this over the coming year.

Another idea – how about a letter writing campaign, perhaps for your council but maybe also for all church members? If you are doing it for your parish, pick a date ahead of time after speaking to your pastor, organize coffee and muffins (cheese and hard-boiled eggs are good for diabetics), and have a letter writing campaign after mass. When people gather, speak to them for a few minutes about the resolution and why it is important. Remember to inform them that CWL members from somewhere in Canada (as indicated on the resolution), took the time to write this up.

What will you need? For starters: sample letters, blank paper, pens, envelopes, and a few CWL members circulating the room to answer questions and to help. Have copies of the resolution on the tables which people can use for referral. You may want to have a few letters written up for people that have difficulty composing their own. Leave a blank space for them to add in their own handwriting: the date, their address, and their name (printed) and their signature. Have addresses of the Members of Parliament handy for people to put on their envelopes. Labels can easily be made up which are pre-addressed. Keep track of how many letters are sent and to whom they are sent. Don't forget that it is also a good idea to send letters to members of the Official Opposition and other parties to raise awareness of the issue. Any letters sent to Members of Parliament can go postage-free if sent to their Ottawa address. Have the people leave their letters with you. Even if they are in the envelopes, count how many letters are sent and to whom. Finally, plan a follow-up 2-3 months later to see what responses people received (with more coffee, muffins, and cheese!).

Contact me for any help on this. I will write up sample letters, get addresses and/or labels of Members of Parliament, can send you a form to track to whom the letters are sent, as well as anything else you may need. If you need some help introducing the resolution, I can write that up for you as well. Don't hesitate to contact me – I took this position on Diocesan CWL to help you.

God bless you as you plan your activities! Let's go CWL ladies! For God and Canada!