



## The Catholic Women's League of Canada Update III to COVID-19 Pandemic Response Deferral of 2020 Convention Business & Extension of Elected Terms of Office

WINNIPEG – June 12, 2020 – In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, with concerns for the safety and welfare of members and to be in compliance with public health orders, the board of The Catholic Women's League of Canada declares all necessary business will be transacted in conjunction with 2021 annual conventions at diocesan, provincial and national levels. Further, the board declares a one-time exception to Part XIV, Section 2(a) of the Constitution & Bylaws (C&B) to extend the term of all existing officers at diocesan, provincial and national levels for one year.

In making its decision, the board's primary consideration was that of care and concern for and protection of members. It determined this care and concern must be given more weight than a temporary infringement on member rights to be present to receive reports from and participate in the necessary business of diocesan, provincial and national councils. Deliberations included the following:

1. Public health and safety measures will be imposed for the foreseeable future.
2. Gathering limits are unlikely to be lifted entirely until mass immunity through vaccination is possible.
3. Non-essential travel and travel restrictions will likely be imposed for the foreseeable future.
4. COVID-19 has a devastating impact on elderly citizens and those with underlying health conditions.
5. More than ½ of CWL members are over the age of 55, with more than ¼ over the age of 70, making the risk of serious infection or death a significant concern for the membership and convention organizers.
6. Eight out of every ten deaths due to COVID-19 occur to those over 65 years of age (CDC).
7. Continued physical distancing will limit the number of members who may attend, a condition that infringes on a member's right to be present and participate.
8. The impact/workload that would be imposed on the 46 diocesan, provincial and national executives required to organize AGMs over the summer months in order to hold them in September, October and November.
9. Public health officials' expression of concern that a second wave may occur in fall 2020.
10. The high degree of caution being taken by citizens, including members, to avoid travel and mass gathering.

To effect this decision, the board will be submitting two amendments and one exception to the *Constitution & Bylaws* for ratification at the 2021 conventions, as outlined on the next two pages

The directors wishes to thank you for your prayers and your patience during this time of uncertainty.

Anne Gorman  
National President

**Proposed Amendments to the Constitution & Bylaws - 2020**

<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
<p>Part XIV</p> <p>Section 3: Diocesan and Provincial Councils</p> <p>(a) The executive of diocesan and provincial councils shall meet at least twice a year, before and after their annual conventions. Due notice having been given, a majority of the members of the executive shall constitute a quorum.</p> <p>(b) The diocesan and provincial councils shall meet in annual convention, diocesan in April or May, provincial in June or July, for the purpose of promoting the Objects and Policy of the League, planning future programs, receiving annual reports, and the election of officers if applicable. Due notice having been given, ten percent of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.</p> <p>(c) The elected officers shall meet for the assignment of standing committees immediately after the annual convention.</p> <p>Section 4: National Council</p> <p>(a) The executive of the national council shall meet at least twice a year, immediately before and after its annual convention. Additional meetings may be called at the discretion of the president. Due notice having been given, a majority of the members of the executive shall constitute a quorum.</p> <p>(b) The national council shall meet in annual convention in August, for the purpose of promoting the Objects and Policy, planning future programs, receiving annual reports and the election of officers if applicable. Due notice having been given, 25 members of the council shall constitute a quorum.</p> <p>(c) The elected officers shall meet for the assignment of standing committees immediately after the annual convention.</p>	<p>Part XIV</p> <p>Section 3: Diocesan and Provincial Councils</p> <p>(a) The executive of diocesan and provincial councils shall meet at least twice a year, before and after their annual conventions. Due notice having been given, a majority of the members of the executive shall constitute a quorum.</p> <p>(b) The diocesan and provincial councils shall meet in annual convention, diocesan in April or May, provincial in June or July, for the purpose of promoting the Objects and Policy of the League, planning future programs, receiving annual reports, and the election of officers if applicable. Due notice having been given, ten percent of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.</p> <p>(c) The elected officers shall meet for the assignment of standing committees immediately after the annual convention.</p> <p><b>(d) Notwithstanding (b), an annual diocesan / provincial convention may delayed and held on such date as determined by the diocesan /provincial executive in the event there is an order from an appropriate governmental authority which restricts social gathering.</b></p> <p>Section 4: National Council</p> <p>(a) The executive of the national council shall meet at least twice a year, immediately before and after its annual convention. Additional meetings may be called at the discretion of the president. Due notice having been given, a majority of the members of the executive shall constitute a quorum.</p> <p>(b) The national council shall meet in annual convention in August, for the purpose of promoting the Objects and Policy, planning future programs, receiving annual reports and the election of officers if applicable. Due notice having been given, 25 members of the council shall constitute a quorum.</p> <p>(c) The elected officers shall meet for the assignment of standing committees immediately after the annual convention.</p> <p><b>(d) Notwithstanding (b), an annual convention may delayed and held on such date as determined by the national executive in the event there is an order from an appropriate governmental authority which restricts social gathering.</b></p>

**Proposed Amendments to the *Constitution & Bylaws* - 2020**

<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
Part XVI Eligibility, Nominations and Election Section 2: Term of Office (a) At parish, diocesan, provincial and national levels, the term of office for elected officers shall be two years.	<b>Notwithstanding Part XVI, Section 2, the national executive extends all current terms of office (i.e. 2018-2020 and 2019-2021 terms) to three years (i.e. 2018-2021 and 2019-2022) to comply with the amendments to Part XIV, Section 3(d) and Section 4(d). All future terms, beginning in 2021 and 2022, will be for two years in accordance with Part XVI, Section 2.</b>