

1 **The Catholic Women's League of Canada**

2  
3 **Name of Council: Manitoba Provincial Council**

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5 **Standing Committee: Education and Health**

6  
7 **2018.03 Setting a Standard for Products Marketed as Flushable**

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10 **Whereas,** Currently, there is no established national standard of testing to be met by manufacturers of  
11 products marketed as 'flushable'; and

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13 **Whereas,** Products are being sold with a label called 'flushable' and there is no standard or regulation  
14 on that term; and

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16 **Whereas,** Canadian ratepayers are spending over \$250 million a year for the maintenance and repair of  
17 sewer collection systems because of inappropriate disposal of products marketed as  
18 'flushable'; therefore, be it

19  
20 **Resolved,** That Manitoba Provincial Council, through the national council of The Catholic Women's  
21 League of Canada, urge the federal government to establish a national standard of testing to  
22 be met by manufacturers of products marketed as 'flushable'; and be it further

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24 **Resolved,** That this resolution be forwarded to the national council of The Catholic Women's League of  
25 Canada for consideration at the 2018 annual national convention.

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28 This resolution was adopted by a majority vote at the annual convention of Manitoba Provincial Council of  
29 The Catholic Women's League of Canada held on June 3, 2018.

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33 Rolande Chernichan, President

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36 Ann Schenkeveld, Recording Secretary

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38 **Resolution originated from:**

39 Manitoba Provincial Council  
40 Rolande Chernichan, President  
41 24137 Mun 47N  
42 Ile des Chenes E, MB R0A 0T4

Winnipeg Diocesan Council  
Rose Anne Seymour, President  
241 Foxwarren Drive  
Winnipeg, MB R2P 2T8

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish  
Carol-Lynne Neitzke, Acting President  
4588 Roblin Boulevard  
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7 **BRIEF 2018.03 Setting a Standard for Products Marketed as Flushable**

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10 Currently there are no established national standards of testing to be met by manufacturers of products  
11 marketed as 'flushable'. "...new innovations in materials might make it possible for certain products to be  
12 flushed, if they pass a technical standard (in compliance with local legislative requirements) which has been  
13 developed and agreed by the water and wastewater industry." (IWSFG) "The International Water Services  
14 Flushability Group, of which Canadian Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) is a part, have  
15 developed criteria for items that can be flushed down the toilet. "... to be flushable a product must (a) break  
16 into small pieces quickly, (b) not be buoyant, (c) not contain plastic or regenerated cellulose but only contain  
17 materials which will readily degrade in a range of natural environments". (IWSFG) "Any developed standard  
18 (whether international or North American) would require adoption within Canada, as a Canadian Standard, to  
19 be enforceable."(CWWA,MESUG 2017) "In both the U.S. and Canada, manufacturers say they voluntarily test  
20 products for flushability, but federal laws don't require third-party assessment or verification." (CWWA 2015)

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22 "Currently, there are no standards, regulations or official definitions for the use of the term 'flushable'".  
23 (CWWA 2017) "The biggest problem is the fact that products are being sold with a label called 'flushable,' and  
24 there is no standard or regulation on that term. Baby wipes are clearly not flushable, but they seem similar to  
25 flushable wipes, and people start to think everything is flushable." (CWWA2015) Canada is leading an  
26 international effort to establish and enforce standards on the multi-million dollar wipe industry that will spell  
27 out the meaning of "flushable" said Barry Orr, spokesman for the Ontario-based Municipal Enforcement  
28 Sewer Group (MESUG), (CWWA2015) "Only the 3Ps – Pee, Poo and toilet Paper – should be flushed."  
29 (IWSFG)

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31 "So-called flushable items are a part of a growing problem that is giving homeowners headaches and costing  
32 municipalities millions of dollars annually as noxious, non-dissolvable debris clogs up the pumps and pipes of  
33 sewer and septic systems." (CWWA2015) "From additional maintenance, to equipment damage, to clogs and  
34 system failures to contamination of sludge, this issue is costing Canadian municipalities over \$250 million  
35 each year." (CWWA, MESUG2017) "Flushable" wipes are clogging sewers across Canada ... While these  
36 "flushable" wipes may swirl down the toilet with ease, they don't disintegrate, creating serious problems as  
37 they work their way through sewer systems on their way to treatment plants." (City of Halifax) "Many items we  
38 use on a daily basis cannot go down our toilets or drains. Several products, even those labelled "flushable," do  
39 not dissolve." (City of Toronto) "In several large cities, the buildup has produced huge floating "fatbergs" of  
40 wipes coated with grease, cooking fats, hair, condoms and hygiene products that glob together in the sewers."  
41 (CWWA 2015)

42  
43 The federal government is urged to establish a national standard of testing to be met by manufacturers of  
44 products that are to be marketed as "flushable".  
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7 **WORKS CITED:** **2018.03** **Setting a Standard for Products Marketed as Flushable**

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7 **ACTION PLAN 2018.03 Setting a Standard for Products Marketed as Flushable**

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- 10 1. Write letters to the Prime Minister and Ministers of Natural Resources and of Fisheries, Oceans and the  
11 Canadian Coast Guard with copies to your local member of parliament urging the federal government to  
12 establish a national standard of testing to be met by manufacturers of products marketed as 'flushable'.  
13
- 14 2. Hold a speaker presentation on the harmful effects of flushing so-called "flushable" products.  
15
- 16 3. Contact schools and school divisions to encourage them to incorporate an awareness campaign of the  
17 consequences of inappropriate disposal of products in our sewer system.  
18
- 19 4. Monitor the federal government's response to the request contained in the resolution.