

National Association of Catholic Nurses-Canada

Newsletter Issue 7, December 22, 2020



Dear NACN-Canada members,

I am writing to wish you and your families the blessings of Christmas, when we celebrate the coming of Emmanuel, God with us. Our celebrations this year will be very different. The loneliness of seniors and those with chronic illness and disability is felt even more acutely this year. The isolation of critically ill patients from their families has intensified their suffering. The ongoing stress that all of us in health care feel has eroded our energy.

Since God brings good out of every situation, how can we use this unusual Advent and Christmas season to become closer to Him?

COVID restrictions vary, but if we do not have opportunities to participate in the Mass in person, we may be able to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. NACN-Canada members have beautiful memories of the Sisters of Life retreat held in late January of this year; since then, we have prayed the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 3 pm on First Fridays in a virtual meeting. At any time, we can participate in prayer, meditation on scripture, and in virtual celebrations of the Mass.

Recently I became interested in stories of young people who were focused on becoming saints. After the sudden death of an Irish missionary sister in Ecuador in 2016, a neighbour in her hometown claimed her as “one of us.” Blessed Carol Acutis, a gifted student known for his kindness to others and his devotion to the Eucharist, loved computer games. In that sense, he was a lot like my grandsons; he was “one of us.”



Jesus came to earth to become “one of us.” Let’s ask Mary, our Mother, to prepare us to receive Him. His presence, His love are the gifts that we long to give through our nursing practice to alleviate the isolation, suffering and hopelessness of our world.

On behalf of the NACN-Canada board, I wish you a Happy and Blessed Christmas. We hope that 2021 will be a year to celebrate the fruits of contemplating the Word of God. Let’s continue to show kindness, care, and integrity as Catholic nurses. May God bless you!



Helen McGee, MN, CPMHN(C)

President, National Association of Catholic Nurses – Canada

NACN-Canada has six goals:

1. To integrate members' prayer life and participation in the sacraments with their moral life and professional practice
2. To mentor or be mentored by Catholic colleagues in the health professions
3. To access resources related to ethical issues in health care
4. To endorse written and oral submissions that contribute to public discourse on health care issues
5. To participate in research regarding issues of interest to the association
6. To learn about volunteer service opportunities

Dr. Freida Chavez, Founding President of NACN-Canada



Our Annual General Meeting was held in June, 2020, two years after our launch in 2018. At this meeting, we thanked our founding president, Dr. Freida Chavez for her irreplaceable contributions to NACN-Canada.

Her original idea was to form a small group of nurses at the Newman Centre in Toronto. Our driving concern from the beginning was the impact of the Supreme Court of Canada's Carter decision on patients and health care professionals.

Freida's friendships have been a key factor in the development of our association. Through her friendship with a former classmate, Dr. Marian Nowak, we learned about the international group of Catholic nurses known as CICIAMS. By the spring of 2018, we were busy working on the requirements to join them: development of a set of statutes, and recruitment of members, including those who would serve on our board.

Our President-Elect, Dr. Louela Manankil-Rankin, and our Treasurer, Emilia Gilmour, joined our board through their friendship with Freida. We also met our donor, Anne Marie Sweeney, through their shared interests.

We are all indebted to Freida, and we wish her all the best in her retirement.

Renew your membership in January 2021 & Mark your calendars

Please let us know the best day of the week for meetings beginning in the fall of 2021. We will present our scheduled at the June 2021 AGM. If Saturday, what time? We hope to accommodate nurses in time zones across Canada.

Tuesday, January 26, 2021	6-7 pm. General Members' meeting
Tuesday, January 26, 2021	7-8:30 pm Board meeting
Friday, February 5, 2021	3 pm Chaplet of Divine Mercy
Friday, March 5, 2021	3 pm Chaplet of Divine Mercy
Tuesday, March 23, 2021	6-7 pm Divine Mercy presentation by Donna Romano
Tuesday, March 23, 2021	7-8:30 pm General Members' meeting (no agenda)
Friday, April 2, 2021	3 pm Chaplet of Divine Mercy
Friday, May 7, 2021	3 pm Chaplet of Divine Mercy
Tuesday, May 25, 2021	6-7 pm General Members' meeting (with agenda)
Tuesday, May 25, 2021	7-8:30 pm Board meeting
Tuesday, June 1, 2021	Annual General Meeting (with agenda)

The Canadian Federation of Catholic Physicians and Societies has welcomed NACN-Canada members to its events. At times, there is no registration fee for their events, and there is the added bonus of access the talks afterward. Our occasional posts and our membership application form can be viewed under their “Resources” tab: [CFCPS / Resources / NACN-Canada membership application](#)

Access events held by [Newman Centre Catholic Mission](#) and [The Toronto Oratory](#). For example, you may register for the Newman Centre’s lecture by Fr. Robert Spitzer, S.J. to be held on January 28, 2021. Or, access an Advent reflection beginning at 37:26 here: [The Sacrament of Reconciliation at 37:26](#). Anytime, pray the [Holy Rosary](#) with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, or find other prayer resources at [Catholicity](#).

catholicnurses.ca

Our website launched early in 2020 thanks to Marianna Osko of the Osko group, and our generous donor Anne Marie Sweeney, who died on the November 11, 2019, the date of our first AGM. May Anne Marie’s soul and all the souls of the all the faithful departed rest in peace.

We invited NACN-Canada members to join us at Mass on Tuesday evenings at St. Michael’s Cathedral Basilica in the spring of 2020, followed by supper at a local food court. After March, we invited members to virtual get-togethers, allowing us to include members in other cities.

Sisters of Life Retreat January 31 to February 2, 2020



At the end of January, several of us participated in the Sister of Life Retreat at St. Francis Centre near Orangeville, Ontario. The retreat included talks, periods of adoration, Mass, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Fr. Kevin Belgrave of St. Augustine's Seminary anointed our hands with oil from St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal. The Friars and staff were very generous in their welcome (and they are very good cooks). We met health professionals and students of other disciplines, and we look forward to reaching out to new members in collaboration with them.

NACN-Canada AGM, June 1, 2020: A Virtual Event

Following the Holy Rosary, the nurses who attended the NACN-Canada AGM had the pleasure of hearing Maria Arvonio, RN, MN talk about integrating the Catholic faith into nursing practice

Maria graduated from Villanova University with her BSN in 1983, and from St. Joseph's University with her MA in Healthcare Ethics in 2013.

She has written and made oral presentations as a representative of CICIAMS* at the United Nations, along with lead representative Patricia Sayers, DNP, RN and Marian Nowak, DNP RN.

Maria is also the Lower Northeast Regional Director of NACN-USA and Vice-Chair of the CICIAMS World Congress to be held at Villanova University in 2022. She represented NACN-USA at the White House in Nurses' Week 2020.

Maria has written and spoken at regional conferences and on local Catholic radio stations about Catholic healthcare and cultural competency regarding Reiki and other alternative therapies. Her paper on this topic was published in the Linacre Quarterly in 2014. She has discussed Physician Assisted Suicide on local radio, and has made presentations at regional conferences about the link between unforgiveness and healing; and how to incorporate the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in healthcare and spiritual support for the nurse via prayer groups.



She is co-author with Dr. Pat Sayers of “Seek His Divine Mercy in sickness and health”. She wrote a recent article for the NACN-USA newsletter on safe injection sites.

Maria works as the night shift supervisor At Virtua Willingboro Medical Centre in southern New Jersey, and serves on the liturgy committee and music ministry at her parish, St. John Neumann in Mount Laurel, New Jersey. She facilitates the Divine Mercy Council and annual Lenten retreats.

*CICIAMS is the International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants. NACN-Canada and NACN-USA members belong to CICIAMS.

CICIAMS' presentations at the UN are available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EXvCbybnnbM&t=62s> and https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLT_f5bDHodCWsrhRYdQ5FQ

[May 7, 2019 Prayer life essential during COVID-19 crisis Maria Arvonio](#)

Please join us or renew your membership in January 2021! Avoid using the PayPal link on our website. Instead, contact us at nacncanada.boardcontact@gmail.com and send us a letter or pay your membership fee with an e-transfer via our website catholicnurses.ca

NACN - Canada response to Bill C-7

January 23, 2020

P. O. Box 19525, 55 Bloor St. West,
Toronto ON M4W 3T9
nacncanada.boardcontact@gmail.com

Hon. David Lametti,
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada,
House of Commons, Ottawa ON K1A 0A6
David.Lametti@parl.gc.ca

Dear Mr. Lametti,

We are writing on behalf of the National Association of Catholic Nurses-Canada (NACN-Canada) in response to your request for consultation regarding the recent Quebec Superior Court's Truchon decision. In our opinion, access to medically induced death must not extend beyond those who consent immediately before the procedure, nor to those under 18, nor to those with chronic illness as the sole underlying condition. We also advocate a trial of palliative care as a precondition for the application for medically induced death. This does not imply that any palliative care team or hospice be compelled to refer patients for medically induced death.

We have encouraged our members to respond to the online survey. Unfortunately, the consultation process provides a very brief timeline, therefore excluding important stakeholders including our patients. Additionally, the requirement for internet access and the word limit in each comment section pose a barrier for meaningful input.

Our association formed in June, 2018 in response to the cascading effects of the Carter decision on health care professionals and their patients across Canada. Our members are academics, clinical leaders, and direct care nurses who work in hospitals, universities, and patients' homes. We have direct experience with people of all ages near the end of their lives, and those who experience life-long or progressive disability in the context of chronic illness. We have experience in suicide prevention and the relief of physical, emotional, and mental suffering, without recourse to any participation in medically induced death. This impacts our continued employment when a manager cannot accommodate our commitment. We urge you to draft legislation to protect all Canadian health professionals and faith-based facilities from coercion and repercussions for their religious objections to participation in medically induced death.

The current exclusion of advanced directives protects patients who subsequently can no longer express a changed decision in words. Sadly, we read of a patient whose advanced directive was used to justify the injection of lethal medications despite her physical resistance. Relatives restrained her. Expanding the eligibility criteria for medically induced death places children and adults with chronic illness and disabilities at greater risk of coercion to request death. This obscures the moral obligation to fund better services for them to live well.

We will be pleased to provide further input. Please feel free to contact us.

Freida Chavez, RN MHSc, DNP FAAN President, NACN-Canada	Helen McGee, RN MN CPMHNC President-Elect, NACN-Canada	Rev. Peter Turrone, PhD Chaplain, NACN-Canada
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Nov. 2, 2020

National Association of Catholic Nurses-Canada
P.O. Box 19525, 55 Bloor St. West, Toronto ON M4W 3T9
nacncanada.boardcontact@gmail.com

Hon. David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada,
House of Commons, Ottawa ON K1A 0A6
David.Lametti@parl.gc.ca

Dear Mr. Lametti,

The members and executive of our association object to the process and pace with which your government has embraced euthanasia and now plans to extend its reach in Bill C-7. We discuss three issues in this letter. First, the bill erodes the requirement for consent to procedures. Second, it devalues people with chronic illness in the name of equal access to lethal injections. Third, section 3.5 of the bill contradicts suicide prevention by allowing clinicians to complete their patients' failed suicide attempts begun in the context of the legislation.

Bill C-7 erodes patient consent because it abandons the requirement for immediate consent before clinicians administer death. Advance directives that require a past verbal self to speak for the actual, present and nonverbal self dramatically weaken patient safety and autonomy. According to the bill, the patient's non-verbal resistance to medically administered death could be seen by clinicians intent on inducing death as "words, sounds or gestures made in response to contact" rather than "a demonstration of refusal or resistance."

Clinical interpretation of non-verbal behaviour is speculative. It should never determine that induction of death should proceed. It is not good clinical practice to assume that past directives hold – that is why clinicians reassess patients' "Do Not Resuscitate" directives throughout cancer care. The most shocking aspect of Bill C-7 and previous legislation that followed the Carter decision is that clinicians can terminate their patients' lives with impunity. Involuntary and non-voluntary euthanasia has occurred in other countries. In this context, your government's proposal to drop the requirement for patients to be capable and to reaffirm their consent to life-ending procedures immediately before they take place is alarming.

Our next concern is that Bill C-7 removes the requirement that death be "reasonably foreseeable," allowing euthanasia for patients with chronic illness and disability who may have many years to live. This assumes that death is preferable to a life with disability. Life with disability is often satisfying for those living it, while observers think that they could never live in that condition. As you have heard from the disability community, opening up euthanasia to those with chronic illness presents greater pressure on people who are already on the margins. Our goal as nurses is to reduce suffering by life-affirming measures, helping patients adapt to illness, and affirming their resilience. If we endorse their hopelessness and acknowledge that some lives are not worth living, we undermine our values and place our patients' lives in jeopardy.

Our third concern is that section 3.5 of Bill C-7 allows clinicians to complete their patients' failed suicide attempts begun in the context of the legislation. Allowing nurses and doctors to complete patients' suicide attempts places everyone in an untenable situation – suicide prevention for some patients, suicide endorsement for others. People with concurrent medical and mental illness have died in Canada at the hand of clinicians, despite mental illness having had an impact on their patients' capacity for consent. That is, concurrent depression or autism likely restricted patients' flexibility in thinking about options to

medically administered death. Before the Carter decision and subsequent legislation, people in this situation did consider alternatives and adapt to chronic and terminal illness.

We urge your government to reconsider these components of Bill C-7. The bill also mentions your goal of standardizing approaches to euthanasia across the country. Therefore, we have two more urgent requests. Limit access to euthanasia as far as possible. Prevent professional bodies from setting standards that coerce clinicians into participation in causing their patients' deaths.

The National Association of Catholic Nurses-Canada (NACN-Canada) launched in June 2018 in response to nurses' moral distress related to the abrupt decriminalization of medically administered death in Canada. NACN-Canada is a member association of the Comité International Catholique des Infirmières et Assistantes Médico-Sociales (CICIAMS).



Helen McGee, BScN MN CPMHNC
President
National Association of Catholic Nurses-Canada

This letter was also sent to the Senators of Canada on November 29, 2020.

Please ask your federal Member of Parliament for a meeting to discuss your concerns regarding medically induced death. Speak from your clinical experience to illustrate the impact of the current protocol on protecting patients. Contact individual Senators.

In Ontario, please request a meeting with your Member of Provincial Parliament to advocate for legislation to protect freedom of conscience, since it appears that the federal government is intent on rapidly expanding the criteria for medically induced death. Current guidelines of our professional licensing bodies require participation in medically induced death by referral.

If you experience moral distress regarding any clinical situation, please call us for support. You can reach us at nacncanada.boardcontact@gmail.com

On the following pages, you will find a letter regarding the ethical development of vaccines. NACN-Canada composed the letter with guidance on the scientific issues from David Prentice, Ph.D of the Lozier Institute. Moira McQueen, LLB, M.Div., Ph.D., Executive Director. of the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute, supported the writing process and helped organize distribution of the letter to fourteen groups and four individuals who co-signed the letter.

[The Catholic Register](#), [Science magazine](#), [Newsweek](#), and [Lifesite News](#) referred to the letter in articles about COVID 19 vaccines. Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, which did not use fetal cell lines in their development, have used them in some post-development testing.

For an update on ethical issues of COVID-19 vaccines, see the December 21, 2020 statement: <https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/it/bollettino/pubblico/2020/12/21/0681/01591.html> The English text follows the Italian.

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada,
Langevin Block,
Ottawa ON K1A 0A2

May 22, 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

We write to thank you for the federal government's ongoing efforts to prevent transmission of COVID-19, especially among the most vulnerable Canadians. We endorse the earliest possible development of safe, effective anti-viral vaccines and the broadest uptake of vaccination.

We urge your government to fund the development of vaccines that do not create an ethical dilemma for many Canadians. On one hand, the wide uptake of vaccines is essential to protect citizens from the transmission of disease. On the other, a vaccine produced using abortion-derived cell lines raises conscience concerns for anyone who might be offered that vaccine and is aware of its lineage. This dilemma will emerge if there are no alternatives to vaccines developed with the use of human fetal cell lines obtained from elective abortions.

COVID-19 vaccine candidates that are ethically unacceptable are produced using human cell lines such as PER.C6 and HEK 293, derived from elective abortions.^{1,2} Our ethical objections relate to the use of this abortion-derived lineage, both the destruction and the exploitation of unique human lives.³ The subsequent manufacture of vaccines using such ethically-tainted human cell lines demonstrates profound disrespect for the dignity of the human person.

Governments must ensure that COVID-19 vaccines that become available do not create an ethical dilemma for Canadians. Fortunately, numerous vaccines under development do not raise ethical concerns. One excellent Canadian example is being developed at the University of British Columbia by Dr. Wilfred Jefferies. His methodology uses self-amplifying mRNA, made entirely in a test tube without cells or tissues, according to email dated May 11, 2020 from David Prentice, PhD, of the Charlotte Lozier Institute (DPrentice@lozierinstitute.org). The reference list follows the signatures on this letter.

Please be assured of our strong support for ethically developed vaccines.

c.c.: The Honourable Patty Hajdu, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Health

Yours sincerely,

Moira McQueen, LLB, MDiv, PhD
Executive Director, Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute,
Lecturer, Faculty of Theology
University of St. Michael's College in the University of Toronto

The Most Rev. Richard Gagnon
President, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops
Archbishop of Winnipeg

Archbishop Sotirios
Chairman, Canadian Conference of Orthodox Bishops

Timothy Lau, M.D., F.R.C.P.(C), M.Sc.
President of the Canadian Federation of Catholic Physicians and Societies
Distinguished Teacher, Faculty of Medicine,
Associate Professor, University of Ottawa, Department of Psychiatry
President of the Medical Staff, Clinical Lead, Geriatric Inpatient Unit, Royal Ottawa

Dr. Ryan Wilson, MD, CCFP
President, Canadian Physicians for Life

Christian Domenic Elia, PhD,
Executive Director, Catholic Civil Rights League
Assistant Professor and Academic Chair, Niagara University

Michael Shea
President and CEO, Catholic Health Alliance of Canada

Michel G. MacDonald, PhD, STD
Executive Director, Catholic Organization of Life and Family

Anne-Marie Gorman
National President
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Sheila Rutledge Harding, MD, MA, FRCPC
President, Christian Medical Dental Association of Canada

Robert Berard, PhD
President, Fellowship of Catholic Scholars Canada

Helen McGee, BScN, MN
President-Elect, National Association of Catholic Nurses – Canada

Father Thomas Lynch
President, Priests for Life Canada

Catherine Pawluch, DHS
President, Thomas More Lawyers' Guild of Toronto

Cristina Alarcon, B.Pharm, R.Ph, MBE (M. Bioethics)

David Mulroney
President and Vice Chancellor of the University of St. Michael's College 2015-2018

Donna Fagan, PhD
Health Promotion and Population Health

Rev. Fr. Peter Turrone, PhD
Executive Director, Newman Centre, Toronto

References

Charlotte Lozier Institute [Internet]. Arlington VA: Lozier Institute; May 2020. An ethics assessment of COVID-19 vaccine programs; 2020 May [cited 2020 May 9]; Available from: <https://lozierinstitute.org/an-ethics-assessment-of-covid-19-vaccine-programs>

Coronavirus Today [Internet]. Houston TX: Precision Vaccinations; 2020. Janssen partners with BARDA to expedite COVID-10 vaccine development [cited 2020 May 4]. Available from: <https://www.coronavirustoday.com/barda-will-contribute-janssen-covid-19-vaccine-development-program>

Anscombe Bioethics Centre [Internet]. Oxford: Anscombe Bioethics Centre; 2020. COVID-19 vaccines and use of foetal cell-lines; 2020 April 27 [cited 2020 May 4]. Available from: <http://www.bioethics.org.uk/images/user/covidbriefing2.pdf>

Updated information on the ethical issues related to COVID-19 vaccines is available at [Charlotte Lozier Institute](#).



Senator Denise Batters

NACN-Canada urges its members to write individually to Canada's senators regarding the impact of Bill C-7 on patients and nursing practice. For a sample of the excellent commentary on the Bill, see [Senator Denise Batters, Dr. Ramona Coelho, Drs. Sonu Gaind and Scott Kim, and Dr. Catherine Ferrier](#).

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario currently has two consultations open regarding Medical Assistance in Dying and Professional Obligations and Human Rights. Both close on April 12, 2021, PLEASE NOTE that the consultation that confirmed the effective referral requirement closed earlier than the posted date.

Since it appears likely that "safeguards" in federal euthanasia legislation are likely to fall, please write, call, and see your provincial member of parliament / MLA to advocate for conscience protection in provincial law.

NACN-Canada report to CICIAMS (September 2018 to July 2020)

CICIAMS announced NACN-Canada as a new member at its 20th world conference in Malaysia in September 2018. NACN-Canada launched in June 2018 and currently has about 32 members from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario. Virtual meetings provide a new opportunity to increase membership and events across the country.

NACN-Canada has held two AGMs, the first in November 2019 due to June scheduling challenges, and the second in June 2020. Chaplain Father Peter Turrone celebrated Mass before the 2019 meeting and led the Holy Rosary before the 2020 virtual meeting. Speakers were Parish Nurse Terry McDermott in 2019 and Maria Arvonio, NACN-USA regional director and a CICIAMS representative at the United Nations in 2020. At the 2020 AGM, members endorsed the current Board comprised of Freida Chavez, Past President; Helen McGee, President; Louela Manankil-Rankin, President-Elect; Emilia Gilmour, Treasurer; Jody Macdonald, Recording Secretary, Elizabeth Tanguay, Corresponding Secretary, and Father Peter Turrone, Chaplain.

NACN-Canada published seven newsletters between December 2018 and June 2020. Our association also hosted a November 2018 general members' event to discuss Catholic nurse Kristina Hodgetts' testimony in "The Euthanasia Deception." Activities in the spring of 2019 were primarily written participation in public discourse and in the fall, get-togethers at a local food court following Mass at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica in Toronto. This changed to a virtual get together in May 2020, providing the opportunity to engage more members. NACN-Canada launched a new website in January 2020 thanks to Anne Marie Sweeney, a generous donor who died on the date of our 2019 AGM. Our budget is very limited, so we collaborated with our colleagues, who kindly welcomed NACN-Canada members at their events:

- Oct. 2018: Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute "Hospice: more than just a place to die"
- Oct. 2018: Catholic Women's League: "Holistic health: the spiritual dimension"
- Oct. 2018: Medicine and the Person conference, New Jersey, USA: Yvonne Parent, then NACN- Canada Corresponding Secretary, speaking on palliative care in the context of legalized euthanasia in Canada
- Nov. 2018: "Faithful to God's Design: Humanae Vitae at 50"
- Dec. 2018: Toronto Catholic Doctors' Guild retreat and Newman Centre Advent retreat
- Dec. 2018: Catholic Civil Rights League AGM with producer/director of "Fatal Flaws"
- March 2019: Newman Centre Lenten retreat
- June 2019: NACN-Canada donor sponsored Catholic nursing students to attend conference of the Canadian Federation of Catholic Physicians and Societies
- January 2020: Sisters of Life retreat (see photo below)
- June 2020: Toronto Catholic Doctors' Guild Virtual tour of seven churches of Rome
- June 2020: Dr. Christina Lamb's virtual lecture on conscientious objection
- June 2020: Thomas More Lawyers' Guild's virtual program, "End of Life Issues: Ethical and Legal Considerations – 2020 Update"

NACN-Canada's goals are to integrate prayer and sacramental life into professional practice, provide mentorship opportunities, facilitate access to resources on ethical issues, contribute to public discourse regarding health care, and participate in research and volunteer opportunities. Since our launch, we have advised individual nurses on ethical issues related to employment in health care and we have contributed to public discourse on health care issues as follows:

- April 2019: letter to the American Nurses Association opposing proposed revisions to its document “Euthanasia, Assisted Suicide and Aid in Dying”
- May 2019: letter to Canadian Member of Parliament David Anderson in support of his bill, the Protection of Freedom of Conscience Act
- January 2020: letter to federal Minister of Justice David Lametti opposing extension of euthanasia eligibility
- May 2020: letter to Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister of Health Hajdu to advocate funding for COVID-19 vaccines that do not use fetal cell lines in their development.

The vaccine letter was written in collaboration with scientists at the Lozier Institute, as well as Canadian health professionals, lawyers, and ethicists. It was endorsed by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Canadian Conference of Orthodox Bishops, as well as ten other groups and four individuals. The letter was covered by the Catholic Register, Lifesite News, Science and Newsweek following its release to the press.



Nurses join the Sisters of Life on a retreat for health care professionals Jan. 31-Feb. 2, 2020

NACN-C report Canadian Federation of Catholic Physicians and Societies, June 13, 2020

NACN-Canada’s goals are to integrate prayer and sacramental life into professional practice; provide mentorship opportunities; facilitate access to resources on ethical issues; contribute to public discourse regarding health care; and participate in research. There are currently about 32 members from BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario. Virtual meetings provide a new opportunity to increase our membership across Canada. We are affiliated with an international group of Catholic Nurses known as CICIAMS.

We send a newsletter to members several times a year. While our budget to host events is limited, we extended invitations to our members to join the 2019 CFCPS conference and the January 2020 Sisters of Life retreat, as well as Mass in Toronto once a month, followed by supper together at a local food court. Due to the pandemic, this changed to a virtual get-together that engaged more members, including one from Ottawa. We launched a [website](#) in early 2020, thanks to a generous donor. Our AGM speakers included Parish Nurse Terry McDermott in 2019, and Maria Arvonio, NACN-USA regional director and a CICIAMS representative at the United Nations. Our chaplain Father Peter Turrone celebrated Mass before our 2019 AGM and led the group in the Holy Rosary before our 2020 AGM.

NACN-Canada sent letters in 2020 to the Minister of Justice regarding Bill C-7 and collaborated with other Canadian organizations and the Charlotte Lozier Institute on a letter to the Prime Minister and federal Minister of Health regarding the ethical development of vaccines.