



**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial CWL**

73rd Annual Provincial Convention

**St. Catherine's Parish
Lac La Biche, Alberta
June 4th & 5th, 2020**

**Convention Cancelled Due to Covid-19 Pandemic
2019 Annual Reports**

Convention was to be Hosted by St. Paul Diocesan Council



League Prayer

We humbly pray You, O God our Father,
to bless The Catholic Women's League of Canada.

Bless our beloved country,
our homes and families.

Send Your Holy Spirit upon us
to give light to our minds
and strength to our wills

that we may know and fulfill
Your great law of charity.

Teach us to share with others
at home and abroad,

the good things You have given us.

This we ask through Our Lord Jesus Christ

and the intercession of our patroness,

Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Amen

League Promise

For the glory of God and the good of God's people, I promise as a Catholic woman to honour, invoke and imitate our patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel. I promise to be a loyal member of The Catholic Women's League of Canada and to promote its interest and growth in every way. I promise to cooperate with officers in all programs under their direction and to conform to the best of my ability to the bylaws of the organization in all League activities.

CWL Mission Statement:

*The Catholic Women's League of
Canada calls its members to grow in
faith and to witness to the love of God
through ministry and service.*

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

The Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council is very proud of the work of its members reflected in this the 2019 Annual Report Book

COVID -19 that began in March touched all segments of society shutting down churches, businesses, schools, recreational facilities and travel. With the exception of front-line workers who were considered essential (health care, grocery, first responders, etc.) all were asked to stay at home and self- isolate. The mantra “ Don’t Touch Your Face, Wash Your Hands, “Stay At Home If You Are Sick” permeated the society as all tried to help flatten the curve.

The Catholic Women’s League of Canada was not exempt from its impact. The National administrative team and National Office worked tirelessly to mitigate the impact on all councils. As no one in Canada could gather in groups of more than 10-15 depending on your location all meetings were cancelled. With no end in sight conventions and annual general meetings were cancelled. The prohibition to meet physically meant no business could be conducted as virtual meetings could not replace physical meetings, as there is no provision for virtual meetings in the national policy manual that guides all other levels in the League. The biggest impact was all executives were asked to serve an extra year extending their term of service to 3 years.

As League members are a most resilient group of women they did not let a virus interrupt their commitment to Faith, Service and Social Justice. Diocesan executives began to use ZOOM and other platforms to meet and to communicate with their members. Parish council presidents and members followed their lead and used ZOOM and other platforms to form prayer groups, study groups and chat groups. Live -streamed masses and other church celebrations helped members to stay connected to their faith communities. Many members became part of out- reach groups that made masks, shopped; delivered meals and connected with all members through phone calls and cards.

At the time of this writing some community restrictions have lifted. Some businesses restaurants, recreational facilities and campgrounds have opened and some restrictions on travel have changed. All of this is happening within the constraints of social distancing and wearing masks. Each demographic is impacted differently and as children get back on playing fields without masks the target group (the Seniors) are still encouraged to stay at home and social distance and wear a mask when they go out.

Alberta Mackenzie members grieved the loss of their conventions, annual general meetings, and council meetings. Our foundation is built on relationships and when we can’t gather we lose a little bit of ourselves. May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide us as we begin the “new normal”.

Judy Look

Alberta Mackenzie Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada		
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ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL 2019-2022

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HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS		
NAME	YEAR AWARDED	YEAR AWARDED
Ardis Beaudry	Honorary Life 1986 Life 1980	Edmonton
Agnes Bedard	Honorary Life 2006 Life 1992	Calgary
Vivian Bosch	Honorary Life 2002 Life 2002	Calgary (originally Regina)
Marie Cameron	Honorary Life 2004 Life 1996	Calgary
LIFE MEMBERS		
Mary Antonio	2011	Grouard-McLennan
Joan Baudais	1998	Calgary
Florence Bernakevitch	2012	Calgary
Ruth Boden	2018	Mackenzie-Fort Smith
Cathy Bouchard	2014	Edmonton
Natalie Carley	1975	Edmonton -originally Grouard-McLennan
Janet Cook	2006	Calgary – originally Grouard-McLennan
Hattie Eherer	1991	St. Paul
June Fuller	2016	Edmonton
Mary Heinzlmeir	2006	Calgary
Pamela Hill	1997	Edmonton - originally St. Paul
Sheila M. Houle	2011	St. Paul
Dorothy Johansen	2011	Edmonton
Rebecca (Becky) Kallal	2002	Edmonton
Lucille Kilar	1999	St. Paul
Jeanette Laforce	2008	St. Paul
Vi Lake	2012	Calgary
Anne Laskosky	1992	Edmonton
Doreen Lecky	1983	Edmonton
Judy Look	2018	Calgary
Fran Lucas	2011	Edmonton
Gloria Lundberg	2012	Calgary
Connie McBride	2003	Edmonton
Rose-Marie McCarthy	1987	Edmonton
Aurore McCleary	2006	Calgary
Barbara McDonald	2005	Mackenzie-Fort Smith
Lucille Partington	1997	Grouard-McLennan
Lynne Persson	2005	Edmonton (originally St. Paul
Donna Prevost	2011	Grouard-McLennan
Mary-Lou Veeken	2006	Edmonton
Mary-Anne Warren	1979	Edmonton originally Mackenzie-Ft Smith and St Paul

**PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
Judy Look**

Diocese of Calgary
Diocese of Edmonton
Diocese of Grouard –McLennan
Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith
Diocese of St Paul

Jan Myhre
Mary Molloy
Christine Becher
Shirley Gutierrez
Lola Alsmo

The Catholic Women's League in Alberta Mackenzie was alive and well in 2019 with 9,232 members in 157 councils with 109 councils reporting. **Care for Our Common Home** was the number one priority for all dioceses whether the focus was **environmental** - re-cycle, reuse, reduce, working on the resolution 2018.02 Setting a Standard for Products Marketed as Flushable; **spiritual** - growth in prayer, spiritual development, celebrations of deceased sisters, World Day of Prayer or special celebrations of Our Lady of Good Counsel; **sanctity of life** - participating in the March for Life, working on resolution 2019.01- Canada to Honour its Commitment to the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, Rachael's Vineyard; **community needs** - challenging governments to exclude medical assistance in dying from palliative care hospices, continuing with the Pornography Hurts Campaign, writing letters protesting Canada summer jobs attestation, praying 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care and working on resolution 2019.02 Canadian Support for the United Nations *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons* Legislation

All five dioceses reported embracing the Strategic Plan in various ways. Efforts in this area included presentations on the "Future of the League: Year 1 at fall, regional and council meetings; members were encouraged to join working groups; councils were encouraged to adopt the pillars of faith, service and social justice as a format for their work; educating members on the plan.

Continued professional development was encouraged. Resources such as websites, communiqués, The Canadian League, catholic publications were used to help growth in knowledge on various subjects. All councils used the National Policy and Procedure Manual and the Constitution and Bylaws to educate about the workings of the League. Conventions, regional meetings, workshops and retreats contributed to members' growth.

To run more efficient meetings some council's turned to Robert's Rules of Order and the National Policies and Procedure Manual as well as the Executive Handbook. Mentoring for presidents came mostly from the past presidents.

Communicating with members through on- line newsletters, bulletins, prayer lists and emails kept members informed. Some councils shared the results of the on-line survey with their council members.

The involvement of spiritual advisors varied from diocese to diocese with some playing very active roles and others much less. For most council's the support of their advisors was paramount.

Memorial services for deceased members, funeral lunches; scholarships, fundraising, visiting shut-ins, Mass ministry, phoning committees, funeral honour guards, retreats, pro-life events, conventions, workshops regional meetings, working on resolutions, guest speakers, milestone celebrations, prayer services continued to be activities of councils.

Challenges were **Membership**- recruiting younger members, retention of members, how to work with shut-ins, keeping their membership interested; **leadership development** – lack of members taking executive positions; **funding** - funds available for presidents to attend conventions and other meetings; **communications with National Office** -the on line annual report survey, information around memberships. Other areas mentioned - developing policy and procedure manuals, technology and time commitment.

All Diocesan Presidents reported that they were proud of their parish council presidents. They appreciated their hard work, determination and resolve in keeping their councils a vital part of the Catholic Women's League of Canada. They admired their creativity and flexibility as they faced the challenges presented to them. They also appreciated the work of their own council members as they developed strategies and programs to share with their parish council counterparts.

In conclusion the work of the five Diocesan Presidents and their councils was outstanding. The love of the League permeated their reports as they embraced change without losing focus on faith, service and social justice, the pillars that have been the foundation of the League from the beginning.

This concludes my report,
Judy Look

**PROVINCIAL ORGANIZATION STANDING COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
Mary Hunt, Chair**

The following is a summary of the involvement of 9,244 faith filled members of the five dioceses that make up the Alberta- Mackenzie Provincial Council.

Diocese	President-Elect	Councils	Members
Calgary	Renee Spohn	49	3,722
Edmonton	Clover Oryschak	67	4,331
Grouard-McLellan	Vacant	20	513
Mackenzie Fort Smith	Stephanie Abdon	3	96
St. Paul	Dianna Parenteau	18	<u>582</u>
			Total 9,244

Points for Consideration:

- This number compares with 9,406 in 2018 which represents a decrease of 97 members.
- The closure of two councils in the Calgary Diocese who had reported 51 councils in 2018.
- No Organization Report was received for Grouard-McLellan

Comments from Reporting Dioceses:

- **Calgary Diocese:** Report 203 new members with 80% of them under the age of 40
Renewals: 78% of the councils are using the online system
Retention: 135 members did not renew their memberships
Largest council has 255 members; smallest council has 8 members
There is an increase in the number of councils using online resources.
- **Edmonton Diocese:** Report a decrease in numbers from 2018 with 50% under the age of 40
Renewals: 74% of the councils are using the online system
Retention: not reported
Largest councils: over 200 members; smallest council has 4 members
There is an increase in the number of councils using online resources
- **Grouard-McLellan Diocese:** Did not report as they do not have an Organization Chair
- **Mackenzie Fort Smith Diocese:** Report a decrease of 3 members; age spread not reported
Renewals: 100% all 7 councils reported using online for renewals
Retention: not reported
Largest council has 64 members and smallest council has 14 members
There is an increase in the number of councils using online resources
- **St. Paul Diocese:** Report an increase of 15 members with 50% under the age of 40
Renewals: 57% of the councils are using the online system
Retention: 13 members did not renew their membership
Largest council: Not reported
There is an increase in the number of councils using online resources

Recruitment & Retention of Members:

Recruitment Echoed over and over: Be visible in your parish by wearing your pins and scarves as you volunteer and participate in parish ministries

- Advertising included advertising in the church bulletins and personal invitations.
 - For the most part, councils are permitted to make recruitment presentations at Masses and have display tables.
 - Personal invitations have proven effective.
 - Promote the advantages of belonging to a Sisterhood.

- Plant the seed for members to purchase a membership for a reluctant prospect...it may represent a significant investment in the future of the League.
- Provide an orientation session and a new member kit
- Mentoring new members (perhaps assigning someone as a “buddy”
- Invite prospective members to events and activities.
- Find ways to include new members such as having them serve on a sub-committee
- Regular social events, special speakers and encouraging members to come together for a cause such as feeding the poor & homeless, Read-In Week & Faith, Fitness & Fun Walk/Runs

Retention

- Retention efforts mostly included phone calls and emails. Recognition of members by presenting service pins and Maple Leaf Service pins instills pride among the members and appreciation of their participation in the League.
- Celebrations of birthdays, Mother’s days, anniversaries
- Reasons for not renewing included: health, moving and financial.
- Important that we remember that council members are aging and the need for members to step into executive positions continues to be a challenge. To meet the challenge councils have started sharing executive responsibilities; streamlining committees and hosting general meetings to other locations to accommodate shut-ins.

Leadership Development:

- Convention Attendance at all three levels of the League was cited as a leadership development tool.
- The National CWL Planning Strategically Sessions have been offered throughout Alberta Mackenzie and approximately 60% of our members have been at a session either in person or online.
- Catholic Women’s Leadership Foundation Studies: Many of the councils know about the foundation but many councils do not promote it as the majority of council members are older and not interested in leadership training opportunities

League Resource Materials:

- Online Resources: Many councils indicated that the National website provides them with access to most of the League’s publications.
- For those that did not cite online resources, it was gratifying to learn that almost all parish councils have on hand three resources:
 1. The Constitution and Bylaws
 2. The Canadian League Magazine
 3. League Prayers
 In addition, most of them have the Executive handbook, Executive Handbook, Leading the League and information on Parliamentary Procedure.

Recognition of Members

Congratulations to the Father Walter Krewski Award Winners for 2019:

Greatest Increase in New members:	St Mary’s Calgary
Greatest Increase in Members:	St. Albert the Great Calgary
Greatest Percentage Increase of Members	Ascension Calgary

We are reminded that members of the League support one another, believe in what they do, find meaning in their volunteering, grow in their faith together, enjoy the companionship of likeminded people and are confident that their participation is taken seriously and appreciated. A **dynamic sisterhood** appeals to women of all ages in councils throughout Alberta Mackenzie and is fundamental to the future of the League. With the guidance of Our Lady of Good Counsel and the Holy Spirit we will continue to make a difference in the lives of our sisters and Canada. Congratulations on your work for God and Canada.

This concludes my report,
Mary Hunt

**PROVINCIAL SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT STANDING COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
Gladys Brown, Chair**

Diocesan Chairpersons:

Calgary	Kathleen Winter	Grouard- McLennan	Sister Connie Harkin
Edmonton	Sister Susan Scott	St. Paul	Kathryn Bourque

In reviewing the reports that were received, all Diocesan Spiritual Development Chairpersons have been working with the Council Spiritual Chairpersons by informing them of the various resources and programs that they could use to inspire and support CWL members in their faith journey.

In one diocese, 87% of the councils reported studying the theme by reflecting on it at their meetings and 20% studied "*Ladutato Si*". Councils were urged to spend 1/3 of their meeting on spiritual activities.

There was one council who made the "*Jesus Life Bracelet*". With the bracelets being made, they were told the story of the bracelet. *Once upon a time, there were **Three Wise Men** guided by a **Star**, they were on the way to witness the Birth of a **New King**, "The King of Kings". When he grew up, He became a **Carpenter** and **Fisherman** of Man and Sons, He had **12 Apostles** who helped Him to spread the **Word of God**. But one day of **hate, revenge and betrayal** He was **Crucified** spilling **His Precious Blood** to save us. On the **third day** He resurrected. He ascended to Heaven to be with **His Father**, and **Love** was the reason for all.* This gave the council members the opportunity to reflect on what each bead meant.

The Spiritual Advisors were invited to attend the monthly meetings as well give a short presentation on a topic chosen by the executive. In some parishes, before the meeting, Mass with celebrated with members and parishioners.

What would the parish be like if it did not have the devoted CWL members who serve in various committees. Parishes always need volunteers such as serving on Parish Pastoral Councils, Parish Ministries---adult servers, proclaimers, ministers of the Precious Blood, greeters/gift bearers, music, environment (decorating the church for the different seasons). Volunteers play a very BIG part. CWL members support families who have lost loved ones through being present, listening to them, hold Grieving and Loss sessions and again preparing the funeral luncheons.

Council members bring faith and fellowship to not only CWL members isolated in the community /lodges/ hospital but to the wider members of the parish. In one area, the Ecumenical Ministerial Association gathered together to welcome the homeless when the temperature dipped to minus thirty. This gave the community the opportunity to pray for them, provide shelter and serve nourishing food. As well, the World Day of Prayer gathered various churches to meet and plan for this event. Interacting with the various churches gave them the opportunity to meet one another. A wonderful experience.

Personal spiritual growth is nurtured through retreats, bible studies, participating as a sponsor in the RCIA process, teaching the young children in preparation for the sacraments and marriage preparations.

In one diocese, ladies were asked about their biggest challenge and one of the most interesting challenges was addressing the issue of sexual abuse by clergy, sensitive to the pain our women may experiencing; some have had members of their family who were abused; the pain many of us have of betrayal, trust issues, and helplessness in effecting change. Discussion and prayer formed a large part of this program which was presented over two meetings.

Most councils support Catholic Missions in Canada by subscribing to their magazines and monetary donations through the sale of the calendars.

As we are an aging group of women, we must encourage the young women to join and set an example of the what the Catholic Women's League is all about. It is definitely apparent that the spiritual aspect of the Catholic Women's League is uppermost in the hearts and minds of members in the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council.

Lord, I rest in the knowledge that where You guide You also provide. My one desire is to walk with You and to always be at Your side. Amen.

This concludes my report,
Gladys Brown

**PROVINCIAL TREASURER
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
Gwen Elliott**

88 out of 156 councils reporting (56.4%)

Survey Report statistics were received from 3 of the five diocesan councils in Alberta Mackenzie. Due to incomplete statistics received by the Provincial Treasurer, percentages would not be accurate for the Province so were not included in this report. The donations report was compiled from information submitted by the five diocesan councils. The participation rate for Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council showed an decrease in 2019 with 88/156 councils (56.4%) reporting.

Councils reported that the position of Treasurer was filled. Reporting councils kept track of their funds making use of bank statements. Most councils used cheque and deposit books and some of councils used receipt books. Use of receipt books helps to track money received to the council as it is a written record. The use of spreadsheets appears to be increasing and ledger books are still being used to record and keep track of finances. Some councils reported that they are using computer software programs. Most reported that financial records were retained for 5 years.

It is important for transparency that the council's books be reviewed so to give members assurance that there is good stewardship of the council's funds. In 2019 more than half of councils reported that their books were reviewed using an experienced bookkeeper or accountant.

Membership fees ranged from \$23 - \$40. Collection is mainly done from November to February with the bulk of the funds sent in January and February.

Parish councils reported many types of fundraising activities. Bake sales /Teas, Funeral Lunches, and raffles are the most frequent of the reported fundraisers.

Councils reported that it is difficult to sort out the donations by Standing Committee category and that there is not an 'Other' category to record some donations. There were some difficulties getting onto the survey and some were unable to print.

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council has a voluntary fund in support of our councils in the Mackenzie-Fort Smith Diocese. Travel costs are high in the north and these funds are used to assist them with expenses, in particular the cost of travel to meetings and conventions. \$5660 was sent to Mackenzie-Fort Smith Diocesan Council in 2019 due to the generous support of councils in Alberta. Alberta March for Life voluntary fund was set up at the 2019 Provincial Convention, \$200 was received to the fund in 2019. It is hoped that more donations will be received to this fund in 2020 so that it can be used for the March for Life this year.

Thank you to all of the Treasurers who serve in your councils, you are a vital member of the executive as you care for the finances of your council. God bless you all.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve my Sisters in the League.

This concludes my report,
Gwen Elliott

**PROVINCIAL SECRETARY
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
Anna Maria Matsui**

85 Councils Reporting Provincial Secretary

The following quote is so important that it bears repeating this year:

“One of the cornerstones of good written communication is the clear, concise expression of ideas or information. The recording secretary, through good written communication, is an important contributor to the history of her council.” CWL Secretary’s Handbook

The electronic reporting process is still in a growing phase. The percentage of councils participating this year ranged from 42% to 63%. It is clear that more councils are becoming comfortable using technology. However, there are some who are resistant due to lack of computer skills and in some cases, *aging members who have not yet (I think maybe we should say more seasoned members)* embraced this reporting format. Many council secretaries assist their president in compiling annual reports.

Most councils have one member filling both the recording and corresponding secretary position. It is a concern that some councils report that the secretary position is vacant. For councils without a secretary, a member will volunteer to record the minutes for the meeting. Those in this position make an effort to attend all executive and general meetings. Books of minutes are brought to meetings. A majority of councils still record the minutes by hand and have them typed later, but there are some who use laptops at the meeting. Some council secretaries distribute the minutes via email, others hand them out at the meetings. Some councils have the minutes read at the meeting. Not all councils use a Motion Book.

Secretaries are signing authorities for some of our councils. Council secretaries all know where their Charter is kept. Most keep rosters of members and take the roll call at meeting as well as notify members of upcoming meetings and events. Members are notified about meetings in various ways such as email, phone calls, parish bulletins, CWL bulletin boards, parish calendars of events, parish websites, and Facebook. One way or another, the information is passed onto members.

Comments from the annual reports are always interesting and illuminating. One small council meets only twice per year. One secretary commented that she finds her position educational & an opportunity for personal growth. Emails are used to communicate with members who are not able to attend a meeting. Occasion cards are sent out by another member of the executive.

This concludes my report,
Anna Maria Matsui

**PROVINCIAL PAST PRESIDENT
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
June Fuller**

Diocesan Past Presidents:

Calgary:	Janet McPhee
Edmonton:	Cheryl Boom
Grouard-McLennan:	Irene Brassard
Mackenzie-Fort Smith:	Gerda Hazenberg
St. Paul:	Celine Berlinguette

Annual reports are a way for us to capture the dedication, enthusiasm and hard work that our members do in their home councils. This past year, there was a decrease in the number of councils that completed the on-line annual reports from the previous year, as many councils indicated they had difficulty completing the survey for various reasons.

Greatest Challenges to Completing the On-line Survey:

- Challenges included getting connect, getting online and getting the computer to work with the program
- Understanding some of the questions – would like to see the N/A as an option
- Computer illiteracy
- Finding the time for the ladies to meet and complete the forms
- Position vacancy made it difficult to complete the survey for those positions
- December is a busy time to do the survey
- Being President and Past President at the same time

The role of Past President is viewed as a supportive and an advisory position along with sharing knowledge of the League with all members, as well as a supportive role model, especially to the President. Past Presidents indicated that they are called upon by the President to assist with other duties in the councils. This included representing and promoting the council, attending conventions, chairing executive/general meetings, chairing the nominations and elections committee as well as filling vacant roles and helping to organize fundraisers and other social events. This position is filled in most of the councils, with some Past President having to stay in this position for an extra term.

Archives are a very important part of any organization and are included in the Past President's role. A large number indicated that they are responsible for the archives and that these documents are stored in the church. Councils store archive information in filing cabinets, photo albums, boxes, on memory sticks, DVD's and CD's. Most Past Presidents indicated that they knew where their council charter was located, with a few not knowing this information. Some councils have kept their council histories up to date and have access to their archives if they need to look something up. The items that are archived include annual reports, Book of Life, deceased members history, financial information, list of past executives, membership renewal data and minutes of executive and general meetings, pin/award recipients, written reports and years of service.

Of the duties that are outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) the Past President is responsible for facilitating the study and implementation of the C&B and National Manual of Policy and Procedures and other pertinent documents. It was reported that most councils have copies of the C&B and the P&P, however a large percentage indicated that they do not use them often to guide their decision making. About half of the councils indicated that they have their own policy and procedure manual, and these are either updated every two years or whenever there is a change to the policy.

When asked about what levels of the League, councils seek advice from, approximately 25-50% of councils indicated requesting advice from their Diocesan counterparts. Less than 25% contacted the Provincial or National level for advice. More than half of the councils indicated that they seek advice from their Spiritual Advisors either monthly or as needed. A small percentage, probably less than 10% seek advice from their local bishops and a few councils indicated that they do consult with Life Members either monthly, quarterly or annually.

When asked if they supported the implementation of the envisioned future of the league through Planning Strategically 2018-2020, over 75% of councils embraced this new initiative with presentations and discussion of the plans at councils meeting, by encouraging members to attend presentations, workshops and conventions in order to learn more about this new initiative. A few comments that were shared by councils regarding the Strategic Planning was "with this new Planning Strategically, all of our council members feel much more involved and are coming forward to do more for the

council” and “...possibilities of having few standing committees will actually make it easier for a member to select an area in which they would wish to work”.

Greatest Challenges:

- Finding time for the role and finding members to take on leadership roles
- Computer illiteracy
- Getting support of the parish priest as there are other ladies’ groups being created and pulling our members away
- Updating archives and pictures
- More than just fund raisers
- Filling the President’s role
- Keeping the council going
- Difficulty accessing the online survey

Greatest Successes:

- Archiving material from former councils that disbanded due to church closures
- Getting Filipino families involved
- Raising funds for ‘Nickel’s for the North’ – ABMK project’
- Finding members to fill positions – especially the President- mentoring the President

One council shared this story *“Something that is satisfying as a Past President is to stay involved with your council, but at the same time taking a step back. I feel that it is a success to be able to see your council continue to stay vibrant, to witness the members continuing to enjoy their roles as standing committee members, executive members and members in general and to trust that the Holy Spirit will continue to inspire our council on our journey”.*

I am always truly impressed when I read the reports that are submitted, and I thank God for my wonderful Sisters in the League and for all the exceptional work that they do for God and Canada.

This concludes my report,

June Fuller



PROVINCIAL CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE STANDING COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
Celine Berlinguette, Chair

As I reviewed the information received from each of our dioceses, two facts emerged: the first being the number of facets to this ministry and the second being the number of members that are involved in many or all facets.

Looking at this Standing Committee's area of responsibilities, I also noticed a distinct difference between rural and urban areas. Although, all Dioceses responded to working and supporting the various areas of the Christian Family Life Council, the rural area does not have access to the resources that urban areas have, therefore the role becomes more of a supportive role to the Parish initiatives.

Approximately fifty-five percent of our councils completed the online Christian Family Life annual report. Forty percent of positions for this committee were filled by appointment and some still remaining vacant. As was so well indicated by one of our dioceses, activities are many and resources are limited... "*the labourers are few*".

Marriage and Family – Councils throughout the province did an amazing job supporting marriage and families:

- ✓ Supporting and celebrating Mother's Day, Father's Day, special anniversaries and liturgical celebrations for married couples.
- ✓ Assisting with the Marriage Preparation courses.
- ✓ Support to single parent families at Christmas (gifts and food).
- ✓ Support to for those leaving abusive situations and financial support for Women's shelters.
- ✓ In urban areas, programs were offered in parenting, single parent families, marriage encounter (support to married couples).

Sanctity of Life – All our Councils participate in events that promote the sanctity of life at various levels depending on their location and accessibility to the venue.

- ✓ March for Life held in Edmonton (53%) of Councils in Edmonton participate as well as those Councils that are in close proximity to Edmonton
- ✓ Urban areas also participated in pro-life marches, pro-life dinners, life –chain, pro-life vigils and 40 days for life.
- ✓ In rural areas, as well as urban, members attend pro-life Masses, attend Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care, have signed petitions and many have attended the movie "Unplanned"
- ✓ Many of the Councils reported that they had donated money or gifts to: Local Pro-life organizations, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, Birthright, Campaign Life Coalition, Pregnancy and Family Support Services and Priests for Life

Ministry to the Youth – In Councils across the province, youth are encouraged to share their gifts in ministry. Although, we have few Catholic Girls Leagues, we have many Youth who participate in the Choir, as Lectors, Ushers, cleaning, catechists and other events. Youth events sponsored by our Councils:

- ✓ Youth to attend Summer Camps
- ✓ World Youth Day
- ✓ Sunday School
- ✓ Youth Conferences
- ✓ NET Ministries

Ministries to the Disabled - Activities that have been undertaken are:

- ✓ Making churches and public buildings more wheel chair accessible with designated spaces for wheelchairs.
- ✓ Encouraging participation in the Mass and ministries
- ✓ Attend mass at the Nursing homes and bringing communion when there is no mass
- ✓ Praying, sending cards, providing transportation

Ministries to the Seniors – Great outreach work has been done by our Councils and as individuals of our communities for the Seniors.

- ✓ Visiting the seniors was very high on the list of activities
- ✓ Bringing Communion and praying with them
- ✓ Telephoning them, sending them cards
- ✓ Initiate social programs and celebrations
- ✓ Involve them in CWL activities

Ministry to the Widowed – Many Councils assist at funerals in different ministries including the choir and also preparing funeral lunches. Many of our members are excellent at providing prayer and support after the death of a loved one. They call, send cards, visit and sometimes gift the person with a prayer shawl. Widows are invited to attend CWL meetings and events. In some parishes they have bereavement programs which the widowed are encouraged to attend.

Separated and Divorced – Other than offer their time to the separated and divorced, should they need a confident and invite them to join group outing, our Councils have not focused on this ministry as they are not sure what services the League can provide to make them feel more welcomed in the Parishes.

Vocations – Vocations has been very well supported throughout the province. Each of our Dioceses has responded with enthusiasm to the needs for vocation by:

- ✓ Prayers for vocations
- ✓ Adopting or supporting a seminarian
- ✓ Encouraging families to invite their priests and seminarians into their homes
- ✓ Asking priests/seminarians to speak about their vocation
- ✓ Hosting luncheons for priests and religious
- Spiritual Bouquets and masses for vocations
- Supporting youth in ministry programs like CYO and NET

In conclusion, by the Grace of God and the intercession of Our Lady of Good Council, many good and positive works are happening within our Councils that reflect our Christian faith and beliefs.

I commend each and every one of our members for their great contributions.

This concludes my report,
Celine Berlinguette



**PROVINCIAL COMMUNICATIONS STANDING COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
Janet MacPhee, Chair**

Preamble:

The Alberta Mackenzie Council consists of five (5) dioceses.

There are four Diocesan communication chairs.

The diocese without a communications chair did not submit a report

Another diocese (Grouard-McLennan) reported that they did not receive any annual reports from the National office. They know that parish councils did submit reports to National. Their report to Provincial consists of the information that the communications chair was able to get personally from councils.

Dioceses:

Calgary Diocese – 25 councils reporting (50%) – 19 Chairpersons

Edmonton Diocese – 29 councils reporting (43%) – 15 Chairpersons

Grouard McLennan – 5 councils reporting (28%)

Mackenzie Fort Smith – 1 council reporting (25%)

St. Paul – no report

Approximately 37 % reporting

The Canadian League Magazine

- Is still the number one source for information; articles are read and discussed at meetings
- Used as a resource all year for education, advocacy and new ideas
- Members are encouraged by the National President's reports

Media and League Promotion

- Majority of the councils encouraged members to use the National websites and other (Provincial, Diocesan, church) websites, not so much for Facebook or Twitter
- Email use has increased for the distribution of meeting agendas, minutes and other pertinent information
- Parish Bulletins are still the main way that the majority of the councils use to promote their council and the League along with church bulletin boards and the church website.
- There is an increase in the use of newsletters within councils including the Diocesan councils, with numbers ranging from 1 to 6 per year.

Pornography

- All councils reported some type of action on pornography, councils also engaged the overall parish with their campaigns
- Pornography Hurts and Mandatory Age Verification Postcards were sent along with letters
- One council reported using the White Ribbon idea, signing them and sending them to the government
- Campaigns are held throughout the year
- The Over 18 documentary was shown in every Diocese

Action on Communication-Related Resolutions

- Little to no action on older resolutions
- Mandatory Age Verification postcards were sent
- Councils did encourage member to educate themselves and their families on safe, wise and responsible internet use as stated in Resolution 2002.11 Responsible internet Use for Children

Evangelization

- Councils encourage members to watch Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel mass on April 26 and other televised masses
- Majority of councils celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel with a mass
- Several councils promote World Communications Day and many promote faith-based programs
- Encouraged the use of Christmas Nativity stamps and religious cards

Strategic Planning

- Calgary - One-third of respondents participated in a strategic planning workshop and updated their council on the *Pathway to a New Legacy*. About 48% have explained the guiding principles to members: Core Purpose, Core Values, Mission Statement, and Envisioned Future. The majority are familiar with the four strategic planning goals and topics being addressed: Leadership Skills, Catholic Social Teaching, Outreach and Service, Critical Issues. Fifty percent of councils share the implementation committee's monthly updates with members and recite the *Prayer for Renewal* at meetings.
- Hay River CWL Council is informing members of the information on the national website, the TCL magazine, the monthly updates but not yet reciting the Renewal Prayer at our meetings. In terms of the Winter 2019 and Spring League magazine, we are continuing to review share information regarding the Core Purpose, Pathway to a New Legacy, the new Implementation Committee, the four strategic planning goals, Article and the strategic planning workshop.
- Grouard McLennan – encouraging councils to say the CWL Prayer for Renewal

Councils Communications and Challenges

- Councils still find calling members on the telephone the easiest way to communicate
- Councils use email extensively
- All of the Dioceses are working very hard to keep members informed without causing information overload.
- Biggest challenge is recruiting a member for this committee, several councils report sharing this chair with another executive member
- Information overload at times
- Use of technology – not all councils have access to a reliable (and affordable) internet provider (due to geographic location)

Additional Comments:

- Councils frustrated with the A/R survey
- Difficult accessing to do the survey
- Diocesan councils having difficulty accessing results – National office very negative when called about
- Questions do not truly reflect what councils are doing – ie just because a council does not act on a national resolution does not mean they are not working hard on other things
- At the same time, many councils learn from the survey and get ideas from it

ABMK Communications Chair – what was done over the last few months

- Communication communiques (we are encouraged to send out at least four a year)
- Encouraged Diocesan Councils to access the websites – National, Provincial
- The ABMK has provided Mandatory Age Verification postcards to each of the dioceses
- One newsletter – published generally in the fall
- Updating of ABMK website – this is a huge job. Need to thank life members that created it and did the first update. The maintenance of a website and uploading information is an ongoing “job”, which I am slowly learning
- I am responsible for uploading information to the website and making sure all communiques from other chairs are uploaded (once approved by the president). We do have a life member that is the webmaster but also runs her own business. And as this is a volunteer position, we do not necessary sit in front of computer all day long!!
(Maybe with this “social distancing due to Covid19, I may get a bit of work done!!

This concludes my report

Janet MacPhee

Provincial Community Life Standing Committee
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
Theresa Hickey, Chair

Community Life Diocesan Chairs:

Calgary	Lorraine Clark
Edmonton	Katherine Tarras
Grouard McLennan	Lynne Oe
Mackenzie Fort Smith	Barb McDonald
St. Paul	Vacant

75 % of councils sent reports with some not having accessibility to the online reporting system. St. Paul has 19 parish councils. Of these only four were accessible to the reporting system. Only two of the councils had a Community Life Chair. Most councils did their best to stay current, get involved and contribute in some way to their local community as well to the needs of the world. When the position was vacant, the President submitted the report for her councils.

Something to consider - the things we take for granted, someone else is praying for. Poverty is the root cause of an overwhelming number of additional social injustices. As I sit here to write up my Community Life Report, I am really disturbed by so much poverty, homelessness, violence against women and children, human trafficking, euthanasia, assisted suicide, medical assistance in dying, underdeveloped countries. Where do we begin as members of The Catholic Women's League?

Dignity Rights of Persons

Human Rights are intimately related to the notion of human dignity. Approximately 80% of members reported being familiar with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Clean drinking water is a basic and universal right It is essential to human survival. Many of us from Alberta Mackenzie Councils donate to Burkina Faso. The Catholic Women's League from the North donated to this foundation.

Councils reported visiting those who are incarcerated & praying the rosary with prisoners, bringing the blessed sacrament to inmates for Sunday Mass, lunch program for school kids, helping with food banks, brown bags for kids, weekend lunches given to children to take home, volunteering with the Salvation Army, St Vincent de Paul, bringing food to homeless shelters, gifts baskets to mothers and babies who are away from home during Christmas time, giving socks to the Salvation Army sock program. Minority Groups are supported by many donations and volunteering their time.

100% of councils provided a donation to homelessness and approximately 50% of members volunteered to serve at soup kitchens. Approximately 90% of councils reported a donation made to the Domestic Violence Campaign. Apparently domestic violence costs Canadians roughly \$7.4 billion a year. Last year, Statistics Canada reported that every night an estimated 6,000 women and children are forced to sleep in shelters because it is not safe for them to be at home. 70% of councils reported making a donation for human trafficking, 77% reported an awareness of laws in the fight against human trafficking and shared with their councils.

Development & Peace

Good News! The National Catholic Women's League has agreed to forward funds collected for Development and Peace in 2018.

In the last update in Sept 2019, the Canadian Conference Of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) & Canadian Catholic Organization for Development & Peace (CCODP) received, discussed and accepted the report, and at that time, decided to enter a period and reflection which will include discussions with local CCCB members in their dioceses and parishes. The Share Lent Campaign continued in most parishes. The only news from some CWL members is that some councils sent in money to Development and Peace to have their contribution returned.

At this point in time, with the global coronavirus pandemic, the shared Lent and the closure of the churches, the Global South will have a difficult time collecting for the many who are in need. The Share Lent Campaign will accept online

donations. Those continuing to help are asked to send a donation by cheque to : Development & Peace, 1425 Rene Levesque Blvd West, 3rd Floor Montreal, Quebec, H3G1T7. For more information, please go to devp.org.

Councils have continued to donate to Development & Peace, either on personal basis or through church envelopes. Some councils in 2019 showed videos and enjoyed a small meal together with a Sunday collection for poverty. A collection for development and peace was taken up in some councils at CWL monthly meetings.

Social and Economic Justice

2018.01 Canada Summer Jobs Application

This resolution was discussed at some council meetings and only 40% wrote letters to government leaders. We, as Diocesan and parish councils in the Northwest Territories never discussed this at any CWL Meetings. Attending conventions is where we have really learned about this important program. The NWT seems to have a different way of hiring students for summer work.

95% of councils reported the struggles of Indigenous women and girls were facing in this time of reconciliation, racism, missing and murdered women and girls. The CWL supported and helped with delivering food supplies to homeless shelters. Only 20% indicated support for organizations geared towards assisting Indigenous people. In support of the missing and murdered women and girls, the ladies wear red on Fridays. Red Dress Wednesdays was held to support Indigenous women by displaying a red dress in their home or place of work to honour and bring awareness to this issue. In the Alberta-Mackenzie dioceses many members placed a red dress on a tree to show support.

2017.01 Equal Access to Permanent Residence Status, 90% of councils had done little or nothing on this resolution.

2017.01 Supreme Court Decision in R.V. Gladue for Indigenous Offenders. 90% of councils reported it as not a priority. Only 10% monitored and wrote to government leaders.

Refugees/ Immigration & Developing Countries

Immigration in Canada is shared equally between the Federal Government and the provinces, apart from Quebec. However, provinces in Alberta Mackenzie have implemented their own programs to select immigrants. One half were uninformed about Canada's official immigration and refugee policies. Over half of members reported understanding the needs of immigrants and refugees in their community. 80% know the difference between a temporary foreign immigrant and a refugee.

By way of explanation: A temporary foreign worker is a qualified and skilled worker who is certified to do the job when there is a shortage of qualified Canadian citizens or permanent residents. A refugee is a person who has been forced to leave their country to escape war, persecution or natural disaster. An Immigrant is a person who is born outside of Canada and comes to live permanently in Canada or another country.

Child Labor conditions reported 78% awareness in developing countries. Implications of trade laws and practices in the global economy, economic difficulties in developing countries and policies put the intake of money more valuable than the people. Several organizations who supported and focused on developing countries were *Save a Family Plan, Pennies for the Poor, Mustard Seed Project, Habitat for Humanity, Canadian Red Cross Operation Eyesight International, and World Vision.*

In conclusion, the Catholic Women's League definitely helps communities and people in need in Canada and abroad. Many councils take part in so many Community Life activities, sharing love and needs to seniors, helping new families in, support of Veterans, Drop in Centres, and Food Banks.

"Praise be to you, my Lord" In these beautiful words of Saint Francis of Assisi we are reminded that our Common Home is like a Sister whom we share our life with a beautiful Mother who opens her arms to embrace us.

This concludes my report,
Theresa Hickey

**PROVINCIAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH STANDING COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
Gerda Hazenberg, Chair**

Diocesan Chairpersons:

Calgary	Dr. Rose Geonzon	Edmonton	Kara Pelech
Grouard-McLennan	Lauri Friesen	Mackenzie-Fort Smith	Elizabeth Joseph

Education and Health is a busy committee, reaching out and building awareness in our parish, diocesan, and provincial communities. One of the greatest challenges this committee has faced in 2019 is the lack of chairpersons or direct leadership at particularly the parish level.

EDUCATION:

There are Catholic schools in all of our dioceses, although only the city of Yellowknife in the Mackenzie-For Smith diocese has Catholic schools. Four of the dioceses are actively engaged in the GrACE initiative, Grateful Advocates of Catholic Education. All of the five dioceses are aware that Catholic schools are a privilege that we must never take for granted. Four of the dioceses reported that they were informed about the quality of Catholic religious instruction in the area and Diocese. A large number of all the parish councils provide support to the Catholic schools, be it in the form a breakfast/lunch programs, Shrove Tuesday and Advent activities and in the form of scholarships or bursaries for post-secondary education. On council reported being active in teaching the Rosary to the K04 classes.

A majority of councils reported that their members were directly involved in sacramental preparation in their parishes. Only three councils reported being actively involved in the Rites of Christian Initiation. The majority of dioceses do not have a Catholic university in their area and many of the councils do not have a list of Catholic universities in other areas of the province/territory. Helping those who wish to improve their literacy skills has also not been reported by most councils.

HEALTH:

A strong support for local charities and shelters was reported by all dioceses. A small number of councils participated in the CWL Mental Health Postcard campaign. Most were not aware.

May 5-11, 2019 was designated as National Hospice Palliative Care Week by the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association. During this week, councils were invited to participate in "12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care". All dioceses reported strong support for this initiative by both discussions/education of members on facilities and services available, and by arranging for prayer in either parishes, churches or in homes. The majority of our members appear not to be donating blood using the Partners for Life Program under the League's unique Partner ID (CATHO11269).

ENVIRONMENT:

A majority of our councils participated in environmental initiatives such as cleaning public spaces, recycling, eliminating plastic water bottles, reducing use of Styrofoam cups and composting. Most of the dioceses reported limited participation in *Earth Day* activities. Educational presentations on topics related to our theme *Care for our Common Home* were held throughout the five dioceses. These have been a great learning tool for all our members.

It is truly manifested through prayer, education, and service that we as League Sisters are working in the Kingdom of God.

This concludes my report,
Gerda Hazenberg

**PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION STANDING COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
Sharon Malec, Chair**

Diocesan Standing Chairs:

Calgary – Gayleen Hamilton
Grouard-McLennan- Linda Vandenberg
St Paul – Caren Mueller

Edmonton – Mary Pat O’Neill
Mackenzie-Fort Smith – Sheila Ryan-Hachey

Legislation Standing Committees deal with the workings of the municipal, provincial, territorial and federal governments. Many councils have found this challenging as sometimes it can be quite boring and/or frustrating as they maneuver their way through red tape. Our councils have written to Members of the Legislative Assemblies, Territorial Representatives and Members of Parliament for information and concerns that affect the Catholic Women’s League of Canada. As the Provincial and Territorial governments have had a change in party, this has involved a change in ministers. Many of the government bills have died on the floor of the legislature.

Councils actively prepared letters, emails and visited MP offices. Diocesan and Territorial Legislation Chairs educated their councils by submitting information in their newsletters.

The parish councils have expressed a desire for workshops. The topics suggested were letter writing, form and guide and how to access new ministers contact information. Also, the councils indicated that they accessed information by attending public forums and town hall meetings. By using the Hansard and the telecasts of the provincial meetings, councils were kept up on the issues that were important to them.

At the 2019 Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Convention, Education and Health, Edmonton Diocesan Council brought forth the following resolution.

Resolution 2019.01 In-School Dental Screening for Children in Alberta in Grades K-12

It was thoroughly discussed. The resolution was resoundingly passed.

A meeting with the new government of Alberta was tentatively set up for February 2020. The topics that were chosen for discussion were:

- Resolution: 2018.01** Official Recognition of Obesity as a Chronic Disease
- Resolution: 2015.01** Establish National Standards & Inter-provincial/Territorial Protocols for Child Welfare interventions
- Resolution:2019.01** In-School Dental Screening for Children in Alberta in Grades K-12
- Senior’s Initiative:** Senior’s Advocate

The meeting date was changed to February 24, 2020 and discussions will continue to set up another meeting in the Fall of 2020.

All councils big or small have always been concerned in government affairs. The ladies of the Catholic Women’s League of Canada are to be commended for their support of their sisters and the people of the Province of Alberta and Mackenzie Territory.

This concludes my report
Sharon L. Malec

**PROVINCIAL RESOLUTIONS STANDING COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
Betsy Fletcher, Chair**

Diocesan Standing Chairs:

Calgary:	Dorothy Boras
Edmonton:	Mary Pat O'Neill
Grouard-McLennan:	Linda VandenBerg,
Mackenzie-Ft. Smith:	Sheila Ryan-Hachey
St. Paul:	Caren Mueller

Sub-Committee:

Lucille Partington
Mary-Lou Veecken

On reading the annual reports received from the five diocesan resolutions chairs, it is easy to note the dedication of the women in the Catholic Women's League in the Province of Alberta Mackenzie. Despite some issues with forming resolutions committees and finding members to sit as the chairs of the committees, members endeavour to follow the action plans of resolutions passed at the various levels of the League.

Councils are working towards a better understanding of the resolutions process through participation in workshops, especially since the implementation of the new resolution writing process. Other learning opportunities come from Catch the Fire, S'Mores, provincial and national conventions. Members still rely on communiqués from the provincial and national chairs of resolutions, information from checking the national website as well as from some of the more experienced members of their councils.

Councils acted on resolutions through letter writing campaigns and contacting their local MLAs and MPs. Some made phone calls to their government representatives. Councils would appreciate receiving letter samples and/or templates when they are called to action a resolution with a letter. Some of the resolutions acted on in 2019 are: Provincial 2019.01 In-School Dental Screening for Children in Alberta K-12; National 2019.01 Canada to Honour its Commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child; 2019.02 Canadian Support for the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. As well as those resolutions, councils acted on other issues before them including: increased funding for mental health; GRACE, Catholic education; conscience rights for medical professionals; euthanasia; Laudato Si; and environmental issues. Bill 262 Rights of Indigenous Women was reviewed. Petitions were also signed.

There have been some successes for our councils. By promoting their actions to parishioners, councils have acquired new members interested in the Catholic Women's League's social justice work. Over 200 Pornography Hurts post cards were sent out by one council alone. One council purchased religious Christmas stamps and sold them to members and parishioners to promote their use. One diocese suggested that proposed resolutions for national convention could be circulated at registration for study and review before the resolutions dialogue.

This concludes my report,
Betsy Fletcher

**LIFE MEMBER LIAISON
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
Gloria Lundberg, Life Member**

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council has 35 Life members including four Honorary Life Members (Ardis Beaudry, Vivian Bosch, Marie Cameron, and Agnes Bedard). In July we were saddened by the news of the passing of Gabriele Kalincak. Gabriele was a dedicated member of the League and is greatly missed.

Throughout the year I have endeavored to keep the Honorary Life and Life members informed of events around the province via email. Emails from our National Life Member Liaison have been forwarded to our Life members.

Christmas cards were shared among Life members and we are looking forward to the Mass being offered for our intentions on the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel. This Mass was a gift from the 2019 National Convention Planning Committee to all our Honorary Life and Life members across Canada and was a wonderful and meaningful surprise.

Life members in the Calgary and Edmonton areas continue to meet regularly over lunch to keep in touch and share in conversations regarding League related issues.

In December I met with Provincial President, Judy Look, and following that meeting a communique was sent to our Life members asking if they would consider sharing a meal Friday evening instead of meeting over lunch during the Provincial Convention as this will give us time to share lunch with our diocesan and parish sisters. Before lunch is served it will be announced that an Honorary Life or Life member has been asked to join their tables to share not only a meal but to facilitate conversations on the importance of relationships within the League. It is felt that we have much to contribute towards mentoring our sisters and what better time than while sharing a meal. Life members were asked to submit topics for discussion. The lunch conversations will be shared at dinner and a report will be written and forwarded to the Provincial President on behalf of the Honorary Life and Life members.

I feel very blessed to serve as Life Member Liaison for the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council.

This concludes my report
Gloria Lundberg

**CALGARY DIOCESAN COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
Jan Myhre, President**

Councils Reporting: 37

Councils as of December 2019: 49

The councils within the Diocese of Calgary have been introducing the 3 core values of Faith, Service and Social Justice as they continue their ministry to God and Canada.

The Calgary Diocesan News Bulletin has been a great source for the Presidents (97%) to help inform their members, followed by the Canadian League Magazine (84%). Also helpful to the Presidents are the websites, national communiques, and parish bulletins.

"*Care for Our Common Home*" was the most common priority that was introduced to local councils, followed by "*excluding Medical Assistance in Dying from Palliative Care and Hospice facility*". These topics were either discussed at meetings, or guest speakers were brought in to make a presentation.

A large majority of councils are grateful for the support of their spiritual advisor, and meet with him every month, however many spiritual advisors are pulled in different directions, and are not able to attend general meetings or gatherings.

This past year, more Presidents are using *Robert's Rules of Order* as a resource to preside over their meetings. This, of course, is the "go to" source if answers can't be found in the *Constitution & Bylaws* or the *Standing Rules of Order*. The *Executive Handbook* and *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* are also well used sources. We have been discussing Parish Policy & Procedure Manuals lately, and I was glad to see this as one of the questions in the Annual Report Survey. 54% of the reporting councils indicated they do not have a Parish Policy Manual, and of those, 60% indicated it would be helpful to have one. Watch for information about a workshop to help councils put together a Parish Policy Manual. These are a great tool to help councils whenever questions arise.

Presidents were asked what type of documents they have signed on behalf of their council, and all reported they've signed banking documents as well as cheques. Other documents signed were letters on behalf of their council, and petitions.

I was thrilled to see that 95% of the Presidents reporting indicate they represent their councils by attending the regional meetings. Church functions and Diocesan meetings and conventions came in a close second. Examples of other events they attended were fundraising events and dinner, special Masses, National Convention, Conferences, Retreats, Workshops, Pro-Life Events, World Day of Prayer, School Ceremonies and Provincial Meetings and Conventions. I was surprised to see that 62% of council Presidents reporting indicated that their council did not subsidize the cost of them

attending some of these events, and only 49% paid for their President to attend Diocesan Convention.

The *Executive Handbook* is a great resource for Presidents to assist their executive with their role and duties. 85% of the Presidents reporting indicated that they have read the *Executive Handbook*, and it has assisted them in their responsibility of overseeing the operations of their council.

Councils have numerous committees, other than the Standing Committees, such as Annual Events, Funeral Lunches, Social Events, Scholarship or Bursary, Donations, and Fundraising. 9 Councils reports that they also have a Visiting Committee to visit the shut-ins. Prayer Chain, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Ministry Masses, Retreat Planning, and Phoning Committees were also examples shared.

When new Presidents assumed their role, the greatest assistance they received was from the immediate past president, former past presidents and their current executive. The diocesan president, secretary, life members and treasurers also played a role in assisting the new Presidents. Their greatest challenge when transitioning into the role of president was keeping members interested. This was followed by feeling overwhelmed, feeling undertrained, not having a full slate of officers, and finding time.

Most Presidents reported that it is beneficial to have a national theme to help them with their council activities.

The following are some of the comments from reporting Presidents as to what makes them most proud of their council:

“What really makes me proud of our council is that we are a cohesive team. We are a small council, but we were able to increase our membership and was awarded with the Father Walter Krewski Award....By doing prolife activities publicly, we are able to raise awareness on this issues and evangelize more women in our parish”.

“I am proud of our members as our average attendance at meetings is half or more of our membership. The ladies in our council are very faith-filled and are committed to keep our small council running”.

“We have increased our membership from 53 to 83 members over the past two years, which is a great reflection of the service and dedication our council is witnessed doing in our parish and community”.

“We all know, love and support each other. Each executive member feels responsible for the Council as a whole. We are trying to grow spiritually together, and to be more compassionate and caring. Together we do great things!”

“The strength and dedication to the League that many of the council members display is humbling. Many ladies are extremely giving of their time, and they truly strive to serve Christ and His Church”.

President’s Comments: The theme of “*Care for our Common Home – Stewards of Creation*” was embraced by the councils, and many led programs within their parish to reduce, recycle and reuse. The councils continue to advocate for Sanctity of Life from Conception to Natural Death, various social justice issues, and the Pornography Hurts campaign.

Although only 75% of the council presidents completed the annual reporting survey, the common theme throughout is similar in that the League will continue to struggle without members answering God’s call to leadership. Councils need to attract younger women, to welcome new ideas of our younger members.

With the implementation of the Strategic Plan forthcoming, we pray that the League will grow, under the patroness of Our Lady of Good Counsel.

This concludes my report,
Jan Myhre

**EDMONTON DIOCESAN COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
Mary Molloy, President**

Care of Our Common Home was embraced throughout our Archdiocese and provided the basis on which the Diocese Council set its priorities. Our first goal was to ensure all parishes had the opportunity to learn about the strategic plan. Presentations were made at our Annual Convention, Fall Meeting, regional workshops and at individual parishes using the presentation "Future of the League: Year 1". Members were encouraged to assist the working committees by completing online questionnaires and to volunteer for the Working Group subgroups. Spiritual advisors were encouraged to participate in the Spiritual Advisor's survey. Our second priority was to inspire development, particularly to incorporate the "Care of Our Common Home: Rejoicing in God's Gifts". This was accomplished using speakers at conventions, spiritual reflections, and retreats addressing the intention and meaning from *Laudatio Si*. Next, we focused on giving support to our Parish Councils, holding workshops and offering training, encouraging councils to streamline processes and to seek creative methods to increase membership. At the Diocesan level, we reduced the number of meetings by replacing the Winter Meeting with regional workshops, communicated more directly with parishes via the buddy system, eliminated zone fees and purged some other unnecessary duplications of effort. Diocesan also sought to enhance our relationships with other Catholic organizations.

Diocesan Council joined the Edmonton School District Grace Committee and, in October, sponsored a spiritual reflection evening "On a Mission with Christ" hosted by Father Richard Leonard, jointly sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Diocesan Council was a member of the Archbishop's Annual Dinner committee and, each May, joins in as a sponsor for the Faith Fun Fit event in concert with St Joseph's Seminary and Newman Theological College. In cooperation with the Archdiocese, the Diocesan Council also takes part in the Enculturation Days for International Clergy.

Annual online reporting was completed by 66% of the councils in the Archdiocese, a majority of them informing their membership through mailings or websites, the Canadian League magazine and the National Communique.

The top national priorities introduced and discussed included Care of Our Common Home, medical assistance in dying from palliative care/hospice facilities, rights of the pre-born under the UN Convention on Rights of the Child, removing the Canada Summer Job program attestation. Overall, 93% of the councils introduced the issues at meetings and 44% were engaged a standing committee chair.

Spiritual Advisor support for the League occurs in 96% of the councils and, among those, 52% meet monthly while 30% reported meeting occasionally. The main reason for not meeting on a monthly bases was the absence of a tradition of advisor meetings or because other parish duties prevented the advisor from having the time to meet.

Constitution and Bylaws, the Council Policy and Procedure Manual and the Executive Handbook were used by 71% as the main resources used within the councils. Robert's Rule of Order and the National Manual of Policies and Procedures were a secondary reference source used by 57%. The Executive Handbook was read by 91% of the council presidents and 95% reported the Handbook was useful for assisting in overseeing council operations. It was noted the Handbook did not assist with conflict resolution or how to retain the lines of communication.

The majority of documents signed by the President were cheques (93%) and other banking documents (71%) and letters received in (57%) and out (46%) of CWL respectfully.

Presidents were noted as representing their council at church functions (93%), Diocesan meetings and conventions (75%), World Day of Prayer (66%), provincial meetings (43%) and national conventions (39%). Other events noted were the Parish AGM, membership drives and funerals.

Approximately half the councils reported having their fees covered for attending conferences on behalf of their council. Only 16% of the councils reported covering the cost of events for the President to attend while 68% reported all costs were covered to attend the Diocesan Convention. In contrast, 34% had their way paid to attend the Provincial convention but only 23% had the cost covered to attend the National Convention.

A majority of councils (61%) reported having a policy manual and of the remaining 39% who did not, 65% reported it wouldn't be helpful to have one. A majority of councils (82%) indicated they didn't need assistance to develop their own. Only 33% developed a new policy this year. The main thrust of policy development was intended to add funding for a charity, developing a scholarship, updating old policies to make them more understandable and straightforward and/or to rework financial policies.

Of the council's reporting, only 57% provide an annual summary to their members. This is done by written means (76 %), oral report (64%), email (68%), by newsletter or parish bulletin (less than 35%).

Nearly 80% of the councils have funeral lunch committees and 59% reported having annual events like teas, bazaars, 50% have social events, 43% have fundraising activities and 32% make annual donations. Other committees mentioned were the prayer shawl ministry and a women's fellowship committee.

Council Presidents addressed the topics of Care of Our Common Home, membership, structure of CWL, support for Catholic education, developing lines of communication between CWL and Parish Council, pro-life, MAID and CWL involvement in World Day of Prayer.

Council Presidents noted that former past presidents were of great assistance when taking on the role of president (64%) and over half (55%) indicated the immediate past president was of assistance, as was the current executive (50%).

Councils reported that greatest challenges faced when transitioning into the new roles included keeping members interested (71%), finding the time (43%), feeling overwhelmed and not having a full slate of officers (39%), the large amount of paperwork and recruiting (34%) and trying to please everyone (30%).

A majority (82%) of councils felt it was beneficial to have a National theme and 42% said they liked the change with the start of every new National President. Councils felt about 3 years was an appropriate timeframe to introduce a new theme.

Comments from Presidents concerning what they are most proud of included the 37 years partnering with St. Joseph's Seminary, the willingness of members to step up when asked and members dedication and wanting to better our community and parish. The biggest challenge for Presidents was finding members to on leadership roles, involving younger members, membership and the onerous paperwork and reporting. The strength for Presidents to continue in their roles was the sisterhood and how each member has their own talent and uniqueness. One President commented the our CWL member are always on call and ready to jump in any way they can help.

The role of the president was carried out by competent and enthusiastic women. Where presidents are recycled, appointed or even take turns, it is clear members valued the leadership. It is interesting to note how often it is mentioned the importance to and need to stay in touch.

The annual reports identified the strength of the league and the need to grow and develop a plan to recruit and membership. It is with much anticipation our members are participating in the renewal of the league through the strategic planning process.

This concludes my report,
Mary Molloy

CWL Prayer for Renewal

~~Sr. Susan Scott, CAF

God of new beginnings, ever faithful God,

We thank You for your constant care for the women of The Catholic Women's League of Canada.

We have sought to serve You in faith by service to your people.

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and with the help of

Our Lady of Good Counsel, we continue to discern Your call

to seek justice and build Your Kingdom on earth each day.

We ask your guidance as we plan the evolution of The Catholic Women's League of Canada. Grant us wisdom, the grace of discernment, and strength. May each of us open her heart and mind to Your will and welcome the new life You bring to the League.

We ask this through Jesus, your beloved Son and Our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. AMEN.

**GROUARD-MCLENNAN DIOCESAN COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
Christine Becher, President**

Grouard-McLennan Archdiocese comprises an area of 223,596 square kilometres. There are 513 members in twenty councils, of which eighteen are currently active. It is a large diocese with councils spread over a wide area. Fourteen councils submitted a President's report: Beaverlodge, Berwyn, Bezanson, Fairview, Grande Prairie, Grimshaw, High Level, High Prairie, McLennan, Nampa, Peace River, Sexsmith, Spirit River and Valleyview. The activities and priorities of councils vary due to number of members, aging members and needs unique to each one.

However, most councils participated to some degree in the following:

Spiritual needs of the parish throughout the liturgical year

Partnership with their Spiritual Advisors

Involvement with the school providing guidance and mentorship especially for First Communion, Confirmation, and gifts befitting the occasion including Graduation

World Day of Prayer services

Memorials to our deceased members

Remembrance Day wreath-laying ceremonies

Local March for Life activities

12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care

Promotion of the sanctity of life from conception to natural death

Focus on our national theme Care For Our Common Home and how it relates to water

The needs of the homeless and vulnerable including participation in the H.U.G. program

Rosary Crusades

Support for some Development and Peace initiatives

Submission of Annual Reports. Most councils still prefer the paper format. Online reporting remains a challenge and this diocese could benefit from a workshop of some sort to walk us through this process. League members are kept up to date through resources from National, the League magazine, emails of communiques, reports and attendance at meetings, workshops and conventions

Events Attended April 27, 2019 to December 31, 2019

Annual Diocesan Convention April 27, 2019 in Valleyview where my term began:

March For Life in Edmonton March 9, 2019 including 10:00 A.M. Mass at St. Joseph's Basilica. Also carried Diocesan CWL banner to Legislature Grounds and on the walk

Provincial Convention in Grande Prairie as hosting Diocesan President (emcee for Opening Ceremonies following Opening Mass on the Friday evening)

Mini-Executive Meeting on July 18, 2019 at the home of Linda VandenBerg to hand over information

National Convention in Calgary August 18-21, 2019. On the Wednesday Archbishop Gerard Pettipas invited the ladies from our diocese to lunch!

Funeral for longtime member Bertha Meyers in Grande Prairie on August 18, 2019

Fall Provincial Meetings in St. Albert September 13-15, 2019

Chaired Diocesan Executive Meeting hosted by Grimshaw Holy Family council on September 21, 2019

Chaired Fall Diocesan Educational Workshop hosted by Saint Thomas More Council in Fairview October 19, 2019. Guest Speaker was Tal Woolsey of CAWST on Water For All

Chaired Executive Meeting hosted by Spirit River November 30, 2019 where Spring Workshop was planned

Encouraged letter-writing in support of Bill 207 Conscience Rights for Healthcare Professionals

As Saint Mother Teresa has said *"Not all of us can do great things but we can do small things with great love."*

This concludes my report,

Christine Becher

**Mackenzie-Fort Smith Diocesan Council President's
ANNUAL REPORT 2019
Shirley Gutierrez, President**

January- All 3 local councils worked on their membership drive. Our total memberships went down a few numbers as some of them moved or didn't renew their memberships. Hay River has 63 members, Yellowknife has 23 and Fort Smith has 14 with an overall total of 100 for the year 2019.

February- local councils had elections but still some unfilled positions in both levels. Councils are having tough time getting members to sit on a position. Most are willing to help but not as a leader. I attended our 55th Diocesan convention which was held in Fort Smith. An inspiring morning long workshop about Care for our Common Home theme was presented by our Spiritual advisor with another member. The workshop was very engaging, informative and spiritually uplifting. The Pro Life banner was hung in Fort Smith for the very first time. It was decided that we will hang it for a year until the next convention and will pass on to the next host council. Our First teleconference this year also happened this month. Some council had their Annual Women's retreat this month and the showing of 'Over 18 video' on Pornography.

March-Our new Diocesan Policy Manual was adopted. A Spiritual Leaders retreat week was held in which the local CWL had participated in hosting and providing meals. Led by CWL ladies, Special mass for World Day of Prayer as well as St. Patrick's Day were also celebrated. And in support of Pro-Life, our Life member, Ruth Boden attended the March for Life in Alberta.

April- members actively participated in their parishes Stations of the Cross on Fridays, ministerial Lunches, Rosary praying, as well as the Walk of the Cross on Good Friday. 2 councils were lucky to have Dr. Megan McKenna from the US to facilitate a special Lenten retreat. Also, Installation/ Reaffirmation of executives as well as Pin award ceremony were held on our Lady of Good counsel feast day in one council.

May- members participated in the 12 Hour of prayer for Palliative care this month. Being the month of devotion to Mother Mary, Rosary march was held. An Annual Mother's Day tea for a fundraising was again a success. And First communions, led by CWL ladies also happened.

June- Our diocese was represented by 6 members who were able to attend the Provincial convention in Grande Prairie of which 2 members are first time attendees. We were so proud Fort Smith won the Father Walter Krewski Membership awards at the convention. We took home the statue and displayed it for a year in Ft Smith. Also this month, one council held a workshop on Rachel's Vineyard, not very much attended but we'll still continue to do to help and inform. Grad masses also happened where celebrants received Prayer cards, Rosaries, crosses and little gifts and flowers were presented. Some parishioners received confirmations and the Father's Day special mass. Congratulations to a couple of our members who were elected to hold positions at our Provincial council.

July-August- even though councils are on summer hiatus, different fundraisers like, Spaghetti lunch and Junk in the Trunk was still organized. 8 ladies in different councils were able to attend with 3 first time attendees at the National Convention in Calgary. And with the help of Nickels for the North donations, we were able to reimburse some of their expenses.

September- members are back at their regular meetings tackling issues, assisting their respective parishes, praying for each other, hospital visits and fundraising for the community continues. One council is busy in preparation of their parish's 60th Anniversary

October- With regards to Strategic planning, Our Pres elect made a video voice over on Fran Lucas presentation of Strategic Planning video and sent it to all executives to share to the local councils. Besides watching it in our own homes, one council had shown the video just before their Christmas party to get more members to watch. I continue to encourage members to keep checking the provincial and national websites for updates and information's for guidance. I also advise the members to join the surveys if they can. Our 2nd teleconference was held and items discussed at the Fall ABMK meeting was shared to our members. However, report writing with the newly elected was a challenge. We started using the "Prayer for Renewal" at our meetings.

November-all 3 councils participated in the commemoration on Remembrance Day thru singing, wearing poppies and laying wreaths. One council got busy making comfort baskets for a couple of seniors and pew cushions covers were made for their elders to use in church.

December- a council installed their priest as their Spiritual advisor and installation/ reaffirmation of their executives also happened at this time. A new deacon was also ordained this month and same council was in the process of establishing a memorial fund for a longtime member and a great influence in the north that passed. HOPE (Helping Our People Eat), a resemblance of HUG project was a success in one council. Donations were divided and given to various organizations in need. The annual online reporting was done by 2 councils. However, the other council was not able to.

We continue to provide service for people in need thru financial support to local school breakfast programs, Soup Kitchen, Food Banks, Shelters and more. Internationally, we continue to foster children in 3rd World country, and support community thru Chalice program. We donate our time and money, visit the elderly and the sick, made hampers, prayed for vocations, adopted seminarians, signed petitions and continued praying for the migrants and victims of Human Trafficking.

This concludes my report,
Shirley Gutierrez

ST. PAUL DIOCESAN COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2019 Lola Alsmo, President

"You aspire to great things? Begin with little ones." ~ St. Augustine

Although St. Augustine certainly wasn't thinking about Catholic Women's League members, his statement reflects truth. The little things, beginning with each of the activities performed by our Councils in the Diocese of St. Paul, add up to accomplishing great things. In our Diocese for 2019, we had 18 active Councils and one Inactive that we remain in touch with.

This summary includes the information from 9 councils who were able to complete the online survey, plus 2 additional councils whose presidents submitted annual reports that included information related to the survey questions. Of the 11 councils reporting, 10 have the president's position filled. The council with no president uses an appointed chair from among attendees at the meeting.

Our Councils use every one of the resources listed in the survey to stay informed of various issues. The most commonly used, by over 75% of reporting councils: 1. The Canadian League Magazine; 2. Provincial Websites or newsletter, and 3. National Website. Other sources outside of the survey list include: National Catholic Register, It's Time, C-FAM and Euthanasia Prevention newsletters, Prairie Messenger, The Word Among Us, Catholic Answers, and Family Watch International.

The top three national priorities that our Councils discussed/or acted on are Care for Our Common Home, Removing Canada Summer Jobs Program attestation, and excluding medical assistance in dying from palliative care/hospice facilities, at 90% or greater. Additional topics were Rights of the Pre-Born under the UN Convention of Rights of the Child, Canada's Support for the Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and Establishing Standards of testing and labelling for products deemed 'flushable'. The primary method of introducing these topics was discussion at regular meetings, at 100% of reporting councils. Three councils report writing about the topic in a newsletter/bulletin/e-mail, and the least frequent methods used were arranging for a speaker and engaging the standing committee chair.

Of the councils reporting, all felt that their Spiritual Advisors were supportive of the CWL. More than half, 55%, of councils meet monthly with their Spiritual Advisor, with the remaining reporting that they meet annually, weekly or rarely.

Parish Presidents reported representing their councils most commonly at church functions, diocesan meetings and conventions, special masses, sacramental events, and World Day of Prayer. Between 45-55% of reporting councils had their president represent them at conferences, community events, fundraising events and dinners, pro-life events, workshops, retreats, and school ceremonies.

Of the resources used to preside at meetings, most commonly reported as used were the Executive Handbook and the Constitution and Bylaws. Approximately one third of councils reported using the council policy and procedure manual

and Robert's Rules of Order, and 2 councils report using the National Manual of Policy and Procedure and Parliamentary Procedure resources. Other resources mentioned include online video and written materials.

Council presidents report most commonly signing cheques and banking documents on behalf of their council. 33% report having signed letters directed within the CWL, or 'None of the above'. 11% of reporting councils had their president sign letters directed outside of the CWL and petitions.

Of the Councils reporting, presidents were most likely to have some funding support to Diocesan, Provincial and National Conventions. Full funding was provided for Diocesan Conventions by 33% of the councils, partial funding for Provincial and National by 33%. Funding for conferences, fundraising dinners and events and workshops was rarely provided.

Two thirds of reporting councils do not have a Parish Policy Manual, and of the six councils who answered the question, two thirds felt it would be helpful to have one. Of these, 50% felt they would need help to develop a policy manual. Only three councils answered whether they developed any new policies, and of these two did not. The one new policy reported related to providing gifts to those completing Holy Sacraments and having an Honour Guard at funerals for past members.

Parish Presidents report having read the Executive Handbook 67% of the time, and of those that did, 100% found that it assisted them in their duties as president. An annual summary if reported to the members over 90% of the time, most commonly by a written or oral report. Email, newsletters and the parish bulletin were used for annual reports less than 40% of the time.

Of the councils reporting, 44% do not have any other committees than the standing committees. The remainder have committees for organizing funeral lunches, visitation, fundraising, annual events such as teas/bazaars, social events, catering, or scholarship/bursary disbursement.

Issues that our Parish President's spoke on this past year included; Palliative Care (3 councils), Euthanasia (3 councils), Pro-Life (2), Membership (2), and individual mention of speaking on fundraising initiatives, Our Lady of Good Counsel, and invitation to Council events. For written correspondence, 56% report.

When asked who provided them with the greatest assistance upon become the President of their council, 67% indicated the former past president, 33% indicated the immediate past president and/or current executive. The greatest challenge reported by the transitioning president was keeping members interested. Slightly lower numbers (67%) reported not having a full slate of officers as their greatest challenge. Finding the time and delegation were challenges reported by 56% of those councils who answered, and a third reported the amount of paperwork, recruiting, and technology as a challenge. Other issues listed were each selected by one or two out of the reporting councils. Additional issues reported that were not in the survey list were volunteers, attending meetings, and having the position vacant.

Having a National theme was reported as beneficial by 78% of the Councils, and 80% of councils rated the change with each new national president as either good or very good. Presidents were most proud of how caring, supportive and thoughtful their members are, how ready they are to help others, help with events, work together and share faith and friendship, some of them still going strong after many years of service.

The biggest challenge most frequently reported by our parish presidents was recruitment and retention of members, keeping them interested and participating, and getting members to take on new roles. Other challenges include having members realize that there is more to CWL than fundraising, finding a date and time for meeting that works for everyone, and finding time to focus on CWL and using technology.

Most of the presidents completing the online survey reported challenges, including getting signed in, getting the survey to work and to print, and finding the time to complete it. Two of the presidents report a lack of computer skills or lack of ability to use online technology hampers them in fulfilling this position. A suggestion was made to have the entire link active for each report, rather than users having to enter the specific number for each one. In spite of the difficulties encountered in getting the login information for the survey, half of our councils persevered and were able to complete the president's survey.

Congratulations to all of you! Your responses and information are so important, both to become aware of the range of activity undertaken by members of the Catholic Women's League, as well as the challenges encountered along the way. Identifying these challenges gives us all an opportunity to support each other, share our ideas and work together to find solutions. Thank you all so much!

This concludes my report,
Lolain Alsmo