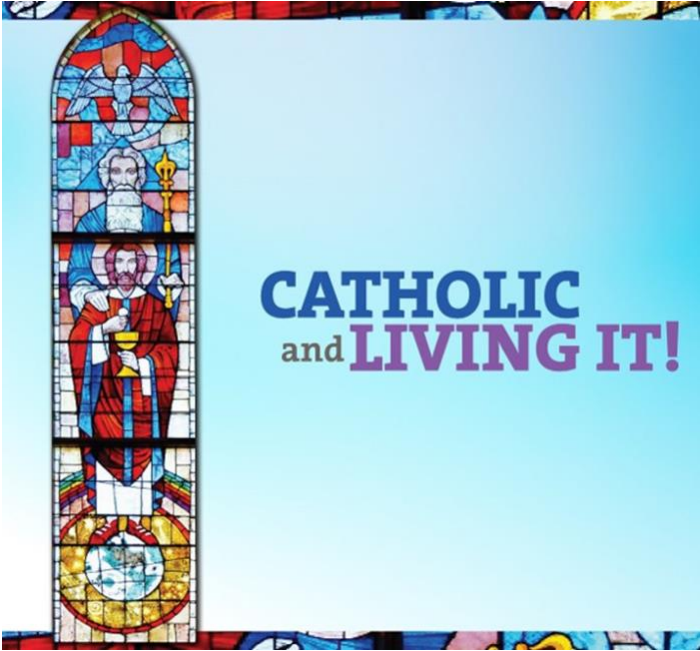


The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council

2021 Annual Report Book



CATHOLIC
and **LIVING IT!**



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial President Annual Report

The 8,135 paid members in the five dioceses of Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council began the year living in hope that COVID would soon be a memory. They looked forward to in-person winter, regional, and executive meetings, and conventions to celebrate Care for Our Common Home: Building Relationships and Effecting Change. Not to be! Instead, it was a year of flexibility and creativity as councils tried to stay connected. Provincial and Diocesan executives worked hard to communicate with their perspective levels to help council members remain positive. Their ZOOM meetings were well attended as members took the opportunity to connect and to be educated.

Provincial officers continued to post communiques keeping the membership informed on such topics as child marriages, pro-life issues, pornography, mental health, House of Common and Senators bills and the importance of indigenous relationships with articles such as Red Dress Day. The links for communiques from their national counterparts helped the membership to engage in national initiatives that included webinars, prayer services, letter writing, supporting Development and Peace, Missions Canada and CNEWA. Prayers continued to be posted as well as current events such as a note of condolence to our indigenous sisters on the uncovering of the gravesites in Kamloops, support for NWT and BC councils who experienced flooding, Christmas greetings, and obituaries. Members were encouraged to send Mandatory Age Verification and Pornography Hurt cards to their MP's as well as write to their MPs on conscientious rights of medical professionals, and the need for good palliative and hospice care.

Several of the officers responded to the invitation to work on the League's Strategic Plan working groups. Three committee chairs, Christian Family Life, Community Life and Education and Health experimented with working collaboratively on a joint communique on the effects of gaming. The website continued to be a work in progress. Discussions on impending amendments, voting, notices of motions, per capita fees, financial matters as well as the winter, pre-convention, convention and post-convention meetings all occurred on ZOOM. The convention was a partial virtual in -person meeting that included a beautiful memorial service naming all the deceased 2020 and 2021 members, as well as the Walter Krewski membership awards. The Advent Retreat focused on the Synod's theme Walking Together and every Wednesday evening members from across Alberta and the NWT joined the Alberta Mackenzie Prays the Rosary. The Council donated \$16,000 to the Star of the North Retreat Centre for their renovations and in return the Center dedicated the chapel to Our Lady of Good Counsel. \$500 was donated to the Edmonton Institution for Women that houses incarcerated women from across the province to help purchase journals that play a part in the ladies spiritual and emotional journey. The Council held its first virtual reception celebrating Fran Lucas on becoming national president and Cathy Bouchard and Dorothy Johanson as newly elected officers to the national council. Alberta Mackenzie said goodbye to Honorary Life member Ardis Beaudry as the Lord called her home On December 21.

The Diocesan executives were even busier as they helped to flesh out their initiatives as well as all the initiatives coming from the other levels. They worked hard at helping councils with creative ways to maintain their memberships. Disbanding and disbanded councils, aging membership, leadership, and the annual report survey continued to be challenging issues. The instructed vote

process presented its own challenges. They used technology for their winter meeting and convention and provided workshops and seminars such as Laudato Si, Motivation Pandemic Style, Palliative and Hospice Care, New and Upcoming Presidents /Presidents-elect Workshop to name a few. They provided educational workshops for their councils on amendments, notices of motion, Welcome Program and Executive Orientation. Some diocesan councils developed buddy type systems to stay connected with their parish counterparts and one council offered a once-a-month meeting to chat with the president.

Communications was a priority, and the websites became a main source for staying connected. They provided opportunities for retreats and prayer services and Edmonton Diocesan Council connected with Sacred Heart Catholic Parish of the First Peoples engaging in dialogue and helping with their new baptistry. All diocesan presidents were excited with the resilience of their parish council presidents.

The parish councils' presidents worked hard at meeting the expectations of the League as they filled out annual report summaries, educated their members on the amendments and began the voting process. They used the policy and procedures manual, Robert's Rules of Order, and the Constitution and Bylaws as main resources followed by the Executive Handbook, League magazine and the CCCB and national and diocesan websites. Good financial records were maintained. Communication became a priority and so phoning committees, newsletters, mail outs became essential as they tried to stay connected with their members. They encouraged the parish council members to letter write to their MP's and MLAs on the pro-life issues and resolutions, attended webinars, and participated in workshops. The parish councils continued to fundraise as best they could to support their parish council initiatives. Many of their councils participated in the National Tree Planting and Gratitude Card projects which included sending cards, gratitude baskets and food to staff at various health units. Councils were most appreciative of their spiritual advisor's support.

Challenges for parishes included recruiting and maintaining membership, leadership, aging populations, annual report survey and lack of interest and an overwhelming amount of paperwork. Use of technology continued to be a concern for many councils as often internet service was not reliable as well many members were not on the internet. Communication between the different levels was rated low from provincial and national councils but improved with diocesan councils.

In conclusion the work of the Catholic Women's League in Alberta and the Northwest Territories under the outstanding leadership at all executive levels was outstanding. These women contributed not only to the League but to their local communities, province, Canada and beyond. Being strong women of faith and grateful for the blessings received from God, they shared those blessings with others. They laughed and cried together (even on Zoom) as COVID fatigue tried to bring them down, but they were determined not to succumb. As women of hope they truly believed and lived the Catholic Women's League of Canada's Mission: 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.

This concludes my report.

Respectfully submitted
Judy Look

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Organization Annual Report

Diocesan Organization/President-Elects:

Calgary:	Renee Spohn
Edmonton:	Clover Oryshak
Grouard-McLennan:	Vacant (submitted by Diocesan Past President Irene Brassard)
Mackenzie-Fort Smith:	Vacant (submitted by Diocesan President Shirley Guterrez)
St. Paul:	Vacant (submitted by Diocesan Past President Kathryn Bourque)

Alberta-Mackenzie members began the year filled with the hope that pandemic restrictions would soon be lifted and the promise that life would return to “normal”. Unfortunately, it was not to be. We did our best to live our mission to grow in faith and witness to the love of God through ministry and service. We continued to connect with one another through online & phone communication and prayer. Zoom meetings were used by councils. We became prayer warriors. Led by President Judy Look, ABMK members prayed the rosary on Wednesday evenings which served to bring members together weekly from all over our provincial jurisdiction building new friendships and providing networking opportunities.

General Membership Information:

While all five dioceses reported a decrease in overall membership, some individual councils did celebrate increases. Sadly, there was the challenge of inactive/disbanding and disbanded councils. Diocesan executives worked hard at helping councils with creative ways to maintain their memberships. On-line renewals were increasingly used by councils. There were no associate members reported. Members were best engaged when assisting those most in need. Members indicated an interest in fundraising followed by social, spiritual and meeting activities.

Member Recruitment, Engagement and Recognition:

Recruiting and maintaining membership, aging membership, leadership and endless paperwork were listed as major concerns. Use of technology was a concern for many councils as internet service was often unreliable and many members were not on the intranet.

Greatest Challenges:

- Inability to meet or attend Mass in person due to public health restrictions. “Our shared faith is our glue & being able to gather at local church parishes is important for us to stay connected.”
- Leadership continues to be a concern throughout ABMK. Recruitment of members to step into leadership positions, which was compounded by meeting restrictions at churches.
- Maintaining interest in the CWL by promoting online meetings while not being able to meet in person.
- Personal invitation remains the most effective way to recruit new members.
- Development of mentorship strategies for new Presidents without taking over.
- Attracting members to join on-line meetings.

Plans to Overcome Challenges:

- Personal invitation remains the most effective way of attracting a broad cross section of members.
- Finding ways to connect with members who do not have or use technology.
- Improved use of the Diocesan and National websites and resources
- Increasing communication with all members, use of the Diocesan & National websites and resources, and reaching out to others for mentorship.

- Spiritual Evenings & Reflections inviting CWL members & other women to grow in their faith

Programs and tools developed by National:

2021 was a year in which National Council gifted us with many valuable resources including programs and workshops which our 8,135 members will enjoy easy access to as we begin a new chapter in the history of the CWL’s growth and outreach. Included were: *Embracing Diversity*, *Welcome Program* and the *Executive Orientation* as well as a collection of excellent videos to share with our members and our Church communities. Ongoing efforts must be made to promote the use of these resources by parish councils.

Annual Report Survey Feedback: Less than 50% of CWL councils in Alberta/Mackenzie completed the online annual report surveys. Some northern councils experienced difficulty in submitting online reports. Those completing the survey liked the reduced version of the annual questionnaire however there was misunderstanding of the questions and some people indicated offense at some of the questions. All five dioceses expressed concerns about the ethics of gathering ethnicity demographics by National Council and two of them stated “we are all Canadians”. Another diocese commented “The ethnicity question—was VERY inappropriate as I was not honouring the actual ethnicities of our members but guessing and that is just not right at all & it could be skipped”. One of our northern dioceses commented as follows: “Many councils could not submit or print their reports as required. A simpler process is needed. It is felt that this online reporting process does not work for our diocese in its current format. The questions are not relevant, either culturally or geographically, to small town rural Alberta councils. Our members want to know what is happening in the other councils and the current questions do not allow for that information to be provided.”

Special Activities to Attract Women:

- using technology with virtual meetings, promotion of online retreats, Bible studies, prayer circles & praying of the rosary
- being visible by wearing CWL scarves & pins
- celebration of religious & festive gatherings virtually or in person such as the Feast Day of Our Lady of Good Counsel.
- On-line Mass & Reception to celebrate the new National President & Council.
- Continued to support soup kitchens, food banks, women’s shelters, seminarians through the ***Adopt a Seminarian Program***
- Free Membership draws
- Councils planted *Mary Gardens*, planted trees and dedicated a public park bench.
- Councils donated books about welcoming diversity to elementary and junior high schools.

Success Stories: Many responses were reported including:

- The *Gratitude Project* was embraced throughout ABMK: gratitude cards & baskets were prepared for first responders, parish staff, medical staff, etc.
- Personal conversations with members, listened to them and wished them Happy Birthday.
- Prayed a novena for the deceased family member of a non-member, touching her heart so much that she joined the League.
- cards & small gifts for members in senior’s homes or hospitals.

In conclusion, while 2021 proved to be another challenging year, our faith filled members creatively did their best with keeping councils intact even in the face of COVID fatigue. History has shown that adversity often strengthens faith and the resolve of people to discover ways to prevail...armed with our faith, our love, our service tradition, and a desire for social justice, we

continue to serve God and Canada. We pray for the blessings and guidance of Our Lady of Good Counsel and the Holy Spirit as we embrace the future which lies before us...

This concludes my report.

Respectfully submitted.

Mary J. Hunt

Live your life for the glory of God. *"So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."*

Colossians 3:1-3, 17



Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Spiritual Development Annual Report

Sisters in the League

These past two years 2020-2021 and now into 2021-2022, our families, friends, acquaintances, Church have witnessed a decline in being present to one another. We only need to look around with our eyes wide open and our hearts even more open. As members, as sisters in the Catholic Women's League, we have been aware of the starkness, the absence of members at meetings, both in person and virtual, as well as at parish events. Let us not lose heart! Our theme for the next two years, is ***Catholic and Living!*** With this theme, we are invited to put more effort into who we are---we are **CATHOLIC** which means **universal**. We are summoned to be welcoming, truly act with open arms and a smile---even in a virtual manner! Did you know that a SMILE is a wonderful weapon? It's so powerful you can break ice with it! Smiles are understood in every language. You are not fully dressed until you put on your smile. Start smiling today and don't every stop.

In December of 2020, an Advent retreat was arranged on ZOOM with Fr. Jim Corrigan and was very well attended. In December of 2021, Sandra Prather facilitated a retreat on the Synod Process entitled "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission" which was received very favorably. Although we did not have in-person fall and mid -winter meetings opening and closing spirituals were prepared for the ZOOM meetings. For the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Convention held on ZOOM in June 2021 spirituals were prepared including a memorial service for deceased members. A statue of Mary was purchased and was the focal point of the prayer service. I attended a prayer service for Honorary Member Ardis Beaudry who passed away in December of 2021. Communiques were prepared and posted on the ABMK website.

From the annual report survey councils continued to have Masses offered for deceased members. Alberta Mackenzie had 180 members return home the Lord. May they Rest in Peace. Judy Look, President of the Alberta Mackenzie Council led the Rosary on Wednesday evenings and many members across the province and NWT attend. Stories were shared and prayers were said for many people afflicted by CO-VID 19. In one Diocese, members connected by sharing resources available on the National CWL website and the Vatican website.

In most of the dioceses, trees were planted to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the National League. The introduction of *National Faith Day* as an annual event was scheduled for September but not too many councils participated as there was not sufficient time to plan. One diocese, mentioned that they would hope to nourish relationships more consciously, garnering growing awareness of the critical role that the CWL councils play in the life of the parish and more visible support from our pastors who play a key role in the ability of the councils to flourish. Another interesting point that was shared in the report was there are truly, amazing, practical, enriching resources that are available that have been gifted to the League by the Implementation Committee working groups in the areas of faith, social justice and service.

Councils continue to support Catholic Missions in Canada. Catholic Women's League members are key participants and leaders, in virtually EVERY ministry within our churches. A suggestion was made that the councils be aware that there is a growing awareness of our Indigenous Sisters and that we do a better job of making connections with them to build better relationships.

Members throughout the five dioceses developed a deeper meaning of spirituality by reading spiritual books, prayed the Rosary, were involved in Bible studies, joining a book club and were able to share prayers with a partner. Inspirational magazines like: Living with Christ, The Word

Among us, the Bible, Angels on Earth and Guidepost were read. A book by St. Francis De Sales titled "*Introduction to the Devout Life*" which speaks to us about to walk in friendship with God was recommended.

The pandemic and all that it has impacted in our lives has not prevented us from growing in our faith. We truly taking to heart ---***Catholic and Living It!***

It is definitely apparent that the spiritual aspect of the Catholic Women' League is in the hearts and minds of all the members in the Alberta Mackenzie Council.

Lord, I believe that You mean for us refresh and encourage others today and always. Help us to bring a smile and an uplifted Spirit.

This concludes my report.

Respectfully submitted
Gladys Brown
ABMK Vice-President, Spiritual Development Chairperson



Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Secretary Annual Report

Of the dioceses reporting only one had an increase of reports submitted. Three reported a drop in reports received and one did not report.

It is noted that about 50% of the secretaries were appointed, with approximately 45% being elected and the remainder of the positions remained vacant. In most councils the positions of recording and corresponding secretary are held by the same person.

Most of the councils have a copy of the Handbook for Secretaries and the CWL Personal Letter Writing Guide in their files.

Challenges reported include:

- CoVid-19 was the biggest challenge with councils unable to hold meetings. Most were able to meet virtually via ZOOM. Rural councils sometimes found holding ZOOM meeting frustrating due to unreliable internet connections. A few councils reported that many members did not have internet so ZOOM meetings were not an alternative.
- Lack of interest in taking on the secretary position
- New to role of secretary and to CWL was addressed by monthly executive meetings and reaching out to members
- ZOOM meetings that caused eye strain and headaches and less involvement/attendance. Presidents held outdoor meetings, when possible, members were phoned, provided members with the agenda, minutes and treasurers report ahead of meetings.
- No president for two years. Executive members took turns in chairing meetings and kept praying for a member to step forward
- Lethargy due to lack of support from Spiritual Advisor. Prayer, perseverance, and encouragement from members
- Inability to hold in-person meeting because of Co-Vid. Councils added events such as the Memorial for Deceased Members, Service Pin Awards and the Advent Reflection for regular morning or evening Masses
- Some councils developed “buddy lists”, calling members just to chat and keep in touch
- Councils with a large elderly membership not comfortable with technology found it hard to keep up with trying to mail out reports and share items of interest.
- Councils are concerned if members will return when regular meetings resume
- Most secretaries keep an email list, so members are kept informed
- Another area of concern was getting together to vote on the amendments sent out by National in 2020
- Many were concerned with the increase in the per capita fees and changing of our Patroness and would like National to come up with different ways to raise the funds
- Other challenges were getting minutes and cheques signed, passing motions, and voting.
- Councils missed the personal contact and group enthusiasm present at meetings

Communications:

Clean and concise communications:

- National 36% - 50% - always satisfied
- Provincial 44% - 50% - always satisfied
- Diocesan 50% - 52% - always satisfied
- Regional – 50% - 52% - always satisfied

Relevancy of communications:

- National – 32% - 50% - always satisfied
 - Provincial – 36% - 50% always satisfied
 - Diocesan – 50% - 52% always satisfied
 - Regional - 50% always satisfied
- 40 – 50% of councils reported duplication in communication
 - 50% reported they usually had time to complete the tasks or projects requested

Additional Comments:

- Could memos be posted on the National website to make accessibility more timely
- Ask National to advise when new material is added to the website
- Have a Secretary's Workshop

Thank you to all the secretaries for submitting their reports. I realize this can be a very demanding position under normal circumstances and I applaud you for your dedication to the League.

This concludes my report.

Respectfully submitted
Gloria Lundberg



Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Treasurer Annual Report

79 out of 148 councils reporting (53.3%)

Diocesan Treasurers 5 of 5 Dioceses reporting

Calgary	Jan Morel
Edmonton	Mariette Huot
Grouard-McLennan	Lauri Friesen Mackenzie-
Fort Smith	Tina Rivera
St. Paul	Rita Fertig

Annual Survey Report statistics were received from 3 of the five diocesan councils in Alberta Mackenzie. The donations report was compiled from information submitted by the five diocesan councils. Donations made by councils were probably much higher but they were not reported. The participation rate for Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council showed a decrease in 2021 with 79/148 councils (53.3%) reporting.

Reporting councils kept track of their funds making use of bank statements, cheque and deposit books and some of councils used receipt books. The use of spreadsheets, ledger books and some are using computer software to record and keep track of finances. Budgets are being prepared based on the responses by 2 Dioceses by an average of 66%.

Most councils reported that their books were reviewed annually using an experienced bookkeeper or accountant and the financial reports are presented at monthly meetings.

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. \$2141. was sent to Mackenzie-Fort Smith Diocesan Council in 2021. Alberta March for Life voluntary fund was disbursed in the amount of \$700 this past year.

NATIONAL VOLUNTARY FUND

Coady International Institute	\$1668.00
Canadian Catholic Organization for Development & Peace	\$ 885.35
Catholic Missions in Canada.....	\$4650.00
Euthanasia Prevention Coalition	\$4600.00
Catholic Near East Welfare Association	\$1225.00
National Bursary Fund	\$525.00
National Voluntary Fund Subtotal	\$13,553.35

ALL DONATIONS

National Voluntary Fund Subtotal	\$13,553.35
Parish Donations	\$20,377.93
Other donations	\$108,553.54
Total	\$142,484.82

Once again, this has been a difficult year for our councils and members, we have not been able to meet in-person and fundraising has been difficult. The councils in Alberta Mackenzie have still been generous and continued to support many organizations. Our council and diocesan treasurers

do the vital work of caring for the finances of their councils. Thank you for your time and dedication to this position.

It has been a blessing for me to be able to serve as Provincial Treasurer for past 5 years. God bless you all.

This concludes my report.

Respectfully submitted,
Gwen Elliott, Treasurer
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council



Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Past President Annual Report

Diocesan Past Presidents:

Calgary:	Janet McPhee
Edmonton:	Vacant (Report submitted by Diocesan President)
Grouard-McLennan:	Irene Brassard
Mackenzie-Fort Smith:	Gerda Hazenberg
St. Paul:	Celine Berlinguette

The past few years have definitely been a totally unexpected experience for all of us. Over the past couple of years, we have had to adjust to a totally different way of life from what we had been used to. However, I found that being at home actually helped me to slow down and appreciate the small things in life. While following all the safety protocols and being vaccinated, I was able to continue attending mass on a regular basis, as well as volunteer at the Pastoral Centre for various events and helped to support the Star of the North with fundraising projects as well as keeping involved with CWL at all levels of the League through zoom meetings and on-line workshops, and retreats. Another project that I worked on was going through several boxes of archives with the help of Gladys Brown, who is also part of the ABMK Provincial executive council. Gladys has also been working me on the election committee for the upcoming Provincial election as well as the Edmonton Diocesan election. I have continued to join the various prayer/rosary groups throughout the pandemic. All of this has kept me informed and connected with my fellow sisters-in-the-league.

Our annual reports, throughout the years, have been our source of information from the ground up, and informs and educates us as to the activities that have occurred in the League as well as the challenges and the rewards that councils have experienced.

This past year less than 50% of CWL councils in Alberta/Mackenzie completed the online annual surveys.

Leadership Profiles:

The majority of ladies holding the position of Past President have been members for over 10 years, with the highest percentage being over 55 years of age.

Serve in Consultative Capacity & Other Duties:

The majority reported that they support and attend all meetings (either in person or via zoom) on a regular basis, along with helping to recruit new members and sharing information on the Strategic Planning. Past Presidents have attended social and spiritual events when possible. Some reported that they have held this position more than once and felt that they have been a source of experience and information for the President. Other duties performed by the Past President was chairing executive/general meetings, attending zoom conventions, promoting the League, chairing the elections committee, and filling in vacant positions. They also helped prepare newsletters, checked national/provincial/ diocesan website, and facilitated workshops, helped with on-line reporting, and assisted the President with the various zoom gatherings.

Archives and History:

It was reported that the majority of Past Presidents are responsible for the archive/history of their councils, with the exception of some councils having the secretary or another member appointed to look after this information. Council archives are usually stored in the church and include the charter, labelled photo albums, annual reports, Book of Life, deceased member information, lists of past executives, membership renewal data, minutes of both the executive and general meetings,

service awards, financial and written reports as well as the council history. However, it was noted that there were variances with the information that is kept by councils.

C&B and Policy Information:

The majority of responding councils indicated that they do have a copy of the C&B (Constitution and Bylaws) and use it when necessary.

A large number of councils indicated that they do not have their own council 'Policy and Procedures' manual, and some indicated that they have no plans to make a policy while others indicated that they would be interested in developing a policy and would contact their Diocesan counterpart for information on how to do this. Councils that did have P&P, stated that they did refer to them and that they were reviewed every 2 or more years.

Communication Survey:

When asked about what levels of the League, councils would seek advice from, the majority indicated that they would communicate with the Diocesan level and less frequently with the Provincial and National Level. A few did seek advice from their Bishop or a Life Member.

When asked about receiving communication from all levels of the League, the majority indicated that they are satisfied with the information that is received and that it is clear and concise and that they would occasionally get the information sent out more than once. A little less than half of the respondents indicated that they have enough time to respond or participate in the requests from the other levels of the League.

How to make your Successor's Experience for Enjoyable & Fulfilling:

Responses included: be there for the president, be a good listener, instill confidence and positivity, respond quickly to any requests, share information, encourage discussion at meetings, maintain personal contact with members, leave organized files and help out wherever you are needed.

Envisioned Future of the League through Strategic Planning 2018-2020:

The majority of councils reported that they supported the implementation of the Envisioned Future of the League with discussion about how the executive could make changes by consolidating the positions of 'Faith, Service and Social Justice'. However, there were some councils that do not support this proposed implementation. Councils that did support this initiative, presented video workshops to educate the executive/members, and facilitated presentations about both the instructed votes and planning strategically and shared information with members regarding this initiative.

Success Stories:

Responses were many and varied. This included curbside dinners/fundraisers, kept members informed about the restructuring and amendments. Members kept busy with on-line rosaries, prayer circles, workshops, retreats, and National, Provincial and Diocesan conventions as well as executive/general meetings. The Jacket Racket was successful with the parishes despite the restriction. Muffins for school. Participated in the (Beaverlodge) Public Square Rosary, supported Canada Needs for Lady, pro-life walk and studied the Fratelli Tutti and held an annual fall market. Continued to support food banks, women's shelters, seminarians, provided nativity activity books for aboriginal children under the guidance of St. Mary Jeanne, along with providing gratitude baskets for the food banks and first responders. One council also planted two Lilac shrubs as part of the centennial project at their local cemetery. Maintaining contact with members within their perspective councils.

Greatest Challenges:

The greatest challenges were trying to maintain interest in the CWL, not meeting in person. Personal health issues, family issues. Recruiting members to step into leadership positions, which was compounded by meeting restrictions at the church. How to recruit new members. Trying to mentor new President without taking over. Getting members to join on-line meetings and keeping archives up to date.

Comments:

2021 proved to be another difficult year, but the members continued to do the best with keeping their councils intact. It was great to hear that some parishes and Dioceses had milestone anniversaries and are currently working on ways to celebrate these special occasions. The members continued to share their gifts of themselves whenever possible and as we continue our journey we pray to 'Our Lady of Good Counsel' for guidance to grow in our faith and service to the League.

This concludes my report,

Respectfully submitted,
June Fuller
ABMK Provincial Past President
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

GOD IS
LOVE

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Christian Family Life Annual Report

How appropriate that our National Theme should be “Catholic and Living It!” After all is this not what we are called to do? Our model for our Christian life is the Holy Family and our mission is to live as Jesus did and to follow Him and His examples throughout our lives.

The responsibilities of the Christian Family Life committee include sanctity of life, marriage and family, vocations and ministry to the youth, disabled, seniors, separated, divorced and widowed. Our every action should reflect the love of God for all His children.

During the course of this past year I have had the opportunity to prepare four communiqués with a fifth one to be released soon. My communiqués dealt with sanctity of life, underage marriages, the Federal Election and teaching our Children the Christmas story. The next communiqué will be on the Alberta March for Life – Sanctity of Life.

I had the pleasure of working on a joint communiqué with my League sisters, the provincial chairs of Health and Education and Community Life. Our three-part communiqué was on video gaming and social media and how it can affect our family life, the health of the player and also the effects it can have on community life. The process was truly exuberating. This communiqué reflected on the CWL core values of faith, service and social justice.

It has been a wonderful experience working with the amazing women that formed our provincial council.

Good work was accomplished at all levels of this great organization, from the parish, diocesan to provincial and national councils.

I am thankful for our CWL sisters who worked so diligently in promoting our Christian values in their parishes and to our Diocesan Christian Family Life Chairpersons who compile and report on all the activities within their dioceses. In our dioceses these individuals were:

Calgary:	Marjorie Robinson
Edmonton:	Annette Valstar
Grouard–McLennan:	Lucille Partington
Mackenzie Fort Smith:	Patricia Regan
St. Paul:	Kenda Peters

The year 2021 has once again been a difficult one for everyone, as the COVID–19 Pandemic continued to restrict our movements.

Reports were received from three out of five dioceses. Of the reports received very few statistics were given, however it appears that a high percentage of members holding the position of Chairperson of their parish Christian Family Life Committee have been members for less than ten years. It is great to see our younger members getting involved in the League’s ministries.

As in 2020, the activities of our councils in 2021 continued to be greatly reduced by Covid-19 restrictions. Virtual meetings, telephone calls and conferencing continued to be our main means of communications. Our roles in many instances continued to be supportive instead of hands-on.

Our members, in various ways, continued to demonstrate their Christian values by:

- Creating awareness of Bill C-7 – Medical Assistance in Dying and Bill C-6 Conversion Therapy.
- Sanctity of Life –
 - Provided resource materials, information and websites of Pro-Life Organizations so their members could be kept up to date on various matters.
 - Attended Pro-Life Masses and Vigils
 - Virtually attended the March for Life
 - Donations/gifts were given to their local Pro-Life organizations
 - Letters were written to legislator regarding our position on the issues of abortion and euthanasia.
 - 2019 Resolution “Canada to Honour its Commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child” – councils observed the day of prayer, wrote letters to the Prime Minister and educated members on the resolution.
- Praying in their individual homes - for the 12 hours of Prayer for Palliative Care
- Praying the rosary every Wednesday with the ABMK
- Donating funds to St. Vincent the Paul and food banks, women’s shelters and the Salvation Army.
- Financially supporting Newman College and the “Adopt a Seminarian” program.
- Invite their parish priest to their homes, or to a luncheon, and invited the priest to speak on vocations.
- Continuing to pray for vocations.
- Volunteering for the various ministries at the Masses.
- Helping with the promotion of various virtual programs for the youth and children
- Sponsor Youth events and youth ministers in their parishes – Catholic Christian Outreach, NET Ministries, leadership camps and retreats and summer camps.
- Providing post-secondary scholarships.
- Ministry to the disabled, seniors, widows and widowers:
 - Telephone calls and visiting
 - Bringing Communion, praying with people, sending cards of encouragement.
 - Providing transportation, sharing a meal
- Virtually delivering the Sacramental Preparation Classes in preparation for their First Confession, Confirmation and First Holy Communion.
- Virtually attending Mass, workshops and presentations.

With the COVID – 19 restrictions slowly being lifted, we will see our Councils provide more services, face to face programs, church and social events and fundraisers. As industrious Christian women we look forward to our many activities that reflect and promote our Christian values.

“Thank you” to all our members for your contributions during these difficult and restrictive times, and we look forward to another year of great work. May Our Lady of Good Council continue to guide and bless us in our work.

This concludes my report.

Respectfully submitted,
Celine Berlinguette
Provincial Chair
Christian Family Life

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Community Life Annual Report

Community Life Diocesan Chairs

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

I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me into your home.

Matthew 25:35

Madame President,

I will now share the work from our community life chairs from the above names who have helped me combine this report.

Calgary has 17 out of 47 councils reporting. Forty -one of the councils has a community life chair., six out of the seventeen previously held this position.

Edmonton Region reported 23 councils out of 62 participating in this standing committee. Fourteen of these positions are filled and nine vacant. Most members holding these positions have more than 25 years of service, throughout Alberta.

In Grouard-McLennan a report was received, the last update St Paul had 19 parish councils. Only two councils have a community life chair Mackenzie Diocese has three councils, online reporting was done by all members.

Dignity and Rights of Persons

Approximately, 71% of members reported being familiar with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The CWL (Catholic Women's League) cares about the dignity and rights of people of every race, culture, color, religion. Every person should have a right to clean drinking water, healthcare, affordable housing, and the basic needs to survive. with the cost of inflation rising to 7% in 2021. Despite Covid these past two years, councils provided food for the homeless shelters, bagged lunches for school kids, gift baskets for new moms, prayed the rosary and helped deliver the Blessed Sacrament for Sunday Service to prisoners. There is a great awareness of the struggles of Indigenous women.

The Majority of Councils have discussed The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People in Bill C-262 for more info: www.parl.ca. On June 16, 2021- after decades of advocacy by First Nations-Parliament of Canada passed The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (formally Bill C-15) The Act received Royal Assent June 21/2021 please check the website: www.justice.gc.ca.

Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP)

It is time again to walk in Solidarity with our Global sisters and brothers. We are encouraged to give generously in the Share Lent Campaign. Councils have continued to donate to Development and Peace either on a personal basis or through church envelopes. We do have the opportunity of donating more than once a year. The Catholic Women's League continues to donate 1% of the program to development and peace. More updates and information can be found at www.org.ca

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops share a profound commitment to renewing and strengthening relationships with indigenous people. To read the latest updates from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, www.cccb.ca.

Refugees, Immigration & Developing Countries

In 2021 405,000 immigrants landed in Canada, in 2021 Canada exceeded its immigration by landing 405,303 new permanent residents last year according to new data obtained from IRCC (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada) by CIC (Citizenship and Immigration Canada) News. The immigration Levels plan 2021-2023 aimed to welcome 401,000 immigrants to support Canada's post-pandemic economic recovery. In 2020 The Catholic Women's League continues to support countries by donating to CNEWA (Catholic Near East Welfare Association). Please continue to remember our brothers and sisters most in need. Your donation is a way of showing solidarity to those who feel alone, frightened, sick, or helpless and help them carry the crosses of life with courage and hope. for information: www.cnewa.org. The League members continue to support and focus on several organizations in developing countries: Save a Family Plan, Pennies for the Poor, the Mustard Seed Project. Habitat for Humanity, Canadian Red Cross, Operations eyesight International, World Vision. Missions in Canada does rewarding work and asks for help to share the Gospel Message of Christ's peace in some of Canada's most underserved and Northern places. Donations received help with food, heat, transportation, religious education to seminarians, children, and adults, as well as repairs to churches and church buildings. The Catholic Missions in Canada for more information at www.info@cmic.info.

The Catholic Women's League Members took part in 2021, which was Red Dress Day, May 05th. This day is the National Day of Awareness of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls (MMIWG) in Canada. You might have noticed some red dresses hanging on campus, or on someone's balcony. This day reminds us of more than 1000 missing and murdered aboriginal women in Canada who have gone missing or have been murdered. We are encouraged to wear red on this day to raise awareness. www.mmiwg-ffada.ca.

September 30/2021 Orange Shirt Day in Alberta Mackenzie is a day to recognize and acknowledge the legacy of residential schools and honor survivors and their families. Many councils took part in a day of Remembrance info: <https://www.alberta.ca>. For the Native Women's Association of the N.W.T. updates www.nativewomensnwt.com.

The Community Life Chair over the past three years has been overly busy. Please check out the many communiques written by Provincial Chairs. Especially the Joint Trio Communique worked on Zoom by Christian Family Life, Health and Education, Community Life Chair and our Provincial President. What a blast we had connecting the dots on this report called 'GAMING'. go to: www.ab.ca.

National Community Life Chair (Faith Anderson) connected much information to the Provincial Chairs. I certainly enjoyed her connection, and her knowledge.

Quote from Pope Francis: *"Things have a price and can be for sale. But people have a dignity that is priceless and worth far more than things"*

This concludes my report.

Respectfully submitted.

Theresa Hickey

ABMK Provincial Community Life Chair

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Education & Health Annual Report

Dear Sisters,

To help in the preparation of this report, four of the five diocesan councils have reported. Thank you! Only two of those diocesan councils actually have an Education & Health Chairperson. In addition, only about half of the councils within the dioceses reported their activities this year. Parish councils are also historically low in being able to fill the position of Education & Health Chairperson. The harvest is plenty, but the workers are indeed few at this time of history.

EDUCATION:

Those of our parishes that have Catholic Schools are very blessed. We all must be involved in teaching our faith to the next generations. The support for Catholic schools is reported to be declining. Parents are encouraged to participate in all areas of their children's Catholic school education and activities. Less than half of our councils have a list of Catholic universities or colleges readily available to encourage our youth to continue their Catholic education and continue developing Catholic leadership skills. Some councils did report that they supported seminarians and one council supported a young woman that is entering into the Dominicans.

The majority of our councils are involved in sacramental education: baptism preparation, first communion, confirmation, marriage preparation and RCIA.

HEALTH:

When we consider that world-wide, well over 6 million people have lost their lives to Covid, we are indeed fortunate to be living in Canada. We were all strongly encouraged to be vaccinated and this has enabled us to open up again to travel in 2022. There is much we have learned from this Pandemic (and it is not quite over yet) and we pray for compassion to all those that are still suffering the aftermath, be it loss of a loved one, continued symptoms or mental health anxieties. About half of our councils reported that they supported national organizations that focus on the health and wellness of Canadians such as: Relay for Life, Canadian Cancer Society, Canadian Mental Health Association, Alzheimer's Society of Canada, and Heart & Stroke Foundation.

Mental Health is a serious concern in all our communities at this time. The pandemic has brought this into strong focus as has the residential schools' unmarked graves discoveries. The high cost of living, including the cost of housing, plus employment shifts and anxiety have all added to a decline in mental health for many Canadians. Let us pray for the suffering and look for ways that we can show our compassion and understanding. In Christ we find our strength.

Many of our councils reported that they participated in the "12 Hour of Prayer for Palliative Care". Some councils used the Palliative Care postcards.

ENVIRONMENT:

Councils continue to look for ways to implement our past theme of "Care for our Common Home". Yellowknife planted two trees in front of St. Patrick's Co-Cathedral last June, however, most of the council had completed that in 2020. One council planted 100 trees and installed a metal bench! Environmental issues our councils are addressing are recycling, reducing the use of Styrofoam cups, compost, elimination of plastic straws and water bottles.

This concludes my report.
Respectfully submitted,
Gerda Hazenberg

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Communications Annual Report

Diocesan Communications Chairs:

Calgary	Diane Miedema
Edmonton	Susan Casey
Grouard-McLennan	Donna Prevost
St. Paul	report submitted compiled by Diocesan President
Mackenzie-Fort Smith	Theresa Hickey

Council's reporting are approximately 47% of councils throughout the ABMK Provincial Council

All councils reported that the ongoing CoVid-19 pandemic was a concern and all councils worked very hard at making sure there was consistent communication with all their members. The telephone was a vital means of communication and was the main means of communication between executive and members.

The League Magazine – many councils expressed disappointment with the Fall 2021 magazine only being online but at the same time councils made sure there was copies provided to the members that could not download it.

The magazine is read cover to cover – with the President's Message being read in every issue. The Implementation of the Strategic Plan articles, Pornography Hurts/Age verification articles, National Spiritual Advisor articles, being of the most interest. The Fall magazine with the articles from the 100th and 101st National Annual Meetings of Members was greatly appreciated and read (even if it was the one that was online only).

Future articles suggested: Indigenous people and communities; deterring Catholic organizations from funding anti-Catholic, anti-life, and pro-LGBT groups; ways to attract and engage younger women; Catholics around the world; awareness of issues that conflict with our faith and womanhood, such as promotion of the critical race theory, and gender transition especially for children.

National Website/Facebook/Twitter

- Over the past year there has been an increase by councils accessing the National website. Due to lack of in person meetings councils encouraged members to access websites for information
- Members were also encouraged to view the Facebook postings, twitter not so much. There has been an increase in the number of individual parish councils using Facebook and Instagram.

Promoting the League

- Publicity of the League via a line item in the budget was not a high priority for most councils. The Mackenzie Fort Smith councils used the local community TV channel to promote events.
- Many councils produce a newsletter which is delivered mainly by email and by mail. The Calgary Diocesan council produces a newsletter approximately 4 to 5 times a year.
- The church Bulletin, church bulletin board and parish website is used extensively by CWL councils to promote meetings and events.

Pornography et al

- Depending on the Diocese, working on pornography resolutions such as Mandatory Age Verification was greatly influenced by the ability to get cards and information into

the hands of the individual councils. Since there were no in person conventions or fall/winter meetings distribution of cards was difficult.

- Where the diocesan communication chair was able to distribute cards, the councils responded well with sending them in to elected officials.
- The majority of the reporting councils did encourage members to become educated on internet safety and responsible and appropriate technology use and encouraged the federal government to continue supporting research and development of tools to protect children against offensive content on the internet as stated in Resolution 2002.11 Responsible Internet use for Children.

Strategic Planning – only two dioceses reported on this

- 75 to 100% of the councils share the information on strategic planning and are aware of the updates on the national website
- Members are eager to learn about the League's strategic planning process, how the potential changes will affect them, and what new resources are available
- The prayer for Renewal is recited sparingly

Councils Communications:

Faith-oriented programs, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Mass on April 26 were all promoted to councils. The majority of reporting councils sponsored a mass on April 26 – Our Lady of Good Counsel

Gratitude Cards – via the provincial council, all dioceses within ABMK did partake in the gratitude card project and still are. Many councils sent birthday and Christmas cards this past year to members, seminarians, and clergy. The ABMK provincial council also sent cards of sympathy as required and Christmas cards

Challenges

- The biggest challenge for councils is access to reliable and affordable internet especially in the northern regions of this country
- Recruiting members to be communications chair
- Due to the pandemic and lack of in person meetings, keeping members interested in the League was a challenge

ABMK Communications Chair

- Put together one newsletter – published in the fall of 2021 – over 40 pages
- It was challenging this year to keep up with the posting of information as there was several issues that needed promote attention and our provincial chairs were certainly encouraged to put out more communiques
- Information from the CCCB regarding Indigenous People and Truth and Reconciliation was linked to our website for information to our members
- For the second year ordered Christmas Cards that went out to all council presidents, life and honorary life members, Bishops, Diocesan presidents, premiers, and others.
- **Best Achievement for 2021** – created “years in review” video for the June 2021 AMM

As I review the past three years as provincial communications chair, I am amazed at the amount of information that is passed around the different levels of the League. Our councils worked diligently making sure that members were informed of emerging issues. The service provided is outstanding. It reminds me of the prayer that the 2019 planning committee recited at its last

planning meeting before the 99th National Annual Convention. Judy Montes, convention co-chair modified the St. Faustina's prayer:

Help me, O Lord, that my eyes may be merciful, so that I may never suspect or judge from appearances but look for what is beautiful in the convention delegates' souls and come to their rescue.

Help me, O Lord, that my ears may be merciful, so that I may give heed to the convention delegates needs and not be indifferent to their pains and moaning's.

Help me, O Lord, that my tongue may be merciful, so that I should never speak negatively of convention delegates but have a word of comfort and forgiveness for all.

Help me, O Lord, that my hands may be merciful and filled with good deeds, so that I may do only good to the convention delegates and take upon myself the most difficult and toilsome tasks.

Help me, O Lord, that my feet may be merciful, so that I may hurry to assist the convention delegates, overcoming my own fatigue and weariness

Help me, O Lord, that my heart may be merciful so that I myself may feel all the sufferings of the convention delegates.

Reviewing this prayer let us substitute "our sisters" for "the convention delegates" as we move forward with renewed strength into the Leagues next 100 years.

"Lord, grant that I may Live with Love and Laughter"

This concludes my report.

Respectfully Submitted
Janet MacPhee



Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Resolutions Annual Report

Councils Reporting: 3

Committee Members:

Calgary:	Dorothy Boras
Edmonton:	Mary-Pat O'Neill
Grouard-McLennan	Linda Vandenberg
St. Paul	Lola Alsmo

Sub-Committee:

Lucille Partington
Mary-Lou Veeken

Once more we are reporting activities during a Covid-19 year. As chair of this committee, it has been both a duty and privilege to keep members informed about what was happening in the League with resolutions. Communiqués, reports and newsletter items were created and emailed to the committee and the Provincial executive for sharing with members. Due to the tragic passing of our provincial Legislation Chair, Sharon Malec, I accepted to complete her term as well as accepting a term on the National Sub-Committee for Legislation.

This year has seen a drop in Resolutions Chairs at the Diocesan Level. There are only three Chairs reporting, as well as the President of one Diocese.

While some councils were able to work well with technology, using Zoom to hold meetings, others, with the permission of their parish priests managed to have in-person meetings following strict Covid-19 protocols. These meetings were often held with low attendance.

Councils found communiqués and reports to be helpful. Some found information on the new process for resolutions to be useful in writing their own resolutions. One Council learned how to follow the progress of a government Bill.

Medical assistance in dying, palliative care, diabetes, abuse of seniors, indigenous issues, youth and mental health issues, food waste, and ethical vaccines are some of the issues councils were passionate about. Other councils were concerned about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Two councils researched and created resolutions. One had a resolution on Food Waste waiting to be presented; it was updated with new information. Another council worked on a resolution about Diabetes.

Diocesan reports indicate that councils feel somewhat informed about issues being discussed by various levels of government. One council was able to have an in-person meeting with their provincial and federal government representatives. Members were active in letter writing campaigns and becoming more aware of resolutions that needed action.

St. Peter's Resolution Committee in the Calgary Diocese had almost completed their resolution asking the Provincial Government to Increase Funding of Blood Glucose Test Strips, Continuous Glucose Monitors and Flash Glucose Monitors by September 2021. However, the Provincial Government increased funding for diabetes, making the resolution unnecessary. It was a big success story, both for the work of the council and for Alberta's Diabetics.

Councils are pleased to see the National council is currently working on Bills regarding the environment. A suggestion was for councils to read the Pope's encyclical Laudat Si as a group.

Despite Covid-19, councils have been doing their best to work on understanding and working on resolutions. The next move is to find a way to have more of our members take an interest in resolutions.

This concludes my report.

Respectfully Submitted
Betsy Fletcher,
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Chair



Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Legislation Annual Report

Councils Reporting: 3

Committee Members:

Calgary:	Gayleen Hamilton
Edmonton:	Mary-Pat O'Neill
St. Paul:	Lola Alsmo

After the sad loss of our CWL Sister Sharon Malec, I was asked to take over this standing committee. I had big shoes to fill. Reports have been written, as well as an article for the newsletter, and some legislation is being monitored. National Legislation Chair Glenda Carson asked me to sit on her sub-committee. The work being done on this sub-committee is to review CWL Policy Papers to see if they are still relevant, need updating or just be scrapped and start all over again. It has been interesting and rewarding work. Contact has been made with Premier Kenny's office seeking an appointment to discuss the Seniors' Advocate Initiative.

Covid-19 has had an effect on all of our Standing Committees and this year is no exception. Due to the inability of some councils to be able to meet in person, some councils felt that they had no opportunity to fully discuss legislation.

Councils do report knowing the names of their government representatives at all levels. Some did receive mailings from their provincial and federal representatives but not the local ones.

Many councils are somewhat informed about legislation before the provincial and federal governments. Information is shared at meetings when possible. Few councils used the workshop "Faith in Action".

Bills that were monitored include: Bill C-7: An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (Medical Assistance in Dying); Bill C-233: on allowance of sex-selective abortion; and Bill C-268: on intimidation of health care professionals. Letters were also written to the federal government regarding these issues. LEGISinfo and the Federal Department of justice were found to be user friendly websites.

Some councils found that the Legislation Survey was difficult to complete, especially when there was no legislation chair in place. There is still some difficulty finding someone to take on the important position of Legislation Standing Committee Chair.

This concludes my report.

Respectfully Submitted
Betsy Fletcher,
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Legislation
Standing Committee Chair

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Life Member Liaison Annual Report

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council has 32 Life members including three Honorary Life Members, Vivian Bosch, Marie Cameron, and Agnes Bedard.

Three of our Life members are serving on the National Executive, Fran Lucas is President-and Chair of International Relations, Cathy Bouchard is Second Vice-President and Chair of Spiritual Development, and Dorothy Johansen is Chair of Christian Family Life. Life member Judy Look is currently serving as our Provincial president.

This past year we were saddened by the passing of Honorary Life Member, Ardis Beaudry and Life Members, Anne Laskosky and Sheila M. Houle. Ardis, Anne, and Sheila each touched many of our lives and we will miss their guidance and encouragement.

Throughout the year I have endeavored to keep the Honorary Life and Life members informed of events around the province and of upcoming webinars and ZOOM meetings. Monthly emails from our National Life Member Liaison Doreen Gowans were forwarded on to members. At Christmas cards were mailed to all Honorary Life and Life members.

I feel very blessed to have served as Life Member Liaison for the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council for the last three years.

This concludes my report.

Respectfully submitted,
Gloria Lundberg



Calgary Diocesan President Annual Report

Councils Reporting: 29

Councils as of December 2021: 47

Annual reporting questions for 2021 changed somewhat from previous years, the first question asking if councils were an amalgamated parish. Of the 29 council presidents reporting, only three councils indicated they had amalgamated many years ago.

93% of the president positions are filled. It is interesting the difference one year can make. Last year the majority of presidents had only been a member between six and ten years, however in this reporting period the majority of presidents have been a member more than 25 years. 59% reported they had not held the position of president before, while 41% had. Age demographics were that 59% of the presidents reporting are seniors (over 65). One president reported she was between the ages of 33 – 44.

The Calgary Diocesan News Bulletin has been a source of pride, and the effort it takes to create the News Bulletin is appreciated by all members. After the News Bulletin, The Canadian League Magazine comes in at a close second. Information provided on the national website, national communiques, and provincial websites and newsletters are utilized by 76% of the reporting presidents. Parish bulletins, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, Google searches and local newspapers also assist presidents in obtaining information in which to inform their members. Many Zoom meetings were held in 2021, which also assisted council presidents.

The two major priorities presidents introduced were *Care for our Common Home* (79%) and Bill C-7 - An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying).

The Spiritual Advisor was reported to be supportive by 97% of councils reporting, with 48% reporting that they meet with him on a monthly basis. He is invited to meetings and sent the monthly council newsletter. He takes part in service award ceremonies, is sent a card and monetary gifts for special occasions, and donations are made on his behalf to charitable organizations. One council reported that they had the opportunity to support the parish throughout COVID, and the parish office and Spiritual Advisor came to appreciate the work the council does and know they can be counted on to help whenever needed. Because of successful fundraising, councils have been able to contribute financially to the parish. Spiritual Advisors are asked to provide spiritual direction and insight during meetings, and some have offer to facilitate bible studies.

Council presidents use many resources to assist them when presiding at meetings, such as the *Constitution & Bylaws*, the *Executive Handbook* found on the national website, and *Robert's Rules of Order*. The *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* as well as the local council's Policy and Procedure manual are also used. Council presidents were offered a Parliamentary Procedure workshop in 2020, and many presidents utilize the information they learned when presiding at their meetings. They also use their experience members and Life members as resources. Even though in person meetings haven't always been possible, Zoom meetings have kept councils active and connected to each other.

Virtually all reporting presidents have signed cheques and banking documents on behalf of their councils. Additionally, 62% reported sending letters directed within the League, and 41% send letters outside of the League. Only 14% of reporting councils indicated that they signed petitions on behalf of their council.

Many meetings were held virtually this year, and 86% of council presidents reported attending Regional Meetings and Diocesan Meetings. 79% reported they represented their council at church functions. Other events where they represented their councils were Special Masses, Sacramental Events, Provincial Meetings, Fundraising events, retreats, workshops and conferences. World Day of Prayer, National Convention, Remembrance Day Services, Anniversaries, Community Events & Fundraisers, School Ceremonies, and Pro-Life events also had representation by council presidents. One council reported they met with their politician to discuss important issues. When a cost was involved in attending conferences, fundraising dinner and events or workshops, it was surprising that the majority of the presidents reported that their councils did not subsidize their costs, where only a few councils paid the entire cost for their president. With respect to Diocesan and Provincial Convention, only 38% and 24% respectively subsidized the cost for their president to attend. The cost of National Convention was subsidized even less, by only 14% of the councils reporting.

The *Executive Handbook* is an excellent tool in assisting council presidents, and 79% of the presidents reporting indicated they have read it, and all agreed that it assists them in their responsibility of overseeing the operations of their council and helps her to understand the duties of her executive team.

Providing an annual summary of a council's activities is important to share with each member, and 90% of presidents reporting indicated they do so by emails, oral and/or written reporting. The other ways of sharing are by providing a newsletter or posting items in the parish bulletin.

Councils reported that they have subcommittees for annual events, fundraising, education bursaries, funeral lunches, social events, donations and keeping in touch with shut-ins. Some have a phoning committee, and one council shares three cups of tea if there is no meeting agenda.

Some of the item's presidents have spoken on behalf of their council this year are: Instructed Vote, Executive Elections, Bill C-7, the sale of cards to support Mission Council in our Diocese, Reconciliation, Pro-Life, and Care for our Common Home. Unfortunately, COVID prevented many councils from their usual business and procedural activities.

When letter writing, 55% of reporting councils use League letterhead, and many reference the membership total of their council when doing so. Councils were satisfied (52% always and 37% usually) with the communications they receive from all levels, Regional, Diocesan, Provincial and National Councils was satisfactory, relevant, clear and concise. Duplicate communications from all levels were only received occasionally by council presidents, and when invited to participate, most of them agreed they were given enough time to do so.

When asked who provided the greatest assistance when assuming the role of president, 62% of presidents reporting indicated their former past president and the diocesan president equally. This was followed by the current executive, the secretary, immediate past president and treasurer. Life Members, mentors, and the Provincial President were also helpful.

Presidents reported that their greatest challenges faced when transitioning into the role of president was keeping members interested, followed by not having a full slate of officers, and the amount of paperwork involved. Many reported they felt overwhelmed, couldn't find the time, or their inexperience was a challenge. Other challenges included recruiting, tedious policies & procedure, a feeling of being undertrained, meeting expectations, and delegating. One president reported the challenge of meeting expectations from the higher levels and felt there were too many meetings in addition to her own council.

A national theme and/or logo was beneficial to 86% of councils reporting, with the majority approving the change of theme with each new national president.

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

- The willingness of members to assist, once they grasped the importance of an initiative;
- The closeness of the members in their council;
- The support received from their executive, Regional and Diocesan councils;
- Members assuming responsibilities in the parish as well as their council;
- Adapting to COVID, member engagement during the Instructed Vote; switching to online fundraising;
- Despite COVID, continuing to be an active council.
- One council indicated they have not met in person for two years. Many members don't have a computer, so the only communication with many were front porch visits and social distancing.

Presidents were asked to share their biggest challenge and how they addressed it. Some of the responses follow:

- Of course, the biggest challenge being COVID, presidents felt inadequate, that they were not doing enough for their council;
- Some haven't had any in person events or meetings since becoming president;
- Having few members attend meetings when they could be held, and lack of interest in executive roles. Tackling this issue with personal contact.
- A lack of participation on the executive. Members are willing to participate in projects, but not take on a leadership role.
- Keeping members engaged and recruiting new members.

The final question was to list the greatest challenge in completing the survey, and although a few had a few technical issues, the main issue was that the questions weren't really pertinent due to not be able to resume normal activities yet.

President's Comments: My final comments from last year's report began with: "The year 2020 was one we won't forget." And neither will we ever forget 2021. Most meetings were held virtually, if at all. Some councils were fortunate to be able to meet in person as they have a large hall, or pastors allowed members to meet in the church sanctuary so they could be socially distanced. Virtual meetings continued to be the main connection with members. At the end of November, Advent Retreats were held in person in three cities in the Diocese, and members were so grateful to be able to be together. We pray to our Blessed Mother, Our Lady of Good Counsel, to intercede to end the pandemic so we can gather in communion with each other as Sisters of the League.

Respectfully Submitted
Jan Myhre

Edmonton Diocesan President Annual Report

41 out of 62 Councils Reporting:

Sisters in the League:

Despite the restrictions from the ongoing pandemic in 2021, the annual reports confirmed the resilience of the CWL. We gathered to pray, check in on each other, and plan ways to continue our mission within our parishes and communities.

Women Shelters, Food Banks, School Lunch Programs all benefitted from donations made by our members.

Our 2021 theme, "Care for our Common Home: Fostering a Culture of Care," emphasizes the three pillars of the CWL: Service, Faith, and Justice. The main Diocesan priority was to support our parish councils by holding workshops, offering training, and encouraging councils to find creative methods to engage with their membership. Diocesan Officers partnered with parish councils and maintained contact through Parish Buddy Calls.

Diocesan supported provincial and national initiatives by providing workshops on the Welcome Kit and navigating the procedures to hold instructed votes related to amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws and the Per Capita Fee Increase. Members were encouraged to complete the surveys and requests sent out from the Strategic Planning Implementation Committees.

Many councils participated in the Gratitude Card initiative to thank the frontline workers in their communities. Several participated in the Centennial Tree Planting Project. Diocesan Council partnered with St Joseph's Basilica CWL to plant a tree on the grounds of St Joseph's Seminary and Newman Theological College.

Diocesan held several workshops. Dr. Lia Daniels presented a workshop entitled "Motivation: Pandemic Style," addressing how to manage emotions and feelings through the pandemic. Two workshops related to Palliative and Hospice Care took place. The first workshop on May 1st was a two-part presentation by the Palliative Care and Euthanasian Coalition and the Olds Hospice Society. The second workshop, held in October, provided Volunteer training via the Compassion Care Committee.

Support for Catholic education remains a crucial objective. We launched the CWL Book Project to maintain our relationships with Catholic schools. The theme of the project was "To Each Their Own Story." Councils were asked to donate a book, "Everybody's Welcome" authored by Patricia Hegarty, to a local elementary school.

The 98th and 99th Annual Conventions were held virtually on May 15th to conduct business and receive annual reports. The Fall Meeting was also held virtually on October 2nd. We opened the fall meeting to pray for reconciliation and solidarity with Indigenous Peoples following Canada's First Truth and Reconciliation Day. We invited Fr. Susai Jesu OMI, Pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic Parish of the First Peoples, to speak on "Building Relationships with Sacred Heart Parish of the First Peoples." This parish plays a unique role by incorporating the indigenous teaching, symbols, ceremonies, catholic scripture, and customs reflecting the coming together of both traditions. Diocesan Council has initiated a project to support the parish by contributing to the restoration of the Baptistry.

In August, the Diocesan presented cards and flowers to three of our members on their election to the National Executive for the 2021 -2023 term. The members are Fran Lucas, Edmonton, National President; Cathy Bouchard, Red Deer, 2nd Vice President, and Spiritual Development Standing Committee Chair; Dorothy Johansen, Community Family Life Standing Committee Chair.

Membership continues to be a concern as membership decreased by nearly 700 in 2021. Four councils moved to disband mainly due to aging numbers and the lack of members wanting to take leadership roles. On a positive note, Sacred Heart Catholic Parish of the First Peoples are working towards reactivating their council.

Sixty-six percent of the councils completed their Annual online reports in the Archdiocese; a majority used Diocesan mailings or meetings, the Canadian League magazine, national communiques, or websites to inform their membership about the league activities.

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. Only a few councils discussed Canada's Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Nearly all councils reported having spiritual advisor support, and among those, 39% met monthly, while 37% reported occasionally meeting with 98%, indicating the spiritual advisor is supportive of the CWL. The spiritual advisors participate in Memorial Services for members, saying masses for feast days like Our Lady of Good Counsel, attended meetings virtually, and blessed the Centennial Trees.

Constitution and Bylaws, the Council Policy and Procedure Manual, and Robert's Rules of Order were the principal resources used by councils. The Executive Handbook and the National Manual of Policies and Procedures were secondary references used by 42%. Other resources used were the Resolution Supplement and the National Association of Parliamentarians. The Alberta Association of Parliamentarians offered workshops and meetings via ZOOM.

Nearly all the Presidents reported signing bank cheques and bank statements; 83% said they sign letters within the CWL and 63% sign letters outside the CWL. Only 10% signed petitions.

Presidents represented their council at church functions (56%), Diocesan meetings and conventions (68%), World Day of Prayer (37%), provincial meetings (29%), and national conventions (22%). Other events noted were the Parish AGM, membership drives, and funerals. Due to COVID restrictions, presidents could only attend virtually (via ZOOM or webinars in 2021). Nearly all the councils reported not having their fees covered for attending conferences on behalf of their Council. Only 14% reported covering their president's costs for attending, while 17% had Diocesan Convention expenses fully covered. In contrast, 12% had their attendance to the Provincial convention paid, but only 7% had all or part of the cost covered to attend the National Convention. Councils don't have the financial resources to cover these costs but use available funds from their support of community programs.

Almost all of the parish councils used The Executive Handbook, and all indicated it assisted them in overseeing their Council's operation. Of those reporting, 56% provide an annual summary to their members, delivered through e-mail (83%), oral report (61%), written means (57%), by newsletter or parish bulletin (less than 44%).

Nearly 54% of the councils have funeral lunch committees, and 37% reported having annual events like teas bazaars, 30% have social events, 39% have fundraising activities, and 30% make yearly donations. Other committees mentioned were the Parish Liaison with Parish Pastoral Council, mentorship and new members committee, and a group assisting residents at a senior's lodge attend mass. Several councils indicated no committee work due to COVID restrictions.

Parish presidents indicated few opportunities to speak on behalf of their Council in 2021 though several implied communications were mainly through e-mail, and some used virtual meetings. Topics included World Day of Prayer, the Instructed Vote and Per Capita Increase, Memorial Mass for Members, and membership drives.

When asked about the communications received from other league levels, 68% reported Diocesan satisfaction from the information received from Diocesan Council compared to 42% from Provincial Council and 39% from the National Council. Diocesan Council provided the most relevant material at 60%, while Provincial was at 42 % and National at 34 %. The communications from Diocesan Council were 63% being clear and concise, and Provincial and National Communications perceived at 42% for clarity. Councils indicated that most of the communications arrived in time to be acted upon and reported that only about 34 % were duplicates.

Transitioning into the roles of presidents, past presidents, and past presidents provided significant assistance, followed by other executive members. Nearly 40% indicated the Diocesan President provided needed guidance.

Councils reported that the most significant challenges faced when transitioning into the new roles included keeping members interested (56%), recruiting (43%), feeling overwhelmed and not having a full slate of officers (37%), the large amount of paperwork (29%), feeling untrained (24%) and resistance to new ideas (24%).

Comments from presidents concerning what they are most proud of included the executive's willingness to participate even in this time of COVID restrictions. Other achievements included care for each other, meeting virtually to pray the rosary together, commitment to social justice and right to life, members' dedication, and wanting to better our community and parish. The biggest challenges were keeping members motivated, gathering socially, and recruiting new and younger members.

Despite the restrictions of the pandemic over the last two years, it was gratifying to witness the dedication and the love of the league reflected in the president's and standing committee chairs reports. Through their leadership and work of their councils the future of the league is secure.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide and bless us

Respectfully submitted,
For God and Canada
Mary Molloy
Edmonton CWL Diocesan President

Grouard-McLennan Diocesan President Annual Report

2021 has been a year of challenges as the covid pandemic and its variants impacted our ability to meet together. Some councils have had very minimal activity while others have found ways to meet within the guidelines in place.

There are 470 members in twenty councils, sixteen of which are active.

Seven councils submitted on-line reports: Beaverlodge, Bezanson, Fairview (3 only), Grande Prairie, McLennan, Peace River, and Sexsmith.

Seven councils sent paper reports: Berwyn, Grimshaw, High Level, High Prairie, Nampa, Spirit River and Valleyview. One council prepared their report by Faith, Service and Social Justice categories. No reports were received from Rycroft or Whitelaw. Whitelaw has very few members, most in the Harvest Lodge or Long-Term Care but they wish to continue as a council.

Many councils had trouble submitting online reports and found it to be very frustrating. One council chairperson ended up relaying their report to National over the phone. Online reports from National back to parish councils have not been received so Diocesan and Provincial reports cannot be completed. Annual online reports continue to be a problem for this diocese.

Hythe is in the process of disbanding but attempts to finalize the process have been complicated by pandemic restrictions. The Charter cannot be located, and the one remaining member has been transferred to Beaverlodge council but is unable to provide any information regarding the council as she is in long term care.

Slave Lake has disbanded after many years of inactivity and no desire to continue operating. All the paperwork has been completed and forwarded to National Office. Rio Grande is inactive at this time.

The Gratitude Project was mentioned by several councils as something they would like to include in their activities going forward. Beaverlodge sent thirty-five cards to various agencies including medical workers, schools, stores and other service providers. They were very much appreciated. Peace River dropped off gratitude baskets of individually wrapped treat and food items for staff and EMTs at the Health Centre. Sexsmith sent cards to healthcare and school staffs.

All councils have managed to keep their parishes functioning. There are many examples of unique activities and creative ways to preserve traditional events during the year. Valleyview changed their annual stew supper and lunches to take-out only which went over very well. Sexsmith receives bread donations from Cobbs Bread in Grande Prairie which are distributed at the church every Saturday.

In High Prairie no fundraising brunches were allowed so a donated statue of Saint Francis as well as a gift basket were raffled to raise funds for their yearly obligations. High Level had their Christmas Bake to Order sale as well as forty cans for Lent. Many councils supported food banks, donated to homeless shelters and reached out to community needs as required. In High Level, the CWL, Knights of Columbus, El Shaddi and Filipino families collaborate as a team to keep the parish going.

Peace River continues their support of Peace River Welcomes Refugees Committee who have just welcomed the first member of a Syrian family who arrived on December 26 and hopes other family

members will follow. Valleyview and High Prairie support foster families in India, Bezanson also has a foster child and Fairview sponsors a grandmother in Bolivia.

Spiritual activities included studies of Fratelli Tutti, bible studies, Lenten and advent readings and retreats, recognition of First Communion and Confirmation candidates, prayer partners as well as celebrating milestone events including birthdays.

The CWL theme of Care for our Common Home encouraged stewardship for our environment. Catastrophic weather events in British Columbia cemented in our minds the imminent need for more action.

We appreciate the support of our Spiritual Advisors throughout the diocese even though they are not always able to attend our meetings.

Members were reminded to attend the ABMK Advent Retreat with Sandra Prather on December 13. It was inspiring!

Most councils sent Palliative Care and Pornography Hurts postcards to government officials. Phone calls, emails and letter writing continue on matters of pressing importance such as MAiD. It has been reported that seventeen assisted deaths occurred in 2021, a sobering statistic. Many Bills were lost when the federal election was called. These include Bills C-28, C-35, C-201, C-215 and C-306 as well as Senate Bills S-216 and S-228.

All councils tried to distribute all information received to their members. Where members lack internet access, phone calls, personal contact and distribution of copied materials were used to keep members informed. As one council said, their motto is WE'RE STILL HERE!

The Fall League magazine was available online only this year and generated a lot of negative reactions. Members were encouraged to convey their opinions to National. As Diocesan President acting on behalf of all of us, I expressed the disappointment that this decision produced. The ladies affected were the same people who built the League in our diocese. We hope this won't happen again.

A few more councils planted trees in honour of the 100th Anniversary of the CWL. Beaverlodge planted five native spruce trees, blessed by Father Michael, near the church. Sexsmith planted a lilac and Fairview planted a mulberry tree.

The Instructed Vote process is ongoing, and I hope to receive all the forms back soon.

We commend Judy Look for her ABMK Prays the Rosary on zoom Wednesday evenings. It is a blessing to all of us and we can at least see each other and pray together for a short time.

One council included in their report, the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30. Given the discoveries in several First Nations communities across Canada it was an occasion for personal reflection. We continue to pray for the success of the upcoming meetings with the Pope, Church officials and indigenous representatives.

We look forward to when our in- person events can return and to all those hugs we have been missing this year.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Becher

Mackenzie-Fort Smith Diocesan President Annual Report

Dear sisters in the league,

The year 2021 is way more challenging than the year before that. People are getting tired of this pandemic and frustrated. Mental health issues are so big in the north, we have lost quite a number of young people from suicides and drug overdose. As the restrictions are starting to lift, we are hopeful that people will be revitalized and motivated. This pandemic affected our councils and lost quite a number of members. With borders opening up and travel restrictions easing up, we are praying that our annual convention will happen so we can meet up, socialize, hug, and share talks with our sisters' face to face again. Zoom meetings are good but in-person meetings are way better.

For the year that had passed and with limited resources our 3 councils tried their best in order to continue the CWL's work locally and beyond. Challenges with leadership is a big concern as we are operating with a lot of vacancies in different areas from local councils to diocese. Members modified and became more resourceful in order to continue our works in the league. Council officers take turns and share the workloads in order to make things done which is a positive thing that happened during this pandemic. We used to just leave the chairpersons to do their job but now we learn to share the workloads. However, there's also disadvantages because when the committee is being shared, there are tendencies that some 'to do work' is forgotten or not being aware of. It really needs someone to lead and delegate the works to the members.

Zoom meetings are the way we connect with our councils, as well as phoning, emails and texting. We tried to act on projects that the National and Provincial asks us, like continued campaigns on Euthanasia, Palliative care, Human Trafficking, etc., writing petitions to our newly elected leaders, online signing of petitions that Catholic Women's league supports, Gratitude card projects, supporting Kelowna for their Pashmina fundraising, planted trees for the 100th year anniversary as well as purchasing the 100th year magazine that was shared between councils. A couple of our councils were able to do the Annual report survey at the end of the year. The 'Instructed votes' was also done and mailed.

And because 2021 is the Year of St. Joseph, our Spiritual leader did an evening of presentation in one council. It was offered to all but only one council requested. Our annual diocesan convention last year has a lot more of Spiritual Reflections with our Bishop Jon Hansen and Spiritual advisor, Sr. Maggie Beaudette. It was so needed because our mental health issues need more refueling instead of the usual meeting of members. We had a lot of positive comments from members doing it that way. But I made sure the business aspects were also tabled.

For meetings Nationally, I attended the 100th and 101st National convention thru zoom. Prior to that, I attended a virtual tutorial to understand how it will work. I really enjoyed the virtual mass and welcoming of our new national president, Fran Lucas as well as the new executives.

Provincially, I also attended our provincial Mid-winter and Fall meetings virtually since we can't do it in person yet. I'm hoping this year we will be able to. I enjoyed the virtual retreat on our Fall meeting talking about "Light." We had a few virtual meetings beside those that I also attended. I also wrote up for the ABMK newsletter for our diocese last year.

Membership campaigns is still happening and we're hoping to recruit more new members (we do have some new ones now). One council is hoping to fill up some positions that's vacant after they completed their campaign. Another council had done already their elections. Also, to encourage

memberships 2 councils will be doing the Pin ceremony to acknowledge members services as well as welcoming the new ones. The host council for our upcoming 58th Annual convention is busy working and preparing to host and welcome in person this April 2022. We hope and pray that there won't be any obstacle otherwise, we will recreate and regroup as we always do.

For diocesan level, we still don't know who will be our next president as my term is ending. Please pray for us. And since this will be my last reporting as diocesan president, my heartfelt thank you to each and every one of these provincial council. I have learnt a lot and promised that I will share my knowledge to our local councils here.

Thank you for all the support and sisterhood

Here's to hoping that year 2022 will be a better one as restrictions are being lifted but with utmost care, we will, so we don't go back hopefully to the crisis we were in.

This concludes my report.
Respectfully submitted.

Yours in Christ,
Shirley Gutierrez Mackenzie Fort Smith Diocesan President



St. Paul Diocesan President Annual Report

For a second year our councils found themselves looking for creative ways to stay in contact and carry out their mission to be bearers of God's love in the world with ministry and service.

Only eight councils out of 16 completed the President's online survey, down from 11 last year. Information is included in this summary from two additional councils who sent in a written annual report. One of these councils is in amalgamated parish, with the amalgamation comprising four parishes and taking place in 2021. This position is vacant in two of the reporting councils.

Of those answering the president's survey, 38% have been members for more than 25 years, 25% for 16-20 years, and 25% for 6 – 10 years. 89% report having held this position previously, and the respondents are 38% over age 65, and 62% from ages 45 – 64.

Information to inform members is drawn from multiple sources, with the Canadian League Magazine and national website being used by 75% of respondents, national communiques, provincial website and newsletters by 63%, and diocesan newsletters by 50%. Other sources used by some councils include local newspapers, parish bulletin, the internet, CCCB, COLF and 'other' sources. Specific other sources include the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition newsletters, United Families International, Its Time Magazine, Life Site News and homilies from Archbishop Emeritus. Care for our Common Home was the most commonly addressed National Priority, by 63% of reporting councils, and Bill C-7 by 38% Rights of the pre-born under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, by 13% of respondents, and Canada's support for the Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons by 13%. 38% of reporting councils selected 'None of the above' as having been discussed or acted upon. While topics were introduced, all reporting councils indicated the selections available in the online summary were not applicable or not the method used.

Spiritual Advisors are described by 89% of respondents as being supportive of the Catholic Women's League, and 50% of reporting councils meet with their Advisor weekly, monthly, or annually. 30% report meeting rarely, and 20% do not meet with their spiritual advisor. Councils engaged with their advisor by inviting participation in CWL Masses, social events, meetings, sacramental preparation and by asking for instruction, leadership in faith, permissions where necessary and prayer. Two councils reported no interaction, due to the pandemic restrictions or to not having an assigned Spiritual advisor.

For presiding at meetings, the primary resources used were Roberts Rules of Order (50%), Constitution & Bylaws (38%), and the Executive Handbook, the Council Policy and Procedure manual, and Parliamentary Procedure by 25% of councils each. No other sources mentioned were selected by any of the reporting councils.

The following types of documents are signed by council presidents:

- Cheques, by 90% of respondents,
- Banking Documents, by 50%
- Letters directed within the CWL, by 38%
- None of the above, by 20%

Presidents represented their councils at the following events:

- Church functions, by 63% of respondents,
- Diocesan meetings and conventions, by 63%
- Special masses, by 50%

- Sacramental events, Conferences, Provincial meetings and conferences, World Day of Prayer, by 38%
- Pro-Life events, school ceremonies, by 25%
- Fundraising events, community events, retreats, Remembrance Day services, by 18%,
- No events were reported attended by 25%

None of the respondents selected 'other', nor stated that the position was vacant, so they had no response.

Attendees at conferences, fundraising events and workshops were subsidized in whole by only one of the 10 responding councils.

No subsidization was provided for attendance at diocesan, provincial, or national conventions.

Of responding councils, 50% report having read the *Executive Handbook* and understanding the duties of their executive team, and 100% report that the Handbook was of assistance in overseeing the operations of the council. 75% of respondents do provide an annual summary of council activities to all members, with 50% doing so with a written report, 67% using an oral report as well, 67% reaching out by email, and 17% including newsletters and parish bulleting as a method of reporting.

Reporting councils maintain the following committees in addition to the standing chairs:

- Annual events such as teas, and catering, by 38%
- Visitation, funeral lunches, and 'other' by 20%
- Fundraising, Scholarship or bursary, and Donations by 13%
- None by 50%

Other committees were identified as Year-end school and religion awards.

Council presidents for the most part did not speak on issues on behalf of their councils. The only speaking reported by councils was the report given on behalf of their council to the Diocesan meeting.

When corresponding, only 25% of reporting councils use League letterhead. Of these, 100% reference the membership total for their council when corresponding.

50% of councils report being always satisfied with the communication they receive from National, and 50% are usually satisfied. 50% also report this communication as always relevant, 25% as usually relevant, and 25% as sometimes relevant. 50% of these councils report they find the communications from National always clear and concise, 38% identify it as usually clear, and 13% report it is sometimes clear and concise.

43% are always satisfied with communication from Provincial council, and 57% are usually satisfied, with 43% finding the communication always relevant, clear and concise, and 57% reporting it as usually relevant, clear and concise.

50% report that they are always satisfied with Diocesan communications, and 50% usually, with 63% reporting the communication as always relevant, and 38% finding it is usually relevant. 50% report the communication always clear and concise, and 50% report it as usually clear and concise.

50% of councils report occasionally receiving duplicate communications from the different levels of the League, 25% say sometimes, and 25% report that they never receive duplicates. In those instances where another level invites or requests participation, 50% always or usually have time to do so, and 50% report that they sometimes or occasionally have time to do so.

Reporting presidents indicated the greatest assistance on assuming the role as coming from the immediate past president (63% of respondents), former past presidents, (63%), treasurer (50%), and current executive, (38%). Other assistance received by 25% of respondents was provided by the secretary, or diocesan president. Challenges faces by new presidents included keeping members interested (63% of respondents) and inexperience (50%), and 38% all finding challenges in not having a full slate of officers, recruiting, feeling overwhelmed and undertrained, finding the time and meeting expectations. Technology was an issue reported by 25% of council presidents. Other issues were reported by 13% of respondents, including trying to please everyone, delegation, and organizational skills. The other possible challenges on the list were not reported as an issue by any council.

75% of the reporting councils find it beneficial to have a national theme to focus on, with 63% also responding 'good' or 'very good' to the change of theme with each new national president.

Suggestions for the period between theme changes ranged from 2 to 4 years, with the average result being 2.5.

In describing the top things of which presidents are most proud of in their councils, a frequent response was how well the members get along and work together, supporting each other even outside League activities. Members are described as resilient, sharing, willing to help and hanging in there in spite of the pandemic. Their efforts in volunteerism and prayer support, their loyalty and the sense of belonging experienced as sisters in the League is greatly admired and treasured.

The biggest challenge reported for 2021 continued to be the pandemic, with a close second being the challenge of building interest among the members in taking on an executive position. Technology also remains a challenge for some, and coping with the abundance of information, including becoming familiar with all the material available on the websites.

While half of the respondents stated that they had no challenges completing this survey, for the remaining 50%, difficulties faced in completing this survey included getting into the survey, finding time to focus on CWL, and choosing areas to focus on. There is a desire to receive feedback on the information gathered from the survey.

This concludes my report, all for the glory of God and for Canada,

Respectfully submitted,
Lola Alsmo, President
St Paul Diocesan CWL

Congratulations 2022

Elsie Yanik Award Recipient Mable Solomon, Edmonton



Mable is a member of St. Dominic Savio Parish in the Diocese of Edmonton and currently serves as Treasurer. Mable has been a CWL member since 1985 & has served in various positions including Edmonton Diocesan President. Married to Ken for 59 years, they have four adult children & seven grandchildren.

“Make a difference. Create a better world by being kind. Kindness is enduring. Kindness is contagious. Kindness makes everyone feel good.” - Elsie Yanik

As we celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council, we are delighted to present the **Elsie Yanik Award** to a very deserving nominee, Mable Solomon. The award was established to celebrate our 50th Anniversary as a council to “*commemorate the leadership and ministry/service of Elsie Yanik to the Catholic Community in the Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith*”. This award speaks to the women in our Alberta Mackenzie councils who personify the spirit of Elsie Yanik which is selfless, joyful, kind and giving. Guidelines for nominations state that the nomination must be submitted by a Parish or Diocesan Council. The nominee must be a League member in good standing (has paid her membership fee in the current year). Portray a leadership role. Has demonstrated a commitment to ministry/service in an area or areas of need in a parish or community.

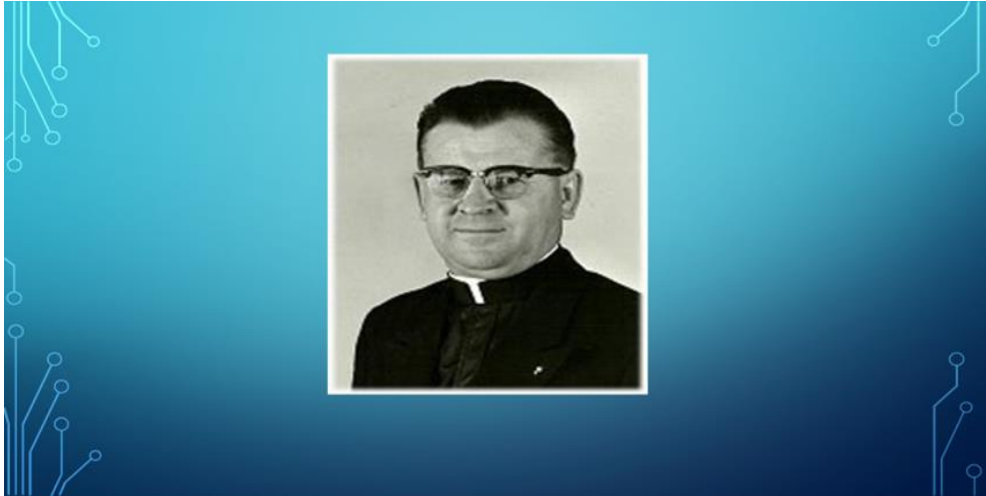
Mable was nominated by her Parish Council. Council President Isabel Hebert who commented “*Mable has been the most wonderful, loving and caring person I have ever met. She has helped me immensely since I became President. Her wealth of knowledge of the CWL has been a true blessing for me. Whenever I have a question, I call Mable because she knows everything*”.

In addition to her CWL service, Mable’s ministry to the community includes volunteering with the KARA Support Centre, the Edmonton Institution for Women, Parish Refugee Coordinator for two families from Iraq, assisting parishioners applying to bring family members from Africa and providing a voice for the voiceless as an Alberta March for Life Board Member for almost a decade.

ABMK President Judy Look shared the following: “*I still remember when we were on provincial council together. Mable brought so much to the table with her eye for detail and I learned so much from her. I never understood why she didn’t continue on but when I read the nomination form, I could see that she was too busy making a difference in the lives of others to worry about sitting around an executive table. I believe Mable felt that the action was at the parish council level and if we are going to have an impact on our society that’s where it begins*”.

Past Recipients of the **Elsie Yanik Award** include Gabrielle Simpson, Renee Spohn, Lucille Partington & Rosemarie McCarthy.

The Walter Krewski Awards 2022



These Membership Awards were introduced in of honour Father ‘Walt’ who was an avid supporter of the Catholic Women’s League and served 21 years as a spiritual advisor: six on Calgary Diocesan Council and 15 on Provincial Council.

Beginning in 2007, the Awards were to be presented each year at the Provincial Convention for increases in membership during the previous year in recognition of the importance of recruiting & retaining members to keep our councils vibrant and thriving.

- The first award was to go to the council having the **greatest number of new members** in the previous year. A new member was someone who had never previously held a CWL membership. *In 2021, two councils tied in this category: Our Lady of Assumption & St. Thomas More of Edmonton both with 6 new members.*
- The second award was to go to the council having the **greatest increase in membership** in the previous year which would benefit those councils that not only strive for new members, but also work to have all members renew each year. *In 2021, this award goes to Ascension Parish in High Level with an increase of 13 members.*
- The third award was for the **greatest percentage increase in membership** to benefit smaller councils who do not have a large membership, but also do not have a large parish population from which to recruit members. *In 2021, this award goes to Ascension Parish in High Level with an increase of 650% from 2 members to 15 members.*

The challenges of membership during COVID did not prevent the councils we are honouring for this past year from sharing the good news of the League with other women in their parishes and having them choose to join or renew their memberships. They serve as an inspiration to all of us.

Congratulations, best wishes & blessings to our 2021 Award Winners.



The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council

CATHOLIC
and **LIVING IT!**

ABMK Provincial Council Anniversaries

*Congratulations, Blessings & Graces to
Our Sisters Throughout Alberta Mackenzie Celebrating
Special Milestones:*

100 th	St. Francis Xavier (Camrose)	2021	Edmonton
100 th	Calgary Diocesan Council	2022	
100 th	Edmonton Diocesan Council	2022	
100 th	Holy Name of Jesus (Vermilion)	2022	Edmonton
95 th	Christ the King (Stettler)	2021	Edmonton
95 th	St. Augustine (Taber)	2021	Calgary
95 th	St. Rita (Rockyford)	2021	Calgary
95 th	Our Lady of Fatima (Strome)	2020	Edmonton
90 th	St. Andrew (Vulcan)	2020	Calgary
90 th	Our Lady of Lourdes (Jasper)	2021	Edmonton
80 th	St. Patrick (Yellowknife)	2022	Mackenzie-Fort Smith
75 th	Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Foremost)	2021	Calgary
75 th	St. Thomas More (Fairview)	2021	Grouard-McLennan
75 th	ABMK Provincial Council	2022	
70 th	St. Joseph's Basilica (Edmonton)	2022	
70 th	St. Maria Goretti (Devon)	2022	Edmonton
70 th	St. Basil (Lethbridge)	2020	Calgary
70 th	St. Charles (Mearns)	2020	Edmonton
70 th	St. Anthony (Edmonton)	2020	Edmonton
70 th	St. Mary (Provost)	2020	Edmonton
70 th	St. Agnes (Mayerthorpe)	2021	Edmonton
70 th	St. Mary's (Beaverlodge)	2021	Grouard McLennan
70 th	St. Andrew Edmonton)	2022	Edmonton
70 th	St. John the Evangelist (Edmonton)	2022	Edmonton
70 th	St. Michael (Leduc)	2022	Edmonton