



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

74th Annual Members Meeting

**Held Virtually
June 5th , 2021**

**Convention Cancelled Due to Covid-19 Pandemic
2020 Annual Reports**



League Prayer

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

Bless our beloved country,
our homes and families.

Send Your Holy Spirit upon us
to give light to our minds
and strength to our wills
that we may know and fulfill
Your great law of charity.

Teach us to share with others
at home and abroad,
the good things You have given us.

This we ask through Our Lord Jesus Christ
and the intercession of our patroness,
Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Amen

League Promise

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

CWL Mission Statement:

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

Alberta Mackenzie Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada		
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FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

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 is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Welcome to our Annual Meeting of Members, a new experience for all of us as we adapt to our current reality. How things have changed. We have all been called to look at life through masks and social distancing. CWL too has had to adapt as one of our strengths is our close connection with one other and we will miss the comradery, the hugs, and the laughter. COVID-19 and its variants certainly have taken its toll on plans as adjustments and readjustments have become the norm. But if we look at COVID -19 as a first cup of tea maybe we can brew it to our liking. If we adapt the word COVID to be a **Catholic Organization full of Vitality, Inspiration and Dedication** continuing to work for God and Canada the new cup of tea could be very inviting. Instead of bemoaning what we can't or couldn't do we can celebrate in gratitude what we can and what we have done. Our annual reports are a gift of gratitude as we read how members have worked hard at keeping our mission statement alive.

Our meeting today embodies the business of 2020 and 2021 with the morning segment addressing 2020 and the afternoon 2021. Both meetings will include spirituals, memorial services, awards, and reports with a visit from Bishop McGrattan in the afternoon.

May today be a faith filled experience for us all as we remain a Catholic Organization full of Vitality, Inspiration and Dedication continuing to work for God and Canada.

Judy Look

**Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council
74th Annual Meeting of Members**

Standing Rules

1. Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall be the parliamentary authority in all cases not covered by the Constitution & Bylaws of The Catholic Women's League of Canada.
2. Each person attending the convention shall register through the Zoom link provided. Each member is responsible for her own audio and Internet connections.
3. Only voting and accredited delegates may move or second a motion.
4. Voting by registered members shall be through Zoom video. When a vote is called, members shall turn their video cameras off. Those in favour will turn their camera on and the count will be made. The same process will occur for the those opposed. Two provincial officers will be assigned to record the count.
5. No resolutions will be presented.
6. All comments and questions will be directed to the Chair through the Chat feature. Once recognized, a member will state her name, delegate status, council, and diocese.
7. Any member may speak only once to any motion for a maximum of two (2) minutes.
8. Upon recognition by the Chair, non-voting CWL members and spiritual advisors may ask questions or make comments in discussion. When time is of the essence, voting members shall be given priority to speak over non-voting members.

BERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL 2019-2022

POSITION	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE/EMAIL
HIERARCHY	Most Rev. Bishop William McGrattan	Catholic Pastoral Centre ^[SEP] 120 - 17 Avenue Calgary, AB T2 2T2	403-218-5526 Bishop.McGrattan@Calgarydiocese.ca
SPIRITUAL ADVISOR	Rev. Fr. Andrew Bogdanowicz	12810 – 111 Ave. Edmonton, AB T5M 2N7	780-451-6601(Phone) 780-221-1012(Cell) pastor.standrew@telus.net
PRESIDENT	Judy Look	331 Woodside Bay SW Calgary, AB T2W 3K9	403-281-3048 abmkprovpres@gmail.com
PRESIDENT-ELECT / ORGANIZATION	Mary Hunt	508 Caldwell Court Edmonton, AB T6M 2X4	780-221-3165 (Cell) 780-487-3165 (Home) abmkpreselect@gmail.com
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SECRETARY	Gloria Lundberg	#301 – 43 Sunrise Loop S.E. High River AB T1V0A8	403-542-7575 (Home) abmkprovsec@gmail.com
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COMMUNITY LIFE CHAIRPERSON	Theresa Hickey	845 Bigelow Crescent Yellowknife NWT	780-968-5543 (Cell) susan.rubin@gmail.com abmkprovcomlife@gmail.com
EDUCATION & HEALTH CHAIRPERSON	Gerda Hazenberg	129 Rivett Cres Yellowknife, NT X1A 3S6	867-766-2464(Home) 867-446-1032 (Cell) Gerdahazenberg@theedge.ca
RESOLUTIONS CHAIRPERSON	Betsy Fletcher	2005 – 1 st Ave. Cold Lake, AB T9M 1E4	780-815-3309(Cell) 780-639-3586 (Home) abmkprovleg@gmail.com
LEGISLATION CHAIRPERSON	Sharon Malec	19 Coachwood Rd., W. Lethbridge, AB T1K 6B6	403-380-8623 (Cell) 403-380-3765 (Home) abmkprovres@gmail.com
LIFE MEMBER LIASON	Gloria Lundberg	#301-43 Sunrise Loop S.E. High River AB T1V 0A8	403-542-7575 (Home) abmkprovsec@gmail.com
WEBMASTER	Dorothy Johansen	1258 Rutherford Rd., SW Edmonton, AB T6W 1H7	780-989-0663 (H0me) abmkweb@gmail.com
DIOCESAN PRESIDENTS			
DIOCESAN PRESIDENT CALGARY	Jan Myhre	140 Rocky Ridge Drive N.W. Calgary, AB T3G 4E6	403-241-3655 (Home) 403 -828-4191 (Cell) calgarycwlpresident@gmail.com
DIOCESAN PRESIDENT EDMONTON	Mary Molloy	12006 – 89 Street N.W. Edmonton, AB T5B 3W1	780-454-1245 (Home) 780-991-6656 (Cell) edmontoncwl.president@gmail.com
DIOCESAN PRESIDENT GROUARD- McLENNAN	Christine Becher	Box 65 Fairview, AB T0H 1L0	780-835-5698 (Home) 780-7720524 (Cell) grmclpresident@gmail.com
DIOCESAN PRESIDENT MACKENZIE – FORT SMITH	Shirley Guitierrez	30 McBryan Drive Hay, River, NT X0E 0R3	867-874-6449 (home) 867-876-0867 (cell) mfscwlpresident@gmail.com
DIOCESAN PRESIDENT ST. PAUL	Lolain Alsmo	Box 87 Thorhild, Alberta T0H 3J0	780-398-2278 (Home) lalsmo@laccess.ca

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



WILLIAM T. MCGRATTAN

BISHOP *of* CALGARY

May 1, 2021

Dear Members of the Catholic Women's League of Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council,

I offer you my prayers, encouragement, and appreciation for the commitment of the Catholic Women's League (CWL) to the Church's mission especially during these challenging times as we confront the human, social, and spiritual effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Your presence, witness and advocacy is vital for our parishes and the wider community.

Although you are not able to gather for your 74th Annual Provincial Convention of the CWL of Alberta Mackenzie, the theme "*Care for our Common Home*" and your focus of "*Building Relationships*", is a timely response to Pope Francis' most recent encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* [FT]. In it he makes an earnest appeal for dialogue and friendship in our society in order to create a new culture, "*some people attempt to flee from reality, taking refuge in their own world; others react to it with destructive violence. Yet "between selfish indifference and violent protest there is always another possible option: that of dialogue."* [FT, 199]. The new culture needs to foster a solidarity and fraternity among all people and inspire them to extend that same respect and care to all of creation by building relationships of support and sustainability. This theme is very important to our First Nations and Indigenous communities here in Alberta.

It is my hope that despite the restrictions of this pandemic you will engage in this "*new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all.*" (LS, #14)

I assure you of my prayers and that through the Holy Spirit may you be inspired as members of the CWL in your actions of advocacy in the faithful stewardship of God's creation for future generations.

Yours in Christ,

†William T. McGrattan
Bishop of Calgary

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CALGARY

Catholic Pastoral Centre | 120 17 Ave SW, Calgary, AB T2S 2T2

Phone: 403-218-5526 | Fax : 403-264-0272

Greetings from Our Provincial Spiritual Advisor

Dear Ladies,

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ”. Phil 1:2

I wish to sincerely thank you for your involvement in the Catholic Women’s League of Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council and for your witness to faith in Jesus Christ. Your faith is an inspiration to me, to your parishes and, indeed, to the whole Church. I am especially grateful for your perseverance in continuing to show forth the love of God during this particularly difficult time of the pandemic.

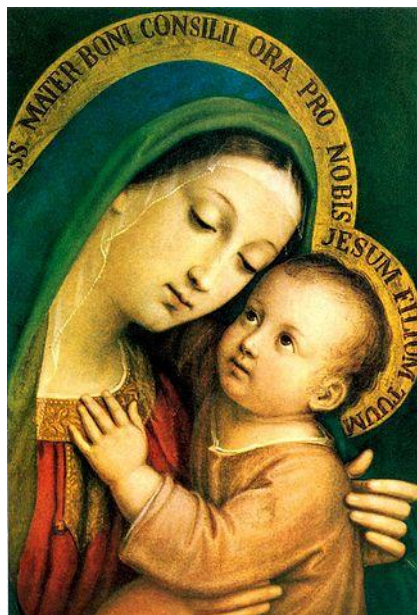
I encourage you to persevere in prayer, gratitude and good works for God and Canada. “Give thanks to the Lord for He is good for his love endures forever.” Ps 118:1

In conclusion, I leave you with a beautiful verse from a famous poem written in 1833 by St. John Henry Newman.

*Lead, kindly light, amid the encircling gloom,
Lead thou me on;
The night is dark, and I am far from home;
Lead thou me on;
Keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see
The distant scene: one step enough for me.*

May God continue to pour out many graces upon all of you and the Blessed Mother hold you in her arms.

Fr. Andrew Bogdanowicz – Provincial Spiritual Advisor





The Catholic Women's League of Canada

My dear sisters in Alberta Mackenzie,

It is my pleasure as national president to bring greetings to my dear sisters in Alberta Mackenzie on the occasion of your 74th annual meeting of members. Since provincial councils were unable to physically meet in 2020 due to the unusual and unprecedented circumstances brought on by the global COVID-19 pandemic, it will be a joyful occasion when you can meet once more. Life is different, but God is good, all the time. You may take comfort in knowing that you are in solidarity with your more than 70,000 sisters throughout Canada who have weathered a challenging year. We may be bent somewhat but remain unbroken.

Perhaps more than any other year when you have been able to gather to celebrate the work of the past year "For God and Canada," you will be even more jubilant that you can celebrate the intangibles— spending more time in contemplation and silence, learning new ways to be creative, finding your strength when you thought you might have lost it, appreciating the things each of us may have once taken for granted. People are learning machines; if you take stock of what you have learned this year, your collective list will be such a blessing.

The Holy Spirit constantly guides us. It is my prayer that as you add this year's gathering to your history, you will always remember what you have learned in 2020, the new experiences you have been forced to incur, the simple joy of being. "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God" (Isaiah 40.1). And again in Romans 15.4, "For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope."

May God continue to bless you in your continued faith, service and advocacy, for The Catholic Women's League of Canada is such a vital instrument in this land. Thank you for giving time and effort to caring for God's creation up until now, and going forward to the end of 2021. Your sister in the League,

Anne-M Gorman
National President



**PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT
ANNUAL REPORT 2020
Judy Look**

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

Jan Myhre
Mary Molloy
Christine Becher
Shirley Gutierrez
Lola Alsmo

2020 ...the year of COVID...the year a **Catholic Organization** full of **Vitality, Inspiration and Dedication** continued to work for God and Canada in spite of all of the challenges; a year filled with hope and gratitude. The Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council comprised of 4 diocesan councils in Alberta and one in the Northwest Territories houses 157 parish councils and is blessed with table officers from all 5 dioceses. It along with its diocesan and parish councils had a very challenging year confronted with social distancing, closed churches, the inability to have in-person meetings and the increased use technology. The theme of the provincial council, "Care for Our Common Home: Building Relationships" offered a new challenge with the inability to meet but the table officers were diligent in staying connected with their diocesan and national counterparts.

Mary Hunt, chair of organization attended a multitude of meetings through virtual technology, participated in two strategic planning working groups and met with her diocesan and provincial counterparts as they worked together on leadership issues. She also chaired the Alberta March for Life. Gwen Elliott, treasurer worked on budgets that continued to be fluid as COVID's impact affected all activities, communicated with her diocesan counterparts on financial issues and chaired the financial council. The treasurer and organization chairs kept abreast of the membership numbers and continued to support their counterparts at the other levels. Gladys Brown, spiritual committee chair posted prayers on the website, helped coordinate the Advent Lenten Retreat facilitated by Father Jim Corrigan and developed spirituals for Zoom meetings.

Janet MacPhee communications chair took on the daunting task of the provincial website and did stellar work on the pornography part of her portfolio. She organized the production of two videos of greetings, one for Advent and the other for Christmas that were posted on the provincial and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary websites as well as posted greetings from the other dioceses. She and Gloria Lundberg provincial secretary and life member liaison for Alberta planned and executed a Christmas card fan out to all the parish council chairs, life members, bishops and organizations in the community. Using the pillars of faith, social Justice and service the committee chairs of community life, Christian family life, legislation and resolutions worked together to research, collaborate, produce letters and a joint communique on Bill C-7 with very positive results. This approach to our work will continue into 2021.

Technology played a very important role in the year as the fall meeting along with many others went virtual. Theresa Hickey community life chair kept us abreast of developments in Development and Peace, CNEWA, St. Vincent de Paul and activities in the north; Celine Berlinquette, chair of Christian life kept us abreast of issues such as MAiD, ethical issues and issues around dying only to mention a few. She also was our representative on the March for Life committee. Gerda Hazenberg chair of education and health continued to promote Grace, Grateful Advocates of Catholic Education and participated in a strategic plan working group on diversity. Betsy Fletcher, chair of resolutions brought to our attention the new resolutions guide, welcomed a new resolution as well reminded us to continue to work on previous resolutions such as the necessity of an independent senior's advocate office.

Sharon Malec, chair of legislation, our contact with the provincial government, kept us current on legislative issues as well worked on an implementation team working group. June Fuller past president, our go to person for information continued to update our policy and procedures and took on the initiative to have a supplement to the provincial history. All table officers stayed connected with their diocesan counterparts, posted communiques to the website, funneled national issues to their diocesan counterpart and participated in a multitude of webinars. Although the 2020 annual meeting of members and convention was cancelled in June members took advantage of the national council's speaker series webinar. In addition to all this work they remained very active in their home councils.

Diocesan presidents continued to be resilient in their dedication to the League. They, along with their executives worked diligently to support their parish councils. Every president was thrust into the world of virtual communications with all of its challenges as they discovered Zoom and other platforms. They soon realized that if the ladies can't come to them they would go to the ladies and go they did with seminars, workshops, retreats, discussion groups, fall and regional meetings. They encouraged their members to become creative in their thinking and so councils met outdoors in parks and church

parking lots always safe distancing and wearing masks. Most councils filled out an annual report survey be it on- line or manually. Councils continued to embrace the theme of Care for the Common Home and reported that they do like a national theme. For inspiration and information they chose CWL and CCCB websites as well as the League magazine. They valued their spiritual advisors as they felt they have a significant role although they may not attend all the meetings. The three pillars of faith, service and social justice permeated the reports. The strong pillar of faith continued to be the underlying pillar as the women continued to participate in activities such as the World Day of Prayer, 12 Days of Prayer for Palliative Care, on-line bible studies, Mass on- line and retreats.

Social justice was highlighted as ladies wrote their MP's and MLA's on the issues of MAiD, good palliative care, euthanasia, rights of the unborn child under the UN Convention on Rights of the Child, Bill C-7and care home mismanagement. They used information from the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, Campaign for Life, United Families International, national resolutions, CCCB, communiques and encyclicals to support their positions. Fund raising was seriously curtailed, but they continued to support as best they could their financial commitments. Some councils did find ways to have virtual fund raisers, but they were in the minority.

Service for most councils focused inwards to service to their sisters in the League and churches others as social distancing and staying home became the orders for the day. They came up with many ways to stay connected with emails at the top of the list followed closely by phoning, sending cards and virtual meetings. Where it was permissible, some councils continued to visit in person, continued their ministries in their churches and reached out to the poor.

To help facilitate council meetings presidents reported the use of a variety of resources with the National Policy and Procedure manual, the Constitution and By-Laws, Roberts Rules of Order and the executive handbook being the most popular. Presidents did rely on their past presidents for support and called on their life members periodically. Some councils moved forward in developing parish council policy and procedure manuals. It appeared that all treasurers did an outstanding job of keeping track of membership fees, bank accounts and paying bills on time. Some councils moved toward direct deposit as well as e-transfers. Moneys directed for support of presidents to attend conventions and workshops ranged from nothing at all to all expenses being paid. Council presidents at all levels were the face of their CWL.

Challenges focus on leadership as many members are hesitant to take on the role; declining membership and disbanding of councils is a current reality and for many councils especially in the northern dioceses' technology p as internet is not always accessible.

Although COVID tried its hardest to slow the ladies down it wasn't successful. In many ways it brought the ladies closer to one another and their God. The Alberta Mackenzie Prays the Rosary Wednesday nights gave the women the opportunity to not only connect across Alberta but to make prayer the ultimate weapon to battle the pandemic and all of its issues. Priorities changed, approach to work changed, appearances changed but the love grew. Members continued to live the mission statement "The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service" and all are looking forward to the day when we can get together to laugh, cry, share stories and hug.

This concludes my report,

Judy Look

**PROVINCIAL ORGANIZATION STANDING COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2020
Mary Hunt, Chair**

(90 of 147 Councils Reporting)

Organization Standing Committee Chairs:

Calgary:	Renee Spohn
Edmonton:	Clover Oryschak
Grouard-McLennan:	Irene Brassard reporting
Mackenzie-Fort Smith:	Stephanie Abdon
St. Paul:	Dianna Parenteau

Thank you to the Organization Standing Committee Chairs for their dedication and commitment to the League and for preparing and submitting the annual reports that are included in this report. Organization Annual Reports for 2020 serve to remind us that Our Lady of Good Counsel continues to protect and guide our councils where in spite of the restrictions and challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic our members persevered and found creative ways to help one another and to keep their parish councils active. Councils reported that most Organization Chair positions were filled by appointment with many having held the position previously. Councils were limited in their ability to host in person events and found successful ways to meet electronically. *Zoom meeting* and *Go To Meeting* have become a part of our vernacular and are communication platforms that our councils will continue to use post pandemic; especially those councils where distance is a hurdle to regularly meeting. These reports provide us with the opportunity to witness to the resiliency of our councils in their commitment to grow in faith and in service to the League. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all 2020 CWL conventions were cancelled

Member Recruitment and Engagement: In 2020, approximately 62% of the Alberta-Mackenzie CWL councils completed the online annual survey and indicated they appreciated the shorter format and found it more effective. All dioceses reported decreases in membership but overall, most council's membership remained the same with some individual councils reporting increases in new members. Overall, there were **9,101 members in Alberta-Mackenzie** with 4,235 in the Edmonton Diocese, 3,560 in the Calgary Diocese, 409 in the Grouard-McLennan Diocese, 162 in the Mackenzie-Fort Smith Diocese and 735 in the St. Paul Diocese. Disturbingly some councils have stated that an on-going pandemic may result in their councils disbanding.

Successful recruitment methods cited included personal invitation, presentations at Mass and advertising in church bulletins. Prior to the pandemic, some councils participated in World Day of Prayer, hosting a Cultural Day every year the weekend prior to Canada Day as well as other fundraising, social and spiritual events.

The use of online membership renewal has increased with councils indicating that "it is the fastest and easiest means of updating membership records and enables batches of renewals to be linked to the submission of membership remittances". Some councils were concerned with the survey questions and information collected pertaining to ethnicity and age diversity and these concerns were forwarded to national office.

Success Stories

- Established more personal conversations with members to ensure they are well and safe and to learn more about them and their families
- Faith Enrichment through Retreats, the Summer Speakers Series and the weekly Provincial Virtual Rosary
- One Diocese set up *Prayer Pals* which was embraced by many of their members.
- Soup Kitchens to feed the poor and homeless living among us (Covid life is so much more challenging for them)

- Development of workshops. Both the Calgary & Edmonton Councils have developed workshops to address the information needs of their councils and have embraced the Welcome Program.
- Membership Recognition through phone calls on birthdays, sincere than you cards, welcome packages to new members, and mass cards for loved ones who passed away.

Plans to overcome challenges:

- Faith Enrichment through guest speakers, retreats and opportunities to pray together
- Recruitment and Motivation: Many councils regretted not filling the president-elect position
- Intentional support through mentoring, ongoing communication and encouragement
- Keeping the CWL visible in our parishes. Be visible by wearing your CWL scarf and pin(s) & pashminas.
- Be flexible by looking for a new time for general meetings such as on a Sunday afternoon after Mass
- Adapting to our new socializing reality—virtual celebrations and seasonal festivities
- Better use of the National Website for information on workshops
- Provide technical assistance/workshop for councils experiencing difficulties with virtual meetings
- Succession planning of leadership

Strategic Plan Goals and Leadership: Reporting members support the Strategic Plan and implementation of the Envisioned Future of the League as it will hopefully ensure full executive representation for the new three pillars of Faith, Service and Social Justice. Members have been kept apprised of Strategic Planning updates and workshops were offered. Mentioned was Goal 2 which is mandated to look at *The Catholic Women’s League of Canada address and supports Catholic social teaching through advocacy.*

The Canadian League Articles: Members cited articles by President-Elect Fran Lucas in the Spring 2020 edition [*“Embrace Change By...Being a Part of It”*] and Honorary Life Member Barb Dowding in the Winter 2020 edition [*Standing on the Shoulders of Giants*] as very interesting and informative. Fran speaks about keeping members informed, current and confident while Barb speaks to the value of using Honorary Life and Life members as valuable resources and encourages us to call upon them for assistance and guidance. Councils embraced the focus on the new three pillars: Faith, Service and Social Justice. Members reporting looking forward to receiving copies of this publication.

During the past year I experienced significant health challenges but managed to participate in numerous meetings, retreats, information sessions, the development of a new National Executive Orientation Kit and in the National Committee looking at League Misconceptions. In addition, I participate in a weekly phone meeting with our provincial president which has proven to be an effective communication tool. In the coming year, I hope to establish regular phone meetings with the Organization Chairs to share information and find solutions to recruitment and membership challenges. I also serve as Chair of the *Alberta March for Life Association* which promotes sanctity of life from conception to natural death in our Alberta-Mackenzie communities and is a way of supporting Catholic social teaching through advocacy.

2020 provided many unforeseen challenges but councils found ways to adapt council activities and how they connect. Virtual platforms proved valuable and effective in communicating with one another and in providing faith enrichment opportunities. The weekly Mackenzie Provincial rosary has grown in popularity and has brought women together from across the province who may otherwise have never met. Members continued to be welcomed, affirmed, mentored and validated. Participation by seniors increased because their participation was not contingent on winter weather, driving and going out at night. We look to the coming year with optimism as we find ways to grow through Faith, Service & Social Justice for God and Canada.

This concludes my report,
Mary Hunt

**PROVINCIAL SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT STANDING COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2020
Gladys Brown, Chair**

Other Chairs of Spiritual Development in Alberta Mackenzie:
Edmonton Diocese---Sr. Susan Scott CAF
St. Paul Diocese---Kathryn Bourque
Calgary Diocese---Kathleen Winter
Grouard-McLennan---Sr. Connie Harkin SSND

The year 2020 is a year that we will never forget. Who would have thought that this would happen where lockdowns, quarantines, and protocols would have to be followed.

Through modern technology, we were able to stay connected by e-mails, texting, live streaming and ZOOM. There was connection to the members by mailing a Christmas card and a telephone call just to say how are you and having the pleasure of listening to their stories of how they were coping. In one of the reports, the Spiritual Development Chair mentioned "Times are a Changin'! How true is this statement!

The annual reports were filed online and it appears most councils did their best. There seems to be a growth in recognizing that spending more time praying together vs. private devotions, better nourishes and deepens our faith. There were many comments on chairs researching new resources and discovering creative ways to come together in prayer.

Most councils have had meetings on ZOOM with very few members attending. It appeared that members are not aware of the new technology or were afraid to enroll. It was found that the executive of the council held their monthly meetings with the executive and perhaps only 3 to 4 members attending. Members can access ANY retreat centre across the country for "virtual" retreats that allow them to participate in the comfort of their home and at a significantly reduced cost.

Councils continue to support *Catholic Missions in Canada* with financial donations or through prayer. Also members participated in the *World Day of Prayer* with other churches in their community. This gave members the opportunity to share ideas and meet ladies who have the same interest in serving God and Canada. Members in various parishes attended Mass on weekdays by saying the Rosary followed by Mass. There was mention of members working on book markers which were given to children receiving the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation.

Members were active participants in the life of the church, volunteering as screeners, ushers, proclaimers of the readings, sitting on Parish Pastoral Councils and looking after the needs of the church wherever needed. In one Diocese, they celebrated their deceased members through a virtual prayer service linking them in prayer.

All though this has been a strange year in the history of the world, including the Catholic Women's League, it is the spiritual aspect that has sustained members, bringing a feeling of unity in prayer and purpose. It is definitely apparent that the spiritual aspect of the Catholic Women's League continues to be a staple in the lives of members throughout all of the Dioceses.

Let us continue to pray for one another, for our League that we may prosper for God's Creation for healing

This concludes my report,
Gladys Brown

**PROVINCIAL TREASURER
ANNUAL REPORT 2020
Gwen Elliott**

Annual Survey Report statistics were received from 3 of the five diocesan councils in Alberta Mackenzie. Due to incomplete statistics from the National Annual Survey received by the Provincial Treasurer, percentages would not be accurate for the Province so were not included in this report. The donations report was compiled from information submitted by the five diocesan councils. The participation rate for Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council showed an increase in 2020 with 96/153 councils (62.1%) reporting.

Reporting councils kept track of their funds making use of bank statements. Most councils used cheque and deposit books and some of councils used receipt books. The use of spreadsheets appears to be increasing and ledger books are still being used to record and keep track of finances. Some councils reported that they are using computer software programs. Budgets are being prepared based on the responses by 3 Diocese by an average of 52%.

It is important for transparency that the council's books be reviewed so to give members assurance that there is good stewardship of the council's funds. In 2020 more than half of councils reported that their books were reviewed annually using an experienced bookkeeper or accountant.

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. \$4787.01 was sent to Mackenzie-Fort Smith Diocesan Council in 2020 due to the generous support of councils in Alberta. Alberta March for Life voluntary fund received \$300 during 2020 there is now \$500 to be disbursed to support March for Life in 2021 if it is held.

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. Despite the difficulty for councils to fundraise in 2020 they have been very generous as reported on the donations report table. Even though there has not been as much financial activity our Treasurers have continued to do the vital work of caring for the finances of their councils. Thank you to all of the Treasurers who serve in your councils.

God bless you all.

This concludes my report,
Gwen Elliott

**SECRETARY
ANNUAL REPORT 2020
Gloria Lundberg**

Most councils reported having a secretary although a few vacancies were noted. Some councils have both a recording and a corresponding secretary. One diocese noted that in a few of their councils the minutes were hand-written and then the secretary either borrowed a computer or one of her League sisters typed up the notes for her. Many of the councils do not have a motions book.

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:

- Decisions being made without using parliamentary procedure. They are working on reinstating the process
- Collecting correspondence during COVID as the mail goes to the parish office and many times it was closed and not accessible
- Lack of meetings due to COVID restrictions
- Finding a replacement secretary at the end of the term
- No experience with the duties of secretary and due to COVID were unable to meet with other members for guidance
- Maintaining a list of motions that need to be ratified at the next general meeting whenever that will be
- Four councils in one diocese reported that they had no challenges because the ladies on the board were kind, patient and guiding
- Council secretaries found it stressful and challenging from both a time and learning perspective to take formal minutes
- One council reported not having in-person meetings, so their minutes were changed to newsletters
- ZOOM meetings were welcomed but at times frustrating due to poor internet connections
- Some councils met in the church parking lot with physical distancing and masks during the warmer months
- A recommendation was made to have ideas and information on how to move to an on-line aspect of record keeping. Perhaps this could be created at the national level so all records for councils are held in a digital platform and archives could be accessed

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

My own journey as provincial secretary began in the middle of a term and it has been a challenge to get up to speed. Trying to find my way through various files, documents and USB drives has proven to be interesting as we all have our own way of naming and creating files. Reading through documents to see where they fit into the puzzle has been a learning experience and in some cases a trip down memory lane.

Thank you for your patience, guidance, kindness and encouragement as I undertake this assignment as provincial secretary.

This concludes my report,
Gloria Lundberg

PROVINCIAL PAST PRESIDENT ANNUAL REPORT 2020 June Fuller

Diocesan Past Presidents:

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

Our annual reports have always afforded us the opportunity to find out what our CWL councils in our province/territory have been doing over the past year. However, this past year gave all of us many unforeseen challenges, but our councils have improvised to the best of their abilities.

This year approximately 61% of the CWL councils in Alberta/Mackenzie completed the online annual surveys. It was reported that many ladies holding the Past President position have over 20 years of experience and are 65 years of age and older. It was noted that several ladies have held this position for more than two terms. An exceptionally low number indicated that this position was vacant. However, the Past Presidents have played a key role during this pandemic year by supporting the President and other members of the executive through their commitment to attend meetings, spiritual events and praying the rosary both in person at the beginning of the year and virtually as the year progressed.

As reported, most Past-Presidents are responsible for the Archive/history of their councils and that some were able to work on this project, depending on whether they had permission to access the files that were kept in the parish. It was noted that in one Diocese, the responsibilities of looking after the archives was the either, the Secretary, a Life Member of someone that was assigned to taking care of archives. Councils 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.

Past Presidents indicated that another duty was to keep their members informed and up to date with the information from the C&B, the National Policy and Procedures. One Diocese reported that they had prepared a Policy and Procedure document for their Diocese and indicated that they also encouraged councils that do not have a Policy and Procedure, to develop one for their council, as over half of the councils indicated they do not have a P&P.

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. Very few contacted the Local Bishop or the Life Members.

Other Duties included attending conventions, promoting the council, chairing the nominations and election committee, filling the role of any vacant positions, and occasionally chairing the meetings in the absence of the President.

When asked about how you can make your successor's experience more enjoyable and fulfilling, the answer for many was support, support, support, encouragement, and open communication. Being a sounding board and helping with emails and passing on information. Just being a mentor and being available to give advice and get information from other levels to share with the President and attending meetings to be a resource when needed.

When asked about the implantation of the Envisioned Future of the League: this has been supported by many Past-Presidents. It was noted that several councils could not fill the full roster of Standing Committees, but under the new pillars of Faith, Service and Social Justice, they have been successful in getting members to work together to fill these positions. They have been ensuring that their members are reciting the CWL Renewal Prayer written by Sr. Susan Scott and they have kept their members apprised of the updates with regards to the Strategic Planning for the League.

When asked to share their success stories there have been many, but these are the highlights

- Bringing in speakers before the lockdown
- Soup kitchen
- Wellsprings Family Violence Candle Vigil
- Successful World Day of Prayer

- CWL graveside prayer service for deceased members as well as zoom memorial services
- Successfully setting up virtual meetings via 'Zoom'
- Phoning, emailing all members to keep in touch
- Councils could not have their usual fundraising events, but some found new projects such as sewing masks and selling them and have a drive through plant sale and pie sale
- Some councils continued having an honor guard for a member's funeral, by standing outside the funeral home or church

The greatest challenges over the past year were:

- Covid-19 restrictions and lockdown i.e., church closures, limited access and unable to meet in person
- Keeping CWL visible in the parishes
- Setting up virtual meetings was technically challenging for some of the senior members
- Sharing fellowship, having fundraisers, and just having fun with other members
- Succession planning of leadership
- Recruiting new members and young women and collecting memberships
- Moving away from the community
- Gathering history and keeping the archives up to date
- Planning for the 100th anniversary of the Calgary Diocese in 2021
- Coronavirus

2020 proved to be a difficult year, but the members continued to do the best that they could considering that this was uncharted waters. 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,
June Fuller



**PROVINCIAL CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE STANDING COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2020
Celine Berlinguette, Chair**

Our Christian Family Life is an area of life that affects all of us from our birth to our death. We believe that children should be brought up in a loving and supportive family, founded on marriage and that the Church should be a model for our family's life. The family is where children learn about love, companionship and forgiveness. Parents are the ones who give their children their first examples of how to live as good Christians. Families play an important role in the community, by helping and providing support to families, the elderly, the widows and widowers, separated and divorced, single persons, youth, children and vocations.

The Christian Family Life Standing Committee's areas of responsibility are vast and varied with notable differences between rural and urban areas. All Dioceses responded to working and supporting the various areas of the Christian Family Life, however the role in rural areas seems to be more of a supportive nature to Parish initiatives.

The year 2020 has been a difficult one for everyone right across Canada as the Corona virus Pandemic took hold of our communities, our country and our world. Our way of life as we knew it came to sudden halt with the closure of churches, schools and businesses. Self-isolations, quarantines, masks and social distancing now became part of life.

Many of our Councils completed the Christian Family Life on-line annual reports, even in areas where the Council did not have a Christian Family Life chairperson. One of our Diocesan Council reported that their Councils had not received their on-line surveys. The Councils that reported stated that fifty percent of their chairs were members who had been CWL members for ten years or less whereby an additional twenty percent had been members for over twenty-five years. Most of council chairs were between the age of fifty-five and seventy-four, with some being between the age of thirty-five and forty four and some over the age of seventy-five.

Three councils also reported that they had a Catholic Girls League.

The activities of our Councils were greatly reduced in 2020 because of Covid-19 restrictions. Activities, fund raisers and special events were cancelled. Virtual meetings, telephone calls and conferencing became our way of communicating with family, friends, neighbours and our League Sisters. Our roles in many instances became supportive instead of hands-on.

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

- **Participating in telephone campaigns, contacting parish families to let them know that they were being missed, and to provide them with information on the restrictions and how they affected their attendance for various church celebrations and activities.**
- **Praying in their individual homes - for the 12 hours of Prayer for Palliative Care**
- **Praying the rosary every Wednesday with the ABMK**
- **Writing letters to government officials regarding prolife and euthanasia issues, Bill C-7**
- **Virtually attended the March for Life**
- **Donating funds to various Pro-Life organizations, Save the Family Plan, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, Campaign Life Coalition, Pregnancy and Family Support Services, St. Vincent the Paul and food banks.**
- **Financially supporting Newman College and the "Adopt a Seminarian" program.**
- **Continuing to pray for vocations.**
- **Volunteering for the various functions for the masses.**
- **Helping with the promotion of various virtual programs for the youth and children**

- Virtually delivering the Sacramental Preparation Classes in preparation for their First Confession, Confirmation and First Holy Communion.
- Virtually attending Mass, workshops and presentations.

Two areas of concern were identified in our reporting for the year 2020. The first concern was the drastic rise in domestic violence since the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the second area of concern was “support” for caregivers. We must try to reach out (in a safe manner) to those people most in need of our help.

As we continue our journey, even during this time of Pandemic, we as Christian women look forward to the day when we can return to our many activities that reflect and promote our Christian values.

I commend each and every one of our members for their great contributions during these restrictive times, and may Our Lady of Good Council continue to guide us in our work.

This concludes my report,
Celine Berlinguette



**PROVINCIAL COMMUNICATIONS STANDING COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2020
Janet MacPhee, Chair**

All five dioceses have a communications chair. One diocese did not submit a report. Councils reporting are approximately 41% of councils throughout the ABMK Provincial Council

Diocese Chairs:

Calgary Diocese – Diane Miedema
Edmonton Diocese – Susan Casey
Grouard McLennan – Donna Prevost
Mackenzie Fort Smith – Theresa Hickey
St. Paul – Susan Enge

The Canadian League Magazine

- Members do read the magazine and look forward to it! The articles are read and discussed at meetings
- Members generally read the National President's and the Spiritual Advisor articles first, with a majority of members reading at least 50% of the articles
- Used as a valuable resource for what is happening in the League.

Media for Evangelization

- Of the Councils reporting they did encourage members to watch Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel mass on April 26. Bishop McGrattan from the Diocese of Calgary offered a special mass on April 26, 2020 for all honorary life and life members of The Catholic Women's League – the provincial council and the diocesan councils promoted this as it was to be a major celebration but with CoVid-19 it was only live-streamed for members with the Calgary Diocesan Spiritual Advisor concelebrating.
- CoVid-19 certainly had councils at all levels of the League promoting programs for evangelization – from live-streamed masses either on Facebook or YouTube, to ZOOM spiritual retreats, to promoting the webinars from National. The provincial council and the diocesan councils all did their share in promoting the Church during this time

Media to Promote the League

With the Pandemic basically closing everything down approximately one year ago, it took councils a bit of time to figure out how to keep functioning and it took the Provincial and Diocesan Councils to provide the initial guidance. Parish councils of course had to abide by the directions of the parish priest. This varied amongst the five dioceses with a definite difference between the towns/rural communities and the cities.

- To keep in contact with members the old-fashioned telephone became the main player once again.
- Emails were second, regular mail with notes, cards and letters were next
- Parish websites also became a source of information (only a few parish councils within the ABMK area have their own website). Many CWL councils have a tab under the parish website to post information
- Members were encouraged to use the National websites and other (Provincial, Diocesan, church) websites
- Councils generally do not have a publicity budget. Local media was used on the occasion to promote an event that was open to the public. One council thanked the public for donations through the local radio station.

Media: Newsletters and Bulletins

CoVid-19 had councils turning to email more than ever to provide information to members, also the church bulletins when they were available. Many churches when closed did not produce a bulletin and when opened basically an on-line bulletin. Councils have also used FlockNote to promote CWL activities.

- Most councils have put out some sort of newsletter for members
- Diocesan councils have provided information via newsletters and weekly emails

Media Evaluation and Promotion of Good Content

- Very few councils reported on this – only one council reported that they had spoken out about inappropriate content related to the inappropriate behaviour exhibited by a town councillor

Pornography

For 2020 the ABMK Provincial Council printed up 10,000 Pornography Hurts/Mandatory Age Verification (revised, see attached jpeg for your viewing). These were distributed by regular mail to the Communication Chairs (or president) of the Dioceses or directly to individual councils where requested. The ABMK Provincial Council wants every member of parliament regardless of the party, to receive as many as these cards as possible. Over 5000 cards were distributed with the hope that at least 50% of these were sent to MPs. This campaign will continue until there is "law" protecting our children.



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- Reported councils have all worked on this issue with cards, letters and emails
- Our ABMK president Judy Look has sent an individual email to all senators encouraging them to support Bill S-203 - **An Act to restrict young persons' online access to sexually explicit material**. Should this Bill pass third reading, which it most likely will then it will go to the House of Commons where we then need to be sending in our support constantly! I myself have sent postcards to all MPs for Alberta/NWT. My next ones will be to all senators in Alberta/NWT via email. Unfortunately sending letters and cards by mail to the senators are not free – only to MPs.

Strategic Planning

- When councils were meeting in person and even with councils meeting with ZOOM or other on-line meeting means, there has been an increase of the reciting of the Renewal Prayer at their meetings.
- Councils promote the use of the monthly strategic planning updates on the national website – difficult in areas where access to the internet is very poor

Councils Communications and Challenges

- The biggest challenge for councils is access to reliable and affordable internet
- The pandemic has made it readily obvious that access to reliable and affordable internet is not available province or country wide. Gratefully local TV stations have picked up on bringing important masses (such as the Good Friday and Easter services) to their customers. Most people have cable but there are ones that do not have internet.

Additional Comments:

- Some councils frustrated with the A/R survey, others found it very easy and helpful
- Some councils found the National website hard to navigate whereas others found it very easy
- The Diocesan Communication chairs have been working hard to keep councils informed, at the same time trying not to overload them with information

ABMK Communications Chair –

- Without in person meetings and Convention, the provincial council was encouraged to put out more communiques and get information on to the website in a timely manner
- Put together one newsletter – published in the fall of 2020
- Keeping the ABMK website current and up to date – With information from the Bishops and government regarding CoVid-19 and what protocols needed to be followed along with the discussion on vaccines, Bill C-7 information, and of course offering more reflections, etc postings to the ABMK website increased substantially
 - a PRAY NOW button was put onto the home page which takes members to the Spiritual page and has a list of prayers that members can access
 - president, Judy Look has set up a regular Wednesday night Rosary – this link is posted weekly
 - uploading links and information on any webinars or retreats etc that National promoted
- I am responsible for uploading information to the website and making sure all communiques from other chairs are uploaded (once approved by the president).
- Helped to design and printed a Christmas Card that went out to all council presidents, life and honorary life members, Bishops, Diocesan presidents, premiers, and others.
- I did fail at updating the website as I think it should be – I will continue to work on it.

Best Achievement for 2020 – in cooperation with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary, the ABMK Provincial Council were able to have a “page” on their site for the Advent and Christmas season. This page featured videoed Advent and Christmas messages from President Judy Look, along with Christmas messages from 4 of the 5 Diocesan presidents, a link to the National President’s Christmas message and links to the Welcome Program, etc.

We hope that this will be a regular feature and that all Diocesan Councils will participate in the future and that this “page” will appear on the other Roman Catholic Dioceses websites. Attached is the “tab” that was on the home page of the www.catholicyc.ca site.



This concludes my report
Janet MacPhee

Provincial Community Life Standing Committee
ANNUAL REPORT 2020
Theresa Hickey, Chair

Community Life Diocesan Chairs:

Calgary
Edmonton
Grouard McLennan
Mackenzie Fort Smith
St. Paul

Lorraine Clark
Katherine Tarras
Lynne Oe
Barb McDonald
Vacant

The year 2020 was for certain a different year for all councils. Despite Covid-19, we all managed to keep the League up and running with Zoom Meetings, webinars, phone contacts and emails.

Calgary has 48 Councils with 19/48 reporting Community Life Chairs. 58% of the 11 Community Life Chairs reporting 5 previously held this position. The ladies responding to this survey range in age from 35-84, mostly age group 65-74. Mackenzie Fort Smith has three councils & completed the on-line reporting. Unfortunately, there are no Community Life Chairs at the parish level. Edmonton has 33 reporting councils. Several councils in Alberta are without a Community Life Chair. St Paul has nineteen councils and is struggling to get members to attend Zoom meetings. Nine councils reporting in the Grouard-McLellan Diocese. Most of the councils are doing their best during this pandemic to stay current and remain involved and contribute in some way to the life and needs Of their local community.

Dignity and Rights of Persons

Human Rights are intimately related to the notion of Human Dignity. Approximately, 80% of members are familiar with the *Declaration of Human Rights*. Reporting councils reported access to clean drinking water as a necessity. In Alberta and across small communities in the Northwest Territories, there are many Indigenous communities who do not have access to clean safe drinking water. The right to safe clean drinking water is a Human Right. We are disturbed about so many indigenous communities not having access to safe drinking water, sanitation, shelter and other basic services.

Racism was recognized in many councils, just a small number of councils reported on taking part in any protests. Some councils in the North took part in a motorcade after the killing of George Floyd in May 25, 2020.

Development and Peace

50% of councils reported donating to Development and Peace. Councils in Alberta Mackenzie support the *Share Lent Campaign*. There was some confusion among CWL Members when complaints arose pertaining to funding for the expansion of abortion. A couple of councils sent in donations for Development and Peace from the Catholic Women's League. Apparently, donations were sent back to the council. About 20% of councils didn't know about donating to the Voluntary Fund. Once the program was explained and they were informed the council forms can be downloaded on-line, most councils did take part in the 1% program.

Social and Economic Justice

80% of councils helped in many ways to serve the needy in our communities. Despite COVID -19, councils continued to pray for and find creative ways to provide support for the vulnerable. Included were Supporting St. Vincent de Paul, calling shut-ins and making donations to groups struggling. One Council donated clothing, bedding and personal care items to a senior care facility. Other councils made masks to sell and donated the funds to a mission church in Brocket, Alberta. Six councils supporting organizations geared towards assisting indigenous people. Due to COVID restrictions. Councils were not permitted to participate in Prison Ministry or with the restorative justice program.

To celebrate the second year of the National theme, *Care for our Common Home* it was approved by the National executive that councils would work with CNEWA to raise funds for one of its projects. Pieta Bhavan, India was selected and only one third of councils donated to this project.

80% of councils invited members to pray on September 21 for *Peace in the Holy Land*. One creative Council held a zoom prayer group that day. All councils downloaded the prayer for peace, some Councils purchased prayer cards and one member gave out the cards to members for a Christmas gift. No councils reported buying a prayer lamp. Other councils prayed the rosary as a group at home.

One half of Community Life Chairs indicated being informed about Canada's official immigration and refugee policies. About 80% had a fair to an excellent understanding of these policies and all councils indicated knowing the difference between a temporary foreign worker, an immigrant and a refugee.

All Councils supported many organizations that focused solely on Developing Countries. 75% supported Chalice, 50% Save a Family Plan, Operation Eyesight International, World Vision, Doctors without Borders and Pennies for the Poor.

All councils continue to review and monitor Resolution 2016.01 Equal Access to Permanent Resident Status.

Success stories and new projects included one council providing Meals on Wheels during the month of July, another making over 1000 comfort dolls to donate to hospices, the brown bagging effort for Calgary kids, another member made and donated 200 masks to the CWL, her parish and friends. Another council held a Christmas Raffle, sent out Christmas cards to all members, crocheting shawls to donate to nursing homes and undertaking a COVID friendly fundraiser with Value Village to raise funds and keep items out of the landfill thus taking *care of our common home*.

In the words of Mother Teresa: *"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."*

This concludes my report,
Theresa Hickey

PROVINCIAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH STANDING COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Gerda Hazenberg, Chair

Diocesan Chairpersons:

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

The year 2020 has been both a gift and a challenge for our CWL councils.

Four out of the five diocesan councils reported on their Education and Health initiatives in 2020. However, I see evidence that most of our members are engaged in the work of the League in whatever capacity they are called to do so.

On average, 38% of the parish councils reported to their diocesan chair. What seems to be very striking is that the position of Education and Health is vacant in the majority of the councils.

EDUCATION

Support of Catholic education was a large focus this year. Over 80% of those reporting stated that they had been informed about the quality of Catholic religious instruction in the Catholic schools in their area. To assist in the schools, breakfast or lunch programs, Shrove Tuesday pancake meals, were some of the activities reported.

Also, 75% on average were informed on the quality of Catholic religious instruction in their parish and have enquired about how they may support the program. Some of the activities reported were Rites of Christian Initiation programs, Family Life Programs, Marriage Preparation and the Rosary Apostolate Program in the Catholic Schools. .

Some councils reported providing a scholarship to a High School student. One council initiated a bursary named after a deceased CWL member whereby the deserving graduate would exemplify our pillars of faith, service and social justice and be awarded \$500. Only one diocese reported that 86% of their councils reporting have a current list of Catholic universities or colleges in the diocese and 68% of those have a list of scholarships and bursaries available to Catholic women to further their education.

HEALTH

Many of the councils engaged in a letter writing campaign against Bill C7.

The majority of councils reported that their members were engaged in the 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care. Most of the councils are unaware that the CWL is a proud supporter of the Canadian Blood Services Partners for Life Program. Only one diocese reported participating in the CWL Mental Health postcard campaign. Most were unaware.

ENVIRONMENT

About 65% of councils reported that they participated in the Care for Our Common Home Initiative. These activities included cleaning up debris on grounds, reducing use of paper and water, and recycling.

Some of the topics councils would like to be more informed on are:

- Transgenderism, Natural Family Planning, Homosexuality, Canadian Catholic Bioethics
- Connections between Pope Francis and his teachings on the economy and the environment as we move forward recognizing that we must change "the way we do business"
- How we can get our clergy on board of the "Care for Our Common Home" train
- More information regarding care for the earth
- How to assist to end the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Would love the opportunity to explore and better understand the high school religion curriculum.
- The potential harmful effects of Vaping.

This concludes my report,

Gerda Hazenberg

**PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION STANDING COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2020
Sharon Malec, Chair**

Diocesan Standing Chairs:

Calgary – Gayleen Hamilton

Edmonton – Mary Pat O’Neill

Grouard-McLennan- Linda VandenBerg

Mackenzie-Fort Smith – Sheila Ryan-Hachey

St Paul – Caren Mueller

Legislation Standing Committees study local, provincial and federal government issues and Bills. Many councils have been contacting their representatives. They have been writing letters, sending postcards emails. Some ladies have phoned and even met with government representatives. This has all presented challenges because of Covid 19. Many members have been diligently brought forth to their councils for study the following Bills:

1. Bill C-6 Amendments to Criminal Code – Conversion Therapy
2. Bill C-7 Amendments to MAiD
3. Bill C-13 Single Events Bullying
4. Bill C- 15 Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
5. Bill C-35 Immigration
6. Bill C-71 Gun Sales and registration

The representatives of the Alberta Mackenzie council met with Alberta Government representatives on February 24, 2020. The Minister of Education, provincial assistants for Health, Senior’s, and Children’s Services were present at the meeting. The discussion was fruitful with both the government and the CWL agreeing to continue the discussions. However, with Covid, that has not been possible to date.

There were concerns about the survey and annual report submission forms. It was felt that the questions were a challenge to answer. The questions did not reflect what has been done but only what has not been done. It did not enable the councils to present other issues that were important to them.

Education and Health, Christian Family Life, Community Life, Legislation, and Resolutions Chairs of the Alberta Mackenzie Council were charged with the task of coming together to prepare response material to Bill C 7. We divided the tasks and worked together efficiently. Letters of support were prepared for the Bishops, CCCB and government representatives. Cards, letter exemplars and contact lists were crafted and distributed. The final piece de resistance was a communique.

Preparing an education component to Legislation is continuing but will be dependent on the Strategic Plans and COVID restrictions. There have been requests how to increase the visibility of a legislation chair. Many councils do not have a member that serves in this capacity. With the realignment of the League, this will hopefully be a priority.

The ladies of the Catholic Women’s League of Canada are to be commended for their support of their sisters and the people of the Province of Alberta and Mackenzie Territory.

This concludes my report
Sharon L. Malec

**PROVINCIAL RESOLUTIONS STANDING COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2020
Betsy Fletcher, Chair**

Diocesan Standing Chairs:

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

Sub-Committee:

Lucille Partington
Mary-Lou Veeken

The year 2020 has been a challenging one for the Catholic Women's League of Canada. Covid 19 has hampered our parish, diocesan and provincial meetings and caused the cancellation of our conventions. We are a resilient bunch though. Although some councils were not able to tackle the technology, many councils were able to meet via Zoom or by phone. Unfortunately, some of our councils were unable to meet at all. Despite the difficulties of gathering in person, councils still shared ideas and information through phone calls, emails, and communiqués.

As issues of importance came up, councils were able to pass information to their members. Calls for letters to MLAs, MPs and Senators were written, especially about Medical Aid in Dying (MAiD). Many members were gratified to get a reply from their government representatives, while others were disappointed that the reply was a standard form letter, or that no reply was received at all.

Councils remain passionate about issues such as MAiD, palliative care, abortion, human trafficking, care of seniors, abuse within the church, pornography. Social Justice is a priority with our members.

Lobbying the government was handled in different ways; letter writing and personal phone calls seemed to be used the most. Information from reports indicates that filling the resolutions position is still difficult, but they manage the best they can.

Since there were no conventions, there were no resolutions adopted this past year. That does not mean that there was no work on resolutions. There is a resolution regarding Food Loss and Waste Management that has been adopted at the Diocesan level and is ready to be presented when we are able to meet at Convention. Another resolution idea that has come forward is one about veterans. A member is interested in pursuing this. The good news is that councils are discussing resolutions and working on action plans for resolutions already adopted.

While fundraising has been curtailed, there have been some efforts. One council held an in-parish raffle of quilts, another sold apples to support their local Pro-Life agency. Members continue to support their own parish projects such as collecting warm personal garments to be donated to agencies that help battered women shelters and the homeless. Councils were saddened that they were not able to continue some of their beloved activities such as teas at long-term care facilities and other social gatherings usually held in their parishes.

As difficult as Covid 19 has been this past year for our councils, they are still trying to do the work of the League - their love of The League keeps them going!

This concludes my report,
Betsy Fletcher

**LIFE MEMBER LIAISON
ANNUAL REPORT 2020
Gloria Lundberg, Life Member**

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council has 34 Life members including four Honorary Life Members, Ardis Beaudry, Vivian Bosch, Marie Cameron, and Agnes Bedard.

Currently two of our Life members sit on the National Executive, Fran Lucas is President-Elect and Chair of Organization and Cathy Bouchard is Chair of Resolutions. Life member Judy Look is serving as our Provincial president.

In March 2020, Calgary Diocesan President Jan Myhre and Past President Janet MacPhee drove to Brooks to present a Life member pin and certificate to Carol Schlachter's family. Alberta Mackenzie Provincial president Judy Look was able to FaceTime with them as they shared fond stories of Carol. Her children took the award to her at the hospital so she could receive it before her passing on March 23rd. Carol's smile, zest for life and love for the League will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

During the summer I also learned of the passing of Life member Lucille Kilar on May 16th. Lucille was an active member of CWL and served the League in several positions. She was a member of St. Alphonsus, Boyle and St. Gabriel's, Athabasca parishes. I spoke with Life members who knew Lucille and they were saddened to hear of her passing.

Honorary Life Member Ardis Beaudry and Life Member Rose-Marie McCarthy published the book: WINning: The Trials, Tribulations and Triumphs of Opening a Women's Shelter. The book is about the early founders of one of the first women's shelters in Canada. Four of the early founders, Ardis Beaudry, Rose-Marie McCarthy, Phyllis Ellis, and Lynn Hannley formed the committee to produce the book in conjunction with author Marsha Mildon. The book chronicles the 50-year history, (1970-2020) and the stories of Edmonton Women's Shelter and the subsequent shelters. WINning pays tribute to the founders, church groups, (Catholic Women's League, United Church Women, Anglican Church Women), and secular agencies, volunteers and staff, who created and continue to provide safe shelters for women in need.

Throughout the year I have endeavored to keep the Honorary Life and Life members informed of events around the province and upcoming webinars and ZOOM meetings. Monthly emails from our National Life Member Liaison Ann Doucet were forwarded to our Life members. Christmas cards were sent to all members again this year.

I feel very blessed to serve as Life Member Liaison for the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council and hope to be able to meet with members in person again in the coming year.

This concludes my report
Gloria Lundberg

**CALGARY DIOCESAN COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S
ANNUAL REPORT 2020
Jan Myhre, President**

Councils Reporting: 40

Councils as of December 2020: 48

Of the 40 council presidents reporting, 93% of the president positions are filled, and of these the majority of the council presidents have only been a member between six and ten years. On the other end of the spectrum, 24% of the presidents reporting have been a League member for over 25 years. Thank you to the three new members (less than five years), who answered the call to lead their council. Of the 40 council presidents, just under half indicated they had held this position previously.

It is rewarding to see that the efforts to create a diocesan news bulletin is well received by the councils, as 95% of presidents reporting use this information to inform their members. The Canadian League magazine comes in second with 85%, with websites, communiques and newsletters rounding off the top five. Other presidents reported that they inform their members by researching the websites of Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Organization for Life and Family, and even information they receive from their federal MP.

Most councils reported that "*Care for Our Common Home*" was a priority this past year, as well as "*excluding Medical Assistance in Dying from Palliative Care and Hospice facility*", and "*rights of the pre-born under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*".

The Spiritual Advisor was reported to be supportive of their councils by 88% of councils reporting, however only 33% reported that they meet with him on a monthly basis.

Council presidents use many resources to assist them when presiding at meetings, such as the *Constitution & Bylaws*, their own council's *Policy & Procedure* manual, the *Executive Handbook* found on the national website, and *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Virtually all reporting presidents have signed cheques and banking documents on behalf of their councils. Additionally, 48% reported sending letters directed within the League, and 25% send letters outside of the League. Only 8 councils reported that they signed petitions on behalf of their council.

Even though the pandemic kept us from having many in-person events, the council presidents were busy this year. 88% of the councils reporting indicated they attended their regional meetings, and as the diocesan Fall Meeting was held both in person as well as live-streamed, 70% reported that they attended one way or the other. Church functions, special Masses, World Day of Prayer and retreats were also well attended by the council presidents. Even though the national convention was cancelled in 2020, council presidents attended by taking in the Summer Series Webinars. One council was even successful in meeting with their local politician.

Many workshops, conferences, fundraising events and/or dinners, conventions were either cancelled or went on-line this past year, and the majority of council presidents took part in many of these events. It is interesting to note that many presidents pay registration or travel expenses, with only approximately 25% of councils subsidizing the presidents' cost.

Just over half of the councils reporting indicated they have a parish Policy & Procedure Manual. Of those who do not have one, they felt it would be helpful to have one and would need assistance in developing one. Four councils reported that they developed new policies this past year; 1) to include sharing executive positions 2) changing their criteria to donate to charities 3) setting up a subcommittee to advise the treasurer; 4) funding education to be a priority and 5) reimbursing the president her expenses when attending conventions and other necessary meetings.

The *Executive Handbook* is an excellent tool in assisting council presidents, and 88% of the presidents reporting indicated 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 65% of presidents reporting indicated they do by emailing, oral and/or written reporting. The other ways of sharing are by providing a newsletter or post items in the parish bulletin.

All presidents reported that they have subcommittees, which consist of annual events such as teas, bazaars and funeral lunches. Subcommittees are also used for social events, fundraising, scholarships, visitation, donation, policy and catering. Councils also reported they have a phoning committee, and finance committee, as well as a subcommittee for special occasions such as a milestone anniversary of their council.

When new presidents assume their role, the majority received the greatest assistance from their immediate past president, followed by the current executive, diocesan president and former past presidents. The secretary, treasurer, life members, personal mentors and provincial president also played a role in assisting the new president. Greatest challenges in 2020 were keeping their members engaged, and not having a full slate of officers. Other challenges were feeling overwhelmed, meeting expectations, trying to please everyone, feeling undertrained, amount of paperwork, and technology.

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

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

- Faith-filled and hardworking members willing to serve the parish wherever required. Members supporting each other and the initiatives of the councils
- Learning new ways through technology to continue our fundraising
- Keeping in contact with members during COVID-19 to ensure their wellbeing

President's Comments: The year 2020 will be one we won't forget. Although COVID-19 challenged many of the presidents, it also provided an opportunity to utilize technology, and council presidents were asked to learn how to "Zoom". We found out how resilient we are, and by attending virtual retreats, webinars, etc. were able to stay strong in our faith and in the work of the League. With the support of our diocesan Spiritual Advisor, and still keeping in line with the government restrictions, we were able to hold an in person diocesan fall meeting as well as an advent retreat, which were also livestreamed to our members who couldn't attend in person. We continue to pray for our members, our families, our bishop and priests, that our patroness Our Lady of Good Council will surround them in her protective mantle and intercede for us that we may be faithful to our baptism, fervent in prayer, and generous in service.

This concludes my report,

Jan Myhre

EDMONTON DIOCESAN COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2020 Mary Molloy, President

2020 is undoubtedly unlike any year we've seen before. As we navigated through the COVID restrictions, Edmonton continued to be active and engaged with our Councils. The pandemic highlighted the strength of the CWL in our Diocese. Our members are resilient, drawing power from both each other and our faith in God. Members have been connecting through phone and email, safely gathering in small groups to pray and share experiences, hold meetings, and honour friends at funerals and other celebrations.

We continued to embrace the National theme "Care of Our Common Home" in setting our priorities for 2020. In January 2020, we held three of our Regional Workshops to replace the Mid-Winter Meeting. The onset of COVID-19 drastically changed the way we connected with our councils.

With the cancellation of our 2020 Annual Convention, we embraced virtual technology to connect with members. Our first events were to create four virtual regional "CWL, Coffee and Conversation" experiences. These gatherings provided the opportunity to find out how our members were doing and what they needed going forward for their councils. Councils wanted to remain connected and were receptive to meeting virtually for discussion, workshops, and spiritual activities.

In September, Diocesan hosted a retreat, "*Season of Creation 2020: Jubilee for the Earth*". This retreat was in response to Pope Francis's call to mark the Season of Creation and was an appropriate start to our Fall Programming.

During the month of October, we held our four regional workshops in place of our fall meeting. The Fall Workshop happened in three parts. The first, an opportunity for attendees to share. The second an update on Diocesan initiatives. The third, an information session. The Diocesan updates focus was on annual reporting, Bill C-7, National Strategic Planning, and activities in our Diocese. The information session examined membership: renewals, collecting memberships, liability insurance, and parish remittances. We introduced the winner of the annual Doreen Melton Scholarship presented to a seminarian studying at St Joseph's Seminary in Edmonton. Andrew Sheedy, Holy Family Parish, St Albert was this year's recipient. We also announced the 25th Annual Poster Contest winners, "Bees: God's Amazing Creation." We received about 100 entries from across the Diocesan, and nine students were selected, three for each category. The winning posters appeared on our website, and we notified students and schools and sent monetary prizes to the winners.

In November, Diocesan held a workshop on the National Welcome Kit and had a virtual seminar on completing the Annual Report. On November 18th, a virtual Memorial Service for our deceased members was held in place of the service at our Diocesan Convention. We mailed out to parishes the 2019 Annual Report Book with various updates from provincial and national during the month.

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. Many used information from organizations like the Euthanasian Prevention Campaign for Life, ALIES, or Grandin Media as a source.

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 establishing standards for "flushable products." Overall, most councils discussed the issues at meetings; councils used their parish newsletters or emails to introduce other topics. Less than half the councils engaged a standing committee chair.

Nearly all councils reported Spiritual Advisor support for the League, and among those, 44% meet monthly while 42% reported meeting occasionally. The main reason for not holding monthly meetings was the absence of a tradition of monthly advisor meetings or because other parish duties prevented the advisor from having the time to meet. Defining a specific role for the Spiritual Advisor to engage in parish council activities could promote better working relationships.

Constitution and Bylaws, the Council Policy and Procedure Manual, and Robert's Rules of Order were the principal resources used within the councils. The Executive Handbook and the National Manual of Policies and Procedures were a secondary reference used by 54%. Other resources used were the Resolution Supplement and the National Association of Parliamentarians. The Alberta Association of Parliamentarians offered workshops and meetings via ZOOM.

The majority of documents signed by the President were cheques (88%), other banking documents (61%) and letters received In (56%) and Out (28%) of CWL respectfully.

Presidents represented their council at church functions (74%), Diocesan meetings and conventions (65%), World Day of Prayer (56%), provincial meetings (12%), and national conventions (9%). Other events noted were the Parish AGM, membership drives, and funerals. Due to COVID restrictions, presidents could only attend events virtually (via ZOOM or webinars in 2020).

Approximately half the councils reported having their fees covered for attending conferences on behalf of their council. Only 14% of the councils reported covering the President's costs to attend, while 21% said all Diocesan Convention expenses were covered. In contrast, 5% had their way paid to attend the Provincial convention, but only 9% 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 funds that are available to support their community programs.

A majority of councils (63%) reported having a policy manual, and of the remaining 37% who did not, 44% said it might be helpful to have one. Less than half the councils reported they could use assistance to develop their own. Only 22% developed a new policy this year. The main thrust of policy development was to add funding to attend regional, diocesan, and provincial meetings for members, including the option for virtual meetings and adopting Robert's Rules of Order for conducting meetings.

All but a few parish councils used The Executive Handbook, and all councils indicated it assisted them in overseeing the council's operation. The main concern was the Handbook is outdated, but most believed updates will happen with the implementation of the Strategic Plan. Noted mainly was the section dealing with the responsibilities of the Treasurer.

Of the council's reporting, 65% provide an annual summary to their members, done by an oral report (68%), email (64%), written means (61%), by newsletter or parish bulletin (less than 32%).

Nearly 65% of the councils have funeral lunch committees, and 51% reported having annual events like teas, bazaars, 30% have social events, 30% have fundraising activities, and 30% make yearly donations. Other committees mentioned were the Annual Spiritual Reflection, church hospitality, and a women's fellowship committee.

Council Presidents addressed Care of Our Common Home, membership, MAID Bill C-7, Laudato Si, palliative care, Central Alberta Pregnancy Center, Samaritan's Purse, care home mismanagement, and the homeless in Edmonton.

Council Presidents noted that immediate past presidents were of great assistance when taking on the role of President (67%), and over half (55%) indicated the former past president was of service, as was the current executive (50%).

Councils reported that the most significant challenges faced when transitioning into the new roles included keeping members interested (61%), technology (43%), feeling overwhelmed and not having a full slate of officers (35%), the large amount of paperwork, and recruiting (34%) and trying to please everyone (30%).

A majority (79%) of councils felt it was beneficial to have a National theme, and 41% said they liked the change with the start of every new National President. Councils felt about three years was an appropriate timeframe to introduce a new theme.

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. Also highlighted were prayers for our members and their families and noting the generosity of members. One council president stated:

"We are a very small rural council...in this year of COVID, some of our members in their eighties learned to participate in ZOOM meetings, keeping them connected to our council."

The challenges all of our Presidents faced in 2020 arose from the restrictions imposed by COVID-19. Despite not being able to meet, presidents dealt with keeping members engaged, organizing membership drives, and managing the number of emails since meetings were not an option.

Competent and enthusiastic women carried out the role of the President. Where presidents are recycled, appointed, or even take turns, members value leadership. It is interesting to note how often it is mentioned the importance and need to stay in touch. The annual reports identified the League's strength and the need to grow and develop a plan to recruit new membership. COVID provided the council presidents the opportunity to find imaginative and creative ways to stay in touch with members when meetings and workshops were not possible.

Our councils continue to meet virtually or in small safe distancing groups. The gatherings are mainly for prayer or mass or just an opportunity to connect. Such meetings might inspire other councils.

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

This concludes my report,
Mary Molloy

CWL Prayer for Renewal

God of new beginnings, ever faithful God,

We thank You for your constant care for the women of The Catholic Women's League of Canada. We have sought to serve You in faith by service to your people.

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

Our Lady of Good Counsel, we continue to discern Your call to seek justice and build Your Kingdom on earth each day.

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

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

~~Sr. Susan Scott, CAF

**GROUARD-MCLENNAN DIOCESAN COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S
ANNUAL REPORT 2020
Christine Becher, President**

2020 has been a year of many challenges unlike anything we have seen in our lifetimes as a result of the covid-19 pandemic.

Grouard-McLennan Diocese comprises 20 councils over a large geographical area; 16 of these councils are active. We have 486 members.

Seven councils submitted on-line reports: Beaverlodge, Bezanson, Fairview, Grande Prairie, McLennan, Peace River and Sexsmith. Six councils submitted paper reports: Berwyn, Nampa, Rycroft, Spirit River, Valleyview and Whitelaw. These councils either have not met or have reduced their activities considerably. No reports were received yet from Grimshaw, High Level or High Prairie

Since many councils were less active it was difficult to get president reports this year. Crooked Creek and Rio Grande are inactive. Hythe is in the process of disbanding. Slave Lake has been inactive for several years. Attempts to connect with these councils have been complicated by pandemic protocols. I expect to be able to clarify their status later in 2021.

The councils who reported on-line showed many similar trends. They all focused on our National Theme Care for our Common Home. Other important issues were ensuring medical assistance in dying is not permitted in palliative care or hospice facilities. Another issue, addressed by fewer councils, was consideration of the rights of the preborn child within the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child. The basis for these discussions came from presentations at parish council meetings when held, standing committee chairperson reports and various print resources including newsletters or bulletins. All reporting councils expressed ongoing support from their Spiritual Advisors for the League although they didn't necessarily attend meetings on a regular basis.

Parish presidents represented their councils at church and community functions or fundraisers as well as World Day of Prayer until parish activities were curtailed in March 2020. Our February Spiritual Workshop, held in McLennan, was well attended. Mary Hunt and Sister Connie Harkin spoke on Faith, Service and Social Justice. Our usual attendance at workshops and conventions did not happen as these events were cancelled.

Trees were planted in honour of the 100th Anniversary of the Catholic Women's League in Bezanson, Grande Prairie, McLennan, Peace River, Rycroft and Whitelaw. Plans for spring 2021 are in place for Beaverlodge, Fairview, Sexsmith and Valleyview.

Half of our councils have a Policy and Procedure Manual. Those without one see a need to develop one but are divided on requesting outside help with this.

Parishes are informed of annual activities through oral reports, written reports in the Diocesan Convention book, emails and newsletters. New presidents credited input from past and present executive members in helping them learn their new roles although it was at times overwhelming. The fact that not all executive positions are filled adds to these challenges.

All councils, regardless of their reporting format, indicated they worked to maintain the functioning of their parish churches during the pandemic. They have expanded this according to their individual

situation. Outreach projects continued as did maintaining contact with homebound members. Although livestreaming of Masses has been beneficial, the personal contact and participation has definitely been missed. The Wednesday evening Rosary Zoom meetings led by Provincial President Judy Look have been most appreciated and well-attended by our members here. Councils are doing what is necessary to keep operating until life returns to “normal.” We all look forward to the day when regular in-person meetings can occur in all parish councils complete with the CWL hugs we are so used to and now missing so much.

This concludes my report,

Christine Becher

**Mackenzie-Fort Smith Diocesan Council President's
ANNUAL REPORT 2020
Shirley Gutierrez, President**

Year 2020 has brought our diocese so many lows because of this pandemic, and especially living in the North with 7 winter months in a year. Our 3 councils tried their best to cope in the challenges thru their faith in our God.

Our annual diocesan convention was cancelled last year but we replaced it with zoom meeting. The same goes with our Mid-winter meeting and fall meeting. Monthly physical meetings for each council were impossible for the early months but started again by September. 14 days quarantine is still being practiced here in the North if you go in the South.

Parishioners were welcomed to our churches again for masses physically so the members are back to working in their respective places like, welcoming/greeting, taking body temps, ushering, assisting priests where they're needed, cleaning before and right after and more. Choir is still not allowed though.

Funeral assistance, prayers for bereaved families, some home visitations is offered by members while practicing the health protocols. Prayer trees, prayer chains are still ongoing for the 3 councils. Some members attend and join the ABMK Wednesday rosary rallies when available.

In spite of covid all 3 council also organized prayers/programs for the 12 Hours of Prayers.

No retreats happened last year however, some members tried to join or watched live stream sponsored by the National, our diocese or from different sources. Our Spiritual advisor offers reflection on our meetings though.

Any correspondences that I received nationally and provincially was passed to the 3 local councils to inform all members. I also joined any zoom meeting invitations from our provincial council, attended some webinars, workshops facilitated by other dioceses and National to inform myself and join the brainstorming and share those information's to our executives.

There was a huge challenge in our leadership positions as members are either moving out of town or quitting for various reasons. Members stepped in to help but aren't willing to take on the positions and not many members attend either so that didn't help either. This pandemic is making us all feel more isolated and distant even with the availability of modern electronics. Members need the human touch, talking face to face, laugh with each other, so we can feel the inclusion, sisterhood.

On the positive note, our good friend and Life member Donna Prevost was able to facilitate a workshop on roles and responsibility of a President, Secretary and Treasurer positions and a bunch of our members had attended and learned from her. Everyone was so appreciative of her sharing her knowledge. I have also done our annual convention booklet and shared it to the members in May.

Fundraisings to help people in need were done by 2 of our councils to continue supporting their communities. One of our council done theirs thru community online fundraising while the other is monetary and toy drive donations with the help of their parishioners and members. Our 3rd council can't do much with the small size and ages of their memberships and struggles with leadership.

We continue to campaign letters of support against Euthanasia, (the Bill C-7), Pornography Hurts card, Palliative care cards, and signing other petitions promoted by the National.

All 3 councils had done their annual survey report as well, however not all positions survey was filled up and submitted.

With regards to the 'Instructed votes' on the upcoming amendments in the bylaws and per capita increase, I shared to our council whatever I learned and was passed on to me from provincial and National. Our councils are still in the process of working on it, one council is done already though.

Upon the arrival of the vaccines, here's hoping that year 2021 will be a better year for all of us. May this vaccine work for us and bring us back to how we were before, in God's grace...

This concludes my report,
Shirley Gutierrez

ST. PAUL DIOCESAN COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2020 Lola Alsmo, President

"The past year has tested our ability to stay in touch, to maintain our relationships and to find ways to carry on, to continue to be League, growing in faith and being Jesus' hands and feet in our communities and in the world. Things may not ever go back completely to what we thought of as normal, but change can lead to growth, and so we look forward in hope to whatever blessings the new year brings.

For 2020, eleven councils completed the President's online survey. This is up from last year. There is an outstanding issue with how the links to the surveys are provided, as again this year most of the councils did not receive them directly from National. None of these councils are in amalgamated parishes, and this position is vacant in one council.

Of those answering the president's survey, 46 % have been members for more than 25 years, 18% for 6 – 10 years. 64% report having held this position previously, and the respondents are 45% over age 65, and 45% from ages 45 – 64, with the majority falling between ages 55 – 74.

Information to inform members is drawn from multiple sources, with the Canadian League Magazine being used by 73% of respondents, the National website and national communiques by 64%, and provincial and diocesan websites and newsletters by 46%. Other sources used by some councils include local newspapers, parish bulletin, and 'other' sources. Specific other sources include the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition newsletters, United Families International and C-Fam. Current National priorities introduced, discussed, or acted upon include exclusion of MAID from palliative care/hospice facilities, reported by 82% of respondents, Care for our Common Home, by 64%, and Rights of the pre-born under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, by 36% of respondents. Also of note, 18% of reporting councils selected 'None of the above' as having been discussed or acted upon. Where topics were introduced, 89% of the time it was discussed at a meeting of members, 22% wrote about the topic in a newsletter/bulletin/email, and 11% arranged for a speaker or engaged the standing committee chair.

Spiritual Advisors are described by 91% of respondents as being supportive of the Catholic Women's League, and 64% of reporting councils meet with their Advisor monthly. 27% report meeting rarely, and 9% meet as often as weekly. Of the 9% who felt the Spiritual Advisor was not supportive, the reason given for this was a lack of tradition of having the advisor at meetings.

For presiding at meetings, the primary resources used were the Constitution & Bylaws and the Executive Handbook, by 64%, and 55% of councils, respectively. Other sources mentioned included Robert's rules of order, the Council Policy and Procedure manual, National Manual of Policy and Procedure, an 'order of business' form developed and followed by the council, and the input of a senior member.

The following types of documents are signed by council presidents:

- Cheques, by 91% of respondents,
- Banking Documents, by 82%
- Letters directed within the CWL, by 46%
- Letters directed outside of the CWL, by 27%
- Petitions, by 18%

Presidents represented their councils at the following events:

- Church functions, by 55% of respondents,

- Diocesan meetings and conventions, by 55%
- Sacramental events, special masses, and 'other', by 27%
- Community events, school ceremonies, and World Day of Prayer, by 18%
- Fundraising events, pro-life events, retreats, Remembrance Day services, by 9%,
- No events were reported attended by 9%

The 27% of respondents who selected 'other', reported that due to Covid-19 all activities were cancelled, or that the position was vacant so they had no response.

Attendees at conferences were subsidized in whole or in part by 18% of responding councils.

No subsidization was provided for attendance at fundraising dinners and events, workshops, or diocesan, provincial, or national conventions.

Only 36% of respondents report having a parish policy manual, and of those who do not have one, 57% indicated that it would be helpful to have one. 71% of these also felt they would not need assistance in developing that parish policy manual. Of the councils reporting having a policy manual, 25% developed a new policy, reported briefly as being about honour guards.

Of responding councils, 91% 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. 64% of respondents do provide an annual summary of council activities to all members, with 86% doing so with a written report, 71% using an oral report as well, 57% reaching out by email, and 14% including newsletters and parish bulleting as a method of reporting.

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

- Fundraising, by 36% of respondents,
- Scholarship or bursary, 18%
- Social events, visitation, and funeral lunches, by 18%
- Donations, 18%
- Annual events such as teas, and catering, by 9%

Council presidents for the most part did not speak on issues on behalf of their councils. The two reported issues which were presented on were Palliative Care and Care for our Common Home, specifically related to hosting a composting workshop with the Town.

When corresponding, 46% of reporting councils use League letterhead. Of these, 60% reference the membership total for their council when corresponding.

Reporting presidents report the greatest assistance on assuming the role as coming from the immediate past president (55% of respondents), former past presidents, (46%), and current executive, (46%). Other assistance received by less than one third of respondents was provided by the secretary, treasurer, life member, personal mentor, or 'other'. Challenges faces by new presidents included not having a full slate of officers, (55% of respondents), keeping members interested (55%), recruiting (46%), inexperience and trying to please everyone (36%), and resistance to new ideas and public speaking by 27% of those reporting. Many other issues were reported by 18% or less of presidents, and three possible challenges on the list were reported by no one. These were member criticism, member conflict, and lack of confidence, which is a positive thing! Other challenges faced were difficulties in contacting members by phone or email only, due to the pandemic.

91% of the reporting councils find it beneficial to have a national theme to focus on, with 91% 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 2.45. Of note, the sample standard statistical display for numerical answers caused a lot of problems for many of the Diocesan chairs in completing their reports. Unless one is familiar with statistics and the terminology, this chosen method of displaying the results may not be the best.

In describing the top things of which presidents are most proud of their councils, an overwhelming response was that the members are genuinely friendly, caring, respectful and supportive friends and companions, a true sisterhood in faith. Another theme is the generosity, the willingness to serve, to provide aid locally, provincially, nationally, or globally, accomplishing this by volunteerism, prayer and financial support. The third common theme was the fact that there are such very long-serving and aging members still dedicated to the League in whatever way they can contribute.

The biggest challenge reported by presidents in 2020 was the pandemic, with the resulting inability to meet, the struggles to keep together or keep in touch via email and phone calls, as many members do not use technology or do not have internet access. Another common challenge was reported as lack of interest in serving in leadership roles, in accepting positions, or filling the standing committee positions.

46% of respondents stated that they had no challenges completing this survey. For the remaining 54%, challenges faced in completing this survey included inexperience, lack of real input from the rest of the members due to lack of meeting, difficulty in getting to the right url, and lack of access to email or the internet. For 18% of those reporting, someone other than the president was inputting the survey for her as she answered the questions either in person or over the phone.

This concludes my report,

Lolain Alsmo