



Newly Installed Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council Executive (June 2022)

Pictured left to right: Celine Berlinguette, Janet MacPhee, Mary Molloy, Gloria Lundberg, Mary Hunt, Judy Look, Bishop Paul Terrio, Denise Blackstock, Betsy Fletcher, Jan Myhre & Suzanne Sherry & Rev. Andrew Bogdanowicz



My Dear Sisters in the League,

1 Corinthians 13:13 reads “And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”. The lasting nature of faith, hope, and love make them greater than all other gifts of the Holy Spirit.

On November 13th, 110 years ago a group of women of faith gathered to form the Catholic Women’s League. They, as we are today reminded of our deep & profound calling to care as taught to us by Christ himself.

We are **His** face, hands and voice when we let **LOVE speak** as we continue the journey with our Indigenous sisters and brothers as encouraged by Pope Francis in the *Walking Together Visit* this past summer.

We let **LOVE speak** in our Alberta Mackenzie communities as we care for newcomers from all parts of the globe including Afghanistan, India, Pakistan & Ukraine.

We let **LOVE speak** when we help those at home & abroad afflicted by natural disasters.

We let **LOVE speak** when we care for the vulnerable including children, families & victims of domestic violence.

We let **LOVE speak** when we shelter and feed the poor and homeless.

We let **LOVE speak** when we champion and assist those with disabilities and their families.

We let **LOVE speak** when we serve our Parish communities.

Please let **LOVE continue to speak** thru you... Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council offers each of you sincere and humble thanks for all that you do as members of the Catholic Women's League.

Let us continue to share the vision of Katherine Hughes & the other women who founded the League so many years ago. Without you there would be no League, no relationships to nurture, no one to laugh and cry with, no one to take life issues to the federal government, no one to study and pray with. "Remember you are not a member by chance but a member by invitation. The Lord invited you at your Baptism to become an active member of your faith community and you accepted to do just that when you became a League member".

Your voice—*our collective CWL voice* is important to be heard at the community level, the provincial level and the federal level as we express our views as we learn to walk with our Indigenous sisters and brothers, when we share our views on sanctity of life issues from birth to natural death, environmental issues as we protect our common home, the important right to publicly funded Catholic education, the human rights of women and children in third world countries, the growing numbers of homeless Canadians and those living in poverty and facing hunger.

The League is undergoing renewal, regrowth and rebirth as an organization that we together envisioned. What talents and gifts will you share? No matter how small your contribution might be; collectively it will have an impact. It is important that we remember this as we move forward into the future with prayerful hope and **LOVE**.

Blessings to you in your work for God and Canada. Thank you.

Submitted By: Mary J. Hunt, ABMK Provincial President



Our Lady of Good Counsel Remains Our Patroness

From the Desk of Mary Hunt, President

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council

There is so much information to share about League developments. In an attempt to cover as much territory as succinctly as possible, I am providing the following updates & links for you to explore:

1. **National Theme: Catholic and Living It: Information (Logo, Power Point, Prayer Card)**
available at: <https://cwl.ca/new-theme-catholic-and-living-it/>

2. **New Communications Protocol until 2024:**

- All communications will be sent to Presidents & Secretaries only
- All communications will be sent through the Presidents & Secretaries only
- Presidents & Secretaries will be responsible for sending out all information to chairpersons and members of their councils

3. **New structure: FAITH, SERVICE, SOCIAL JUSTICE**

- Every council retains its current structure until their next elections
- Guidelines to define these 3 committees are posted on at:
<https://cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Faith-Service-and-Social-Justice-Guidelines.pdf>

4. **New Resolution adopted at 102nd CWL Annual National Convention:**

Resolution 2022.02 Enact Federal Legislation to Address Food Loss and Waste

<https://cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Resolution-2022.01-Enact-Federal-Legislation-to-Reduce-Food-Loss-Waste-Final.pdf>

Resolutions are the voice of members and a voice for the voiceless which is a part of being Catholic and Living It:

5. **Annual Reporting 2022:**

- Only ONE (1) Parish Annual Report Questionnaire (Survey) with 5-6 questions from each of 12 national positions
- Parish Annual Survey 2022 will be available by direct digital link
- Survey was to be available as of October 15, 2022
- Each council may decide how to complete the survey, as a group at an Executive meeting or it may be completed by the President and/or Secretary
- Parish, Diocesan, and Provincial Presidents must still produce a narrative Annual Report summarizing their individual council's achievements and send these up to the next level

6. **New Annual Per Capita Fees:** New Annual Fee due to National Office is \$25/member. More info at: <https://cwl.ca/communique-5-secretary-treasurer/>

7. **Life Membership:** Effective immediately, the moratorium is lifted

a. Amended criteria:

- Nominees living in Ontario must have allowed their name to stand for provincial office.
- Nominees living in provinces without dioceses must have served as provincial past president at the anticipated date of presentation.
- Nominees must provide a comprehensive list of League experience, including past workshops,

presentations, and research.

- The nomination fee would be set at \$300.00.
- Nominations at all levels would be held by secret ballot.

b. New requirements:

- Life members will be polled by the national chairperson of organization biennially to update their status, ability and willingness to be involved.

Note: The deadline for Notice of Nomination to National Office has been extended to September 30, 2022 for this year only

8. **The Catholic Girls League:** New Manual available by request at: communications@cw1.ca

9. **Development & Peace:** 3 projects to benefit from League's 1% Program (Brochure to follow)

I. Sustained and equitable primary education for girls and boys living in rural areas in Afghanistan

II. Inclusive governance for women of Kasenga through functional literacy in the Democratic Republic of Congo

III. Food and nutritional security and climate change in the Sahel region of Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso

10. **WUCWO General Assembly 2023:** Consider attending:

- WUCWO General Assembly 14-20 May 2023 - Assisi, Italy
- Theme: Women of WUCWO, artisans of human fraternity for world peace
- Registration deadline December 20, 2022
- Contact Alice Noble, Quebec Provincial President at: alicenoble.quecwl@yahoo.com

11. **4 Seasons of Reconciliation:** This program is being promoted by CWL:

- Unique 3-hour online course that promotes a renewed relationship between Indigenous Peoples and Canadians through transformative learning about truth and reconciliation. This workplace course provides the basic foundation on the relationship between Canada and Indigenous Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada
- Once a person registers, they have 6 months to complete the course (TRC).
- Each short module can be completed at the learner's pace and provides a mix of learning tools such as slideshows, videos, films, and quizzes.
- A certificate of completion and a bonus video library for ongoing learning is provided at the end of the course.
- More details at: <https://www.reconciliationeducation.ca/>
- The link to sign up to register is <https://www.reconciliationeducation.ca/rbc>

12. **Spotlight:** Send all your pictures and articles to: digitalmedia@cw1.ca

The envisioned future of the Catholic Women's League of Canada is to be an inclusive and engaged community of Catholic women inspired by **faith**.

Alberta Mackenzie President's Report 2022 Delivered at National Convention in Kelowna



Madam Chair,

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council is comprised of 159 councils in Alberta and the Northwest Territories with a membership of over 8,000 faith filled women in 5 dioceses who with gratitude and joy are ***Catholic and Living It!*** We proudly celebrated ABMK members: Fran Lucas, Cathy Bouchard & Dorothy Johansen as they assumed their responsibilities on National Council. Our members strived to meet the challenges of COVID fatigue and creatively did their best to connect with one another and keep councils intact. There was a renewed sense of caring for members and the strengthening of relationships and how we “do things” as an organization. We were reminded what a wonderful gift the League is. We celebrated 100-year anniversaries for Calgary & Edmonton Diocesan Councils, St. Francis Xavier Council in Camrose & Holy Name of Jesus Council in Vermillion.

Provincial council dedicates itself to promoting the many initiatives of National Council as well as a few of their own. Members embraced the *Gratitude Project* and hundreds of gratitude postcards & baskets were prepared for first responders, parish staff, medical staff, etc. Other initiatives included Development and Peace, Missions Canada and CNEWA. One council planted 100 seedling trees and dedicated a park bench in a popular community green space.

A focus of the provincial council is to educate. We continued our work to inform our members and the communities they live in about the insidious devastation of pornography. We continued to support and educate others about *Sanctity of Life* issues. Medical Assistance in Dying, Euthanasia and Abortion have become increasingly popularized. Our faith has strengthened our resolve to be involved and share the Pro-Life position in these issues. We actively participated in the ***Alberta March for Life*** and accepted an invitation to speak at their rally.

We continued to promote the right to publicly funded Catholic Education through GrAce which is an acronym for Grateful Advocates of Catholic Education. The Alberta Bishops, Catholic School Board Trustees and the Catholic Superintendents founded this group and invited the Catholic Women's League in Alberta to participate by spreading the good news about Catholic education. The Catholic school system in Alberta is the last **publicly funded institution** that can speak freely about God thereby having the important opportunity to teach about the inherent dignity of the individual and the sanctity of life from conception to natural death.

We did not meet with our provincial government this past year but we do have one resolution for consideration: **Resolution 2022:01 Federal Legislation to Reduce Food Loss & Waste.**

Mindful of the League Prayer which entreats “*Teach us to share at home and abroad the good things you have given us*” members at the 75th Annual Provincial Convention voted the approval of financial donations to help the flood victims in Hay River, NWT, to help with the ongoing Ukraine relief & settlement efforts as well as a contribution to offset the cost of the Papal Visit. Additionally, members throughout ABMK have helped through their prayers, fundraising and efforts to resettle families escaping the war in Ukraine.

Our council meets in St. Albert at the Star of the North Retreat Centre, as it is central for all the dioceses. We were able to make a legacy donation to their renovations and were delighted when they advised that the beautiful “new” chapel would be named the *Our Lady of Good Counsel Chapel*.

Honorary Life member Ardis Beaudry & Life Members Sheila Houle & Anne Laskosky returned to the Lord and have found a special place in His Heavenly Kingdom.

Alberta Mackenzie members were involved in the various Strategic Planning Working Groups. Many valuable resources were gifted to us by National Council that will serve as tools in recruiting & maintaining membership, filling leadership positions & meeting the needs of an aging population. As members of the Catholic Women’s League in Alberta Mackenzie guided by our faith and by our hopeful optimism in the inspired vision of the Strategic Plan, our dedicated leadership plans to focus on relationships, renewal and effecting change

This report was written as we wait in anticipation of the *Walking Together* visit of Pope Francis in the prayerful hope it will usher in a new era of understanding, reconciliation, healing and a new beginning in our relationship with our Indigenous *family* and a way to encourage conversation with our Indigenous sisters. We are ***One in the Spirit***, women entrusted by God to the well-being of our society as rooted in our children and grandchildren. Many of our members have joined the ranks of volunteers preparing for this historic visit and if asked will undoubtedly have poignant memories to share.

We hope to make a difference with our Catholic sisters one woman at a time by living our calling to faith, service and social justice confident in the knowledge that we truly are ***Catholic & Living It!***

This concludes my report.
Respectfully submitted

Mary Hunt, Provincial President
Alberta Mackenzie

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Dinner at Convention



Lunch at the National Convention Hotel

