



**CATHOLIC**  
and **LIVING IT!**

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

**President**

**MEMO**

**Date: July 18, 2023**

**FROM:** Mary Hunt, Provincial President  
**TO:** Amanda McCormick  
communications@cwl.ca  
**RE:** Oral Report for 2023 CWL National Convention

Madam Chair,

The past year was a blur of activity and change in Alberta Mackenzie as we were further able to close the door on the COVID-19 pandemic. ABMK is comprised of councils in Alberta and the Northwest Territories with a membership of almost 8,000 faith filled women in 5 dioceses who with gratitude and joy are ***Catholic and Living It.*** We celebrated 110 years of Service in the Diocese of Edmonton and the 100th Anniversary of St. Patrick's Council in Medicine Hat. We noted with sadness and gratitude for their contributions, the 205 ABMK members who passed away during 2022. May perpetual light shine upon them, and may they inspire us as we invite new members to join.

I had the privilege & joy of attending Conventions throughout ABMK. The women I met shared a love of the League and the graced opportunity it provides to grow in sisterhood, faith, service and social justice. They are striving to meet the challenges that COVID has amplified in our communities. **All Diocesan Councils talked about the increased challenge of attracting leadership and members back after COVID as there is a significant number who have not renewed their memberships.** *We need to make sure that we leave no member behind.* In recent months, many of our communities have been affected by wildfires. Some experienced unprecedented flooding last year and raging fires this year. There is a strength of spirit and joy in these women of the North who are in desperate need of our prayers and support.

The focus of the provincial council is to educate. We introduced a new ABMK website we are proud of. We hosted a virtual Lenten Retreat which attracted 187 members from across Canada. We share the belief that the Catholic Women's League must be an advocacy voice for the vulnerable in society who have lost their voices and cannot fend for themselves which includes the unborn, the elderly who need care, the mentally ill, the homeless, the unemployed, the terminally ill; all who become invisible because they place demands on the system.

In April, we met with two provincial government cabinet ministers to share our concerns and recommendations which included information about Resolution 2022.1 which calls for the government to enact Federal Legislation to Reduce Food Loss and Waste which was brought forward by the Diocese of Calgary, we spoke about the growing need for an Independent Seniors Advocate, the need for Good Palliative Care, we highlighted our work nationally to inform our

members and the communities they live in about the insidious devastation of pornography & our opposition to pornography and the passing of Bill S-210 which marks the most significant progress in Canadian history for legislation designed to prevent children from accessing pornographic content online. As CWL members, we take pride in the national postcard campaign we mounted for many years. **Human trafficking** remains an important global issue demanding raised awareness. We spoke with them about our efforts to support and educate others about **Sanctity of Life** issues. Medical Assistance in Dying, Euthanasia and Abortion have become increasingly popularized. We do not consider an offer of Euthanasia to be health care. As Canadians, we must ask ourselves do we offer hope or do we offer death?

Health professionals traditionally have worked to prevent suicide and know that it is frequently fueled by depression...**depression distorts cognition** and leads individuals to believe they would be better off dead and that their loved ones would be better off without them. Should we worry that psychiatric euthanasia will turn into a form of eugenics where those who can't contribute are made to feel that they should bow out? Our faith has strengthened our resolve to be involved and share the Pro-Life position in these issues. We actively participate in the **Alberta March for Life Association** with three of our ABMK officers serving on the Board. As ABMK President, I accepted an invitation to speak at the AMFLA rally which attracted over 1,000 attendees. We find motivation in the words of Albert Einstein who said "***The World will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything***".

In early June, almost 200 members attended the 76<sup>th</sup> ABMK Provincial Convention which included **47 women** who had never previously attended a Provincial Convention. The convention program included outstanding presentations from Archbishop Richard Smith, CWL National President Fran Lucas and Chief Wilton Littlechild who was instrumental in bringing Pope Francis to Canada last summer. Chief Willy encouraged us to look at the **94 Calls to Action in the Truth and Reconciliation Report** and to **choose one that speaks to us and do something about the action** we have chosen both as individuals and possibly as an organization. We embrace the belief that we are **One in the Spirit**; women entrusted by God to the well-being of our society as rooted in our children and grandchildren. How do we involve God in the healing process in our new era of understanding, reconciliation and healing in our relationship with our indigenous *family* as we continue to seek ways to encourage conversation with our indigenous sisters.

ABMK members have continued their efforts to support and resettle families escaping the war in Ukraine through our prayers and fundraising efforts.

We thank the three women from ABMK for their outstanding contributions and service on the National Executive these past two years: Fran Lucas, Cathy Bouchard and Dorothy Johansen. We find inspiration in their dedication and passion in their service For God and Canada.

**National Unity Plan Presentations have become a focus in ABMK.** There will be a push in September and October to complete the visits. Overall, the Unity Presentations have been well received and accepted as an outreach to councils, executives and members to offer support & to show a connection to all levels of the League. As CWL members let us strive to be mindful that God created us in His image to bring His light into the world...

This concludes my report.  
Respectfully submitted.  
Mary Hunt