



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

Fall 2017 Newsletter

“...calling its members to holiness through service to the people of God.”

CWL Prays for Sister Undergoing Cancer Treatment



Members from Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council gathered in the National Convention Prayer Room to pray The Divine Mercy Chaplet for our sister Carol Schlachter as she began serious medical treatment for cancer.

More members from across Canada joined us when they heard of our prayer intentions.



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Provincial President – June Fuller



Greetings to my Sisters in the League!

Having just returned from attending the 97th Annual National Convention of the Catholic Women's League of Canada in Charlottetown, PEI, I have been feeling 'Inspired by the Spirit'.

The convention was a huge success with approximately 938 people attending. This included delegates, Spiritual Advisors, Bishops, Archbishops and guests. The ladies of PEI shared their warmth and hospitality with all of us.

The focus for this year's convention was to discuss the hopes and dreams for the future of the 'League'. Like so many other organizations, membership in the League has slowly been declining and it was time that we, as a National Organization, put a plan into place to discuss strategic planning for the League. This was accomplished through a town hall meeting that was lived streamed to members across Canada. The Strategic Planning committee was very pleased with the on-line participation and from the information that they received at the convention.

It is with hope, that through the strategic planning process, we will see and explore new options that will take the League into its second century. It was interesting to discuss both the struggles and the successes at the parish level, but it was also interesting to note that we have a very rich history in the League and one that we are so proud of. Now we need to plan our future and look at implementing changes that will keep us active and vibrant for many years to come.

My warmest wishes to all, as we focus on another dynamic year of serving God and Canada.

June F
 ABMK Provincial CWL President

Provincial funding is available to bring Provincial Officers to your events. We welcome your invitation!
 Contact us at abmkprovpres@gmail.com

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I lived the first six years of my life in Bruno, Saskatchewan before moving to Regina. The four years I spent in high school solidified the fact that faith life is not separate from real life, as the sisters who taught me had the motto "All for the honour and glory of God". After high school I went to the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon.

The University of Saskatchewan started me on my career as an educator and also introduced me to Jim whom I fell madly in love with and married. We moved to Calgary in 1969 where I began my teaching career with Calgary Catholic. This career was short lived as I began my vocation as a mother. God blessed us with three boys who subsequently blessed us with three beautiful daughters - in -law and five grandchildren. In that time I served as a School Board Trustee for Calgary Catholic, served on the Educational Partnerships Foundation, was a board member of St. Mary's University College, a team manager of a swim club, a pastoral assistant at Holy Spirit Parish and a graduate of "Together Enabling Adults to Ministry". I also held many positions on CWL (to mention a few of my activities.) I must clarify that I did not do all of those activities at once but all of those activities shaped me into the person I am.

On February 10th, 2010 Jim died of lung cancer and my life as I knew it came to an end when I was thrust into widowhood. Many of you don't know this but when Jim was very ill I was eligible to run for provincial council but declined.

President Elect / Organization Judy Look



In my formative years I was blessed to live in Catholic communities that helped me to understand that faith life is not separate from everyday living, and therefore each day you are to find Christ in everything you do and you are to bring Christ to everything you do.

I was at peace with the fact that my CWL leadership days were over and quite content to putting my energies into my home council of Holy Spirit Parish, Calgary. I continued to believe that for the first few years of widowhood but then I was invited to serve on the national resolutions committee, followed by being a sub-committee chair on the national spiritual development committee. Between those two committees I was appointed to provincial council and served one term as Health and Education Chair and a second term as Spiritual Development Chair and then was encouraged to let my name stand for president- elect.

As I begin my third term on provincial council I am truly humbled to be your president-elect.

I am very excited about being Organization Chair and I am looking forward to meeting many of you at our various gatherings. Those who had the opportunity to read my article "Three Cups of Tea" (2016 Provincial Newsletter) understand that my focus for the next two years will be building CWL through hospitality. We must immerse ourselves in growing our relationships with each other, our God and our community and we only do that when we are hospitable women. When we embrace hospitality all things change.

Thank you for letting me be of service to you.

What Cup of Tea are you sharing with your League sisters?

Membership

First Cup of Tea.

When a woman takes out membership she is the stranger-



Second Cup of Tea

It needs to be sipped one on one; perhaps a phone call or a luncheon date where we get to know each other. This cup of tea is crucial.

Third Cup of Tea

The new member is no longer a stranger. She knows someone who cared enough to spend time with her outside the meeting. She is beginning to feel comfortable and later on when she is asked to volunteer she most likely will step up to the plate because she feels she belongs.

Resolutions

First Cup of Tea.

Bringing the titles of the resolutions passed at the National Convention to a meeting



Second Cup of Tea

Bringing information about the resolutions to the next meeting and having a discussion. Members can take the information home with them

Third Cup of Tea.

Taking ownership for the action plan at the next meeting.





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Spiritual Development– Ruth Boden

As a 28-year member of CWL I have had the honor of serving on provincial council in the positions of Treasurer, Secretary and Resolutions Chair, which were all very rewarding experiences, working with ladies all over Alberta and the North.

I was born in Dawson Creek, BC in lived in the rural area of Clayhurst until my family moved to Fort Nelson BC in 1970. There I met my husband Pete and we started our family.

I joined the Catholic Women’s League as a fraternal member in 1987 and became a full member in 1989 when I joined the Catholic Church. I had always had a deep love for God growing up in rural northern BC, but joining the Catholic Church was an experience that is too profound for my humble word skills.

We moved to the Northwest Territories in 1989 for my husband’s work and I became active in the Assumption Catholic Parish and the CWL there, helping with the music ministry, religious education and parish council along with CWL activities including Mackenzie Fort Smith Diocesan President. We raised 5 children in Hay River and are the proud grandparents of 4 beautiful grandchildren.

In 2009, my work brought Pete and myself to Drayton Valley and Evansburg, AB where I was a member of St Elizabeth Parish. I returned to Hay River in 2015 after completing my accounting designation and I currently work with the Town of Hay River as the Director of Finance and Administration.



I am humbled to be asked to fill the chair of Spiritual Development for the next two years. I am looking forward to providing the Alberta Mackenzie spiritual guidance and I look forward to meeting many of you at convention or in other gatherings over the next two years.

Jesus is the *“light of the world”* (Jn. 8:12) and the five significant moments -luminous mysteries- during his public life reveal to us the Kingdom in the very person of Jesus.

When I was elected to the Spiritual Development Chair I was elated and a little fearful. What could this poor soul do to bring the Word of God to the members? My prayers and discernment around our theme ‘Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God’s Call’ over the summer led me to Our Patroness, The Blessed Mother who was the very first disciple and to Jesus’s ministry and to her prayer tool, the Rosary. Through her many appearances over the centuries, she has been pleading with us to take up the rosary and pray for all the things we are seeing happening in our world these days.



For this year our spiritual focus will be on the Rosary and the Luminous Mysteries. These mysteries introduced in 2002 in an apostolic letter from Blessed John Paul II are referred to as a compendium of the Gospel which are meant to enhance the prayer of the rosary by adding additional mysteries of light for reflection.





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Secretary – Betsy Fletcher

Betsy has lived in the Cold Lake area for 45 years. She arrived with her family at the Military Base of 4-Wing Cold Lake in 1972 and decided to ultimately make her life there. Of course, meeting Tom, her excellent husband of 37 years, had a lot to do with that decision. Betsy's immediate family consists of two lovely daughters who have brought into the fold two exceptional sons-in-law, two delightful grandchildren, and a sweet natured granddog.

A CWL member for 30 years, Betsy started her membership by personal invitation while still at 4-Wing Cold Lake. She has since moved to the town of Cold Lake North and transferred to the council at St. Dominic's in about 1990 where she continues to serve the League. Betsy has filled most executive positions at the parish level and a few at the Diocesan Council level. She most recently finished serving as the provincial Legislation Standing Committee Chair, a position she found very interesting and rewarding. She is presently filling the position of Provincial Secretary.

As well as CWL involvement, Betsy is very active in parish ministry as a reader, RCIA Team member, and volunteer at large.



Walking, cycling and canoeing for exercise are some of her favourite activities as is digging in the dirt: both Betsy and her husband are avid gardeners. She also enjoys British mystery television programs and reading. Don't ask her who the best Sherlock Holmes is unless you're prepared for a master course in mystery!

Secretary

"One of the cornerstones of good written communication is the clear, concise expression of ideas or information. The recording secretary, through good written communication, is an important contributor to the history of her council."

Catholic Women's League of Canada Executive Handbook
September 2000.

The position of secretary in any organization is vitally important. As the quote above states, well-kept minutes are key to keeping our history. Without minutes, we wouldn't have a clue about where we have been.

The primary role of the secretary is to take accurate minutes of the meetings, and then send them out to the membership before the next meeting. There are other duties as well, though.

- † Helping the president prepare the agendas for meetings,
- † notifying members of the time and location of meetings
- † listing the correspondence are all part of the job.

It sounds like a lot of work, and it is. But it is such important work.

Being the secretary is a sure way to improve your computer skills! Please take the time to read the Secretaries Handbook available from National Office for more details of this position.

It is my goal to get the minutes sent out as soon as possible after each meeting so that you will be well informed.

Betsy



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Treasurer – Gwen Elliott

Dear Sisters in the League,

I have been living in Camrose for 20 years this year, my how time flies. Keith and I have 4 adult children, a son in law, two daughters in law and two terrific grandchildren. We have been very involved with St. Francis Xavier Parish and are working hard, excited and looking forward to moving into our new church in the fall of 2018. I am involved as a Music minister, Minister of Holy Communion and Proclaimer, chair of the Liturgy committee and on the New Church and Parish Centre advisory committee. I am on the executive of St. Francis Xavier CWL as President and am blessed to have wonderful ladies to work with. Life is busy!

I am looking forward to working in the treasurer position and keeping careful and accurate records of the Provincial Treasury. It is a steep learning curve and I thank Yvette for giving me some training to get me started. I pray that I will be inspired by the Spirit to do the best job that I can.

**Please make note of the new address where "Nickels for the North" funds need to be sent so that they don't get lost in the mail.
 Attention: Gwen Elliott | 6112 – 32 Avenue | Camrose, AB | T4V 4R8**

You can contact me for information or assistance at: abmkprovtreas@gmail.com. Blessings, Gwen



**Past President
Cathy Bouchard**

What a blessing to have served you as your Provincial President for the last 2 years. What a rewarding responsibility! I appreciate the prayers you offered for me, the advice you have offered and your cooperation with our goals as League Members.

I have been a member for 39 years, since my marriage in Saskatchewan. I have been an active member of the League in Estevan, Regina, Yellowknife, Red Deer, and on the Edmonton Diocesan and Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council. I was awarded Life Membership in 2013. My husband David and I share many of our activities and ministries and he is an incredible support for me. The light of our lives are our 4 children, their spouses and our 8 grandchildren.

In the last years, I have become committed to letter writing on issues of concern to the League. I plan to keep this up in my personal life as a League Member.

I am excited about the changes that we are working on in the League. We are working on the strategic planning that the national executive has initiated in order to examine and plan for the future of the League. The purpose of the strategic planning is to advance women's spirituality and social justice activities for the next 100 years!

We are also watching for The Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation program designed to develop in women foundational skills in leadership, management, media, and communication. The program will begin May 2018 and the initial year will be held at Providence School of Transformative Leadership and Spirituality at St. Paul's University in Ottawa.

**I ask God to bless me in the next 2 years of serving you in the role of
 Past President.
 I ask God to bless you in your service 'For God and Canada'.**



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PAST PRESIDENT

Welcome to the role of Past President. Thank you for your commitment to the League at your particular level. Thank you for sharing your gifts.



Here is a reminder of our role as Past President:

The past president shall:

- † serve the council and president in a consultative capacity particularly advise the president when called upon
- † be responsible for the archives and history of the council
- † facilitate and encourage the study and implementation of the *Constitution & Bylaws*
- † Take charge of League history and archives or appoint an interested member. Bring scrapbook or history to some meetings for members to see.
- † be responsible for reviewing biannually the council's manual of policy and procedure for any needed additions, deletions and corrections; all changes must be brought to the executive for approval before amending the manual
- † engage members in the revisions process by inviting them to forward to national office proposed revisions to the National Manual of Policy and Procedure by December 1st of each year
- † monitor/review the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* and the council manual

The passing on of history and tradition gives members a sense of pride and importance in belonging to the League.

ARCHIVAL TIPS

The past president should:

- † prepare/review an archival index of all materials
- † continue the safe storage of archival material
- † preserve the council history through scrapbooks, photograph albums and minutes.

From National Past President Barb Dowding:

“As past presidents, we each have a role, a distinct mission or part. How we carry out this task will depend on each one's gifts, talents and personal discernment. As we embrace the new theme *Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call* we can trust that the Holy Spirit will be our guide and show us the way.

Past presidents are well placed to cultivate prospective leaders, to affirm the good work going on and encouraging qualified members to let their names stand for election

[Archives Guidelines for League History Provincial, Diocesan and Parish Councils](#)

Attached is the link for the “**Guidelines for League History Provincial, Diocesan and Parish Councils**” to distribute as you see fit.

goo.gl/hiUj4P

I encourage you to share your wisdom, experience and love of the League with [parish] past presidents. They are our link to parish level and you have so much to offer in terms of their development. We need to prepare each level to be ready to serve at the next level up! As past presidents, it is important to stand back and allow the new president and her executive to do their job and make their own way. It is important, however, to remember that you are part of the executive and subsequently have a role and a responsibility that goes with it. Your voice is needed and hopefully wanted. It is not about you, but about making sure there is open communication and sharing. Let your love of the League shine through your own particular gifts and the Holy Spirit will make the rest fall into place!” <https://www.cwl.ca/past-president-communique-2/>



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**Christian Family Life
Carol Schlachter**

Dear CWL Sisters Devoted to Service to God:

And what an honour it is! An honour, not only to serve our Creator but that we can do so together as a family of League Sisters. I cannot express enough the gratefulness to be, once again, elected for a second term to the AB/Mackenzie Provincial Council.



It is a pleasure to introduce the Diocesan Christian Family Life Chairs with whom I shall be working for this term.

- † Calgary Diocese – Angie Schlachter;
- † Edmonton Diocese – Jessie Sandmaier
- † St. Paul Diocese – Karen Chapa
- † Mackenzie – Fort Smith Diocese – Linda de Guzman.
- † Grouard McLennan is still waiting for one of their sisters to answer God's call but until then all information will be directed to their Diocesan President, Irene Brassard.

It is my intention, as always, to work with the above-mentioned chairs, to whom I refer affectionately as "our team" in promoting every aspect of Christian Family Life in our respective dioceses and across the whole of AB/Mackenzie. Our focus will be to bring awareness and action plans to not only the high-profile issues of the day but to review adopted resolutions that are yet to be archived. Needless to say, although one may think a resolution once passed is finished - not so. It is interesting to note the work still to be done on those resolutions.

Each diocese naturally chooses a focus very relevant to what may be happening around home, so to speak, but we, as Chairs of the Christian Family Life Committee are here to serve and create awareness for all.

You are all invited to get on board as we embark with great joy on yet another term of our service to God.



Please keep Carol Schlachter in your prayers as she undergoes treatment for cancer.

Please pray for all of our CWL Sisters who may be ill or in need.





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Community Life Sister Susan Scott

An easterner by birth, I grew up in Montreal, then Toronto, where I completed Bachelor degrees in Physical & Health Education and Education at the University of Toronto then taught for two years in Kitchener, before entering religious life.



My first mission was to Pine Point, Northwest Territories for a year of teaching, before being transferred to Unity, then Prelate, Saskatchewan. I was given time off from teaching to complete my Bachelor in Religious Education at Newman College and Masters in Education at the U of A, before again being immersed in the classroom.

I retired from my teaching career in 2008. This was the same time that I became involved in the CWL at Parkland Holy Trinity where I served as the Resolutions & Legislation Chair before assuming the role of President and recently, Communications & Environment Chair on the Edmonton Diocesan executive.

I have always had a deep connection with, and passion for God's Creation, as reflected in my at-home-ness with photography, camping, hiking and more recently, kayaking. I live in Stony Plain, with my newest canine companion, Hozhoni, a lab retriever cross who was rescued from the streets of Edmonton at about 14 months of age. She is my spiritual advisor, helping me slow down and relish in the gifts of God's Creation, and she is the best listener for she never interrupts me – unless it's meal time – and patiently listens to all my woes and queries.

My religious community is a young, small group of women, who were founded in the Yukon and take St. Angela Merici (foundress of the Ursulines) as our foundress, and St. Francis of Assisi as our patron.

My appointment to this executive position has provided me with the wondrous opportunity to reach out to all my CWL sisters across the province to offer assistance, and use the skills and gifts which God has so graciously shared with me. My experience as a teacher makes me eager to offer workshops as needs require – oh did I mention that I love to spend time in small communities? I have much to learn over the next two years but bring with me years of passion on issues of human rights and justice; whether it be for persons, or Creation; as Pope Francis has so frequently and vehemently brought to the fore in his Papacy.





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Community Life

As I sit at my desk composing this article, I look out my window to the natural area on which my property in Stony Plain is located.

I recently celebrated the 28th anniversary of my perpetual vows, and the 37th anniversary of my first vows in religious life. **I am reminded of one of the maxims that my community (Koinonia Association – Companions of Angela & Francis) tries to live by; “Comes a guest, comes Christ”, and I thought this might serve as a focus for my first newsletter article.**

Community Life encompasses such a wide swath of critical topics – fortunately I am a global thinker and easily make connections! Surely as we follow Christ, the God of love; social and economic justice, human rights - whether it be those of us who already call ourselves *Canadian*, or whether those who are fleeing oppression – and our responsibility to care for Creation which impacts all creatures with whom we share the planet; are so interconnected. As we journey together as League sisters, we attempt to grow toward seeing the *other* as a guest whom we greet and warmly welcome.

Globally, we are living in a time of significant upheaval both politically and morally as we see what seems to be a growing incidence of violence and rejection of social norms that we have taken for granted in Canada. Now, more than ever, our united voice as CWL women, is needed to speak for the dignity and rights of all people.

We are resurrected people, and we know that God is with us as we commit ourselves to increasing our awareness and support of our Indigenous women, political refugees, the vulnerable in our society and especially, those whom God will soon call home.

I spent two weeks touring Nova Scotia and New Brunswick as bookends to attending my first National Convention. It truly was an amazing event made particularly special this year in Charlottetown. I would like to share a couple of highlights, one of which I invite you personally to consider including as an action in your local council.

Each of us received a cloth bag titled “Join the Movement to End Slavery - #REDSANDPROJECT” (web link REDSANDPROJECT.ORG). The bag contained a bag of bright red sand and information about the woman who started the project.

Molly Gochman’s **RED SAND PROJECT** highlights approximately 36 million people who live as slaves. The most vulnerable in our society – refugees, immigrants, girls, indigenous women – are most at risk of being enslaved, spending their lives being exploited for the profit of others. We want to prevent them from “falling through the cracks”. **Her invitation is to find and fill a sidewalk crack with red sand (or other materials) and share a picture of your sidewalk transformation on social media with #REDSANDPROJECT.** I encourage you to visit the site to view some of the ideas that have already taken place.



In closing, let us pray part of the prayer that Pope Francis included at the end of his encyclical “*On Care for Our Common Home*”,
All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

Respectfully submitted



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**Education & Health
Mary Hunt**

Greetings to my CWL Sisters

By way of introduction, my name is Mary Hunt and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council Education & Health Standing Committee Chair for 2017-2019. I have held this position at the Parish and Diocesan levels and know how important these two areas are to our membership.

I have been a CWL member for almost 22 years with most of those years as a member of the Good Shepherd Council in Edmonton and have served three terms on the Edmonton Diocesan Council. I am currently serving as Past President and as Spiritual Development Standing Chair for my home council.



For many years, the CWL has been an important focus in my life and my involvement has served to help me grow in my faith through service to the people of God.

In addition to the CWL, I am the Liturgy Committee Chair at our Parish, Coordinator of Lectors (& a Lector), Co-Chair of the Six Churches Soup & Bun Ministry during the winter months, served 12 years in various positions on Parish Pastoral Council, founded a book club at our Church in 2007 which continues to meet (over 50 books read) and am the Co-Chair of the *Sharing Our Faith; Securing Our Future Capital Campaign* whose goal is to raise \$436,000 for various improvements at Good Shepherd.

I took early retirement from 26 years of service with the Government of Alberta; during that time, I served six of Alberta's Lieutenant Governors. Married to Larry, we have two adult children and are proud grandparents to Sierra, Kael and Hanna who are a great source of joy.

I love music, the theatre, reading, writing (on and off I have been writing a novel for the past 6 years), gardening, challenging myself with Lumosity "brain games", walking and gatherings with family & friends. I appreciate the opportunities that volunteering provides and it is gratifying that my other family members are volunteers too!

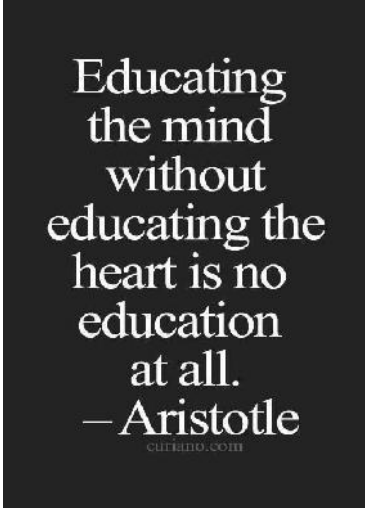
As your Education and Health Chair, which includes the Environment, I will strive to provide you with information and instruction that will assist you in determining a direction and objectives for this committee in your Diocese and in your councils. There is much information and much to be passionate about.

I invite you to look at my Communiqués where I plan to provide details for your consideration and action. Together, we can respond to God's Call to make a significant difference in our Alberta Mackenzie communities.



I invite you to contact me with any questions, ideas, issues and concerns you might have and look forward to hearing from you.

For God and Canada





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Communications – Annette deBoer

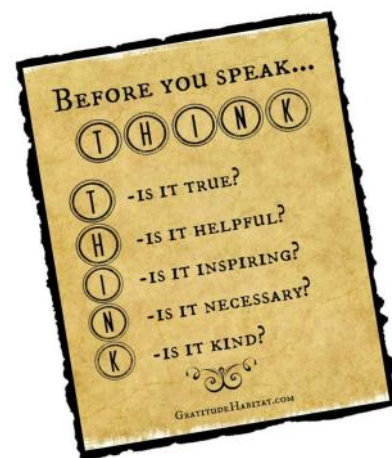
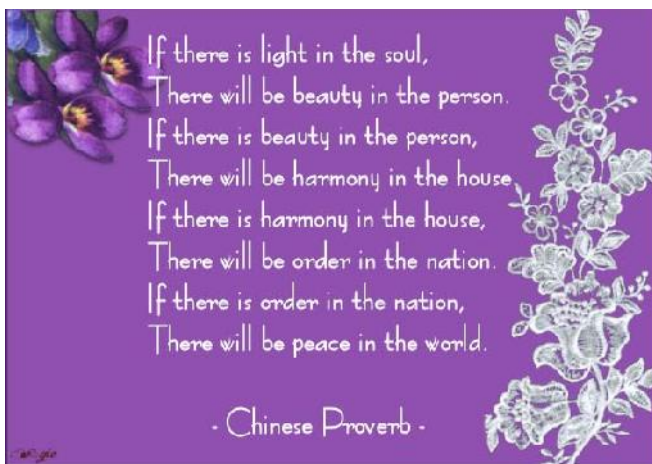


I became a member of the CWL in 1991 and have been active in my parish CWL council (St Joseph, Whitecourt) ever since. I was President of the St Paul Diocesan council in 2009-2011 and elected to the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council in 2015. My husband of 38 years, Pete, is a strong supporter of my CWL activities and we have 3 children and 4 grandchildren who bring us lots of joy.

In a break with the norm, I have been asked by our Provincial President June Fuller to stay on for a second term as Communications Standing Committee Chairperson (guess they thought I was doing a good job!) While recognizing that there are many members of the CWL who are not as familiar or as able (through both lack of knowledge on the “how” or lack of access to the “means”) as an organization CWL must move forward and utilize new technologies to communicate within our membership and with the community at large. An example is the Town Hall meeting that was held

during the National Convention – women from across the country were able to make their voices heard. Just recently we held the Alberta Mackenzie Executive meetings, and one member who was not able to be at the meetings physically due to medical issues was able to join us through a Google hangout. She was able to hear and see what was happening and added her report and comments to our discussion. It was a gift both to her and to our council that was made possible because we were willing to try something new. For many councils this type of meeting option could allow greater participation among the parish presidents who normally do not attend executive meetings because of the distances to travel in questionable road conditions. Greater education on technology options will be a focus for Communications this next two years.

Pornography is another pressing issue for many. Resolution **2017.02 Mandatory Age Verification Mechanisms for Adult Pornographic Websites** which was passed at the National Convention in August is part of the Communications standing committee and needs your immediate attention. Please review the **Hope for the Sold** report of September 14 (see <http://hopeforthesold.com/ask-health-minister-to-review-all-evidence-from-pornography-hearings/>); the Federal Health Minister Ginette Petitpas Taylor will be making a decision on what the government will be doing about online pornography in early October and concerned members and others need to make their voices heard as soon and as loudly as possible. Watch for a communique to be distributed shortly on this same topic.



Visit www.cwl.ca for:

- † National Convention speaker podcasts
- † Building on Foundation, The League of the Future Town Hall Sessions 1 & 2 (both found by clicking on Quick Links – Charlottetown 2017 Convention)

ON THE SPOT
Communiques

Prayer Services and Workshops
News and all sorts of information



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Legislation – Linda Vandenberg



I was born in Fort Vermilion, Alberta, as the oldest of eight children. My mother and father homesteaded and worked a small mixed farm and I and the rest of the children were put to work at an early age. I always enjoyed living in a small town even though I graduated from Glenmary School in Peace River and went to the University of Alberta to obtain my education degree. I married my high school sweetheart over 42 years ago and we are still having fun together. Our two grown children have provided us with four lovely grandchildren all together and we try to spend as much time as we can with them even though they both live so far away in Lethbridge and Montreal.

We now call Hilliard's Bay Estates home. Five years ago, we built a house on the north side of the Lesser Slave Lake near Grouard and two years ago we sold our house in town and moved out to the lake. My husband and I still drive to High Prairie every day as we both work in town: John sells John Deere equipment for Martin Deerline and I teach Junior High Language Arts at St. Andrew's in High Prairie. After ten years in administration, I am welcoming the opportunity to go back into the classroom. This is my second year in this assignment and I am loving it. We both plan to retire to the lake as soon as we can. My hobbies include fishing, reading, cross country skiing, watercolour painting, scrapbooking and knitting.

As a CWL member since 1984, I have held the following positions at the parish level: Legislation and Resolution Committee Chair, Education and Health Committee Chair, President-elect, President, and Past-President. At the diocesan level I have held these same positions. In my first term on provincial council, I had the opportunity to sit in the Education and Health Committee Chair and this year was appointed to the Legislation Committee Chair position. Even though I am happy to be on the provincial executive again, I can see that there are challenges ahead for me. I pray and hope that I will be equal to the task.

Legislation committee chairs monitor and study legislation at all levels of government. We prepare briefs and position papers on proposed legislation.

I look forward to working with my sisters in the League at the diocesan and national levels.

Independent Senior's Advocate Update

One of the areas of focus is our **Alberta Senior's Advocate**.

This position is still a temporary position appointed by the Health Minister. The Alberta Mackenzie Catholic Women's League passed a resolution in 2014 to urge the Alberta Provincial Government to amend the Alberta Health Act to ensure that the Seniors' Advocate is an Officer of the Legislature and therefore independent. There has been no movement towards this end as yet and in checking the Seniors' Advocate web site, there will be a report with recommendations coming forth from the present Advocate this fall.

I will continue to monitor our progress and continue to lobby government for change.

Self-Control

Excellence

Respect

Responsibility

Courteous

Honesty





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Resolutions – Sharon Malec

Welcome to the Wonderful World of Resolutions!

What is a resolution?

“A resolution, like a motion, is a proposal that introduces new business to the assembly.

The new business is introduced in the form of a resolution because of its formality, its length or its complexity. The rules that apply to resolutions are the same as those that apply to motions, i.e. seconded, debated, passed by a majority vote and all secondary motions can be applied to them.”

(National Manual of Policy and Procedure, pages 123-124)

Resolutions are more than just a piece of paper. They are a strategy by the CWL to create awareness of social issues. We use them to advocate for change.

In my communique this next 2 years, the Resolutions team will be presenting many concerns about resolutions. I look forward to meeting the five Diocesan Resolution Chairs.



Together we will keep you informed and guide you in your quest to making a difference.

Sharon Malec
 Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Resolution Chair
 abmkprovres@gmail.com

2017 CWL National Resolutions

Together we will make a difference for the people of Canada. Remember that the Catholic Women’s League was formed in 1912 to serve the people of God. As we approach the 100th Anniversary of the CWL in 2020, we will continue to serve.

At the National Convention in Charlottetown, August 6 to 10, four resolutions were brought to the floor. Debate ensued and they were passed.

- 2017.01 Full Implementation of the Supreme Court Decision in R v. Gladue for Indigenous Offenders.**
(Community Life)
- 2017.02 Mandatory Age Verification Mechanism for Adult Pornographic Websites**
(Communications)
- 2017.03 Zero Rated Status Under the Goods and Services Tax Provisions of the Excise Tax Act for Child Safety Products** (Legislation)
- 2017.04 Protection from Coercion of Conscience for Healthcare Professionals.**
(Legislation)

The full corrected form of these resolutions will be coming out in the Fall League magazine. There will also be an action plan for these resolutions. As sisters in the league, these resolutions are important to work on.



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FATHER WALTER KREWSKI MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

Congratulations to the three CWL councils that were recipients of the 2016 Father Walter Krewski awards:

Greatest increase in NEW members	St Bonaventure Calgary	18 <u>New</u> members
Greatest overall increase in membership.	Ascension Parish Council Calgary	An overall increase of 36 members
Greatest percentage increase in membership	St. Gabriel Council Chestermere (Calgary Diocese)	92.86% increase in their membership

Last year 55 councils across Alberta Mackenzie posted an increase in membership. Well done ladies!



(Left to Right)

St. Bonaventure:
Lorriane Clark, Angie Schlachter;

St. Gabriel the Archangel:
LouAnne Schulhauser;

Calgary Diocesan President
Janet MacPhee,

Ascension:
Sheena Koett, Darlene Senger





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☺ Membership Recruitment Success Stories ☺

We all want to know how they do it...how do they encourage current members to stay and new members to join? Stories from the Father Walter Krewski Award winning councils...

St. Gabriel Council the Archangel - Chestermere (Calgary Diocese)

Our council has grown from the original 9 members who spearheaded the formation of our CWL council six years ago, in 2011, to 30 registered members in 2017!!! In 2016 our membership grew by 92% and we received the Father Walter Krewski award for this accomplishment.

Our council hosts a spring and fall membership drive every year. It is during these weekend masses that our President or President Elect will speak to the congregation after mass and express our desire to have more ladies join this wonderful fellowship. We read the prepared literature that has been passed down through the Calgary Diocesan Council. This gives everyone a better understanding of what the CWL really stands for and what it is all about. After mass the CWL ladies from our council remain in the foyer to answer any questions our lady parishioners may have and we hand out rosaries to all those who would like to take one.

Our CWL council also sponsors the 10:30 am mass on a Sunday, twice during the year. We make ourselves present at this mass as the Ushers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Projector Coordinator, Gift Bearers etc. and we all sit together in the front row. We try to collaborate this mass with a Hospitality weekend, so there are refreshments after mass that we also prepare.

We are a council that is slowly and steadily growing in numbers and we are truly grateful to call ourselves members of the St. Gabriel CWL.

Ascension Parish Council – (Calgary Diocese)

Ascension has been established for approximately 30 years. We have a large community of parishioners. The original council dissolved shortly after starting, as our parish was part of an ecumenical Centre with the Lutheran church. To support ecumenicalism and the joining of centers, the ladies started a women's group called Circle of Friends. Years later the Lutheran church parted ways and Ascension purchased the building, taking over the Centre. Ascension was now in need of a women's group so the CWL was reinstated. There were a couple of introduction meetings that created our charter members.

Our group focused on showing a strong presence in our parish. When we participated in events we wore sashes and a unified color to show our unity. We encouraged all members to invite their friends and family. With support from our Spiritual Adviser Father Pil, we ran a very successful membership drive. Our council tries very hard to inspire and fill our hearts so we may love and serve in unity, under the umbrella of our church and with the direction of the Holy Spirit Thank you for your recognition, this will go a long way to inspire the women of our parish to answer God's call for service.

St Bonaventure – (Calgary Diocese)

Our CWL promoted the League after all weekend masses during our membership drive which allowed us to extend a personal invitation to all ladies of the parish. Following mass we hosted hospitality where current members could renew their membership and prospective ones could speak to one of our members on a one-to-one basis. We offered to provide financial support towards the first year of membership to all first time CWL members. We had 18 ladies accept our invitation to join which resulted in the winning of the Fr Walter Krewski award for the greatest increase in new members to CWL in 2016.



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**PROVINCIAL
LIFE MEMBER LIAISON**

MARY LOU VEEKEN

The provincial Life Member Liaison (LML) for 2017-2019 is Mary-Lou Veeken,

as appointed by the new provincial president, June E. Fuller.

Mary-Lou has been a member of the Catholic Women's League since 1991, joining CWL upon returning to Edmonton after working six years in Ottawa (librarian by profession). Her Life Membership was awarded in 2006, having served as a CWL officer at parish, diocesan and provincial levels, and since then, on the Resolutions committee and Archives committee at national level, and as parliamentarian at all levels. Mary-Lou is married to Jim and they have four adult children – the boys have completed university and are working in their fields of study (hurray!) and the girls are still at university. Many will remember Mary-Lou bringing the children as babies to CWL meetings and conventions at various levels – sometimes so newborn that they were still awaiting names – and then as young Beavers and Cubs being the flag bearers for CWL opening ceremonies. Mary-Lou and her daughters (and Grandma Coby) are members of Our Lady of Perpetual Help CWL council in Sherwood Park, Alberta.

The boys are active members of the Knights of Columbus and Fourth Degree.

In the structure of the CWL, Life Member Liaisons exist at the national and provincial levels, and in some provinces at the diocesan level, to assist the respective Organization chairpersons with the “Life Membership” sub-heading. The principle role of the provincial LML is to share information back-and-forth with the national LML and all the Life Members (which includes Honorary Life Members) in Alberta Mackenzie, to ensure everyone is informed about what is happening in the CWL and about the activities of Life Members in their home communities.

The Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council *Policies* (2014) provide further “Guidelines for Provincial Life Member Liaison” (Appendix 1). The provincial LML is also required to send an annual report to the national LML by March 15 of each year.

If a Life Member moves, please be sure to inform the provincial LML. Alberta Mackenzie is blessed to welcome Life Members from the Military Ordinariate who have “retired” to civilian CWL councils in the province/territory.

Mary-Lou looks forward to serving the Honorary Life & Life Members in Alberta Mackenzie in this capacity for the next two years. Contributions to the Life Members communications are most welcome!

CANADA 150 FAREWELL

Be part of a CWL celebration to say good bye to 2017 and a last opportunity to celebrate Canada's 150 anniversary!

Afternoon Tea

Sunday, December 31, 2017 - 2:30PM to 4:00PM

Chateau Louis Conference Centre | 11727 Kingsway Avenue, Edmonton

Tickets - \$35 (Cash or cheque only; limited number available)

Tickets will be available at Edmonton Diocesan CWL Fall meeting, September 30 at Onoway or call Fran at 780-466-8880; or Dorothy at 780-989-0663

Proceeds will go to an Edmonton Diocesan approved project.

Our society must make it right and possible for old people not to fear the young or be deserted by them, for the test of a civilization is the way that it cares for its helpless members.
 -- Pearl S. Buck (1892-1973)

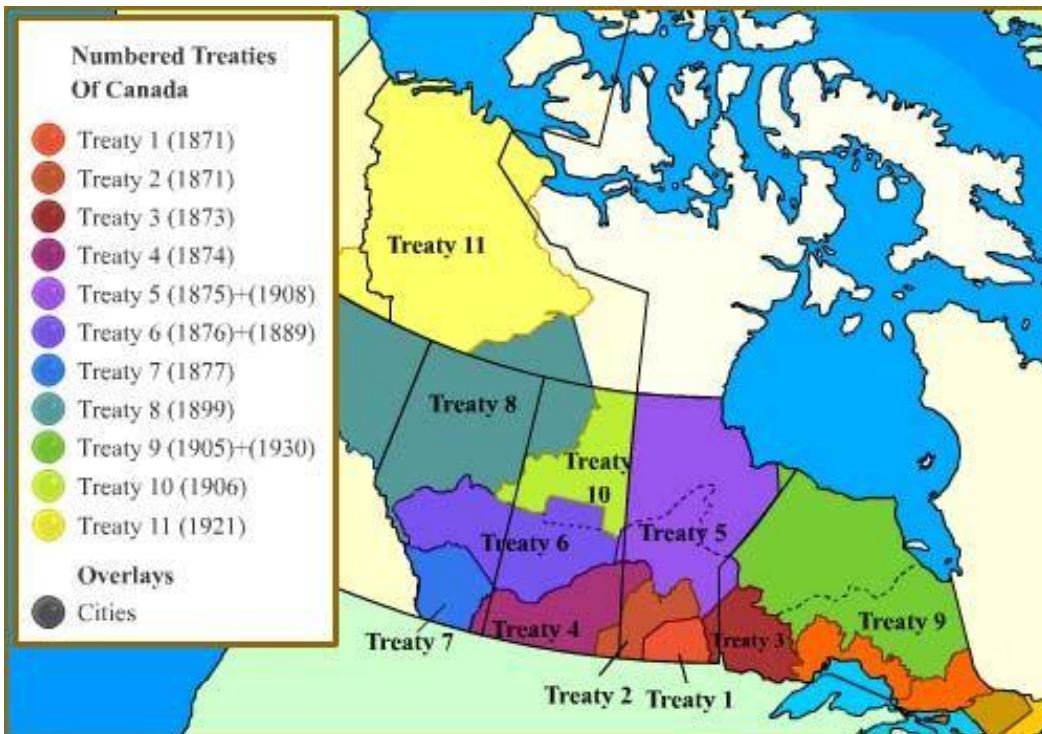
Support for our Aboriginal sisters

At the mid-winter meeting of the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council of the Catholic Women’s League of Canada a motion was passed to

“...include acknowledgement of First Nations, Metis and Inuit lands in public greetings by the Catholic Women’s League. This will become part of the Provincial Policies.”

The following is a sample greeting (prepared by Past President Cathy Bouchard) and a map of the traditional lands to help members who are invited to speak publicly prepare an opening statement:

“I would like to begin by acknowledging that we are on the traditional lands, referred to as Treaty 6 Territory, and that all the people here are beneficiaries of this peace and friendship treaty. Treaty 6 encompasses the traditional territories of numerous western Canadian First Nations, including Cree, Dene (DEN-), StoneyNakota Sioux, Saulteaux (SO-TO), and Ojibwe (OJEEB-W). We acknowledge the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries and whose respectful stewardship have enabled us all to enjoy the riches of the Creator’s blessings. Today we wear red to show our support for our military and to recognize the murdered and missing indigenous women.”





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Provincial Convention 2017

St Charles Parish, Edmonton
June 9-10, 2017

Enjoy guest speaker Father Jerome Lavigne by viewing the video of his talks.

The links are:

Called But for What and How?

<https://vimeo.com/221111545>

It All Begins at Home

<https://vimeo.com/221156701>

See the write up from the Archdiocese of Edmonton Pastoral Scene:

<http://caedm.ca/PastoralScene/entryid/534/catholic-womens-league-reaches-out-to-young-women>



CWL from around the province met the Lap Quilt Challenge Some of the beautiful quilts made were displayed at the convention.



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Elsie Yanik Award Recipient for 2017

The Alberta Mackenzie Provincial CWL council was pleased to present the 2017 ‘Elsie Yanik’ award to Jeanne Leguerrier, a member of St. Joseph Cathedral in Fort Smith.



The recipient for this year’s award is truly blessed as she has been a member of the Mackenzie Fort Smith Diocese, which Elsie also belonged to for many years.

Jeanne Leguerrier arrived in Ft. Smith with her family in 1967 and has been a wise, humble and devoted servant in all that she does as a CWL member of St. Joseph’s Cathedral in Fort Smith. During her 50 years of active service, she at times held position of St. Joseph Council President and for the past 18 years has been the Spiritual Advisor for the Mackenzie Diocesan Council. She was nominated by Bishop Croteau to be the Spiritual Advisor in order to help the Catholic Women’s League to remain active and alive in the north. The bishops that have served the Diocese of Mackenzie have come to rely on Jeanne to be the conduit between them and the CWL.



Jeanne demonstrates an unflinching desire to serve her Lord and the League as she continues to lead and assist with both large and small endeavors. Jeanne is an enthusiastic leader at any task, whether she is attending a planning meeting, creating an inspiring handicraft item or washing dishes after the CWL Fall Fair.

She has been described by one of the senior members as “a woman with boundless energy and always ready to help”. Her presence and example have impressed the lives of both new and “not so new members”.

Jeanne is a faith-filled woman who regularly attends daily mass. She assists with the duties of sacristan including caring for the altar linens and the ordering of candles and floral arrangements for seasonal celebrations. She visits housebound parishioners and ensures the elders in the care home are brought out to their weekly mass. Jeanne also acquires gift items for sales in the CWL Religious Articles Shop in her parish and represents CWL on parish council. Jeanne is undoubtedly one of the best “go to” persons in their CWL council. With her knowledge and experience, she is able to problem-solve as well as mentor her League sisters. Jeanne is a dedicated promoter of the CWL and performs all of her duties within the League in a cheerful and proficient manner. As another long-time member stated, “she does so much, so well”.

Sheila Hachey, Mackenzie Diocesan President wrote that Jeanne has worked diligently and faithfully at the Parish and Diocesan levels. She is indeed a “treasure” for the Mackenzie Fort Smith diocese.

Check out <http://caedm.ca/PastoralScene/entryid/540/leguerrier-receives-cwls-elsie-yanik-award> to read Jeanne’s story in the Archdiocese of Edmonton News



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The provincial council annually presents the Elsie Yanik Award which was created in 1997 to commemorate the leadership, ministry and service of Elsie Yanik to the Catholic community in the Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith.

Elsie's achievements are many and she has received a blessing from Pope John Paul II for her work within the Catholic Church. She spent most of her long life spreading kindness, being a strong advocate for native women and promoting health and education in her community. Award recipients are nominated for these same qualities and service to the church and their community.



It is with sadness that the members of the CWL in Alberta Mackenzie say farewell to our sister Elsie Yanik, who has gone home to be with her Father in heaven.

January 10, 1926 – November 27, 2016



Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation (<http://cwlfcanda.ca/>)

The Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation program is designed to develop in women foundational skills in leadership, management, media, and communication. The program will begin May 2018 and the initial year will be held at Providence School of Transformative Leadership and Spirituality at St. Paul's University in Ottawa.

<https://ustpaul.ca/transformative-leadership.php> Saint Paul University received a \$2.5 million donation for its new Providence School of Transformative Leadership and Spirituality. The first of its kind in Canada, the Providence School of Transformative Leadership and Spirituality (the School) will be uniquely positioned to address a growing national and international need for preparing purposeful and committed leaders – whether they are from the not-for-profit, governmental or educational sectors – to integrate into their professional practice the values of social justice, enhanced human development, sustainability, diversity and inclusion.

The goal of the Foundation is to develop women in the confidence they need to assume a leadership role wherever they are called – in the Church, business, not-for-profits, private or public sector – while understanding and living their Catholic faith. The application process is under development. Please subscribe to our newsletter (online) and we will send you information about the application process as soon as it is available.

Website <http://cwlfcanda.ca>



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**From the
NATIONAL
CONVENTION!**



Alberta Goes to National Convention



Alberta Delegates at the National Convention in Charlottetown, P.E.I. in August, 2017



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97th Annual CWL National Convention: Highlights

Submitted by Judy Look, President-Elect

Change is coming dear sisters! Change is coming!

What a wonderful 4 days! 938 registrants participated in days filled with joy, study, tears, laughter, sunshine, rain and wind all rooted in the love we have for our God, our sisters and our community. 38 of the 938 came from Alberta Mackenzie.

The **resolution dialogue** the afternoon of Sunday August 6th introduced the four resolutions approved for presentation on the convention floor (*See Page 14 for the resolution titles*).

Following the resolutions dialogue we scampered off to St. Dunstan's Cathedral for the celebration of the **Eucharist and Opening Ceremonies** with more than 1000 people present as the local parishioners were there for their regular Sunday Mass. Something happens when you watch the procession of flags followed by the bishops and priests. You begin to see a picture of sea to sea to sea and you are filled with pride and awe knowing you are part of it.

Monday was **workshop day**. It began with a Eucharistic Celebration and followed by the **first workshop**

'Gift of Gratitude' presented by Ken Yasinski.
"Attitude of Gratitude" was his focus.

He mentioned that complaining is self-focused and kills gratitude; gratitude is a **choice** and not an emotion; gratitude promotes better memories, relationships, less depression and a longer life. Our Eucharistic prayers are prayers of gratitude.

Five things we can do to grow in gratitude:

- † Get ride of our blame list,
- † have visual reminders along with self-talk
- † start a gratitude journal – each day write 5 things you are thankful for
- † express your thanksgiving recall times in your life when God has worked perfectly



The second workshop "**A Catholic Identity Crisis**" was also presented by Ken Yasinski.

His focus was the need to know who we are as Catholics. We need to look to the Church, scriptures and the Catechism of the Catholic Church to get a clear picture of our identity. **Article 767** in the Catechism states that "the church in her very nature is missionary, sent by Christ to all the nations to make disciples of them", therefore we are to be evangelizers. He mentioned that we are catechized but not evangelized. **We need to get out of our comfort zones and start talking about Jesus to others.** When people are in pain instead of saying I will pray for you, begin the process **right there and pray with them** asking God to bless them and heal them. **We must stop being afraid to become who we are – messengers of God's love through his son Jesus.**

Monday afternoon began with **The Memorial Service for Deceased Members** followed by the business session with the usual call to order, etc. The provincial presidents began their reports finishing up with the national presidents report.

National Spiritual Advisor Bishop McGrattan reminded us that on July 1, 2017 the Bishops of Canada consecrated Canada to our Blessed Mother and suggested we keep her in mind each day as we pray.

Our luncheon on Monday was a gathering of delegates who held the same position at parish, diocesan, provincial and national. There was an opportunity to ask questions and share ideas.



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97th Annual CWL National Convention: Highlights (Continued)

Tuesday began with a Eucharistic celebration followed by **Dr. Reginald Bibby's Canada's Catholic**.

His presentation focused on statistics which indicated that Christianity and the Catholic Church in Canada were alive and well. He mentioned, supported by his research data, that people join organizations that they find significant and that there has been a major cultural shift as we have moved from obligation to gratification. Followed by his statistics presentation he focused on CWL and our crisis of membership with the following observations:

- † Solution does not lie merely with recruitment
- † Women pressed for time and money need to find their involvement worthwhile
- † The heart of the solution is conscious, complementary ministry

He concluded with a slide that said:

What if first and foremost when people thought of the CWL they thought of women in the Catholic Church who care about each other and try to enrich lives; Catholic women who care for God, for Canada for Canadians

The second workshop in the morning was Donna Dunn's **Building the Foundation, the League of the Future** Where we all took part in the country-wide Town Hall meeting. To watch the technology work was mind boggling as answers were coming from all over the country. Three questions were asked:

- † What would you like to see the League do differently?
- † What is one thing you would like to see the League stop doing?
- † What does the League of the Future look like to you?

There was a sense of great anticipation as we all recognized that the League needs an over-haul!

The morning concluded with a moving ceremony to welcome the new Life Members and the national officer reports (posted on the national website) were presented in the afternoon business session.

Wednesday the steering committee from **Building on Foundation, the League of the Future** presented the results of the Town Hall Meeting from the Tuesday session. . This was an interactive presentation with delegate participation. It was followed by a report that gave an overview of the process to date. The "strategic plan "or "planning strategically" will cover 5 years. **We need to get it right ladies!**

Rita James, the Chair of the Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation gave a brief history as well as a year to date report, followed by Dr. June Webber's presentation on Coady International giving us their history and their present day story.

A busy afternoon as four resolutions were discussed an eventually passed by the members in attendance.

National Spiritual Advisor, Bishop McGrattan, reported that the Bishops had a town hall meeting of their own. He mentioned that the Bishops hope that CWL does not lose sight of its identity in the new strategic planning process. We are to hold on to our values both spiritual and faith based. CWL is a community within the community of the parish and we should not be in competition with other groups. What we do as CWL and as human beings should always be an encounter with God.

Closing mass was held at St Dunstan's Cathedral, followed by the retirement of the flags. The gala banquet was an opportunity to say goodbye to our sisters and we are already looking forward to meeting again in Winnipeg in 2018.

It was an exciting 4 days, and it was a privilege to represent you. For more details on the convention, please check out the national website.



National Convention – Spiritual Highlights
 Submitted by Ruth Boden

The opening Eucharistic celebration was held in the beautiful St. Dunstan's Cathedral Basilica the evening of Sunday, August 6th, celebrated by Most Reverend Richard Grecco, Bishop of Charlottetown and concelebrated by 5 other bishops from across Canada.

Bishop Grecco spoke of Mary, the first disciple of Christ and how fitting it is that we meet in the city which hosted the Confederation of Canada 150 years ago. He spoke about the discipleship of the Catholic Women of Canada and how important it

We celebrated the "Feast of the Transfiguration" which brought forth the importance of what we, as disciples of Christ, are in the process of becoming.

The music liturgy at St. Dunstan's Basilica as directed by Leo Marchildon was angelic in the cathedral.

An interesting relic contained within the basilica is the boat built by Bishop Angus Bernard MacEachern in 1812 and used to transport his vestments and mass kit while ministering to the needs of the settlers in the area. It is a unique reminder of his dedication and perseverance in delivering God's Word.

On Monday, August 6th we celebrated mass with Archbishop Richard Gagnon, Archbishop of Winnipeg and concelebrated with 5 other bishops from across Canada. **In his homily Archbishop Gagnon, spoke to our theme for this convention "Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call", He reminded us of the importance of asking ourselves "What is God calling us to do?" Bishop Gagnon asked us to "Listen to the Father" and to "Listen to one another". "Respond to the Spirit, it's our job".**

On Monday afternoon Archbishop William McGrattan, Bishop of Calgary and our National Spiritual Advisor

celebrated the Ceremony for the Deceased Members with a red rose from each province and a white rose for our Spiritual Advisors who have gone before us.

Bishop McGrattan asked us to consecrate ourselves to Mother Mary in celebration of our 150 years as Canada.

Our closing prayer on Monday afternoon was taken from Prayer Seeds by Joyce Rupp and called us to open our hearts and minds to the light of God's presence.

Tuesday, August 7th opened with a Celebration of the Eucharist by Most Reverend Archbishop Richard Smith, Archbishop of Edmonton and concelebrated by the 5 other bishops in attendance at the convention.

Archbishop Albert LeGatt, Archbishop of St. Boniface spoken of St. Dominic whose feast day is August 8th in the homily. Like St. Dominic's followers the members of the League need to let the Word of God nourish and strengthen them. Archbishop LeGatt highlighted the need for humility and discernment as well as the importance of evangelization.

At the Tuesday morning closing prayer, we celebrated the Commissioning of New Life Members with Bishop McGrattan blessing the hands of the Life Members and the work they will

Tuesday afternoon's reconvening prayer was offered by eight of our National Executive and carried on with the transfiguration in a service on the *Transforming Energy of Fire*. We asked the Lord to empower us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit so that we may respond to God's call in joyful service. Our closing prayer was taken from Psalm 148:1-6 *Finding God in Nature*.

Wednesday, August 8th opened with *Morning Prayer of the Church*. Bishop McGratten spoke to us about recognizing that each of our sisters has a gift to bring which has been inspired by the Holy Spirit and we must take the time necessary to recognize these gifts and cherish them. The morning closed with the *Lap Quilts and Mercy Prayer* and blessing of the beautiful lap quilts, a project written by our own Sharon Malec, Calgary Diocese and adopted by National, which has been tremendously successful with quilts being prepared and shared with palliative care and those in need all over the country.

We reconvened in the afternoon on Wednesday with a *Pentecost Prayer* from Prayer Seeds by Joyce Rupp and



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our closing prayer for Wednesday afternoon was our theme prayer.

The closing Eucharistic was again held at St. Dunstan's Cathedral Basilica and celebrated by Most Reverend Bishop William McGrattan our National Spiritual Advisor and our own Bishop of Calgary. Music was provided by the Charlottetown Diocesan Choir under the direction of Leo Marchildon, Director of Music.

For God and Canada
 Ruth Boden
 Spiritual Development Chair

The National Executive has determined, through consultation across the nation, that the time is right to look around with humility and grace to determine what the needs of the hundreds of Catholic women are. To do that they have embarked on a strategic process which has begun and we will be hearing and seeing more about it over the next few weeks and months.

We ask for your prayers for the success of this process



Exciting News! The keynote speakers were livestreamed over the internet from the convention. You can listen to them (or listen again) by going to www.cwl.ca and selecting Charlottetown 2017 Convention from Quick Links on the home page..



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National Executive





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Canada comes to Calgary – National Convention 2019

CWL NATIONAL CONVENTION – AUGUST 18-21, 2019

Our committee is proud to announce that we have secured one of the best locations in Calgary, The Hyatt Regency Hotel and Conference Center to host our convention. We will be celebrating Mass in two amazing churches; St. Albert The Great in South East Calgary for the Opening Mass, and St. Mary's Cathedral in downtown Calgary for our closing mass.

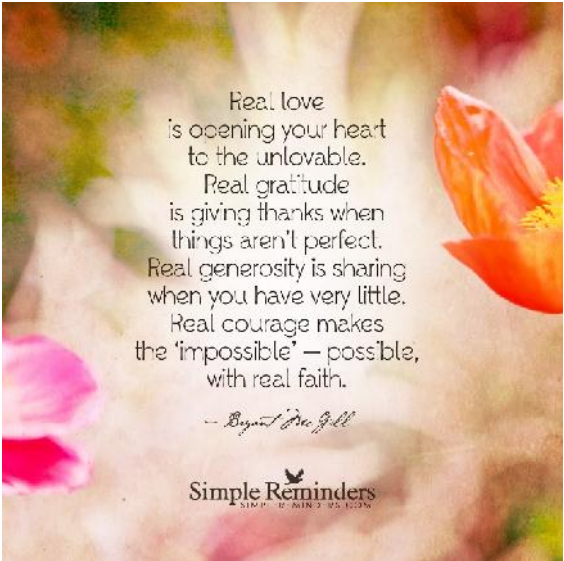


SUPPORT YOUR CWL SISTERS FUNDRAISING FOR THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

Have you seen any of the gorgeous CWL Fundraising merchandise we have for sale?

CWL Ribbon \$10.00 CWL Journal \$20.00 CWL Water Bottle \$10.00
CWL Golf Shirt \$25.00 CWL Windbreaker \$40.00

Contact Bernice at bernicet@telus.net to purchase





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Diocesan Council Updates

**Calgary Diocesan President
Janet McPhee**

I am pleased to be the Calgary Diocesan President for the next two years. I thank all of you for your support and faith for allowing me to serve you in this position for the 2017-2019 Diocesan Council. I ask for your continued prayers for the League.

I have been a CWL member for over 25 years and have served for several terms on the Diocesan Council.. As I was reviewing (cleaning up) old files, I was able to note what I had done regarding the CWL. I held the positions of Community Life, sub chair for Education and Health, Legislation Chair, Communication Chair, President-Elect and now President. I started with St. Peter's Council in 1990 and moved over to Sacred Heart Council around 2006. **The more I got involved with the CWL the more my faith and spirituality has grown. The League is an amazing group – calling its members to holiness through service to the people of God.**



I am a retired engineer, married to my husband Stephen (who is also a retired engineer) for 38+ years, have one son (an engineer) and a daughter-in-law (schooled in engineering but is a yoga instructor) and now enjoy the summers out in Sicamous BC (we are opposite snowbirds: stay for the winter – leave in the summer!). We travel a lot but with emails, Facebook, texting, it is very easy to keep in touch. The Diocese of Calgary Catholic Women's League has a couple of busy years ahead. I pray and hope that I am able to guide our councils through it all. I will, with God's help.

“Lord, grant that I may Live this day with Love and Laughter”

**Mackenzie Ft. Smith Diocese
Gerda Hazenberg**

Here I am, a brand new member of the Provincial Council, serving as Diocesan President for the Mackenzie-Fort Smith Diocese in the NWT. This is quite a challenge for me, my background is quite unique, yet I realize that this is the path



our Lord has been guiding me towards.

As a mother of five young children living in Grande Prairie in the 70s I was invited to several CWL meetings and enjoyed the fellowship (and break from my kids!). However, my husband's career path caused us to move and eventually settle in the NWT. I renewed my teaching certificate and for 17 years worked as an elementary teacher in the small, isolated community of Fort Simpson. Besides teaching, I fostered children (adopting two of them), and served in the Sacred Heart parish as first communion instructor and music ministry leader. **My life was very full and rewarding (did I say that I have a great love for children?) yet at times I felt alone and knew that something was missing. What was missing was the sisterhood that only**

the CWL knows about. The kind of sisterhood where you can share your love for God, your love for your vocation, your love for creation, your love for your country, and your dedication to the work of your Church.

Ten years ago we relocated to Yellowknife and I retired from teaching. I did not actually join the CWL until several years later. My first year as a member I was asked to be the convention chair for the provincial convention which was to be held in Yellowknife. I was told, “no worries, there is a manual”. Well it was a huge challenge as I had no background to what the CWL really was. After that I purchased a handbook and had a better understanding of the complexity of the organization.

I hope in the next two years to bring an awareness of the CWL to many women in the north.



STAY CONNECTED: VISIT
www.cwl.ca www.cwl.ab.ca

**Edmonton Diocesan President
Cheryl Boom**



I have been married to Lewis for 31 years and we have 2 beautiful children, Stephanie is 26 and Brandon is 22. We also have 2 cute little grandsons, Isaac will be 5 in September and Erik is 1½. They are the love of my life and bring me so much joy! I enjoy spending time with them and look forward to our regular Sunday Family Dinners.

I have been with Alberta Health Services for 12 years and I currently work full-time as an Executive Assistant in Talent Management Strategies. I also own and operate a residential framing company which has been up and running for 24 years; Lewis is the head Framer. As you can imagine, work keeps me pretty busy. In my limited spare time I enjoy camping at our lake lot as well as administering a provincial weight loss support group. I organize monthly support meetings & clothing exchanges which helps me stay focused on my weight loss journey and maintaining my healthy lifestyle. In the last 2 years I have learned to run and enjoy getting out 3-4 times a week. I also enjoy getting away each winter with my best friend for a hot holiday for some well-deserved R & R!

I have been a CWL member for 18 years. I became a member at St. John Bosco Parish in Edmonton in January 1999. I attended my first Diocesan Convention in Three Hills in April that year and was inspired to serve the League! 3 years later I became CWL Parish President and served for 3 years and then 3 years as Past President. I continue to help my parish where I can. In 2009 I moved up to Diocesan level and served 4 years as Treasurer, 2 years as Spiritual Development Chair and 2 years as President-Elect and Organization Standing Committee Chair.

I am honored to serve as your Diocesan President for the next 2 years! I promise to do my very best and I know that with your prayers and God's help I will be able to fulfill this role. I am excited to be working with a group of talented CWL Sisters which make up the Diocesan Officers team and to continue to grow in my faith through service to God and Canada.

CWL is a gift of faith, friendship and support and my focus for this 2 year term is unity and truly working together as a team. I want to affect change and I want to see some changes too! I want to see everyone share their gifts and truly make a difference!



Check out these sites for information on CWL and more...

CWL National website	www.cwl.ca
CWL National Important Links	http://cwl.ca/about/important-links/
The Canadian League Magazine	http://cwl.ca/category/media/the-canadian-league/
CWL Alberta Mackenzie website	www.cwl.ab.ca
Salt and Light TV	www.saltandlighttv.org
CWL on Facebook	
Twitter @CWLNational	



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www.cwl.ca www.cwl.ab.ca

**Grouard-McLennan Diocesan President
Irene Brassard**

Welcome to the 2017-2019 Catholic Women’s League of Canada. I remain Grouard-McLennan’s archdiocese president and hope to serve and represent you in CWL business, faith, friendship and fun.



I joined the CWL in 1972, when I was a young mother with child number one. My mother, Violet, was my inspiration because she was a CWL member since 1951. I retired from Nursing in 2010 and my husband and I retired from farming in 2016. We remain on the farm where we raised 4 children. Presently we have 7 grandchildren ages 1 to 16 years. The stars of our life.

In the CWL, my faith has grown and I’ve received much support from members. Our CWL is a positive group and opens our Catholic hearts to challenges in the personal, parish and world stage. I served as Parish president, Secretary, President-elect, Environment and CFL. I will continue to serve you as best I can in Grouard-McLennan diocese so we remain a strong CWL team for God and Canada.

Thank you to Linda Vandenberg, Donna Prevost, Lucille Partington, Mary Antonio, Eileen McGuire, Ester Bautista and Father from Grimshaw who attended the Provincial Convention in St. Charles Parish, Edmonton on June 9 + 19th. Thank you Christine Becher for attending the Charlottetown, PEI National CWL Convention in August.

Grouard McLennan Upcoming Events

Sept 30, 2017	Diocesan Executive Meeting (Nampa)
Oct 21, 2017	Education Workshop (Fairview)
Nov 16, 2017	Diocesan Executive Meeting (Rycroft)
Jan, 2018	Provincial Executive Meeting (St Albert)

**St Paul Diocesan President –
Celine Berlinguette**

I am the seventh child from a family of eight children. We lived on the farm where work never ceased and the harvests were not always plentiful. Although money was scarce, we were rich in many ways; our belief and love for God and the Church, our love for family and community surpassed anything money could buy. These values still govern my life today.



I completed my schooling in Lac La Biche. At the age of seventeen I married my husband Alex and by the time I was twenty I had given birth to a daughter and a son. The years have passed, since then I have been blessed with four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. In 2012, I took my retirement from my employment with the Alberta Government after twenty-seven years of service in the financial/accounting field.

church ministries from altar servant to extra ordinary communion minister serving in the church as well as the home bound and hospital, reader, etc. I am on the St. Paul Diocesan Liturgical committee and I am also involved with and hold positions with various community groups.

Volunteering for various causes and organizations has been a big part of my life and since my retirement even more so. I currently volunteer as the office secretary at our parish office, and have been on the Parish Pastoral Council for several years. I am involved with all the

I joined the Catholic Women’s League in Lac La Biche in 2010. Since then, I was President of my council for four years, Chair of Resolutions and Legislation and currently I am the Chair for Spiritual Development. I have served two years as President Elect on the Diocesan Council and President since April. **I pray that though the Grace of God I will be given the wisdom to know what must be done and the courage to do it. I am truly blessed to be able to serve and work with my Sisters in the League.**

“Each new day is God’s gift to you.....what you do with it is your gift to God.”