



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

Fall 2018 Newsletter

“...to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.”

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial CWL Executive at Fall Meeting



Members from Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council gathered to discuss business and experience fellowship with each other at their fall meeting September 14-16, 2018.

L-R Front Row: Gwen Elliott; Cathy Bouchard; Fr. Andrew Bogdanowicz, June Fuller, Judy Look, Betsy Fletcher
L-R Back Row: Sr. Susan Scott; Irene Brassard, Sharon Malec; Carol Schlachter; Celine Berlinguette; Annette deBoer; Mary Hunt; Ruth Boden; Janet MacPhee; Cheryl Boom; Gerda Hazenberg; Linda Vandenberg



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The Catholic Women's League of Canada Plans Strategically



UPDATE
August 2018

The Catholic Women's League has been involved in planning strategically for the future of the League. This process involves knowledge-based decision-making to align League activities with the core purpose, values and goals members have for the future.

**The first step in planning for the future was to assess if the League was still relevant in today's church and society. The answer, of course, was a resounding YES!
 Yes, the League has a place today, perhaps even more so than ever before!**

Once this most important question was answered, the steering committee and the board turned its attention to articulating three core guiding principles - what the League is, what values it holds and what its mission is.

Core Purpose: Why does the League exist? What activities should it undertake?

CORE PURPOSE

Uniting Catholic women to grow in faith, and to promote social justice through service to the church, Canada and the world

Core Values: The fundamental beliefs dictate the behavior of all members in the pursuit of the League's purpose and the enduring truths about what the League stands for:

CORE VALUES

FAITH - following Catholic teaching

SERVICE - local, national and international

SOCIAL JUSTICE - actively involved in society

Mission Statement: The scope of the League's operations and how it is accomplished - The mission statement we all know and love is still relevant, but the wording has been modernized. It now reads:

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Envisioned Future: What does the League strive to become?

ENVISIONED FUTURE

The Catholic Women's League of Canada is an inclusive and engaged community of Catholic women inspired by faith. It is:

- A vital participant in the church;
- A valued partner for social justice;
- A respected advocate at all government levels;



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GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1:

Members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada grow in faith by sharing, witnessing, and developing leadership skills to create positive change.

Objectives:

- Increase opportunities for spiritual development
- Increase membership
- Remove structural impediments to participation and action by increasing flexibility throughout the organization
- Increase the capacity and efficiency of leadership
- Increase the number and readiness of members to hold office
- Increase effectiveness of communication

Goal 2:

The Catholic Women's League of Canada addresses and supports Catholic social teaching through advocacy.

Objectives:

- Increase members' knowledge of Catholic social teaching
- Increase number of members trained to lead advocacy efforts
- Increase collaboration with faith organizations and governments

Goal 3:

Through outreach and service, members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada foster a culture where all life is valued with dignity and respect.

Objectives:

- Increase participation of diverse cultural and generational groups
- Increase awareness and opportunities for parish-based projects that protect and respect all human life
- Increase a sense of belonging and connectedness within the organization

At the national convention August 2018, a Frame of Reference for a five-year plan was presented that encompassed all levels of the League.

The next step is the formation of an implementation committee that will be charged with making the goals a reality.

The committee will become active immediately upon selection and will dissolve upon full implementation of the strategic plan or March 31, 2023, whichever comes first.

The ultimate goal in The Year 2023: The Catholic Women's League of Canada is an inclusive and engaged community of Catholic women inspired by faith. It is:

- † A vital participant in the church
- † A valued partner for social justice
- † A respected advocate at all government levels
- † Connected to the world.

The steering committee has worked diligently to outline what will be done in the next five years to assure a continued and more vibrant national organization. The implementation committee will choose how the strategies will come alive for all parishes.

Thank you for your support of the steering committee. And thank you in advance for assisting the implementation committee as it seeks to renew and refresh The Catholic Women's League of Canada.

Each Parish Council President will receive a copy of the National CWL document "*League of Canada Plans Strategically*" in the National Office fall mailing that will be sent out shortly.

Further information on the Strategic Plan will be presented at each of the Diocesan Fall Meetings.



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Provincial President – June Fuller



Greetings to my Sisters in the League!

As we begin another year filled with joy, anticipation and hope, we are encouraged to come up with ideas of how we can make the 'Catholic Women's League of Canada' more inviting to all woman across our great province and territory. At the 98th annual National Convention of the CWL held in Winnipeg from August 12th – 15th, we reviewed the work that has been done to date on "Planning Strategically" and how we need to focus on our strengths in order to grow the "League" for the future.

In this upcoming year, I want to challenge each member to approach just one woman from your parish and invite them to join the Catholic Women's League. In the past, we have found that personal invitation is a very effective means of recruiting new members.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate two members from Alberta Mackenzie that were elected to serve on the National Executive for the upcoming two years (2018-2020). Congratulations to Fran Lucas as she takes on the role of President-Elect and to Cathy Bouchard, in her role as National Resolutions Standing Committee Chair. Fran and Cathy have both served as Presidents for the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial council and we are extremely proud of their commitment to the League

I wish Bishop William McGrattan, from the Diocese of Calgary, a heartfelt thank you for serving as National Spiritual Advisor for the past five years. His wisdom and guidance have truly been appreciated. We also welcome Bishop Stephen Jensen from the Diocese of Prince George as the new Spiritual Advisor for the National CWL. I am also pleased to announce that Father Andrew Bogdanowicz, has agreed to continue as Spiritual Advisor for the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial CWL. His guidance has been greatly appreciated during the past 5 years.

Our Provincial Executive is excited to continue to serve our many members in Alberta Mackenzie as we strive to live our faith in all that we do. We invite you to feel free to contact any of us if you require assistance or information that will benefit you or your council.

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

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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President Elect / Organization
Judy Look

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

Last year I wrote in the newsletter "I am very excited about being Chair of Organization and I am looking forward to meeting many of you at our various gatherings". I have to say that came true... at parish, zone and regional meetings, diocesan and provincial conventions as I did the "Three



Cups of Tea" presentations and shared cups of tea not only physically but spiritual as well. At all the gatherings it was mentioned the importance of "one-on-one" relationships and many of you embraced that thought and shared that you would begin sharing "Three

Cups of Tea" at your council meetings. One "sister" stopped me at the national convention in Winnipeg and shared she had brought her tea bag to share it with a "sister" she had met at her diocesan convention in the spring.

Three Cups of Tea (Relationships)

will continue to be the focus for our committee. It permeates everything we do as relationship is the root of who we are beginning at our Baptism. If you need some help with the idea don't hesitate to e-mail me and I will share with you how it works.



[\(abmkprovpreselect@gmail.com\)](mailto:abmkprovpreselect@gmail.com)

The year was very busy filled with great excitement and challenges. The Strategic Planning got off to a great start as all dioceses were introduced to it. There will be a lot more information coming out as the goals and objectives are set and the information will have processes attached to them for the implementation that will engage all councils. Membership on-line presented most councils and dioceses with headaches reflected in the 800 Alberta-NWT members still **needing to renew**.

I had the privilege of representing you at National Convention and one of the events I attended was the tour of the Human Rights Museum. One plaque on the wall spoke to me as it said:

"There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest." Elie Wiesel Holocaust survivor "

CWL ladies came to mind as much of our time is spent working for justice with letter writing, phone calls, bringing our concerns to various organizations, trying to meet with

the various levels of governments, feeding the poor, visiting the sick and shut-ins and looking after the environment. It was a reminder of how essential our voice is for the community and church, and although we may not always be successful we are faithful to our God who has left the care of creation (all social justice issues) to us as members of His Church.



As the theme, "Inspired by the Spirit Women Respond to God's Call" comes to an end let us store it in our hearts as we get ready to embrace in January the new theme, "Concern for our Common Home." As we begin thinking of how we can make the new theme come alive in our councils let us invoke the Holy Spirit for the wisdom and insight that we will need to accomplish this.

Let us begin strategizing for our membership drive with the focus on how essential we are for our communities as we help women grow in relationship with our God and each other. Let us root our membership drive in prayer, again asking the Holy Spirit to be our guide. Let us take the graces given to us through prayer and apply it to our social justice work as we live our baptismal promises to build the kingdom of God here on earth.

Elsie Yanik applications are on the website so please think of women within your councils that exude her spirit and nominate them. Begin thinking of women who should be honoured with the Maple Leaf Service Pin. Think of ways that milestone celebrations can be made meaningful. Check out the bursaries available for council activities and individual growth. Read the materials on "The Leadership Foundation" as you may know some woman who may want to take advantage of it.

Ladies get those teapots out, fill them with faith, hope, love, and enthusiasm, steeped in relationships, and begin re-energizing your councils with one-on-one encounters for, after all, we are sisters in the Catholic Women's League of Canada and we do make a difference!

Sometimes you are delayed
 where you are because
 GOD knows there's a
 STORM where you headed.
BE GRATEFUL



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Spiritual Development – Ruth Boden



As we all return to work and school after a wonderful summer full of sunshine and lazy days, we start to prepare for the fall and winter activities.

For CWL members this often means preparing for the first CWL parish meeting, and all the varied jobs the members do within their parishes as lay ministry. Once again, we will start to bustle around to get all those very important works done.

I would just like to remind everyone to set aside some time each day to be spent with God in prayer and reflection. This could be in the early morning before your homes start to come alive with the buzz of family preparing for their day; it could be at lunch time if you get the chance for a break; it could be at the end of the day when your busy lives settle down and you have a few minutes before bedtime. Just take the time. Trust me, it really helps to circumnavigate life's twists and turns.

In your parish CWL meeting, please keep in mind the adage; 1/3 spiritual; 1/3 business; 1/3 fellowship. Try to strive for this balancing method. It can keep your group vibrant and your members coming back.

There are a multitude of good prayer resources on the national CWL website; our own provincial website; and even on the other provincial sites. This in addition to the many websites setup by Catholic organizations and religious groups.


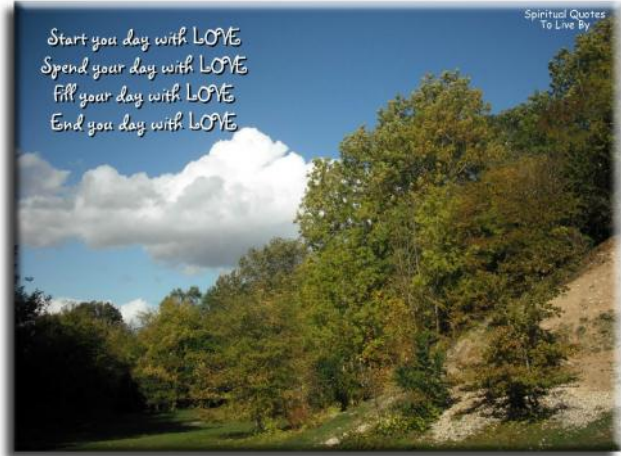
Something that came to my attention at the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Convention in Okotoks, AB in June was the importance of ensuring your parish councils submit the names of your deceased members as soon as possible after you have received notification of her journey home to be with God. It is so important for us as a group to remember our dear sisters at the Annual Convention.

Please continue to pray for the success of the Strategic Planning being conducted throughout the CWL across Canada.

God Bless
 Ruth Boden
 Alberta Mackenzie Spiritual Development



Life without Jesus is like an unsharpened pencil... It has no point



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Secretary – Betsy Fletcher



Greetings!

Summer vacation season is now over and everyone is feeling well rested and energized. It's time to get back into the work of the CWL.

By the time this newsletter gets to you, most councils will have had a meeting. How did your minute taking go?

A template for taking the minutes is very helpful. A number of agenda items can already be entered before the meeting begins, which will make completion of your minutes easier.

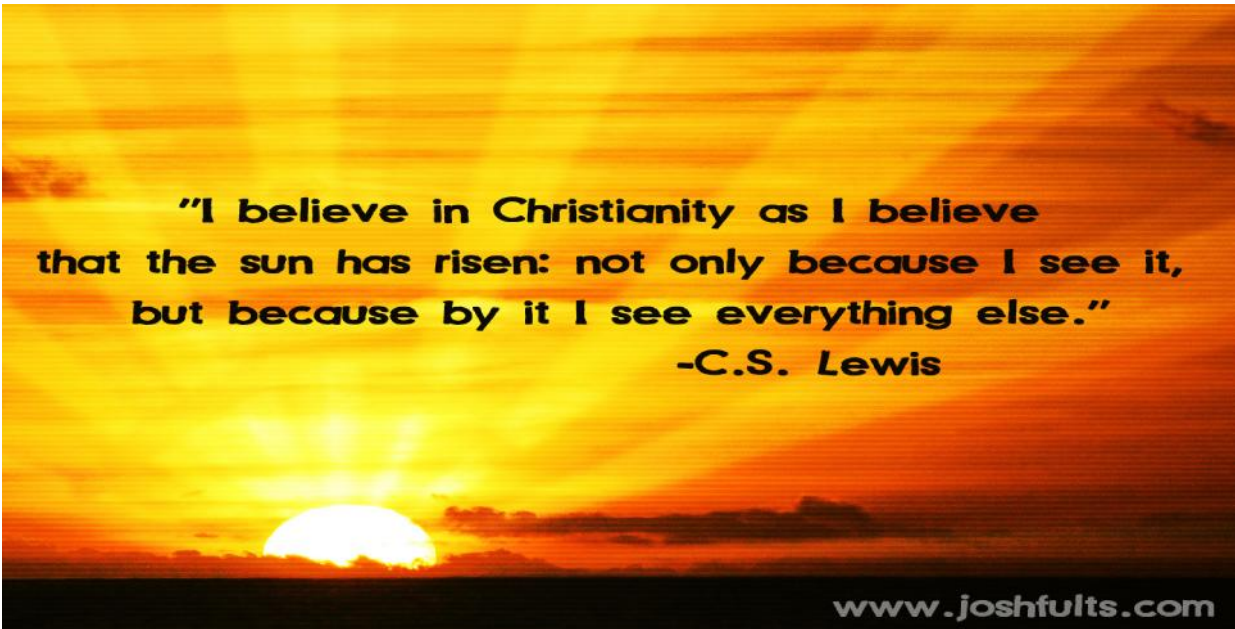
This template can include:

- † the date, place and time of the meeting;**
- † a roll call of those expected to be present;**
- † reports from executive members and standing committee chairs that have been sent to you ahead of the meeting.**

At the provincial level, each executive member and standing committee chair sends a long report for presentation at the meeting and a shorter, more concise report for inclusion in the minutes. The long report is kept on file. Simply using copy and paste carefully makes assembling the minutes faster.

Please remember, the secretary position is vitally important to your council. While there is a fair bit of work in this position, it is very rewarding. The job is not difficult, but it does take some time. Try to be organized. Computers make the work easier, but if you prefer hand written and then typed minutes, find a way to make it easy for you. Having an editor or two is a big help. It's a good idea to have someone else look over your work to check for accuracy and the odd typo. Don't be afraid of this position. Embrace it and make it your own. You'll be great! Remember, I'm only a phone call or email away if you have any questions that I can help with.

Betsy
 abmkprovsec@gmail.com





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Treasurer – Gwen Elliott



Greetings CWL sisters,

Our Provincial Convention in Okotoks was a great gathering of members from all over Alberta and Mackenzie-Fort Smith diocese. I am pleased to report to you about the generosity of those present.

The Mass collection in the amount of \$1391.75 was sent to Foothills Country Hospice. Catholic Missions in Canada had an information display and the collection jar contained \$82.15 which was sent to them to support their work. Members and councils continue to support our councils in Mackenzie-Fort Smith Diocese by donating to "Nickels for the North" \$62.65 was received in the collection jar.

Bishop McGrattan was a keynote speaker at the convention and he requested that his honorarium be sent to Elizabeth House a program of the Diocese of Calgary (for more information check out - <https://www.elizabethhousecalgary.ca>)

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

**"Nickels for the North" funds should be sent to
 Attention: Gwen Elliott | 6112 – 32 Avenue | Camrose, AB | T4V 4R8**

Past President – Cathy Bouchard

Archives Guidelines Have Been Updated

In November 2017, our National Past President wrote in her communique about having worked on the national archives with the assistance of a committee of Betty-Anne Brown Davidson, Connie McBride and Mary-Lou Veecken. She spoke about how the archives of the national council "all so well preserved and carefully archived; it was incredible."... "So many articles, clippings and hand-written letters spoke of a totally different time, memories that brought the past to life and linked the sisters to the League...!"

"Mary-Lou and Connie responded to my request for an updated resource based on what is being done nationally." "I trust it will be a useful tool to pass on to your counterparts. I am thankful for the passion and expertise we are gifted with in these life members."

This document can be accessed online at the national website <https://www.cwl.ca/past-president-communique-4/> (click on "Enclosure" to open a PDF of the document.)

You can phone or email me for a copy.
 403-357-6715 abmkpastpres@gmail.com





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To quote from one of the chair reports at the national convention –

Christian Family Life
Carol Schlachter

“Embrace our feminine genius. If we quit our work, imagine the difference. This is a different time”.

Yes, the challenge is greater than ever!

We as Catholic women and members of the CWL understand the challenges full well and we are committed to serving our God and all of His people. We are God’s Team and we keep hitting the ball.

The fight against Euthanasia hasn’t gone away. Lobbying for better palliative care remains a high priority.

This being our second year of our term, we ask all Christian Family Life Chairs to review the duties of our Christian Family Life committee. Stay vigilant to what is happening in the news and the communiqués on all matters related to these duties. If this committee chair is vacant in a council, we request that the president keep the members informed.



God Bless
 Carol Schlachter

It is a pleasure to serve you. As always, I am here for you as are your diocesan Christian Family Life chairs. *Keep up the good work! Get out there and hit a home run!*

SEASON OF CREATION:

Don’t forget to check out the resources available to support our new National theme

“On Care for Creation”

at the **GLOBAL CATHOLIC CLIMATE MOVEMENT** site to celebrate the third annual *Season of Creation*.

Click on this link for resources!
<https://catholicclimatemovement.global>





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Community Life
Sister Susan Scott



Development & Peace Update

I will attempt to bring our members up to date on the investigative process that has been taking place since November of 2017 regarding the allegations that some of D & P's partners are making decisions in contradiction to our faith convictions as Catholics. At National Convention it was apparent to me, given the large number of questions asked, that our ladies are very concerned with this – particularly from the perspective of all the poor who have been affected by the decision to halt ALL transfers of funds to ALL partners for what has turned out to be the better part of a year at this point.

One of the keynote speakers at the spring Western Assembly for Development & Peace was Christian Champigny. He is the International Programs Department Deputy and gave an overview of International Programming at D & P.

Criteria around which decisions are made to partner or not, include dignity and respect for life and equality of persons, a preferential option for the poor, a quest for the common good, care of God's creation and the nurturing of solidarity, subsidiarity and inter-reliance. The projects fall into two main areas: long-term development (see Pope Francis Village in the Philippines) and Humanitarian Response to crises.

He also gave a very detailed history around the recent concerns about some of D & P's partners.

March/April 2017 the Bishops were contacted by D & P to tell them "All is well." The Bishops initiated a review by striking a committee of eight: four from D & P, four staff from the CCCB. This group met for the first time in November of 2017 and began to address questions like "What are the criteria? What does it mean to work against Church teachings? And what is the "degree of evilness"? The work of this group was supposed to have been confidential, but in January the list of partners "in Question" was shared with the Bishops who did their own analysis which at that point was basically a "Google" search. D & P began to do their own verification and made categories from serious to minimal concern.

Christian Champigny clearly stated that D & P sent NO money to projects that have anti-Catholic priorities. D & P does NOT partner with organizations that have an agenda/mandate to e.g. provide access to safe abortions etc.



Christian asked a most interesting question around the process of investigating partners and projects that I think bears repeating: "If a local bishop supports a project, does that mean we stop asking questions?" Some of the groups presently being targeted are actually working with local Bishops. Just because we're partners in a network doesn't mean we have to support everything in a group that is part of that network. This statement resulted in accusations made by "LifeSite" in 2009 that were false – and I might add, are still posted on their web site as fact. No apology or retraction was made following the investigation by the CCCB which proved the accusations false. It is deeply disturbing that EVERY partner has had their funds withheld based on unproven accusations. The reputation of this stellar organization has again been dragged through the mud and innocent vulnerable people who need our help are suffering.

At National convention, Bishop McGrattan very graciously responded to all questions raised by attendees. I was able to have a private conversation with him following this convention session where he again responded to my questions. He indicated his strong support for D & P and expressed his grief that this situation has developed. He sees the process as one of "purifying" and evolving to make D & P a more accountable, stronger, better organized, more transparent organization. He remains hopeful that the investigation is close to its conclusion and that the fall Bishops Assembly will result in the conclusion of the process which will then result in all funds being transferred to the remaining partners.



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Ladies, I have so much good news to share that reflects the advocacy work that our League continues to do in support of those with no voice!



NATIONAL PALLIATIVE CARE FRAMEWORK:

On December 12, 2017 assent was given to Bill C-277, An Act providing for the development of a framework on palliative care in Canada. This enactment provides for the development of a framework designed to support improved access for Canadians to palliative care. Carter v. Canada emphasizes the importance of palliative care in the context of physician-assisted dying; Whereas the Final Report stated that a request for physician-assisted death cannot be truly voluntary if the option of proper palliative care is not available to alleviate a person's suffering; the Parliament of Canada recognizes the importance of ensuring that all Canadians have access to high-quality palliative care, especially in the context of physician-assisted death;

Now, therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:

The Minister of Health must, in consultation with the representatives of the provincial and territorial governments responsible for health, as well as with palliative care providers, develop a framework designed to support improved access for Canadians to palliative care — provided through hospitals, home care, long-term care facilities and residential hospices — that, among other things,

- (a) defines what palliative care is;
- (b) identifies the palliative care training and education needs of health care providers as well as other caregivers;
- (c) identifies measures to support palliative care providers;
- (d) promotes research and the collection of data on palliative care;
- (e) identifies measures to facilitate a consistent access to palliative care across Canada;
- (f) takes into consideration existing palliative care frameworks, strategies and best practices; and
- (g) evaluates the advisability of re-establishing the Department of Health's Secretariat on Palliative and End-of-Life Care.

The Minister of Health must prepare a report setting out the framework on palliative care and cause the report to be laid before each House of Parliament within one year after the day on which this Act comes into force.

Resolution 2016.04 to amend the Canada Health Act to Identify Palliative Care as an Insured Health Service is directly related to this legislation and is strengthened as the result of this new law.

CLOSING THE CIRCLE ON PROTECTION OF ALL LIFE:

Death penalty always 'inadmissible,' Catholic Church says, updating doctrine"

Pope Francis has changed Catholic Church teaching about the death penalty, saying in a new policy published Thursday that it is always "inadmissible" because it "attacks" the inherent dignity of all humans.

The Vatican said Francis had approved a change to the Catechism of the Catholic Church — the compilation of official Catholic teaching. Previously, the catechism said the church didn't exclude recourse to capital punishment "if this is the only possible way of effectively defending human lives against the unjust aggressor."

The new teaching, contained in Catechism No. 2267, says the previous policy is outdated, that there are other ways to protect the common good and that the church should instead commit itself to working to end capital punishment."

The Associated Press · Posted: Aug 02, 2018 8:48 AM ET

MANITOBA LEGISLATURE APPROVES LEGISLATION TO PROTECT CONSCIENCE RIGHTS OF PHYSICIANS

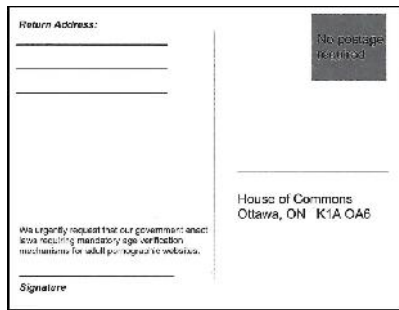
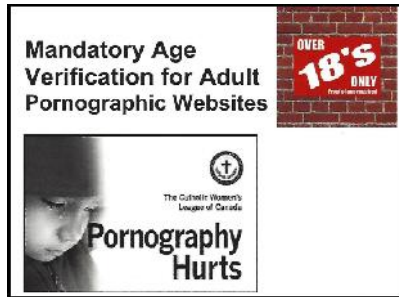
On November 9, 2017, Bill 34 passed the Manitoba Legislature unanimously! The MLA who spoke at the opening mass of our National Convention, gave specific credit to the CWL ladies not only in Manitoba, but those across the country, who supported the online petition in support of this bill. **His message was clear that our League, was a significant reason this important piece of legislation is now law in Manitoba.** Perhaps we can be strong advocates across our country to add other provinces to this list of safe places to work.




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Support Our Resolutions:

2017.02 Mandatory Age Verification Mechanisms for Adult Pornographic Websites





Screening Schedule

- Oct 24, 2018** **St. Michaels, Leduc** (5105-45A Street) at 7p.m.
Contact Shirley Bourque at 780-986-0445
- Oct 24, 2018** **St. Paul, Alberta** (Contact Celine Berlingette at celine.cb@cciwireless.ca for information on time and location)
- Nov 21, 2018** **St. Charles, Edmonton** (17511-112 Street) at 7p.m.
Contact Yvette d'Entremont at 780-457-1523

Contact your Diocesan CWL President's for information on showings in your areas.

The postcards purchased by Provincial Council are sold out, but councils are urged to purchase more cards on their own.

For information and assistance on ordering OVER 18 Postcards, please contact: **Sister Susan Scott**
abmkprovcomlife@gmail.com Phone: 780-968-5543

2018.03 Legislate Designation of Hospice/Palliative Care Services in Facilities to Exclude Medical Assistance in Dying.

The **Euthanasia Prevention Coalition** continues to encourage Canadians to sign [The Declaration of Hope](#) which strongly asserts that legalizing euthanasia and/or assisted suicide is bad public policy. The declaration supports the CWL's belief that all Canadians should have equal access to quality pain control; no matter where they live. We are encouraged to purchase the **Fatal Flaws** DVD and the **Caring Not Killing Pamphlet** and the **Shedding Light on Assisted Suicide in America Pamphlet**



The *Coalition for HealthCare and Conscience* encourage Alberta/Mackenzie residents to write to their MLAs and provide the following example for a letter campaign:

Dear MLA,
 I am writing to ask you to support the creation of pro-conscience legislation in our province like Bill 34 - the Medical Assistance in Dying (Protection for Health Professionals & Others) Act, which passed in Manitoba in November, 2017. Such legislation would protect Alberta health care professionals from having to act against their conscience. It would make participation in assisted suicide voluntary and would overrule the policies of regulatory bodies should they ever require doctors, nurses and other health professionals to participate in Medical Assistance in Dying. I agree that no one should be forced to participate, either directly or indirectly, in the process of ending a patient's life. This includes by making a referral. No one should be discriminated against because of their stand. Please take whatever legislative steps are required to ensure that no one is forced to participate in assisted suicide. Thank you.

National Palliative Care Framework

We are encouraged to write letters to the Prime Minister, Ministers of Health and members of Parliament and the Legislature.



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Education & Health
Mary Hunt

As the days grow shorter we are reminded that summer is drawing to a close and so begins in earnest the work and service of our councils. For many, Fall represents new beginnings, changes and challenges after the

relaxing and restorative days of summer. For me challenge and change came at the end of August when we moved after living 30 years in the home where we raised our children. I was not prepared for how much "stuff" we had accumulated over the years. I will be purging for many months to come...



The National Convention in Winnipeg was both memorable and enjoyable highlighted by meaningful daily liturgies with incredibly beautiful music woven throughout. We were blessed to have two Alberta Members (Fran Lucas & Cathy Bouchard) installed on the National Executive. We have been called to action by the Resolutions passed at the National Convention. Please look at my upcoming Communiques for more information.

I am very excited about the new national theme **Care for Our Common Home that starts in January 2019** and the possibilities it represents. Together we are challenged to look at the root causes of environmental harm so that we can protect our wilderness and wildlife, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and defend the right of all Canadians to clean air, safe water and a healthy planet. As Standing Chair for Education and Health, this theme provides rich possibilities for us to explore...Pope Francis approved!

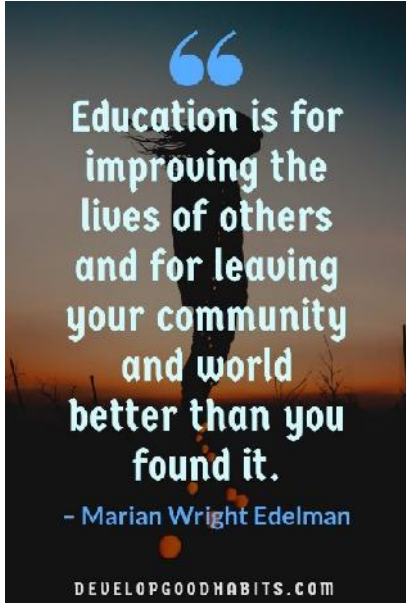
Palliative Care and Medical Assistance in Dying continue to be on our radar. The **Legalization of Marijuana** in October will bring with it education, health, legal and regulatory concerns. Please be reminded that **seasonal influenza immunizations will be available in October** and we are encouraged to participate in the program.

As the school year begins, ACSTA (Alberta Catholic School Trustees Association) is hosting a Legal Summit in Calgary on September 28th which will offer an opportunity for education and dialogue about the current legal challenges to Alberta's Catholic Separate Schools, the politics of Catholic education and the fiduciary responsibilities of Catholic trusteeship. The public is welcome to register and attend.

Keep the faith in the knowledge that all things are possible with God...He is truly our strength and salvation...we are never alone. Thank you for all you do in service to God and Canada.



Photo taken at the National Convention 200th Anniversary of the Church in Western Canada Dinner





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Communications – Annette deBoer



This summer my husband and I were blessed to attend the World Meeting of Families in Dublin, Ireland from August 21-26. We attended sessions on **Handing on the Faith in the Home Today**; **Handing on the Faith between the Generations: The Role of Grandparents**; **The Family: A Resource for Society**; **The Dignity and Beauty of Sexual Love: Finding New Language for Ancient Truths**; **Turning Technology to the Greater Good: Faith, Family & Technology**; **Pope Francis on the Gospel of the Family: What is Jesus Calling our Families to be?**; and **Glued to Our Phones: Can Technology become more Family Friendly?**

Each day consisted of multiple options for speakers and panel sessions in the morning, and then afternoons in the “Family Arena” with a keynote speaker, testimonials from families from all over the world, and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist in the afternoon. There were evening programs and an exhibit hall with vendors and religious communities from all over Ireland and the world displaying their information. We were blessed to have Pope Francis attend the Saturday “Festival of Families” and say mass for half a million people in Phoenix Park on Sunday.

The World Meeting of Families happens every three years. Our experience this past August is one example of how technology is able to enhance and benefit the experience of both those attending the event, and those who are only able to share from a distance. The World Meeting of Families website <https://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/en/> has access to videos of many of the sessions, and the speeches/sermons of Pope Francis while he was in Ireland. There is also a World Meeting of Families App ([WMOF2018](#)) that can be downloaded to your device and contains News, Blogs, Videos, and other information on the congress. I used this app daily while we were attending to help choose speakers and find locations and times.



Family Arena at the World Meeting of Families



Pope Francis at the Festival of Families, World Meeting of Families in Dublin, Ireland

The National CWL website, www.cwl.ca is currently undergoing updating so check back often to see what is new.

Visit the National CWL Facebook page – The Catholic Women’s League of Canada





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Legislation
Linda Vandenberg



The duties of the chairperson for the Legislation Standing Committee include:

- Monitoring and studying legislation at all levels of government
- Preparation of briefs and position papers on proposed legislation, and
- Organizing meetings with the provincial government on issues of concern to the provincial executive of the Catholic Women’s League.



ABMK Provincial CWL Hopes to Visit the Legislatures of AB and NWT

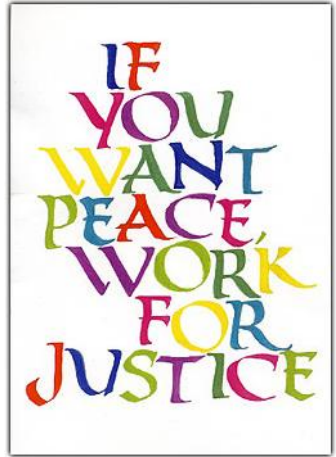


Taking the concerns of the members of the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council of the CWL directly to the government – one of the ways the CWL acts for social justice



September 14-16, 2018, the provincial executive of the CWL finalized the priorities for the next meeting with the provincial and territorial governments:

1. **ABMK Provincial Resolution 2018.01** to urge the provincial and territorial governments to officially recognize obesity as a chronic disease.
2. **National Resolution 2018.03** to bring concerns regarding the protection of health care providers’ conscience rights and urge the government to legislate that protection.
3. To ask that the government take action to alleviate the inequities regarding the availability of mental health services in rural Alberta, and
4. To remind the provincial government that the Catholic Women’s League are lobbying to have the Seniors Advocate Office independent of the government.



The office of the Premier of Alberta, Rachel Notley and the office of the Premier of the Northwest Territories, Bob McLeod have been contacted initially asking for a meeting at their convenience. The plan is to have our President, Education and Health Committee Chair, Resolutions Committee Chair and Legislation Committee Chair attend the meetings with the premiers. Follow up communications will occur and it is hoped that a meeting will be held with these officials before Christmas of this year.

In the meantime, members of the Alberta Mackenzie Catholic Women’s League continue to work for God and Canada. Members are urged to follow the action plans of the National organization with regards to the resolutions that have been passed both at National and Provincial levels.





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Resolutions – Sharon Malec

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



Resolutions accepted and passed at 2018 National Convention. The titles and resolved are included. As the National website is being updated, the resolutions will appear in their complete form as soon as possible.

Access the **CWL Resolutions Brochure** at www.cwl.ab.ca under “Resolutions” or click the link here: <http://www.cwl.ab.ca/ResolutionsBrochureProvincial.pdf>

2018 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 Winnipeg, August 12-15, three resolutions passed.

2018.01 Attestation Requirements on Canada Summer Jobs Program
Resolved, that national council of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada in 98th annual national convention assembled urge the federal government to remove the attestation for all future Canada Summer Jobs programs.

2018.02 Setting a Standard for products Marketed as Flushable
Resolved, that national council of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada in 98th annual national convention assembled urge the federal government to establish a national standard of testing and labelling of products marketed as “flushable”; and be it further **Resolved**, that this resolution be forwarded through the national executive to the provincial councils, encouraging them to become aware of this issue as it pertains to their province/territory, and to act on it, as deemed necessary/prudent.

2018.03 Legislate Designation of Hospice/Palliative Care Services in Facilities to Exclude Medical Assistance in Dying
Resolved, that national council of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada in 98th annual national convention assembled urge the federal government to legislate the designation of hospice/palliative care services in facilities to exclude medical assistance in dying; and, be it further **Resolved**, that this resolution be forwarded through the national executive to the provincial councils, encouraging them to become aware of this issue as it pertains to their province/territory, and to act on it, as deemed necessary/prudent.

Archiving Resolutions.

As we progress along, there are resolutions that have been addressed or are no longer of significance.

We archived these resolutions at National Convention.

Although we still hold them in our hearts, we know it is their time to be archived.

To see all the current and archived resolutions, visit the National CWL website, www.cwl.ca under the tab “To Act On”





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FATHER WALTER KREWSKI MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

Congratulations to the four CWL councils that were recipients of the 2017 Father Walter Krewski awards:

Greatest increase in NEW members	St. Mary's, Red Deer (Edmonton Archdiocese)
Greatest overall increase in membership.	St. Albert the Great, Calgary (Calgary Diocese)
Greatest percentage increase in membership	St. Joseph, Spirit River (Grouard-McLennan Diocese) AND Ascension, Calgary (Calgary Diocese)

Last year 49 councils across Alberta Mackenzie posted an increase in membership for a total increase in membership of 237! Well done ladies!



St Mary's, Red Deer

(L-R)
 Cheryl Booth, Edm Diocesan President
 Receiving for St Mary's Parish - Margaret
 Velthuis-Kroese, Past Pres Sacred Heart Parish
 Judy Look, Provincial Organization Chair



St Albert the Great, Calgary

(L-R)
 Judy Look, Provincial Organization Chair
 Kim Walker, St Albert the Great President
 Janet MacPhee, Calgary Diocesan President



St Joseph (Spirit River) & Ascension (Calgary)

(L-R)
 Theresa Granger, Member from Ascension
 Janet MacPhee, Calgary Diocesan President
 Irene Brassard, President Grouard-McLennan
 Judy Look, Provincial Organization Chair





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**PROVINCIAL
LIFE MEMBER LIAISON**

MARY LOU VEEKEN

Life Members in Alberta Mackenzie

**The Catholic Women's League in
Alberta Mackenzie welcomes two new Life
Members this year:
Judy Look from Calgary diocese, and
Ruth Boden from Mackenzie-Fort Smith diocese.
Congratulations!**

This brings the total number of Life Members in the provincial council to 37. For those who like CWL trivia, these are distributed geographically as follows:

- 12 Diocese of Calgary
- 14 Archdiocese of Edmonton
- 4 Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan
- 2 Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith
- 5 Diocese of St. Paul

And more Congratulations are in order: During national convention in Winnipeg in August, Life Member **Fran Lucas** (Edmonton) was elected President-Elect of the national council of the CWL. Wow!

Life Member **Cathy Bouchard** (Red Deer) was elected standing committee chair (Resolutions), and she was also the guest journalist for national convention.

In addition, kudos to Life Member **Dorothy Johansen** (Edmonton) for participating in the national elections process.

Life Member **Becky Kallal** shared her talents at national convention as the Parliamentarian for the business meetings.



L-R New Life Members Judy Look and Ruth Boden

The national Life Member Liaison for 2018-2020 is Ann Doucet of New Brunswick. She welcomes news about Life Members in Alberta Mackenzie – send it to me (Mary-Lou) for forwarding to Ann if there is something to be shared among Life Members across the country.

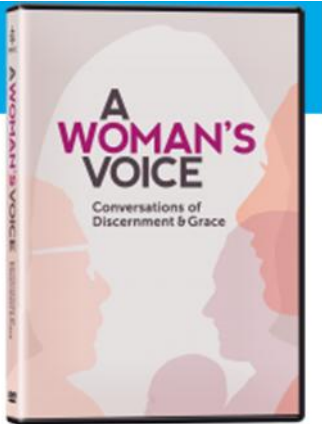
News to be shared with the 37 Life Members in Alberta Mackenzie can be sent to Mary-Lou via <cwlabmk@cwl.ab.ca>.





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Submitted by Cathy Bouchard, ABMK Past President



*Salt and Light has recently released “[“A Woman’s Voice: Conversations of Discernment and Grace”](#)”
 I have watched this and it is such a good documentary!!*

**You can watch the trailer at: <http://saltandlighttv.org/awomansvoice/watch>
 It would be a great activity to watch this as a council.**

To watch the full documentary, you can purchase it at <http://saltandlighttv.org>

Note: We are asked NOT to share it between councils but to purchase one DVD for each council. Salt+Light spent a huge amount of time and energy preparing this documentary and the accompanying Study Guide that is available when you purchase the DVD.

NEW YORK - A new documentary aims to evidence that while women may be “unable to break a stained glass ceiling of hierarchy,” that their role in the Church is “just as powerful and loving as any vocation.”

“A Woman’s Voice: Conversations of Discernment and Grace” was released on Easter Sunday by Salt and Light Catholic Media Foundation, and profiles 11 different Catholic women around the globe in their various capacities as mothers, diocesan chancellors, teachers, nuns, lawyers, and chief executive officers.

According to Father Thomas Rosica, CEO of Salt and Light, the Easter release was an intentional effort to highlight the role of women as the first witnesses to Christ’s Resurrection.

“Anyone who thinks that the early Church invented its accounts of the resurrection must ask themselves why the Gospels all insist on telling the story of the women who were the first witnesses,” Rosica said in a statement. “What was once believed to be ‘idle tales’ is now a bold, transparent testimony to the resurrection with real historical credibility.”

“Today, the Church still struggles to give women their due voice as witnesses to our risen life in Christ. Pope Francis has invited the Church to develop a deeper theology of women,” Rosica continued. “I sincerely hope that this documentary is a small, yet effective response to the pope’s invitation to the whole Church to give women a voice and recognize their tremendous witness in the world.”

Barbara Dowding, the current Vice Chancellor of the archdiocese of Vancouver, attests to the critical role in governance that she plays in terms of both “thought and thoughtfulness of the Catholic Church in Canada.”
<https://cruxnow.com/global-church/2018/04/05/a-womans-voice-showcases-women-with-powerful-loving-roles/>



To access photographs from the 98th Annual National Convention go to: www.cwl.ca under “In the News” look for the link to Convention photos. You can download or print until October 10, 2018



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Provincial Convention 2018
 St. James Parish, Okotoks
 June 1-2, 2018



Link to photos taken by Susan Penna, Calgary Diocese Media Representative:
<https://photos.google.com/share/AF1Q1qipP5VRaU4UdqqZk3pW2gXimOfIjQGL1Eb6puQqZA-JPI5sntZVkyWwAlXh6FS-TT24w?key=ZHJFSmZsN2iFa0tSVEh2V0RFNFNLUW9rRi1SOXhR>



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Elsie Yanik Award Recipient for 2018



The Alberta Mackenzie Provincial CWL council was pleased to present the 2018 'Elsie Yanik' award to Renee Spohn, a member of St. Martha's CWL in Lethbridge.

Elsie Yanik was woman of faith, courage, and dedication. Throughout her life she embraced each challenge placed in front of her. She said, "Make a difference. Create a better world by being kind. Kindness is enduring. Kindness is contagious. Kindness makes everyone feel good. Our Elsie Yanik recipient this year embodies these qualities.

Renee Spohn became a member of CWL in 2002. From that time to the present she has been actively involved in her home council holding the position of treasurer from 2004-2007 and the position of president from 2009-2015. When no one else would let their name stand for president she continued in the position indicating how important CWL was to her. From 2015-2107 she served as the treasurer of the Calgary Diocesan Council. She continues her dedication to CWL by being a member of the 2019 National Convention planning committee. In her time as a CWL members has spoken at retreats and facilitated workshops.

Renee has an Art and Management degree from the University of Lethbridge and works full time for Revenue Canada in their Calgary office. She is a dedicated wife and mother as her weekends are spent with her husband and three children in Lethbridge. In 2016 and 2017 she co-chaired a large fundraising event called the Western Tailgate Party.

Her council president says she exemplifies service to the people of God. She leads with humility and shares her leadership and organizational talents across our local community and beyond. She is a strong voice and advocate for our youth, women, and those in special need, especially needs related to poverty and disabilities.

One CWL sister who served with her on the diocesan council said "I was amazed at how level headed, calm and cool she always seemed to be, no matter the circumstance. She is very articulate, and a great leader. She has a strong faith in God and always puts others before herself.

Her sister Cindy shared the following poem that best describes her: .A Godly Woman by MS Lowndes

A woman of beauty
 A woman of grace
 A woman of excellence
 Beholding God's face
 She walks with the Lord
 With Integrity
 Knowing her purpose
 And destiny
 No matter what happens
 She walks in God's love
 Reflecting the beauty
 Of her Father above

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.

Visit www.cwl.ab.ca under Awards" to watch the 2018 Elsie Yanik Award presentation video.



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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

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

**Watch Out National!
 Here Comes
 ABMK**



YEEHAW!





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ABMK Goes to National Convention





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The Catholic Women's League of Canada
 98th Annual National Convention
 August 13-15, 2018





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98th Annual CWL National Convention: Highlights – Winnipeg August 11-15

Submitted by Judy Look, President-Elect

“There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest.” Elie Wiesel (Holocaust survivor)

Winnipeg CWL Provincial Council hosted over 600 delegates to the 98th CWL National Convention August 11-15th, 2018. What a wonderful hospitable group of women who greeted us with their smiles, hugs and generous hospitality.

Most delegates arrived on Saturday and we were no exception. Registration went smoothly, then a trip around the facilities to get the lay of the land and prepare for our first excursion to the Human Rights Museum. It was a journey through time as we read, listened and thought about the development of our rights and the lack there of when power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. There were many writings on the walls and the one that spoke to me as a woman and a CWL member is at the top of this report. This reflects are story as we work hard for the rights of the people in our country. Often we are not successful but we are faithful to our mission to be of service.



I thought of all the letters we have written and visits that we have made only to have the door closed on us but the door slammers know that we are vigilant and we are a voice for the most vulnerable.

Sunday afternoon August 12th called us to the resolutions dialogue with many other delegates from across the country to discuss the resolutions that would come to the business meeting. It gave us another opportunity to meet new women with whom we have a common bond.

Following the dialogue we hopped on buses to St. Boniface Cathedral for the Opening Eucharistic Celebration, Opening Ceremonies and Reception. Alberta Mackenzie processed two flags, Alberta and NWT, and it was my honour to process the North West Territories Flag. There is a true sense of community as all the smiling faces greet you and you realize what an amazing group of faith filled women we are from sea to sea to sea. Margaret Ann Jacobs, National President declared the convention open and the reception that followed was wonderful with great food and members getting to know each other.

The next morning, Monday the 13th came early as we had Mass at 8 am followed by the business meeting at 9:15. Margaret Ann Jacobs began the meeting with acknowledging the peoples and lands of Treaty One. We listened to greetings from the following women's organizations: World Union of Catholic Women Organization (WUCWO), Ukraine Catholic Women's Organization, Presbyterian Women's Missionary Society, United Church Women Manitoba and NWT and Women's Inter-church Councils of Canada.

Then on to business with the usual presenting of agenda, minutes, roll call, etc. Following that we heard from the Military Ordinariate and Provincial Presidents as they shared the stories of their provinces.

The reports of the national officers followed. The resolutions mentioned earlier were discussed under the individual officer's report. Each resolution had much discussion with amendments being made, voted on, accepted or rejected until the assembly felt they had the best product. The final results will be in the League magazine.

A question arose about Development and Peace. Bishop McGrattan shared that an in depth evaluation of the partners of D&P is being conducted by the CCCB and once that is completed the funds collected will be dispersed either back to councils or forwarded to D&P. (See also the report from Sister Susan under Community Life)



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98th Annual CWL National Convention: Highlights (Continued)

Other Funds collected and disbursed were as follows
Canadian Missions \$37,039.38
Euthanasia Prevention Coalition \$19,702.00
Development and Peace \$63,220.90 (On hold)
CNEWA \$16,097.85
Coady Institute \$27,719.82

The day ended with the New Life Members service. As a participant in the service it felt very sacramental. The Bishop blessed our hands for service and we signed ourselves with the Holy Water. As the honorary life members held their hands over us we could feel the history of our League and as the membership sang the blessing song we knew and felt the presence of God.



Tuesday, August 14th was workshop day. The morning began with Mass at the St. Mary's Cathedral followed by participating in two of six workshop. The two workshops I attended were Indigenous Issues where members were called to participate in an Indigenous Food Security Blanket Exercise and Homelessness where we had a presentation on a homeless shelter in Winnipeg and how they work at meeting the needs of their clients. Each workshop was ninety minutes long and the Indigenous Issues workshop because it was a three hour workshop squashed into ninety minutes a lot of the experience and information was lost.

Our keynote speaker in the afternoon was Archbishop Murray Chatlain, Archbishop of Keewatin-Le Pas, Manitoba. He presented twice. The first presentation was about reconciliation and the second on discerning what God wants from us. In the first presentation he asked: "What does reconciliation look like?"

He then proposed three principles that guide the process:

- We are all part of a common humanity
- We all have the capacity to evolve and change
- We all yearn for unity and peace

He then outlined the steps in the process

1. We need to let go of our need to be right
2. We have heartfelt hope that the other will find healing
[We pray for the other > We desire to understand the other > Knowledge is the first step in reconciliation](#)
3. We need to be open about recognizing our own darkness
[There is saint and sinner in each of us > Running from dark emotions is what sinks us](#)
4. Patience
[We need sacred spaces where we are being urged to stand still > We need to create spaces of true dialogue](#)

He then posed the question: How can the work of reconciliation apply to us?

To help us with our answer he gave us the following questions which we discussed at our tables

- What fears and prejudices are in us that hold us back from real dialogue?
- Who could you call on to teach you more about the issues?
- What event could you attend to help you grow in your knowledge of the issues?
- What is one practical step that you can make towards greater reconciliation?

Discernment - listening to God to hear what he wants of us was the focus of his second talk. He shared with us the process he uses for himself when needing to make decisions and choices. His process is rooted in Ignatian spirituality.



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He suggested to hear God we must **listen slowly**. We must actively work at this.

Our ears need to be at God's mouth. In other words we need to read scripture for that's where God uses words. We need to use our gift of intelligence. We need to seek out information, make a list of ideas, consult with people that know us and then make a list of three options. We then bring those options to God and repeat them three times very slowly. Within this we are given the gift of uncertainty as uncertainty keeps us praying to God. The following is what God says to us when we go to Him:

**Let go of all things that dishonor him.
 Wait. Don't rush into anything.**

**Let go of our attachments.
 God tells us all will be well.**

Wednesday August 15th we continued with our business meeting which included a presentation on the strategic plan. We learned the gathering of information is over; goals, objectives and a timeline have been set. An implementation team will be formed to get everything moving forward

Velma Harrison, Past Honorary Life member gave a report from WUWCO as their representative had a heart attack and was unable to attend. Rita James gave us a report on the Leadership Foundation. Bishop McGrattan gave his final report and reminded us to stay the course. He then introduced Bishop Jensen the new national spiritual advisor.

Ann Gorman presented the theme for 2019-2020 "Care for our Common Home". Credentials were presented with a grand total of 683 people attending convention.

We had great representation from Alberta and the North West Territories. We were 75 strong at our Alberta-NWT Provincial Dinner Tuesday night. The roll out of the 2019 National Convention on Wednesday had almost all of the 75 participate. The parliamentarian Becky Kallal and guest journalist Cathy Bouchard were both Alberta life members.

Meeting was adjourned following the elections. We headed to St. Mary's Cathedral for the Closing Mass and retiring of flags and all enjoyed the Gala Banquet



New National Executive

- Anne Marie Gorman – President
- Fran Lucas – President Elect/Organization
- Shari Guinta – First Vice President/Spiritual
- Doreen Gowans – 2nd Vice President
- Janet McLean – Secretary/Treasurer
- Margaret Ann Jacobs – Past President/Laws
- Pat Deppiesse – Christian Family Life
- Marie Rackley – Community Life
- Faith Anderson – Education and Health
- Cathy Bouchard – Resolutions
- Betty Colaneri – Legislation



**National Convention –
 Spiritual Highlights**
 Submitted by Betsy Fletcher

Archbishop Albert LeGatt presided over a beautiful opening Eucharistic celebration held at St. Boniface Cathedral on August 12th. The Archbishop, using humour, welcomed everyone to Friendly Manitoba and Winnipeg – not Winterpeg! He used his homily to teach us about the beauty of Manitoba and its rich history. The Church is celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the arrival of the first two Catholic priests and one seminarian sent from Quebec. The clergy came at the invitation of the Métis and Lord Selkirk. This Scottish Lord, a protestant, also invited the Anglicans to come – early ecumenism. Archbishop LeGatt spoke about how the women came and helped. The CWL continues to do that with their faith. Archbishop LeGatt recognizes that the CWL faces challenges with declining membership and the reluctance of members to take on leadership roles. **The CWL is the voice of the feminine genius and we will continue to be that voice through our work, welcoming diversity and inclusiveness.**

Our Monday morning Mass was offered by National Spiritual Advisor, Bishop William McGrattan. In his homily he helped us to reflect on how Christ is always with us – even when we aren't with Him. God has chosen to recreate us through the Eucharist, a moment of transcendence and a gift of God's presence and the gift of one another – he has chosen to walk among us. He spoke of the power of the CWL when we gather; we lift up, transforming power in the love of God. The liturgy unites us.

At the Monday afternoon closing prayer, we celebrated the commissioning of new Life Members with Bishop McGrattan blessing the hands of the new Life members and the work they will continue to do for the League.

Tuesday morning began with a Eucharistic celebration at St. Mary's Cathedral. Our new Spiritual Advisor, Most

Reverend Stephen Jensen (Prince George), was our celebrant. He reflected on St. Maximilian Kolbe and his life and mission; his witness to Jesus with his life. St. Maximilian teaches us how to respond with faith, trust, perseverance, hope and joy.

Tuesday afternoon ended with a memorial to our deceased members. It was a moving ceremony with each Provincial President placing a rose into a vase for our deceased members. National President Margaret Anne Jacobs placed a pure white rose in memory of our deceased spiritual advisors.

Just prior to our closing Mass, attendees were invited to participate in a Smudging Ceremony in the ruins of St. Boniface Cathedral. This ceremony is a tradition common to many First Nations. Smudging allows us to stop, slow down and become mindful and centred – prepared for a spiritual gathering.



The closing Mass on Wednesday, was presided by His Grace, Most Reverend Richard Gagnon, D.D. He focused on our Blessed Mother Mary and her response to God's call. She was the mother of the Lord and lived it throughout her life. We are also called to live in a world of grace by virtue of our baptism. Her cousin Elizabeth was also inspired by the spirit to answer the call to a free response. Her response helps us to understand Mary's – a response from the heart, a formal response of word and action.

Throughout the convention, members participated in daily opening and closing prayers led by national officers. These celebrations brought us together in common prayer and prepared us for the work ahead of each session. We also had the opportunity to visit the beautiful and calming prayer room.

The time spent in worship with our sisters from across the country, aided by so many Archbishops, Bishops and Reverend Fathers, was truly an inspiring exercise in the power of praying together in a common theme – love for our League and for Canada.



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Canada comes to Calgary – National Convention 2019

SAVE THE DATE

CWL NATIONAL CONVENTION – AUGUST 18-21, 2019
 The Hyatt Regency Hotel and Conference Center, Calgary,





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Diocesan Council Updates

**Calgary Diocesan President
Janet McPhee**



The following information is from the website of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary:
www.calgarydiocese.ca

"Welcome to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary. Established in 1912, our diocese stretches 110,000 square kilometers, spread across southern Alberta. Comprised of over 400,000 Catholics, 68 parishes and 11 missions, the diocese is led by Bishop William T. McGrattan.

The history of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary is one of growth, change, immigration, adaptation and hope.

Spanning almost 100 years the joys and struggles of all of its people give the present its character. The diocese has developed from a sparsely populated backwater cared for by a few faithful priests to a vibrant, multicultural community encompassing rural hamlets and high-rise city condos."

The history of the Catholic Women's League in the Diocese of Calgary has also been one of growth and change.

We were fortunate to have two councils activate in the past year, but we also had two councils close. The Catch the Fire workshop continues to be offered and councils are willing to have it presented at their parishes. Two councils have been granted the Father Walter Krewski awards this year (for 2017 memberships) and the Diocesan Officers continue to answer questions regarding memberships and taking on leadership roles.

Councils continue to reward their members with years of service pins, Maple Leaf pins and other gifts of appreciation. Sacred Heart CWL Council in Strathmore has awarded the Belle Guerin Pin to a member and the Provincial Council awarded the Elsie Yanik award to a member of the St. Martha's CWL, Lethbridge.

The Fall Meeting and Workshops will take place on September 22, 2018 at St. George's, Hanna, Alberta. At this meeting we will have a Leadership Workshop by Dorothy Johansen, Life Member from the Edmonton Diocese. Along with that each individual chair will have a workshop session to discuss with attendees what each chair involves.

National 2019 Planning Committee – has been hard at work and now we are into the final months of preparation to welcoming sisters, clergy and guests from across Canada next August. I was very pleased with the presentation given by the committee and with the many extra CWL members from Alberta Mackenzie that helped with the presentation. Alberta and the Diocese of Calgary will truly be represented.

Alberta Mackenzie was well represented at the National Convention in Winnipeg this past August.

The Calgary Diocesan Council will continue to encourage our members to work on resolutions passed at National this year and in years past. Mental Health and Pornography postcards will continue to be purchased and sent to all levels of members of parliaments.

As with all dioceses in Alberta Mackenzie and many other dioceses across Canada, the distances members travel for meetings, conventions, retreats are great. Let us continue to pray for all sisters as they travel across their dioceses, provinces and Canada doing service to God and Canada

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





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**Mackenzie Ft. Smith Diocese
Gerda Hazenberg**

**RENEWAL THROUGH OUR ARCHIVES
ST. JOSEPH COUNCIL FORT SMITH 2018**



In the summer of 2017, the St. Joseph's CWL council appeared to be non-existent. Many women had stopped being active members and several of the key executive members had left the community. But that did not stop the nucleus of women determined to spread the faith through the sisterhood of the CWL. They knocked on around 100 doors inviting women for tea and fellowship.

By January 2018 a new executive was established through many prayers, reflection and hard work. At present, the council holds 14 members (from a 30-year-old new Mom to age 80+) and they have bravely forged ahead to invite our diocese to hold our annual convention in their community on Feb. 28!

While reflecting and searching for Divine guidance in their journey, the sisters were inspired to go through the many boxes stored in the back of the choir loft of their cathedral. (The St. Joseph's Cathedral will be celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2019 and was originally designated as the Diocesan Centre before Yellowknife became the capital.) What they found was so astounding that they have decided to build a museum in the left entrance of the cathedral. They found 60 beautiful tabernacle covers, numerous chalices, vestments, many, many pounds of beautiful lace (from France), and much more. There were even boxes filled with materials from early missions which had closed. With the support of our Bishop the ladies kept what they felt they could use and sent the rest to our archives in Yellowknife. The women have developed an information flyer which is available at the village historical centre and through that offer tours of the cathedral three afternoons per week. Some women are presently sewing beautiful seat covers with the lace for the elders attending mass. Another group is interviewing elders and will produce a booklet filled with stories of the early missionaries.



The St. Joseph council in Fort Smith was once a group of women who held the village's annual fall fair and raised funds for charities. Now they are sisters united in bringing people back to their church and dedicated to growing in their faith. This fall at their meetings they plan to study Bishop Robert Barron's series entitled "The Mass".



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Edmonton Diocesan President Cheryl Boom

I just returned from the 98th National CWL Convention in Winnipeg and was honored to be part of the 683 delegates and guests.



Edmonton Diocese was well represented at this convention! It was great to see a few fellow Diocesan Officers and many parish members as well! I am re-energized, inspired and excited to continue to serve for the next year as Edmonton Diocesan President. My hope is that I can effect change and make a difference by sharing my gifts and talents!



I still believe that CWL is a gift of faith, friendship and support and over the next year I will continue to focus on unity and truly working together as a team. We need to nurture the faith of one another and build each other up and provide encouragement along the way!

Many of you have been inspired by the Holy Spirit and responded to God's call by educating yourselves, making changes in society and enriching our faith communities. You have contributed to the mission of the church and we all benefited from your wisdom, experiences and action. May you continue to grow spiritually, acquire new insights and renew your energy to continue to respond to God's call and encourage and mentor others on the journey.

Our Fall Executive Meeting will be held in Lacombe on September 29th and the ladies at St. Stephen are looking forward to hosting us in their new hall. Our guest speaker is Serena Shaw, President of the Alberta Catholic School Trustees Association. She will be speaking to us on protecting Catholic Education. We will be sharing information on the action plan for planning strategically that was approved by the National Executive at National Convention.

We will be showing the Over 18 Documentary on October 24th at St. Charles, Edmonton and November 21st and St. Michael, Leduc. More information will be posted on our web page. Please join us!

I have been invited to attend the 35th CWL Anniversary of St. Theresa Council in Edmonton on September 22nd, the 60th CWL Anniversary of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Council in Sherwood Park on October 13th, the 65th CWL Anniversary of St. Rose of Lima in Onoway on October 20th and I will also be attending Convocation on October 13th and I am proud to say that Belinda Halbach, Diocesan Spiritual Development Chair, will be graduating with a Masters of Divinity Degree.

Our Midwinter Executive Meeting will be held at St. John Bosco parish in Edmonton on February 2nd. Planning will begin later this year.

The 97th Annual Diocesan Convention will be in Lloydminster from April 26-28th which will be hosted by Zone 4 under the direction of Co-Chairs Gail Seitz-Gratton and Pat Huber-Kolenosky. Planning is underway. The Zone 4 Councils involved are St. Mary, Provost, St. Anthony, Lloydminster and Holy Name of Jesus, Vermillion. The new National theme "**Care for our Common Home**" will be woven into the program, choice of speakers and spiritual programs.

I look forward to working with all of you to fulfill our revised Mission Statement: "**The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.**"

May our loving God continue to bless each of you, your families and your parish councils!





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**Grouard-McLennan Diocesan President
Irene Brassard**



Since the Provincial Post Convention meeting, June 3rd, 2018 Grouard McLennan Diocesan Council has visited Peace River, Grimshaw, Fairview and Spirit River.

Peace River has a concerns but their Council is dealing with this as best they can. They have many plans for 2018-19. Grimshaw's long-time president would like to see someone step up to the plate but will carry on as before. They have 2 new members transferred from McLennan – may they enrich their council. Fairview has members from Whitelaw Council in their Seniors Home for now. They are very active in their church and community.



Spirit River, a fairly new group, was presented with the 2018 Walter Krewski Award for 6 months because of their member increase-yeah!
 (L-R Irene Brassard (Diocesan President), Bernadette Wlad (Spirit River President), Spirit River member, Donna Prevost (Diocesan Communications Chair)

Christine Becher, Diocesan President-elect, attended CWL National Convention in Winnipeg August 11-14, 2018 and will give us a report September 22nd in Berwyn ay our Diocesan executive meeting.

Diocesan Council remains available to answer questions, support and visit if possible. All Provincial communiques are read and forwarded to respective diocesan chairs.

As Barbara Dowding stated in her report, "we would die, rather than see our council fold", it is sharing, practicing and evangelizing Jesus' and Mary's presence. Holy Spirit, lead us. For God and Canada.

From the Grouard-McLennan Convention held April 21, 2018 in McLennan

(L-R)
 President - Irene Brassard,
 Secretary Donna - Prevost,
 Christian Family Life - Lynne Oe,
 Father Eucharius





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**St Paul Diocesan President
Celine Berlinguette**

As I reflect on this past year, I wonder where has the time gone?

The St. Paul Diocesan Council has had its regular mid-winter meeting and convention and now are in the process of planning for our fall meeting.

One of the highlights at our Convention was the Strategic Planning exercise that we went through with our Provincial President June Fuller. All comments received on the process were positive. The workshop "Faceless Dolls" reflecting the plight of missing and murdered Indigenous Women was also touching and emotional.

Another highlight at our Convention was the presentation of the Dorothy Roberts Award to a worthy recipient, Jeanette Boutin from the Clyde Council. This award is presented to a CWL member from the Diocese of St. Paul who is a member in good standing, who portrays a leadership role and has demonstrated a commitment to ministry and service in an area, or areas, of need in a parish or community.

In June, several of our members attended the Convention in Okotoks and in August we had one member attend the National Convention in Winnipeg.

Communiqués, newsletters and the League Magazine are all good ways of sharing information and informing us what is happening at the different levels of the organization. Our Councils value the information received from all levels of the Catholic Women's League.

Each of our nineteen Councils meet on a regular basis to pray, socialize and stay current with Provincial and National initiatives. They are very active within their Councils, Parishes, Communities and Diocese. Several of our members have attended special services at the St. Paul Cathedral: Mgr. Robert Poulin's funeral, the Chrism Mass and in June the ordination of four Deacons.

For the past four years, our Diocese has had Regional Masses in each of its Deaneries in the months of September and October. Our ladies are quite involved in the planning of these masses. This year the theme is "Vocations". A Prayer for Vocations is recited at Sunday Masses in many of our parishes. The CWL Diocesan Council as well as many of our CWL Parish Councils support our seminarians not only through prayer but also monetarily.

During the summer months, the CWL activities have been kept to a minimum. Now that we are in September, plans are now underway for the presentation of the Over 18 Documentary. Contact has been made with the Parish Presidents of St. Paul and Westlock where the viewings will take place. They are looking at booking a venue for the end of October or beginning of November. Much work still has to be done.



Our Diocesan Fall meeting will be held on October 13th in Legal. I look forward to seeing my Sisters in the League!

Members of St Paul Diocesan CWL at Provincial Convention

