

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL



**PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT
REPORT 2024
Mary Hunt**

Sisters in the League,

ABMK Provincial Council closed the 2023 year on a high note with the completion of a very successful **Help to Feed the North Initiative** led by the ABMK Provincial CWL Council and The Society of St. Vincent de Paul. In seven weeks over \$60,000.00 was raised in monetary donations and donations in kind and delivered to support our Sisters and Brothers in Hay River and Fort Smith in the NWT. Food, hygiene items, quilts and blankets were trucked in two Sea Cans that were left in the two communities for the continuing use of their Food Banks. The donations were a tangible expression of our care and concern for the members of our northern family. Thank you for your generosity in supporting this initiative...we received many individual donations and council donations from your Diocese which were received with much gratitude in the two communities that benefited. The Mackenzie Fort Smith Diocese were most grateful for the **Help to Feed the North Initiative** and the donations of food and money.

ABMK Councils eagerly sought to welcome members to in-person winter, regional, and executive meetings, and conventions to promote the **Catholic & Living It Theme** and celebrated the introduction of the new National Theme **Here I Am Lord, Send Me**.

The 2023 ABMK Provincial Convention in Edmonton was attended by over 200 members with **47 first time attendees** who had never attended a provincial convention before. Our Convention Speakers were outstanding and included then National President Fran Lucas, Archbishop Richard Smith and Chief Wilton Littlechild who was instrumental in bringing Pope Francis to Canada. The gathering erupted in laughter when like in the skipping rhyme Chief Wilton described himself as a Doctor, Lawyer, and Indian Chief which are three actual titles he possesses. Our Opening Mass & Opening Ceremony was held at **Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples** where Pope Francis had celebrated Mass. It was both a memorable & moving evening.

The National Theme: **"Catholic and Living It" and the new theme "Here I Am Lord, Send Me"** have been embraced by councils. Themed prayer cards have been used at gatherings, meetings, and events. The theme inspired councils to place a greater focus on outreach with one another, community organizations and local Catholic schools. It impacted their spiritual programs and widened their vision of faith by connecting their spiritual words to actions. Councils were more willing to try something new and some councils noted that the theme has led to members becoming more involved in visible ministries. All dioceses commented that our faith clearly unites us in fellowship and drives our desire to work hard through service and to make a difference through social justice. Members reflected on being proud to be Catholic and being authentic witnesses of faith, treating each other with respect and warmth, and giving voice to new ideas for a more vibrant CWL full of action and purpose.

- **ABMK was invited by Alberta Campus Based Treatment Centres** to participate in a **Quilt Project** to provide youths in our five Dioceses with their own quilt when they arrive at the Centres to serve as a tangible reminder that there are people who do care about them and love them. Judy Look has agreed to collect quilts from the Calgary area.
- **ABMK met with the Provincial Government** both in 2023 and in 2024 to discuss various areas of concern and our commitment to bring a moral compass (not just the bottom line) to government decision making which included:
 - **the growing need for an Independent Seniors Advocate** reporting to the Legislative Assembly about health, housing, income support, transportation, loneliness, senior abuse, end of life issues etc.
 - **Need for Good Palliative Care:** a recent study indicates that only 12 percent of Albertans wanting and needing palliative care are receiving it. Canada is becoming known as the worst global example of the legalization of euthanasia & MAiD and the ongoing consideration of MAiD for mental health reasons including depression.
 - **Our Belief in the Sanctity of Life from Conception to Natural Death.** We supported and participated in the Mass for Life, Rally and March for Life both in 2023 and in 2024. A CWL member sits on their Board.
 - **Our Opposition to Pornography.** The Canadian Senate passed Bill S-210 which marks the most significant progress in Canadian history for legislation designed to prevent children from accessing pornographic content online. All CWL members should be proud of the national postcard campaign we have continued for many years...we can congratulate ourselves.
 - **Resolution 2022.1: Enact Federal Legislation to Reduce Food Loss and Waste:** which was brought forward by the Diocese of Calgary. The Provincial Ministers were very interested in what we had to say and saw provincial implications as well.
 - **And Reaffirmation of our support for Publicly Funded Catholic Education.**
 - Every Wednesday evening members from across Alberta and the NWT join in the **Alberta Mackenzie Prays the Rosary** led by Judy Look who has embraced it as a special ministry. It is an inspired way to pray and connect with others. A virtual **Truth & Reconciliation Retreat** led by Father Cristino Bouvette was held and attracted CWL members from across Canada. Recently, one of our members, Renee Spohn was appointed a member of the National Truth & Reconciliation Committee.
 - A new ABMK website was developed which through time will serve ABMK very well.

In conclusion, the work of the Catholic Women's League in Alberta and the Northwest Territories continued to flourish under effective leadership at all executive levels. Our women contributed and made a significant difference not only to the League but to their local communities, their province, Canada and beyond. As strong women of faith, voices of advocacy and grateful for the blessings received from God, they shared their blessings with others. It has been said " *There are two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle*". It can be said that the women of Alberta Mackenzie believe life is a miracle.

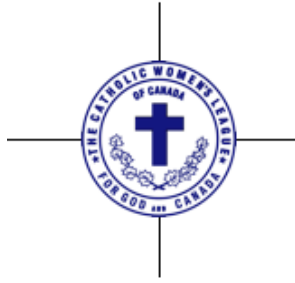
Thank you for the privilege of serving as your ABMK Provincial President from 2022-2024.

As Catholic women we are profoundly grateful for our deep calling to care as we nurture relationships, laugh with one another and cry with one another as we live out our *Mission: The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.*

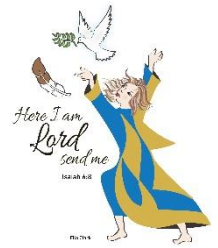
This concludes my report,

Mary J. Hunt

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial President



The Catholic Women's League of Canada
ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL



**PROVINCIAL VICE PRESIDENT/SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT
REPORT 2024
Janet MacPhee**

Madam President;

In a letter to the President of the Pontifical Council regarding the 2025 Jubilee Year, Pope Francis states "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire; that is why I have chosen as the motto of the Jubilee, *Pilgrims of Hope*"

In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year '**Pilgrims of Hope,**' 2024 has been designated a **Year of Prayer.**

Pope Francis states: '...I would greatly desire that we devote 2024, the year preceding the Jubilee event, to a great "symphony" of prayer:

... to renew our desire to be in the presence of the Lord, to listen to him and to adore him.

... to thank God for the many gifts of his love for us and to praise his work in creation, which summons everyone to respect it and to take concrete and responsible steps to protect it.

... as the expression of a single "heart and soul" (cf. *Acts 4:32*), which then translates into solidarity and the sharing of our daily bread.

... that makes it possible for every man and woman in this world to turn to the one God and to reveal to him what lies hidden in the depths of their heart.

...as the royal road to holiness, which enables us to be contemplative even in the midst of activity.

In a word, may it be an intense year of prayer in which hearts are opened to receive the outpouring of God's grace and to make the "Our Father," the prayer Jesus taught us, the life programme of each of his disciples'.

In this year of prayer let us add a few more "Our Fathers" to our daily prayers. There is a document that can be downloaded called ""TEACH US TO PRAY"" Living the Year of Prayer in Preparation for Jubilee 2025,

<https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/content/dam/iubilaeum2025/foto-sezioni/2024-anno-della-preghiera/insegnaci-a-pregare/pdf/nuovi/TEACH-US-TO-PRAY---Living-the-Year-of-Prayer.pdf>

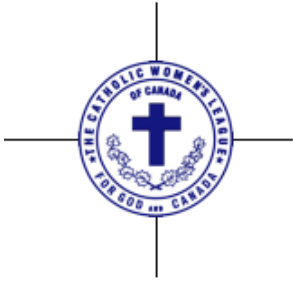
A very useful resource especially as there are times when praying can be a struggle. Going forward to 2025 and the Jubilee Year, 'Pilgrims of Hope', prayer, a copy which is in your registration package. A suggestion for your faith development into 2025 would be to recite this prayer along with all the other prayers that we as faithful women do.

One of the accomplishments of this previous year was the Virtual Retreat celebrating ***Truth & Reconciliation Day*** on **Sunday October 1st, 2023**. The Retreat Facilitator was Father Cristino Bouvette. Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Strathmore Alberta. The retreat was a compelling gathering encouraging us as we *Walk together as People of Faith*. Approximately 100 ladies attended and had a chance to engage with Fr. Cristino as we continue to walk with our indigenous sisters and brothers on the journey of Truth and Reconciliation.

As we all know, the Implementation Committees for Strategic Planning has been very busy creating recourses for all to use. I suggest searching the National website for many of the prayers, manuals and workshops that are available. They have been created for our use, let us use them.

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

This concludes my report,
Janet MacPhee, Vice President/Spiritual



The Catholic Women's League of Canada
ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL



**PROVINCIAL SECRETARY
REPORT 2024
Jan Myhre**

Madam President;

This past year we heard from 85 councils throughout Alberta Mackenzie, from our most southern councils near the US border, all the way up to Yellowknife, our most northern council. From the Saskatchewan border to near the BC border, and councils in between. It's been wonderful to see how active councils are, even the small councils of 4 or 5 members.

If you want to learn anything about the Catholic Women's League, go to the national website at cwl.ca. Pretty easy to remember...cwl.ca. It is continuously being updated with many new items. National has provided a new document called the [Keyword Catalogue #648](#) under the Resources/Manuals tab. This is a comprehensive list of keywords used in the League and members can type a word from the catalogue into the search bar to find all items that include that word. For example, if you "MAiD", or "Human Trafficking" into the search bar, various articles and Communiques will show up.

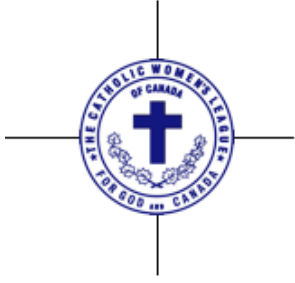
If you click on the "Contact Us" tab, you'll see Provincial and Diocesan e-mail addresses. It's important that national office has the correct information. Now that the diocesan councils have held their elections, please ensure national office is provided with the correct email addresses.

With the implementation of the new structure regarding national communications, emails from national office are being sent to the Provincial President and Secretary, which are then forwarded to the appropriate person or committee chair. Urgent matters are sent to all levels, but this is only for exceptional circumstances. All Communiques are posted under the "Act" tab.

Many councils use social media, and have created a Facebook account, or other type of social media account, which is a great way to share information, post photos of special celebrations, etc. There are guidelines in the *National Manual of Policy and Procedures* if you're interested in creating an account, and of course, if you need assistance, you can always reach out.

Why do you belong to the Catholic Women's League of Canada? All Catholic women should be a member of the League, do you agree? Share your CWL story with women of your parish. Check out the new website [Catholic Women Unite](#), which provides great videos to promote the League, to find purpose and fulfillment by becoming a member, to advocate on issues that matter to us as Catholic women.

This concludes my report,
Jan Myhre, Provincial Secretary



The Catholic Women's League of Canada
ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL



PROVINCIAL TREASURER
REPORT 2024
Celine Berlinguette

Madam President;

The Financial Review for 2023 was completed by Walter H. Ryl, chartered Professional Accountant in Lac La Biche, Alberta.

The Statement of Financial Position, at December 31st, 2023 shows our current assets at \$153,769.00. The statement of Revenue and Disbursements for 2023 shows a deficit of \$1,520.00.

The per capita revenue as of December 31st, 2023 was \$47,262.00 When the per capita is received it may include amounts from previous years as well as amounts for 2023. The December 31, 2023 report shows \$46,410.00 (7,735 members).

In 2023, each of the five Diocesan Councils received \$1,000.00 to help members attend their first Provincial convention. These funds fell under the National Grant program, and as of December 31st the \$5,000.00 grant funds had not been received.

At our September 2023 meeting, the Feed the North initiative was approved with the Provincial Council approving a \$5,000.00 donation to kick off the project and our CWL and other community members generously started sending in monetary donations to help the Northern communities of Hay River and Fort Smith after the ravaging fires that evacuated their communities. In total \$50,863.00 in cash was raised. \$46,332.00 has been allocated to date on: groceries, St. Vincent de Paul and the Diocese of Mackenzie – Fort Smith to provide food to other small communities that were also affected by the fires. \$350.00 has been set aside to purchase paint in the coming months for protection and dedication of the sea cans given to Hay River and Fort Smith. Although, the in-kind donations received from St. Vincent de Paul (sea cans), Manitoulin Trucking (free trucking) and Frieson Bros. (discount on grocery purchases) added greatly to the success of our initiative, their donation values are not included in this report as it did not affect our cash flow.

Officers and Director insurance in the amount of \$1,665 was purchased by Provincial council to cover the five Diocesan Council officers as well as the Provincial Council Officers. This insurance is a protection in cases of allegations and lawsuits.

Nickels for the North collected \$5,587 in 2023 and paid that amount to the Mackenzie Fort Smith Diocesan Council as well as the \$4,117 that was collected in 2022.

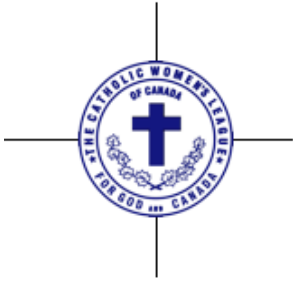
The Alberta March for Life voluntary fund accumulated \$750.00 in 2023 which was paid at the end of the year, as well as the \$550 that was collected in 2022.

Under the heading of "donations" an amount of \$3,500.00 is reported. This was the amount that was granted to the Calgary Diocesan Council for the Parliamentarian workshop.

After last year's convention, e-transfers were set up to accept deposits to the Provincial Council's bank account. It has proven to be an efficient way to do business. It was used by many of our members for the Feed the North initiative as well as for paying the fees for this convention.

I move to accept the review of the Financial Statements of the Alberta Provincial Council for the year 2023, compiled by Walter H. Ryl, Chartered Professional Accountant, as printed in the Annual Report Book.

This concludes my report,
Celine Berlinguette
Provincial Treasurer



The Catholic Women's League of Canada
ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL



PROVINCIAL ORGANIZATION
REPORT 2024
Betsy Fletcher

Madam President;

The past few months have been busy for our provincial council, as well as for this Organization Chair.

Virtual meetings continued to be a great way to meet for various issues. Meeting with National Vice-President, Betty Colaneri monthly has helped enormously. These meetings gave all provincial vice-presidents an opportunity to share and learn from each other as well as ask Betty questions about what is going on with the National Council and how we can encourage our members to participate in initiatives such as the "1" Campaign, designed to bring awareness to our membership through the use of catch phrases. May's catch phrase was "1 Mother for All, Mary".

Online webinars have been very interesting. During Lent, National President Shari Guinta, Bishop Lobsinger and Rolande Chernichan presented an online retreat featuring "Mary's Way of the Cross"; another webinar was offered just last week entitled "A Good Death: The Challenge for Christians Today". If you missed this important webinar, it was recorded and can be found on the National website. Please take advantage of these webinars as they become available.

Due to extreme weather conditions in January, our Provincial Mid-Winter meeting had to be held virtually. It was decided at that meeting that we should meet in person in March at Star of the North.

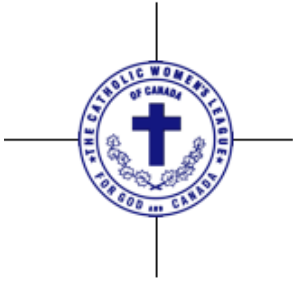
Other activities that this chair has been involved with offered some further educational opportunities. Along with President Mary Hunt, Vice-President Janet MacPhee and Past-President Judy Look, I met with MLA Adriana LaGrange at the Alberta Legislature. It was a fruitful meeting with discussions on MAiD and Palliative Care, Food Waste, Feed the North, Pornography and our Seniors' Advocate Initiative. Minister LaGrange was very interested in our activities and encouraging. She was receptive to our concerns. We also mentioned a few of our Resolutions. Just for your information, Minister LaGrange is a CWL member!

New plaques have been ordered for the Father Walter Krewski Awards. The engraving has been ordered for those awards as well as for the Elsie Yanik Award. Based on statistics, and your application forms, recipients for all three Walter Krewski awards and The Elsie Yanik award were chosen. Pins for our Past-President have been ordered for this year and a couple years in the future.

The past few weeks have been occupied with preparing our Convention book. It is filled with excellent, interesting reports. Please make sure you share it with your council members.

This concludes my report,

Betsy Fletcher, Organization Chair



The Catholic Women's League of Canada
ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL



PROVINCIAL PAST PRESIDENT/ARCHIVES
REPORT 2024
Judy Look

Madame President

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

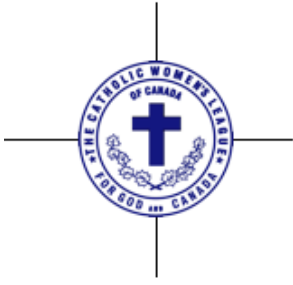
Building relationships and effecting change. As past presidents we are the keeper of the keys. The keys that unlock our past held in our archives so that we have a reference for how we build the future. Our most recent past encompassed much change...the strategic plan that challenges all of us to get out of our comfort zone and think differently...our new executive structure; zoom meetings; smaller membership, serious advocacy and understanding that our work is for the honour and glory of God.

I want to acknowledge my current past presidents for their work as presidents at my executive table. They embraced change and they worked hard to make their dioceses effective in all CWL matters and for the last two years as past presidents they were strong mentors for their presidents. But as this is my final report to you my sisters it is so important that I acknowledge your power and strength. It is you that make us all look good. It is you with your work at the parish council level that builds our sisterhood and through your work in service and social justice that effects change. So, at this time I want to share a few thoughts about that. First, I want to remind you that you are the face of the League everywhere you go but especially in your parishes. That smile of yours invites more women to become members than anything else. The remembering of your shut-in sisters in nursing homes or dementia institutions witness to all non-CWL members how much we love one another. Your work in the schools demonstrate to the women teachers our true commitment to Catholic education but more importantly how we care for our children. Your work with the new immigrants and refugees demonstrates the love CWL has for all who come to Canada. Your journeying with your sisters, family or neighbours in palliative care institutions witness to how important those institutions are and more importantly the value of life; your talking to the young couple who have just become pregnant does more to end abortion than anything else and your welcoming our indigenous sister to our parish community is more important than all land acknowledgments. At the center of all we do is love, love of God and love of our neighbour.

So, my dear sisters I rejoice in being a CWL member because it gives me the opportunity to live my baptismal promise to bring the presence of Christ to our world. It challenges me to love my neighbour and that means I must treat all with the dignity and respect that God give me. This has been a great ride and it only happened because of you who deemed me worthy of leadership. May God continue to bless your work as you sip from the third cup of tea and make a difference in the world that comes from doing everything for the honour and glory of the Father.

This concludes my report

Judy Look



The Catholic Women's League of Canada
ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL



PROVINCIAL FAITH CHAIR
REPORT 2024
Suzanne Sherry

Madam President

It has been my pleasure to serve on this Provincial Council. It was the first time that we were using the new format of 3 pillars: Faith – Service – and Social Justice. However, there was also a spiritual chair which was later clarified that that should be the major part of the Faith chair. This did cause some confusion; but alas, God is good – all the time. My counterpart, that is, Janet MacPhee included me in her spiritual preparations and requested and even encouraged my participation.

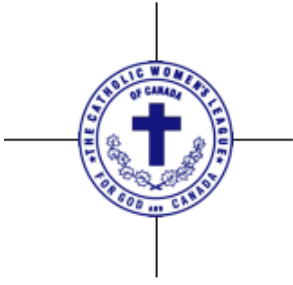
Also, once again I repeat, God is good all the time, as fate would have it, I was thrown into managing the extreme shock and grief at the loss of my beloved husband with whom I shared 52 years of wonderful marriage. I could feel His divine love working within me and realized that, in fact, it was God himself who helped me with the challenges of being on this Provincial Council.

I did manage to help Janet as much as possible and even tried to prepare the odd communique. I so appreciated your support and the love shown towards me in my loss and I felt all your prayers.

In closing, it is my sincere recommendation that you continue to Keep the Faith, it serves to make you stronger each and every day! May God Bless you all!

This completes my report.

Suzanne Sherry, Faith Standing Chair



The Catholic Women's League of Canada
ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL



PROVINCIAL SERVICE CHAIR
REPORT 2024
Mary Molloy

Madam President;

Service is a core value of a strong and dynamic CWL. Our mission is to inform, educate, and challenge members to take action on the corporal works of mercy. The 2023 annual service reports highlighted efforts in human trafficking, senior care, support for Ukraine and refugees, homelessness and food banks, youth, and Catholic education in Alberta. These reports showcased the dedication and selfless service of our members to God, Canada, and the community.

Last summer's devastating forest fires caused significant hardship for our sisters in the league and other northern residents, making it difficult to obtain basic necessities. At the 2023 Fall Meeting, the ABMK council proposed an initiative to provide Northern communities with essential food items that are often too expensive for them. This initiative, in partnership with St. Vincent de Paul, was embraced by the ABMK Dioceses. We shared this initiative with councils throughout ABMK, excluding Mackenzie-Fort Smith, which was to receive the donations. Each CWL member was asked to contribute \$5.00 or more if possible. By the end of this project, over \$59,000 in donations and services were gifted to the North.

At the January Mid-Winter Meeting of the ABMK Council, the Diocese of Grouard-McLennan proposed supporting at-risk youth, particularly young women who had been let down by the Foster Care System. These youth were placed in Campus-Based Treatment Centers, and the suggestion was to provide each with a handmade quilt as a tangible reminder that they are loved. There are four active treatment centers: one in Lac La Biche, one in Lethbridge, and two in Edmonton. The planned center in High Prairie was unfortunately destroyed by fire. More information about this project and how to donate quilts can be found at my display table.

These are just two of the many projects implemented across the ABMK Provincial Councils. Councils can study and consider other individual projects appropriate for their needs. Two readily implementable suggestions are related to resolutions: Resolution 2022.01, which calls for federal legislation to reduce food loss and waste in Canada, and Resolution 2023.01, which addresses combating textile waste. These projects serve both as service initiatives and social justice issues concerning the care of creation. Councils can organize clothing donations to homeless shelters or social agencies and advocate for government policies to reduce food waste. Further details can be found on the national website or at the Social Justice Display.

A reminder to councils that monthly meetings do not always have to be held at the same time, day, or place. Councils might consider scheduling a service activity instead of a meeting, or holding meetings at a senior's home or homeless shelter to highlight their projects or supported groups.

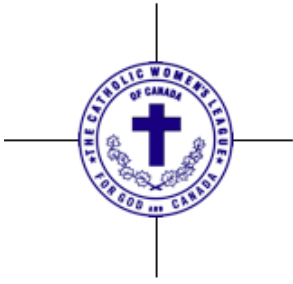
The new national theme, "Here I am, Lord, Send Me," speaks directly to our work as Catholic women. The national executive board has decided to focus on mental health for this theme. In the Winter edition of the "Canadian League" magazine, National President Shari Gunita writes, "I hope members will embrace the new theme and focus for the next two years and look for ways to serve their sisters and brothers with mental health issues."

Using the works of mercy, Dioceses and councils will find a broad range of service opportunities to live their faith through action, practice the great law of charity, and connect with those in need and with each other. Building sisterhood among members and ministering through service to each other and the community, both locally and globally, are noble goals for members to aspire to.

This concludes my report.

Mary Molloy

Service Standing Committee Chair.



The Catholic Women's League of Canada
ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL



**PROVINCIAL SOCIAL JUSTICE
REPORT 2024
Denise Blackstock**

Madam President;

This past year has been very enlightening and challenging. I have attended the following activities and zoom meetings:

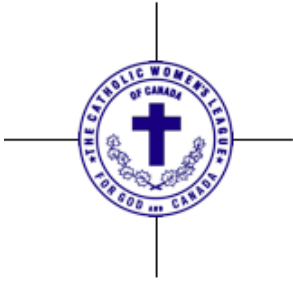
- Communicated via zoom with my resolutions committee. With the permission of the ladies from Calgary Diocese, the powerpoint presentation on MAiD which they created is available on the Alberta Mackenzie website at cwlabmk.ca. I am pleased to say that my provincial counterparts have viewed and commended us on our website which was easy to navigate through to find the powerpoint presentation. There was agreement to watch the powerpoint.
- Glenda Carson, our national resolutions/social justice chair along with other provinces, via zoom discussed how the 3 Pillars can communicate and work together through some issues that we see arising. Glenda has sent out a communique relaying some of these issues.
- The monthly Indigenous Rosary which is prayed in 5 different Indigenous languages.
- A round table discussion hosted by my MP, Mike Lake, which I found quite interesting.
- The Archbishop's Dinner in Edmonton.
- Edmonton Diocesan Mid-Winter Meeting in Sherwood Park as well as attended the Edmonton Diocesan Convention in April at the Basilica.
- The Pro-Life - Building Momentum for Life luncheon.
- The National Lenten Retreat Webinar.
- The Alberta March for Life as well as the Rose Dinner on May 9th - both were well attended with great speakers. Our feature speaker was Alveda King, niece of Martin Luther King Jr. Anne Warsink from Edmonton Diocese has graciously stepped in to represent Alberta Mackenzie CWL Social Justice Chair on the Alberta March for Life Board.
- Judy Look, Gloria Lundberg and I, had discussions regarding our Magnificent Meetings workshop which was held this weekend.
- Prepared my report for our convention book and worked on my display table.

No new resolutions have been brought forward.

May the Holy Spirit Guide and Inspire us as we commit to our Mission Statement to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.

This concludes my report.

Denise Blackstock,
Social Justice Chair



The Catholic Women's League of Canada
ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL



PROVINCIAL COMMUNICATIONS
REPORT 2024
Gloria Lundberg

Madam President;

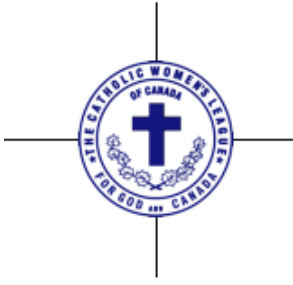
As we move forward with the new structure communications will be included with the secretary's duties.

After discussion with members of the executive, I am requesting that the diocesan presidents as if anyone in their CWL councils would be willing to take over duties as the webmaster. This would enable the position to be consistent and not change every two years when an election takes place. It was also suggested that the person taking over these duties train another person to assist her and take over when necessary. Please contact the ABMK president and secretary if you know have anyone willing to volunteer for this position.

At Mary Hunt's request I received photos from all of the dioceses and you will see many of them tonight in the PowerPoint although at one point at 2:00 this morning I thought I lost 2/3 of them!

It has been an honour to serve on the ABMK provincial council, however, as much as I love you all I will be happy to step away and ease on down the road to other activities.

This concludes my report,
Gloria Lundberg



The Catholic Women's League of Canada
ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL



**PROVINCIAL LIFE MEMBER LIAISON
REPORT 2024
June Fuller**

Madam President

It has truly been an honor to be the Alberta Mackenzie Life Member Liaison for the past two years. I am sad that my term will be ending at the end of this convention. The last two years has afforded me the opportunity to stay connected with the Honorary Life Members and Life Members in Alberta Mackenzie.

Alberta Mackenzie is proud to have 4 Honorary Life Members and 27 Life Members. These ladies continue to serve their parish, communities and CWL, even though some have experienced various health issues, loss of dear loved ones, and other challenges. On the bright side, members have again helped out where needed, with settling refugee families in their communities, helping with a vast array of fundraising to help countless other organizations and charities. Our members continue to be a source of knowledge and support by being involved as Parliamentarians at the various conventions and being involved in the National Unity Outreach programme that ran through 2023.

What Is the criteria for a Life Membership' in the League? The nominee must meet 20 criteria items that is listed in the National application forms. This is not an award, but rather a commitment to demonstrate her love for the League, her encouragement to others and her ability to participate in study, research, presentations, workshop, to name a few. She must be available and willing to continue to serve the League at national level on various committees. This year, I am pleased to announce two ladies from ABMK have been nominated to receive a 'Life Membership' in the League. Congratulations to Gwen Elliott from the Edmonton Diocese and Linda Vandenburg from the Grouard-McLennan Diocese for receiving their Life Membership. I can personally attest to their hard work, dedication, and love for the League as I have had the honour to serve with Gwen on both the Diocesan and Provincial level and with Linda on the Provincial level.

As provincial Life Member Liaison, I have been the conduit between National Life Member Liaison, Jacqueline Nogier, and our members in Alberta Mackenzie. Jacqueline sends out communiques about every two weeks to share news from across Canada and that is then forwarded to our members. This includes keeping our members informed about special events and activities, anniversaries, birthdays, loss of loved ones and requests for prayers of healing and strength as needed.

I have so appreciated staying connected with our members either by email or by phone to share information. At Christmas, I sent out Christmas cards to our ladies. During other times I sent out get well cards and sympathy cards. Also, condolence cards were sent on behalf of our members to the family of Honorary Life Member Jean Mahoney on her passing and to Faith Anderson, a member of the CWL National executive on the passing of her husband this past year. Our prayers and those of the members from across Canada are a huge source of support for everyone.

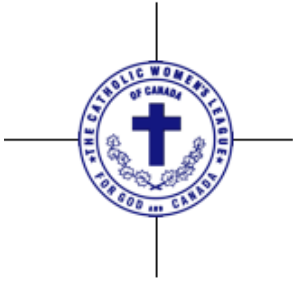
During my term, I was able to attend the Edmonton Diocesan conventions, the Edmonton Regional meetings, as well as both the 2023 & 2024 Alberta Mackenzie Provincial conventions, where I was able to have a round table discussions with the Honorary Life & Life Members that attended these conventions. I was part of the National Unity Outreach Project group for the Edmonton Diocese and my job was to collect the parish reports

and then do a summarized report to send to the National Office. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the last two National conventions, but I am looking forward to attending this year's National convention in Saskatoon, where I hope to see many of you.

I continue to be inspired by the many gifts that members of our League continue to share with other others to help those most in need. May God continue to bless all of you.

This completes my report.

June Fuller
Provincial Life Member Liaison, Alberta Mackenzie Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



The Catholic Women's League of Canada
ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL



CALGARY DIOCESAN COUNCIL
REPORT 2024
Kathleen Winter

Madam President:

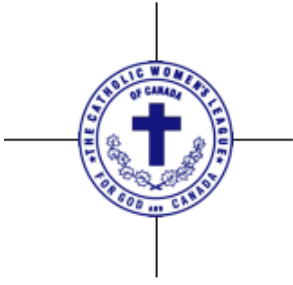
There are 46 Councils in the Calgary Diocese with 3,119 members, an increase of 50 over last year. This last year has been a year of continuing to get to know each other and supporting one another as we move into the "new normal" of life after the pandemic. To facilitate this, our Diocesan President and Diocesan Officers made visits to 32 councils joining their parish council meetings, spirituals, and celebrations. Some highlights of the year include:

- At the Fall Meeting we rolled out the Unity Program to 68 members across 26 parish councils.
- We got to know all our Spiritual Advisors better by featuring two in each of our newsletters.
- We supported our 13 seminarians by having councils "adopt" each one by praying for them, sending encouraging notes and inviting them to council meetings.
- We held our annual Diocesan Advent Retreat in two regions while supporting the others in organizing alternative spiritual activities.
- With the transition of many new Presidents and Vice Presidents at the beginning of the year, we hosted Zoom workshops over two evenings. This was to help them learn their new roles and answer any questions they might have.
- We advocated for the Sanctity of Life from conception to natural death in many ways. One example was St. George's CWL in Hanna who commissioned a local artist to paint an image of a newborn baby wrapped in angel wings on rock as a "Memorial for the Unborn". This memorial resides in the church flower garden.
- We mailed over 900 Pornography Hurts postcards to MPs in Ottawa.
- Many councils participated in letter writing campaigns expressing our opposition to extending medical assistance in dying to those suffering from mental illness.
- We continued our strong commitment to Catholic education as we supported the St. Mary's University CWL Chair for Catholic Studies' lecture series.
- We provided supplies for I'm Worth it Now (IWIN) backpacks to assist people who have escaped human trafficking.
- We continued our relationship with Stardale Women's Group by donating Christmas stockings to the young indigenous girls.
- We contributed to the Feed the North Provincial initiative after the fires forced many people to be evacuated from their homes.
- We continued to celebrate milestones at both the personal and the council level. Two examples of this are:
 - Margaret Shaw of St. Andrew's Vulcan celebrated her 102nd birthday with a brunch where she was presented with her 75 year service pin.

- St. Patrick's Council in Medicine Hat celebrated their 100th Anniversary with Mass concelebrated by Bishop McGrattan and a celebratory dinner.

We share our faith in our parishes by being visible as Eucharistic ministers and lectors. We show our commitment to service in our communities by organizing fall suppers, bake sales and bottle drives. And we advocate for Social Justice by being the voice for the less fortunate with our postcards and letter writing campaigns.

This concludes my report,
Kathleen Winter, Calgary Diocesan President



The Catholic Women's League of Canada
ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL



EDMONTON DIOCESAN COUNCIL
REPORT 2024
Jean Ashdown

Madam President;

The Edmonton Diocese Council represents over 3,600 members in 60 councils. I would like to report on our activities from the beginning of January 2024.

In early February, we held our Midwinter Regional Workshops in Innisfail, Edmonton (St. Agnes), Sherwood Park and Fort Saskatchewan. These were each facilitated by Diocesan Officers and included: some time to get to know each other; two workshops, one on simplifying meetings (Magnificent Meetings) and the other on encouraging intergenerational activities (Intergenerational Connections). Councils had also submitted information on projects they have been doing. We took some time to enjoy the photos of these and for councils to explain more about their projects. It was inspiring to see all that our members have been doing. Sharing these projects gave other councils ideas and information about what could be done.

We saw the High Level bridge in Edmonton lit up in blue for the National Human Trafficking Awareness day on February 22nd. Two books with religious themes were selected for our Books for Schools Project and councils have begun to purchase the books and present them to schools in their areas. Councils have also been stepping up to help provide a hot lunch in Edmonton's city core area for the under privileged on the first and fifth Saturdays of each month. Mary Molloy and I have been assisting a council that was at risk of disbanding by helping with a membership drive and orientation sessions for new members. The project sheets submitted by councils for our Regional Workshops were inspiring to the potential new members and helped them to understand some activities they could do. Councils made donations of food and money and volunteered at the reception following the Chrism mass celebrated during Holy Week at St. Joseph's Basilica.

Our 102nd Annual Convention was held April 26th-28th at St. Joseph's Basilica in Edmonton. The theme was 'The Beauty of Encounter' with the image of the Visitation, Mary's visit to Elizabeth, reminding us that we are all called to be of service to one another and to lead each other in encountering Christ. Our speakers included the Most Reverend Richard Smith, Archbishop of Edmonton, who introduced us to the idea of the culture of encounter and had us practice the synodal process as a way to address needs and issues. Other speakers were Melissa Guzik on 'The Beauty of Marriage as Encounter', Dr. Matthew Hoven on 'The Beauty of Catholic Education as Encounter', and Dr. Eugenia Pagnotta-Kowalczyk on 'The Beauty of Synodality as Encounter'. A tour of St. Joseph's Basilica helped us to encounter and appreciate the beauty of that historic church. During the convention, a new Diocesan quilt was unveiled. The quilt squares represent "12 Women Saints Who Made a Mark on the Catholic World" and was begun with the gift of a quilt square representing St. Kateri Tekakwitha from the women of Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples involved in reactivating the council. This quilt will be loaned out to our councils to be used as a spiritual at their meetings. We continue to present the Doreen Melton Scholarship to a seminarian studying for the Archdiocese of Edmonton and decided to add an additional amount to the endowment fund so that we can comfortably increase the amount of the scholarship.

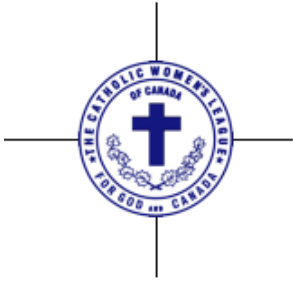
In May, St. Anthony's council in Lloydminster celebrated their 100th anniversary. They did a wonderful job of including many different components to their celebration that started 100 days before their anniversary – there

was a faith component involving the entire parish, a retreat, identifying and recognizing the graves of deceased members, a gift to the parish of a statue of Mary as well as mass and a banquet on the anniversary day. Diocesan officers attended the March for Life at the Legislature and held the CWL prolife banner. We also gave our annual donation in support of St. Benedict's chapel in a downtown Edmonton mall.

Our new Diocesan officers are beginning to get familiar with their roles. We did look at the activities of our Faith, Service and Social Justice Committees and have adjusted some of their responsibilities to more closely align with the roles as defined in the Constitution & Bylaws. There will be a definite need for cooperation and coordination between the chairs. The Diocesan officers will continue to be servant leaders, assisting our councils as they continue to respond to God's call to service in their parishes and communities. In a spirit of listening to each other and in response to what is happening around us, we hope to find ways to serve God and one another. The Archdiocese of Edmonton's 3-year catechetical plan 'Be It Done: Living in the Word through Worship, Witness, and Service', along with the new National theme and the upcoming Jubilee Year may all inform what we focus on and do in the next year.

We are looking forward to coming together with our councils again for our Fall Meeting which will be held on Oct. 5th in Rimbey.

This concludes my report,
Jean Ashdown, Edmonton Diocesan President



The Catholic Women's League of Canada
ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL



GROUARD McLENNAN DIOCESAN COUNCIL
REPORT 2024
Linda VandenBerg

Madam President;

Diocesan Convention, April 20, 2024 Highlights

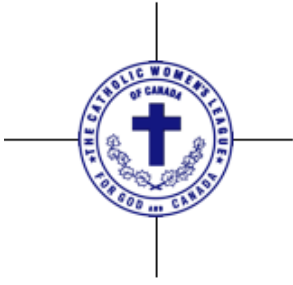
- 1) Membership reported from 2023 - 470 members from 15 councils.
- 2) Title Person - Marta Kramer, member for over 60 years. She was present and gave a small thank you speech.
- 3) Guest speaker - Joanne Guthrie from Beaverlodge - Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and challenges she faces - our members were enthusiastic to help and started sharing their stories too. The mass collection of \$523 was donated to the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren support group. We struck a committee and made a plan to get a list of experiences and needs and how does this relate to the mission of the Catholic Women's League. We have committee members finding out what is happening in other provinces, looking at possible resolutions, and contacting MPs and MLAs. We will be meeting early in September by Zoom to share what we found out.
- 4) Guest speaker - Provincial President Mary Hunt on the new theme and how the beatitudes call us to action.
- 5) We collected over 25 blankets/quilts for the youth in care.
- 6) Linda VandenBerg received her life member pin.
- 7) The local councils reported on the many works of faith, service and social justice in their parishes.
- 8) Elections were held and we were able to fill all the positions.
- 9) Our Fall Meeting will be held in Spirit River, September 28, 2024.

Archdiocese of Grouard McLennan Faith Formation Team Meeting, via Zoom, May 15, 2024

- 1) Attended by Linda VandenBerg
- 2) Pope Francis declared 2025 to be the Jubilee Year of Hope and 2024 the year of prayer leading up to the Jubilee Year. Our Archdiocese is planning opening activities and will be letting our parishes know what we could be doing. We will be putting this item on our Fall meeting agenda.
- 3) We reviewed the Faith Formation Terms of Reference, and the Faith Formation Calendar. Reports were made by the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis, deanery faith formation, Grande Prairie Catholic Education representatives, and a round table sharing with regards to what is going on.
- 4) Linda reported that Grouard is still awaiting to hear news of the rebuilding of the church. Grouard will be receiving a priest and seminarian for the summer. They will be staying in the priest's house in Grouard.
- 5) The next meeting will be September 4, 2024.

This concludes my report,

Linda VandenBerg,
Grouard McLennan Diocesan President



The Catholic Women's League of Canada
ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL



**MackENZIE FORT SMITH DIOCESAN COUNCIL
REPORT 2024
Wendy Ross**

Madam President:

Mackenzie Forth Smith Diocese has 93 members. 51 in Hay River, 36 in Yellowknife and 6 in Fort Smith.

Our diocese continues to serve the community through many volunteers, ministries, hospitality, visiting the sick and taking seniors to appointments or shopping, plus working many hours at our parish thrift stores. We say rosaries every Monday and Tuesday for our prayer intentions at both parish levels.

Despite the significant impact of a wildfire on our diocese last summer, we remained actively engaged, empathizing with the challenges that were being faced. One of the councils generously donated to a member who tragically lost her home. Additionally, instead of holding a regular meeting, they organized a fun night as a way for everyone to come together and support each other during this difficult time.

We are immensely grateful for the generous donation from our Alberta sisters and St. Vincent de Paul through "Feed the North" for the sea can container of basic commodities that was distributed to the communities of Fort Smith and Hay River for the victims of the wildfire. Your unwavering support is truly appreciated.

Both councils conducted a successful Christmas Baked Sale. One council allocated their annual donations to various community organizations, including the women's shelter, local soup kitchen, manor, warming shelter, palliative care, Chalice, extended care, secret Santa, school breakfast program, assisted living, and family support center. Our spiritual adviser, Sister Maggie gave a Diocesan Retreat on "Threads of Compassion" at Trapper's Lake Spirituality Centre.

Both councils held their membership campaigns and gained new members. We participated in 12 hours of prayer for palliative care, and March for Life. One council held their annual Mother's Day Tea it was well attended and was a successful event.

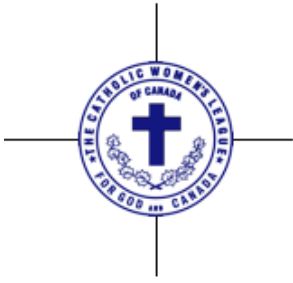
We recently hosted the 60th Annual Mackenzie Fort Smith Diocesan Convention in Yellowknife, where Cathy Ann Bouchard served as our keynote speaker. Our Provincial president, Mary Hunt, was also in attendance and led a workshop, which was well-received by the 35 attendees. We conducted an election during the convention and successfully filled all officer positions.

We also want to express our gratitude to our Alberta sisters for their contribution to Nickels for the North, which helps subsidize travel expenses for attending both provincial and national conventions.

At this time, we asked our CWL sister to please continue to include our community in your prayers for the protection from the Fires as we already have fire bans in place.

This concludes my report.

Wendy Ross
Mackenzie Fort Smith Diocesan Council President



The Catholic Women's League of Canada
ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL



**ST. PAUL DIOCESAN COUNCIL
REPORT 2024
Annette deBoer**

Madam President;

The Catholic Women's League of the St Paul Diocese currently consists of 15 councils with 424 members. Two councils received their official notice from National office that they have been disbanded this past year, after not submitting membership fees to National for the last several years. I have spoken to one of the council's former president and invited their members to join with a nearby council which is still active, but I have not heard yet if any have done so. Two of our councils continue to struggle with lack of leadership and are rotating meeting chairs or operating with minimal executive. After our Diocesan Convention held on April 12-13, 2024 in Westlock we have all executive positions filled except for a vice-president, so we are praying for one of our ladies to feel called by the Holy Spirit to fill this position as soon as possible. And in the meantime, we are brainstorming for names of those we can approach and encourage!

Our new spiritual advisor, Father Jhack Diaz has joined us at this Provincial Convention. We are thrilled with how supportive he is for the Catholic Women's League in St Paul Diocese. He is currently working hard to encourage the ladies in his parishes of Mallaig and St Lina to form a council. We appreciate his great messages and enthusiasm at our meetings.

Past President Kathryn Bourque and other members of the executive did a fantastic job of visiting all but one of the parishes in St Paul Diocese for the Unity project, and all the information collected has been submitted to the National office. Findings were generally positive, with our ladies discussing their successes and projects they are proud of, as well as their pleasure at being visited by a member of the Diocesan executive. This shows us how important our connection to one another is!

At our Diocesan convention in Westlock we were very pleased to have National Past President Fran Lucas in attendance and enjoyed her comments at our meeting and her talk as guest speaker at our Gala banquet. We also thoroughly enjoyed Dr Troy Davies talk on "The Eucharist".

The annual reports received from the CWL councils of St Paul are testimonials of the active women we have in the Catholic Women's League. They are seeking to enhance their **faith** through prayer, bible study and retreats. **Social justice** is a priority with almost every reporting council indicating that they have taken action in some way - donating to homeless shelters or persons fleeing family violence, to organizations supporting the sanctity of life or caring for the environment. **Service** is also a main occupation of our councils through participation in the ministries at mass, serving on parish council and fundraising committees, bringing communion to the sick and housebound, and supporting various local charities. CWL ladies are generous with their time, talent and treasure; most focusing on needs within their parishes and communities.

The St. Paul Diocesan **Dorothy Roberts Award** recognizes a member of the CWL in our Diocese who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to ministry and service in an area of need in her parish or community. We have not had any ladies nominated in the last two years, but will be reminding our councils of this award as a way to recognize a deserving member of their council.

When speaking to the ladies in our parishes about membership I am sure that many of us have heard the comment about being able to do good work in our parish and community without having to be a member of the Catholic Women's League. And yes, this is true. But I hope we can show our members and prospective members in St Paul Diocese how important the CWL is to the welfare of our nation as a whole. While we don't want to play a "numbers game", the more members our provincial and national officers represent when they speak to the government on our behalf, the more importance is given to our concerns.

Our Catholic Women's League councils in the St Paul Diocese are very enthusiastic, even while struggling with issues of declining membership and lack of members willing to lead. They are active in so many ways and true believers in the value of the Catholic Women's League of Canada. They have accepted the call "Here I am Lord, send me"

This concludes my report,
Annette deBoer
President, St. Paul Diocese