



**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council
Social Justice Communiqué
March 2025**



TO: Diocesan Social Justice Chairs
CC: Provincial Executive
FROM: Renee Spohn, ABMK Social Justice Chair

To take an active part in Truth & Reconciliation we need to build relationships with our Indigenous brothers and sisters. In our hearts and minds we discern, asking, “Where do we begin?” or “What can we do?”. It may be overwhelming as it will take time to meet, connect, and heal. Invite the Holy Spirit to guide us to do it in God’s way. Together, let us embark on our journey.

To assist us we have National CWL resources including an upcoming webinar in June, Archbishop Murray Chatlain’s recommendations, and information about National Indigenous Days.

Visit the National CWL website

You will find prayers, dates to pray the rosary with indigenous leaders in their language and information about the Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle. There are articles and photos of councils who welcomed Elders and Residential School Survivors. They held events to learn about Story Telling, Drumming, and how to use the talking stick during the Blanket Exercise. [Indigenous Resources - The Catholic Women's League of Canada](#)

The document “**Walking Together with Indigenous Catholic Women**” provides resources and a list of organizations for Indigenous women who are seeking information about their own heritage and non-Indigenous women who want to learn about Indigenous communities in their area to make contact and build relationships. “Learning for some is a personal experience and some members may prefer traditional education environments, written work, visual aids, or a mix of all media.” To address this it references books, videos, Catholic organizations, papal documents, and prayers. [Walking Together with Indigenous Catholic Women - The Catholic Women's League of Canada](#)

Recommendations from Archbishop Murray Chatlain, Archbishop -elect of Winnipeg about building relationships with Indigenous Catholic Women:

- Drop in at the local Indigenous organization office, introduce yourself, identify that you represent a large group, and ask if there are projects we could work on.
- Visit - speak of your journey and listen to her journey, support one another
- Meet over tea or a meal with kokums (grandmothers)
- Invite elders (knowledge keepers) as presenters.
- Pray together, share gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Participate in an organized walk to show support

National Indigenous Days: There are opportunities to join with them and learn about their culture, language, and traditions. Your councils may select a National Day: attend a community event, show a video, invite a speaker, learn a greeting, or give thanks in their language, display red dresses, wear moose hide, or have a healing service.

- **March 31: Languages Day** - This day honours the efforts of communities working to preserve and revitalize their Indigenous languages, which are crucial for cultural survival.
- **May 5: Awareness of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls** - The display of red dresses raises awareness; it symbolizes the loss and the call for justice and healing. On **October 4th** then calls for action, justice, and support for affected communities.
- **May 16: Moose Hide Campaign Day** – The campaign involves wearing moose hide as a symbol of commitment to supporting survivors and ending violence against Indigenous women and children.
- **June 21: National Indigenous People’s Day** - Celebrates the cultures, languages, and traditions of Indigenous peoples across Canada. It is a day to recognize their contributions and to honour their past, present, and future.
- **September 30: National Day for Truth & Reconciliation** - Orange Shirt Day honours the survivors of residential schools, the children who never returned, and the ongoing work of healing and reconciliation in Canada.

Trust in Jesus, be patient and open to new possibilities knowing that through God’s grace we will meet, connect, and pray with our Indigenous brothers and sisters. Our journey will be blessed with new friendships, sharing our Catholic faith to heal.

Your sister in the League,

Renee Spohn

Provincial Social Justice Chair