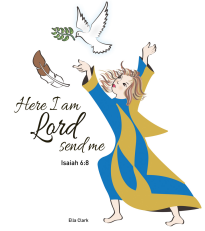




The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL



77<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention  
Ascension Parish  
1100 Berkshire Blvd NW, Calgary, AB T3K 3M3  
Saturday, June 1, 2024  
Minutes

**Call to Order**

Mary Hunt called the meeting to order at 8:39 am and gave a land acknowledgement.

Announcements – made by Kathleen Winter, Convention Co-Chair.

Opening Remarks and Introductions were given by Mary Hunt.

**Morning Spiritual** – Memorial Service for Deceased Members led by Janet MacPhee, Suzanne Sherry, Father JP Luxbacher Administrator of Ascension Parish, and the diocesan presidents (or delegate).

**Presentation:** Gwen Elliott of St. Francis Xavier Council, Camrose was presented with a Life Membership and was pinned by Shari Guita, National President.

Introductions: Mary Hunt made introductions.

Notice of Annual General Meeting was read by Jan Myhre

Roll Call: called by Jan Myhre.

**Credentials Report** – Rose Kastelic

5	Voting Delegates
7	Diocesan Accredited Delegates
40	Parish Accredited Delegates
10	Provincial Officers
3	Honorary Life Members
7	Life Members
<b>72</b>	<b>Total voting and accredited delegates</b>

**Motion:**

Moved by Denise Blackstock, Provincial Officer, Accredited Delegate, and seconded by Sheila Domingo, Assumption Parish, Hay River Accredited Delegate to adopt the credentials report of the 77<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting as presented. **Adopted**

**Note:** A Parish Accredited Delegate, Susan Becher, St. Thomas More, Fairview and Marie Cameron, Honorary Life Member, Accredited Delegate were added to the credentials, resulting in 40 parish accredited delegates, 2 honorary life members for a total of 71 voting and accredited delegates. **There being no objections, the Credentials Report was adopted as amended.**

**Note:** A seconded amendment was required as another Honorary Life Member, Accredited Delegate was added for a total of 72 voting and accredited delegates. **Being no objections, the credentials report was adopted as amended.**

**Recognition of first time Provincial Convention attendees** – Mary Hunt announced that there are 68 first time attendees at this convention, and asked them to stand. Mary Molloy & Suzanne Sherry provided each with a prayer card.

**Approval of Standing Rules** - Standing Rules were read by Jan Myhre.

**Motion:**

Moved by Kathleen Winter, Calgary Diocesan President, Voting Delegate and seconded by Lara Bechtel, Edmonton Diocesan Vice-President, Accredited Delegate, to accept the Standing Rules of the 2024 Annual General Meeting as presented. **Adopted.**

**Approval of Agenda**

Discussion took place as there was no Business Meeting Agenda in the Convention Booklet. The assembly was asked if they'd accept a Business Meeting Agenda to be posted on the overhead, and the assembly agreed to this by a 2/3 majority. **Being no objections, the Agenda was adopted as corrected.**

**Approval of Minutes of the 76th Annual Convention**

**Motion:**

Moved by Annette deBoer, St. Paul Diocesan President, Voting Delegate, and seconded by Betsy Fletcher, Provincial Officer, Accredited Delegate that the Minutes of the 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Members 2023 be approved as circulated. **Adopted.**

**Convention Correspondence**

Correspondence from guest speakers accepting Mary Hunt's invitation to attend this convention.

**Remarks from Spiritual Advisor** – Father Andrew Bogdanowicz

Mary shared a message from Father Andrew as he was not able to attend convention due to parish responsibilities.

**Report from the Pre-Convention Meeting**

Jan Myhre indicated there was nothing to be brought forward to this meeting from the Pre-Convention Meeting held on Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**Mass Collection Disbursement**

A vote of all members in attendance took place by a raise of hands to donate the Mass Collection to North of 60 Program.

**Provincial President's Report:** Mary Hunt (10:50 am)

- Highlight of the year was the successful *Help to Feed the North Initiative*, led by the ABMK Provincial Council and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, raising over \$60,000.00 in monetary donations and donations in kind, delivered to Hay River and Fort Smith in the NWT. Food, hygiene items, quilts and blankets were trucked in two sea cans left in the two communities.
- 2023 ABMK Provincial Convention in Edmonton attended by over 200 members, with 47 first time attendees.
- National themes "Catholic and Living It!" and new theme "Here I am Lord, Send Me" have been embraced by councils.
- ABMK meeting with provincial government to discuss various areas of concern, such as Independent Seniors Advocate, need for good palliative care, our belief in the sanctity of life, opposition to pornography, Resolution 2022.1: *Enact Federal Legislation to Reduce Food Loss and Waste*

- Weekly Alberta Mackenzie prays the Rosary

**Provincial Secretary's Report:** Jan Myhre

- Heard from 85 councils throughout Alberta Mackenzie this past year.
- Recommended national website for many resources.
- Communications from national office being sent to provincial president and provincial secretary to forward on to appropriate person or committee chair.

**Guest Speaker:** Bishop William T. McGrattan, Bishop of Calgary

Jan Myhre introduced Bishop McGrattan who spoke on Living a Life of Intentional Discipleship and how it relates to our national theme, *"Here I am Lord, send me"*.

He shared the three stages of reflection of the Synod and how it ties into intentional discipleship.

- Listening – to the faithful, people from other countries are bringing their culture into our churches. It's important for us to be listening to what that culture of faith is important to them. Listen in prayer – listening through the conversation in the spirit. We like to talk, but do we listen? Synod in Rome – this was a daily activity over 20 days. After 20 days some of the bishops who started off uncomfortable, became to see and feel the power of the Holy Spirit. Listening with the heart of Christ and allowing the Spirit to guide the conversation. The final report was read in its entirety. Bishop McGrattan, indicated when he heard certain phrases, it brought back the conversation on that topic that he had at that table.
- Reflection on Roles within the church – agents of evangelization – creating a sense of dialogue on the role the clergy, discernment of gifts, services for the common good. How do we empower those gifts and services? Co-responsibility – strategies to promote greater participation – too few volunteers, we're aging, more demands and more services. Never will we have enough resources. We will always be struggling with that. Reflect on the roles, not in competition, but with co-responsibility. We need to have greater strategies.
- Mission – go forth, proclaim the good news, to baptize, heal the sick, cast out demons. Sometimes mission is inward focused, thinking about our church. We shouldn't find ourselves in polarization. Focus outside the community. This is where the unmet needs of the world come out. Issues of women, the role of women in the church, migrants, underemployed, chronic illness.

The Synod process and steps of reflection need to be continued in the church at various levels.

Our national theme is attributed to the prophets, recognizing they are being called by God. Every lay association, parish and CWL make that intentional path their way of life, that the church needs to be missionary. As CWL has a strengthening of faith in the church at the parish level, working together bringing forward these issues, it continues in advocacy.

Janet MacPhee thanked Bishop McGrattan for his presentation.

**Angelus/Grace** – Led by Bishop McGrattan and Janet MacPhee  
Announcements made by Karen Bruch

**Reconvening Prayer** – Led by Janet MacPhee

**Provincial Treasurer's Report:** Celine Berlinguette

- 2023 Financial Review completed by Walter H. Ryl, chartered Professional Account in Lac La Biche, AB.
- Dec. 31/23 Statement of Financial Position shows current assets at \$153,769.00. Statement of Revenue and Disbursements for 2023 shows a deficit of \$1,520.00.
- Per Capita fees received for 2023 was \$46,410.00 for a total of 7,735 members.
- In 2023, each diocesan council received \$1,000.00 to help members attend their first provincial convention from the National Grant Fund.

- Feed the North initiative to assist northern communities of Hay River and Fort Smith approved with provincial council donating an initial \$5,000, with a total of \$50,863.00 raised in cash.
- Officer and Director insurance purchased in the amount of \$1,665.00.
- Nickels for the North collections \$5,587.00 in 2023.
- Alberta March for Life fund collected \$750.00 in 2023.
- \$3,500.00 donation was granted to the Calgary Diocesan Council for their Parliamentarian workshop.
- E-transfers were set up at bank.

### **Motion**

*Moved by Celine Berlinguette, Provincial Accredited Delegate and seconded by Shirley Guitierrez Voting Delegate, Mackenzie Fort Smith, to adopt the report of the reviewer of the Financial Statement be adopted as presented in the 2024 Convention Annual Report Book. **Adopted.***

### **Provincial Past President's Report: Judy Look**

- Past-presidents are keepers of the keys.
- Acknowledged past presidents for their work as they embraced change in the League.
- Acknowledged the work of members at the parish council level.
- Face of the League is everywhere: remembering shut-in sisters, witnessing to non-CWL, love for one another, working in schools, working with new immigrants and refugees, journeying with others in palliative care institutions.

### **Provincial Standing Committee Chairperson Reports**

#### **Spiritual Development: Janet MacPhee**

- 2024 designation "Year of Prayer", preceding the Jubilee Pope Francis desires a great "symphony" of prayer.
- Living the Year of Prayer in preparation for Jubilee, 2025, download a document called ["Teach Us to Pray"](#).
- 2025 Jubilee Year "Pilgrims of Hope".
- Virtual Retreat celebrating Trust & Reconciliation Day was held on Oct 1, 2023, facilitated by Father Cristino Bouvette.
- Search national website for many prayers, manuals, and workshops.

#### **Organization: Betsy Fletcher**

- Virtual meetings convenient to discuss various issues.
- Regular meetings with national vice-president Betty Colaneri, encourage members to participate in the "1" campaign.
- Many online webinars.
- Met with provincial government, MLA Adriana LaGrange, who is a CWL member.
- New plaques ordered for Father Walter Krewski Awards.

#### **Father Walter Krewski Award Winners**

- Greatest number of new members - St. Peter's, Calgary
- Greatest increase in membership – St. Peter's Calgary
- Greatest percentage increase in membership – St. Mary's Cathedral, Calgary

#### **Service: Mary Molloy**

- Core value of a strong and dynamic CWL. Inform, educate and challenge members to take action on corporal works of mercy.
- ABMK initiative to provide assistance to the northern communities, partnering with St. Vincent de Paul. Over \$59,000 in donations and services were gifted to the north.
- Support for at-risk youth at Campus-Based Treatment Centers has been initiated.

- Support 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.
- National theme “Here I am Lord, send Me”, national executive is focusing on mental health.

**Social Justice:** Denise Blackstock

- Met with resolutions committee.
- MAiD PowerPoint presentation is on cwlabmk.ca website.
- Zoom meeting with national social justice chair Glenda Carson.
- Monthly indigenous rosary.
- Round table discussion hosted by MP Mike Lake.
- Archbishop’s dinner.
- Pro-Life Building Momentum for Life luncheon.
- Alberta March for Life and Rose Dinner.
- No resolution brought forward this year.

**Faith:** Suzanne Sherry

- Assisted with spiritual program preparations
- With the passing of husband, was grateful for the support of provincial council
- Assisted with communiques.

**Communications:** Gloria Lundberg

- Communications part of secretary duties, but was standalone this past two years
- Seeking a new webmaster. Had to replace computer, and been struggling
- Received photos from all five dioceses and created a PowerPoint for the banquet

**Diocesan Presidents Report**

**Calgary:** Kathleen Winter

- 46 council, 3119 members, an increase of 50 over the last year
- Visited 32 councils
- Rolled out Unity Program
- Supported 13 seminarians with our Adopt a Seminarian program
- Hosted zoom workshops for new Presidents and Vice-Presidents
- Mailed over 900 Pornography Hurts postcards to MP’s in Ottawa
- Letter writing campaigns expressing opposition to extending medical assistance in dying
- Continue relationship with Stardale Women’s Group by donating Christmas stockings to young indigenous girls
- Celebrations and milestones such as 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday of a member where she was presented her 75 year service pin, and St. Patrick’s council, Medicine Hat celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**Edmonton:** Jean Ashdown

- 3,600 members in 60 councils
- Held Midwinter Regional workshops in four different locations
- High Level bridge in Edmonton lit up in blue for National Human Trafficking Awareness Day
- Councils helping provide a hot lunch in Edmonton’s core for underprivileged
- Assisting struggling councils
- 102<sup>nd</sup> Convention held at St. Joseph’s Basilica, Edmonton with theme of “The Beauty of Encounter”. Diocesan quilt was unveiled where the square represent “12 Women Saints Who Made a Mark on the Catholic World”
- St. Anthony Council, Lloydminster celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- New slate of diocesan officers
- Full Report Attached

**Grouard–McLennan:** Lucille Partington for Linda Vandenberg

- 470 members in 15 councils
- Title Person – Marta Kramer, member for over 60 years
- Collection was donated to Grandparents Raising Grandchildren support group. Have struck a committee for possible resolution.
- Collected over 25 blankets/quilts for youth in care
- Diocesan President Linda VandenBerg was presented with Life Membership

**Mackenzie Fort Smith:** Sheila Domingo for Wendy Ross

- 93 members in 3 councils
- Remained actively engaged, despite the impact of the wildfires. Donations were made to one member who lost her home in the fires.
- Grateful for generous donation from ABMK Provincial Council and St. Vincent de Paul through the Feed the North initiative
- 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Mackenzie Fort Smith Diocesan Convention held in Yellowknife. Elections were held and all positions filled.
- Expressed gratitude for the Nickels for the North program

**St. Paul:** Annette deBoer

- 424 members in 15 councils
- Two councils have been disbanded, however members have been invited to join a nearby council
- New Diocesan Spiritual Advisor, Father Jhack Diaz is very supportive and hopes his own parish will form a council
- Diocesan Convention held in Westlock. Elections were held and all positions except Vice-President were filled.
- Encouraging councils to nominate members for the Diocesan Dorothy Roberts Award

**Life member Liaison:** June Fuller

- Grateful to be Life Member Liaison, being able to stay connected with Honorary Life and Life Members in ABMK
- Four Honourary Life Members and 27 Life Members.
- Conduit between National Life Member Liaison Jacqueline Nogier and members in Alberta Mackenzie.
- During term, attended Edmonton Diocesan conventions and both Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Conventions

**Spiritual Advisor:** Mary Hunt read the report for Father Andrew Bogdanowicz in his absence.

**Guest Speaker: Cam Cote,** Centre for Bioethical Reform

Denise Blackstock introduced Cam Cote who spoke on sharing the Pro-Life message

- Pro-Life Dialogue Training – Humans of the Pro-Life Unit.
- Need a ministry of encounter, to change the hearts of a person considering abortion, one person at a time.
- Need to be pro-life ambassadors – character, knowledge, wisdom
- Provided a copy of a Pro-Life Dialogue 101 Booklet. Questions that can be asked are:
  1. Do you believe all humans should get human rights?
  2. If something is growing, isn't it alive?
  3. If that living organism has human parents, isn't he or she human?
  4. Doesn't that make abortion a human rights violation?

Celine Berlinguette thanked Cam for his presentation.

**New Business**

**Election of Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Officers for the 2024 – 2026 Term**

Elections chairperson – Judy Look

Voting Delegates – 5 Diocesan Presidents (or delegate)

Results:

- President – Betsy Fletcher
- Past President – Mary Hunt
- Vice President – Jan Myhre
- Secretary – Janet MacPhee
- Treasurer – Celine Berlinguette
- Standing Committee Chairs  
Lola Alsmo, Mary Molloy, Renee Spohn

**Prayer for Outgoing Provincial Officers** was led by Agnes Bedard

**Invitation to Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Convention 2025 – Grouard McLennan Diocese**

- Lucille Partington issued the invitation to the 78<sup>th</sup> Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Convention in Grande Prairie, Alberta from May 30<sup>th</sup> - June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

**Invitation to 104<sup>th</sup> Annual CWL Convention 2024 – Saskatoon, Saskatchewan**

Shari Guinta, National President issued invitation to National Annual Meeting of Members August 11 - 14, 2024. Convention will also be available virtually. Registration is open. Sunday is resolution dialogue, Monday and Tuesday will be days of plenary, with the AMM on Wednesday.

**Other Business:**

- **Registration Report** for entire convention – Rose Kastelic

5	Voting Delegates
7	Diocesan Accredited Delegates
40	Parish Accredited Delegates
10	Provincial Officers
3	Honorary Life Members
8	Life Members
	CWL Members
69	Diocese of Calgary
12	Diocese of Edmonton
4	Diocese of Grouard-McLennan
1	Diocese of Mackenzie For Smith
0	Diocese of St. Paul
	National Representatives
	Member of Hierarchy (Bishops)
4	Spiritual Advisors
9	Guests
172	<b>Total Registration</b>

Announcements – Karen Bruch

Mass Collection – Celine Berlinguette announced the total collection received was \$ 1, 854.50.

**Closing Prayer** led by Janet MacPhee

**Adjournment** – Mary Hunt declared the 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council of the Catholic Women’s League of Canada adjourned at 4:26pm.

**Official Closing and Retiring of Flags**