



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

Alberta Mackenzie Past President Oral Report Convention 2023 Edmonton

Madame President,

This is the day the Lord had made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. These past several months presented opportunities to share acquired knowledge received throughout my presidency as well as now, as past president so the continuity of the one position flows into the next.

The work on the National Manual Review Task Force in 2021-2022 gave insight on how the restructuring of executives and especially Three Committee at the parish council level could be developed in such a way to be more efficient in doing business, building relationships and effecting change. Workshops presented in this area have been well received.

November 2022 presented the opportunity of attending the Alberta Catholic School Trustees Association convention in Edmonton. Their professional development day focussed on advocacy – advocacy that can be effective with provincial and national governments -allowing us to keep the Culture of Life Agenda on politician's radar screen. In May of this year a workshop was presented to a Calgary Council on advocacy as Alberta was preparing to go to the polls.

The Three Cups of Tea workshop as a way of building relationships and doing business continues to be in demand.

The Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council Rosary pray warriors continue to pray every Thursday evening and in many ways is a council unto itself.

An invitation from The Grouard McLennan Diocesan Council executive in 2023 to conduct a workshop at their Annual Convention and Meeting of Members focusing on relationships and effecting change was very well received.

One area that presents a challenge and will continue to present a challenge to all councils is how to walk with our indigenous brothers and sisters. A committee was formed to begin the process of looking at ways the Alberta Mackenzie CWL could build relationships. The focus of the committee is to help educate the members of our councils on how best to approach this very sensitive issue. Communiques have been posted that encourage every council to look at the 94 recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, work on at least one and especially acknowledge at their meetings the reality that we live on treaty land and in fact we are all treaty people. As C.S. Lewis said, "You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending."

Provincial council archives, council elections, revisions to our Alberta Mackenzie Policy and Procedure Manual, the Walking Together a Path for Healing and Reconciliation committee and a continued supportive role for the provincial council will be the focus of work for the next year.

In conclusion the most important work I do and that of all past presidents is to encourage and mentor members. We are all called to share our giftedness with each other and the League. All of you attending this convention have leadership potential that is why you are here. Today I am inviting you to sip from the CWL leadership cup of tea and please sip slowly and deliberately. Think about your giftedness and how it could contribute to your council executive. Leadership especially servant leadership is part of who we are as Catholic women, and it is imperative at this time that we have strong faith-filled presidents and executives at all levels who are prepared to grow strong councils through their own relationship with God so that their councils can be effective in their churches and the public square.

Finally, I want to give a shout out to all the past presidents as they are women of strength who are credible leaders of the Catholic Women's League of Canada who continue to work for God and Canada and are true witnesses to "Catholic and Living It! "

This concludes my report,
Judy Look