



**The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council  
President's Communiqué  
DATE: 24 April 2025**



TO: Provincial Executive  
CC: Diocesan Presidents  
FROM: Betsy Fletcher, Provincial President

Good Afternoon,

I have received a few letters asking about the Letter of Good Standing. Councils seem unsure about the reasons for this and who is required to use one. I am using my letter of reply to help you understand this new policy.

The Letter of Good Standing has been coming for about three years. It has been instituted to protect the League from any form of scandal. It is not meant to “weed out” members nor to discourage them from seeking office. Rather, the aim is to protect members. Members are expected to comply with the teachings and norms of the Catholic Church. We have all seen the changes in society over the years that indicate an anything goes, as long as it's not hurting anyone, attitude. This attitude does not fit with the teaching of the church. Some examples of not being in good standing are:

- A woman who may be divorced, even more than once and has remarried outside the church. This is an actual situation that occurred.
- A woman that is living with someone and not married
- A woman that sits on a board or is involved in an organization that has policies that are contrary to the Catholic Faith, such as Planned Parenthood

The letter does not need to be signed by your parish priest, it can be a deacon or perhaps another member of clergy who knows you well, such a past pastor. Such a person would know what sort of questions to be asked and can help with advice such as recommending an annulment.

We may not know the complete background of our members. Having a letter of good standing would prevent a scandal. The letter need only be seen by the member, the clergy member and the nomination committee. It is confidential and should be destroyed immediately after the election. If the member seeking office sees her clergy member before letting her name stand, and does not meet the criteria required, this will prevent embarrassment of having to withdraw her name.

Clergy are used to signing documents such as this. Teachers seeking positions in Catholic schools need to have such a letter from their parish priest.

This letter is required prior to elections at **all levels** of the League beginning with our upcoming National elections in August.

I hope this clears up your questions about this policy.

On another note, protocol dictates that any questions about League policy should go through the (to use a military term) **chain of command**. That means: **Parish to Diocesan, Diocesan to Provincial and Provincial to National. Please respect this protocol.**

*Betsy*