



## The Catholic Women's League of Canada

### ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

#### **Alberta Mackenzie Service Committee Standing Chair's Oral Report Convention 2023 Edmonton**

Madam President:

Recently when asked, our members said they joined the league for friendship, to deepen their faith, and to serve their parish and community. Each of our five diocesan councils noted in their annual reports that members are dedicated CWL sisters who support each other and thereby create a deep sense of community. Together, they serve both the church and their communities.

This past year was a transitional year for many councils in our province. Some councils maintained a Community Life Chair, while others adopted the new Service Standing Committee format. As you know, the provincial council adopted the new structure. The report in the annual booklet and this oral report are a hybrid overview of the transition to the new format.

Navigating the various activities of the Service Committee, I have been fortunate to have been mentored by Faith Anderson, National Community Life Chair, and nine other Provincial Chairs regarding the roles and responsibilities of the Service Standing Committee. The various national and provincial programs and initiatives are shared through monthly meetings.

The Red Sand ceremony is a participatory sidewalk intervention to create opportunities for people to question, connect and take action against the terrible vulnerabilities that lead to human trafficking and exploitation. The issue of human trafficking has been a Service Standing Committee priority, and several webinars were hosted on this topic. You can find information on this project on my display.

The Calgary and Edmonton Diocesan Councils are active members of another important program: the IWIN project or I am Worth It Now! Established by the members of the CWL in the Calgary Diocese, the initiative works with human trafficking investigators to assist those fleeing human trafficking.

The focus of this convention has been "Walking Together" to explore, build relationships and increase understanding with our Indigenous Catholic women. The CWL National Office surveyed all members on this critical topic. The provincial council established a committee that was chaired by Judy Look. The Moose Hide Pledge symbolizes the CWL's desire to take a stand against violence and undoing the effects of residential schools. The Pledge was recently used at the Edmonton Diocesan Council's Fall meeting. Again, information is presented on my display.

There will be a Rosary of Reconciliation on June 21st and I invite you to join members virtually from across Canada to raise your voices in prayer on the continuing need for reconciliation with the indigenous peoples of Canada.

In my CWL role I am responsible for education and, together with Mary Hunt and Betsy Fletcher, we met with provincial cabinet ministers and strongly reaffirmed the CWL's position on publicly funded Catholic education.

This morning you received an update on our relationship with Development and Peace by Carmen Michaud and the Coady Institute from Lynne O'Donnell. Our members provide support through the National Voluntary Fund, Catholic missions, and CINEWA.

Do you paint? Are you quietly artistic? Let me leave you with a reminder of the Kindness Rock Project! This is a project intended to be a fun social event for members. No report is required, just share a photo of some of the magnificent creations. The Kindness Rock Project is a chance to involve members in a non-meeting activity to share and create some kindness in your community.

Using the works of mercy, Dioceses and councils will find a broad range of service opportunities to live your 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, locally and globally, are worthy works for members to aspire to.

This concludes my report.

Mary Molloy, Service Standing Committee Chair.