



**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council
Social Justice Communiqué
April 2026**



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

If you have not already done so, we ask you to bring **Resolution 2025.06: Increased and Equitable Support for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren** to your council for discussion this Fall and make it a priority in 2026 - 2027.

It is almost one year since we adopted the resolution. The members who became aware were passionate, they had letter writing campaigns, a speaker attend their meeting or discussed forming a support group. Sometimes we adopt a resolution, though well intended, time goes by and we forget about it. Members have expressed an interest in continuing, thus, in collaboration with the new Presidents who will be installed by June, we have committed to work into the 2026-2028 term. We hope to implement an ABMK project.

The Three Pillar workshops held gathered the fifteen Diocesan Chairs of Faith, Service, and Social Justice who met with Joanne Guthrie, originator of the resolution and head of the “Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group” to develop a workable action plan for the members. We want members to network, evaluate the need in their diocese, and develop support groups as needed.

There are plans to bring awareness by having a speaker and discussion at the ABMK Provincial Convention 2026 and providing a Toolkit which will include:

- Background information
- Website references
- Resources central listing and access
- Projects for grandparent recognition days on July 26th and September 13, 2026
- Faith: Services & Prayers
- Service: Support group conversations & Financial support,
- Social Justice: Letter writing campaigns, sample letters and how to meet with your MLA.

In October 2025, ABMK delegates presented the resolution to Adrianna La Grange, Minister of Primary and Preventative and Health Services.

There is an increase in grandparents raising their grandchildren as the parents cannot care for them due to financial, physical or mental health, addiction, or incarceration. This has resulted in the grandparent caregiver having significant stress impacting their finances, mental, and physical health. They are often not equipped to deal effectively with complex care needs. There are discrepancies between the resources and training for the caregivers of children in foster care, legal guardians, and kinship families in Alberta.

2025.06 Increased and Equitable Support for Grandparents raising Grandchildren

Resolved, that Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in 2025 provincial annual meeting of members assembled, urge the Government of Alberta to provide increased and equitable supports, similar to those in Saskatchewan, including financial, respite, and mental health services, for all grandparents raising grandchildren, and be it further

Resolved, that Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in 2025 provincial annual meeting of members assembled, urge the Government of Alberta to collaborate with healthcare providers, local municipalities, and not-for-profit organizations to ensure that these services are accessible, affordable, and tailored to meet the unique needs of grandparents who are caregivers for their grandchildren.

2025.06 Increased and Equitable Support for Grandparents raising Grandchildren ACTION PLAN

1. Raise awareness of the issue by inviting speakers, offering informative videos, holding workshops, and providing resources to members, parishioners, and the community at large.
2. Write letters to the Premier, the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Children and Family Services, the Minister of Primary and Preventative Health Services, and the Minister of Mental Health and Addiction, and send copies to local Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), encouraging them to support this resolution.
3. Monitor the response of the Provincial government to this issue.
4. Adopt a “village” approach, as Catholic Women's League councils, to support grandparents raising grandchildren, remembering the African proverb that says that “it takes a village to raise a child.”

Your sister in the League,

Renee Spohn

Provincial Social Justice Chair