

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCIAL COUNCIL
71st Saskatchewan Provincial Convention
June 2nd and 3rd, 2019
St. Augustine Parish, Humboldt, Saskatchewan

Reports Supplement

Saskatchewan Provincial President's Oral Report

It is hard to believe that it has been a whole year since I gave my oral report at a provincial convention. And it has been a busy year.

I have enjoyed travelling throughout the province to be with you at special anniversaries. It was a joy to meet so many of our members and to join with them in prayer and celebration.

I was very happy to be able to attend the three diocesan conventions. Although at times, we worry about lack of leadership and the shortage of new members, conventions are a wonderful time of renewal and inspiration. Each had a different format, unique to that diocese, but all honoured the League and its members.

As your provincial president, I have had the privilege of attending national meetings. When I first became president, the national executive was just starting the planning strategically process. I was fortunate to have been there at the beginning – it has been and continues to be a very interesting process. I know that there are others reporting on that this weekend, so I would just like to say that the provincial executive is ready and willing to come to your councils with updated presentations as they become available.

This year we lost two of our Life members. Margaret Lommer from Hafford served as Provincial president from 1961 to 1963 and Lottie Wihak from Melville who served as Provincial president from 1997 to 1999. These women will be fondly remembered for their dedication to the League and as leaders in our province.

Unfortunately, we have had several councils disband this year. It is a sign of the times; I am afraid that members are aging and smaller councils are struggling to keep going. On a brighter note, we have had one new council form in the Prince Albert Diocese and one reactivate in the Regina Diocese. I would advise any council that is thinking of disbanding to be inactive for a year or two before making that final decision. Sometimes the situation changes and it is much easier to reactivate than it is to start a new council.

2024 will be the year the National CWL convention comes back to Saskatchewan, this time to be hosted by the Saskatoon Diocese. 2024 is also the 100th anniversary of the Prince Albert diocesan council. In 1924 when the Prince Albert diocesan council was formed by their first president, Andrea Coley, the city of Saskatoon was part of the Prince Albert Diocese. In 1933, the diocese was split and the Saskatoon diocese was formed. It is my hope that the two dioceses can join together to host this National convention. Although it is five years from now, it is time to get the planning started. We do have a chairperson, Melanie Fauchoux who is ready to start making lists of volunteers.

As we enter into the next century of the Catholic Women's League in Canada, we must strive to be open to change. But we also cannot wait for the planning strategically process to solve all of our problems. We must get the word out in our parishes about what the League offers to women. We need to advertise ourselves; communicate what we are all about. Only we can

spread the word to the women in the pews. How we speak about our CWL involvement is the picture that we paint to those who are listening. With all the wonderful work that is going on in this province, that picture should be one of the best.

I know that many of you have heard me say many times what a wonderful experience being provincial president has been. I hope that you all will seriously consider saying 'yes' when you are invited to take on a leadership role at any level. Yes, there is work involved, but the rewards are so much more. Every role we take on helps us to understand this wonderful organization even more.

May the Holy Spirit continue to guide you as you grow with the League.

This concludes my report

Margaret Schwab

Provincial CWL Spiritual Advisor Report
Given at the 2019 CWL Provincial Convention
Humboldt, SK June 2nd & 3rd, 2019

Fr Peter Nnanga, MSP

It is really interesting to know that it's already a year since our last Provincial Convention held in Regina, SK, where I was installed as the Provincial CWL Advisor. Looking back at this past one year, I must say it has been an interesting experience serving as your Provincial Advisor.

Between our last Provincial Convention and this year's Convention, I have taken active part in the following events/programmes:

1. National CWL Convention in Winnipeg - August 2018.
2. Provincial CWL Fall Workshop and Meeting in Bruno – October 2018.
3. Provincial CWL Executive Meeting in Saskatoon - March 2019.

This one year has been a beautiful experience for me working with our provincial CWL members. I am grateful to God and thankful to our Bishop, His Excellency, Bishop Albert Thevenot, M.Afr, for giving me this opportunity to serve the League in this capacity.

This year's convention (Humboldt 2019) marks the end of my first year in the League, as well as the beginning of my 2nd year. I have not yet put in my best into the League. I look forward to another wonderful and interesting year of working together (June 2019- June 2020).

As we begin another year (June 2019- June 2020), I appeal to each and every one of us to continue to be committed to the course of our League. It is our thing, not their thing. It is our League, not their League; It's our project, not their project; It is our work, not their work. Therefore, the success story of the League lies in our collective hands, and as such, let the words of St Paul in 2nd Thessalonians 3:13 be our daily reminder:

“As for you, brethren, never become tired of doing what is good.”

In conclusion, let us never give up making a sincere effort to bringing in the younger generation women into the League. We need younger women to come into the league, and this is a task that we must do both individually and collectively; at the Parish level, Diocesan level, Provincial level and at the National level. We must also continue in our relentless effort to bring into the

League our indigenous women, they too are part of us. May God grant success to the work of our hands. Amen

Glory to Jesus, Honor Mary!

Good afternoon members of the League,

I will begin my report with a thank you to Shirley Lamoureux, our very recent diocesan past president. Shirley you did an amazing job leading our diocese and we have some projects that you began, to continue working on. We held our diocesan convention on April 27, just a few short weeks ago. At that time Shirley introduced the brand new president of a brand new council just formed in our diocese, known as the Mother of Divine Grace Council. Shirley also mentioned that the Glaslyn parish is also working on forming a council. Great news for our diocese and our province! We have a full executive this time in our diocese, but we are still in need of a few standing committee chairpersons. I once again wish to thank both the Regina and Saskatoon diocesan presidents for the invitation to attend your diocesan conventions. It was great to meet so many new and so many I have known for a while. I was able to bring along with me one of my own councils brand new members, my 16 year old grand daughter to the Saskatoon diocesan convention. Thank you, ladies, for making her feel so welcome. She can't wait to become a more active member. Unfortunately she is too busy finishing up year end assignments and studying for finals to attend this weekend. We were asked to share something that has been happening in our diocese, so today I will briefly share with you a bit about a program that began in the Battleford's in January of this year.

I'm sure most of you have seen the recent broadcast on W5 about the crime in the Battleford's, no? Well, W5 missed the good stuff! In an effort to connect the older and younger generations, (the bookends) in the community, to reduce loneliness and to improve people's well being, John Paul II grade 12 student Allysa Woodrow started a project after four of her friends committed suicide in 2018. In the beginning of 2018 eight people died by suicide. Five were under 22 and three were over 55. Our community was in shock! The community was trying to help and Allysa thought she could contribute. Her goal was to connect the bookend generations. Together Tuesdays was the project that Allysa started. This was to run from January 8th until Feb 26th. Each Tuesday young people and the older people would take part by wearing their "Better together" T-shirts, like the one I am wearing today. We were then matched with people of the different generations. The building I live in was matched with the grade 1/2 class of one of the local elementary schools as well as with the Battleford Barons junior hockey team, 15 & 16 year old boys. This team suffered the loss of one of their players who was the first to commit suicide last year, at only 15 years old. We did activities with the kids. Listened to their stories and concerns. Helped with questions they may have had. Were grandparents to many, cheered at hockey games and enjoyed the roses and flowers the hockey players brought us for Valentines day and mothers day. This program not only didn't stop in February it has taken off in droves! The mayors of both communities have gotten on board and their entire councils wear their shirts on Tuesdays. Staff and students at most of the schools, the hospital and many businesses

throughout the Battleford's have gotten on board and are working to make the community "Better Together". The seniors need the kids and the kids need the seniors. Allysa was recently nominated and won the Junior Citizen award in North Battleford. She will be attending the University of Regina this fall and will continue to work at connecting the generations and helping with the mental health of many. Watch for her in Regina, I'm sure you will hear from her! To quote Allysa " It's very heartwarming that the whole community is willing to participate". It's very interesting now that the weather is warmer to go about your business in town on a Tuesday without a jacket and find a "match", it doesn't matter what age the other person is, you both smile and often receive a hug.

I will close my report the same way I opened it. With a thank you to Shirley Lamoureux. My apologies Shirley that the pins I had ordered did not arrive in time for our convention. I have them now and I would like you to come forward to receive the diocesan past president pin and the maple leaf pin that you are so deserving of.

This concludes my report,

Helen Kayfish

Prince Albert Diocesan President

REGINA DIOCESAN PRESIDENT'S ORAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2018
Provincial Convention June 2-3, 2018- Humboldt
Marilyn Schuck, Past-President

Our 2018 Annual Report booklet states that the Regina Diocesan CWL had 72 councils with a total membership of 2,964 which is a decline of 74 members. I like to focus on the positive so I will just say this decline is an improvement over the 2017 decline. The second year of my term as president has seen the revitalization of two councils in our diocese, Holy Family, Radville with 17 new members and St. John the Baptist, Estevan with 17 new members. These statistics will show up in the 2019 report. As well, in 2018 we had two councils with significant increases in membership, St. Joseph, Indian Head with 13 new members and Church of Our Lady, Moose Jaw with 11 new members. I would like to give the spiritual advisors in these councils a lot of credit for promoting the League to the women of their parishes.

In 2019, we will be sad to have 3 councils in our diocese disband. We have been aware of this for two years now but it will become official as the members submit their paperwork to disband. The councils are St. Joseph, Vanguard, St. Albert, Mankota, and Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, Val Marie.

Eight councils celebrated significant anniversaries and were sent Diocesan certificates: Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Val Marie – 60 years; Mary, Queen of Hearts, Lestock – 60 years; St. James, Southey – 50 years; St. Paul, Vibank – 60 years; St. Joseph, Vanguard –

85 years; St. Joseph, Indian Head – 65 years; St. Patrick, Sturgis – 70 years; St. John the Evangelist, Marquis – 90 years.

That records 540 years of service for ‘God and Canada’! As well there were 48 Long Term membership certificates and 13 Charter Member certificates presented to members in our diocese.

As Diocesan president, I attended the Prince Albert Diocesan convention in Rosthern and Saskatoon Diocesan Convention in Kindersley, the Sask. Provincial CWL Convention in Regina, the National Convention in Winnipeg, the 2018 provincial workshop in Bruno and 2019 March provincial meeting in Saskatoon.

I also attended St. Paul CWL, Vibank 60th anniversary and 4 regional meetings. Along with Yvonne Bachelu and Janette Rieger, we revised and used the workshop “Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God’s Call” which we presented at some of the regional workshops in the fall. This spring (2019) turned out to be busy with CWL events. I attended two regional meetings and a 65th anniversary of St. Joseph CWL, Indian Head.

Our Diocesan Council finally has a new Manual of Policy and Procedure worked on for about two years. However, as it happens, new changes appear and the manual already needs to be updated. We have learned the hard way, not to wait 10 years but to keep it updated as we go.

Our Diocesan Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Ed Hengen, retired from active parish service late last fall so we started the search for a new spiritual advisor. Finally, in March, the Archbishop notified me that Fr. Thomas Mutavanattu, pastor of St. Mary’s, Regina was willing to take on the challenge. We had to scramble to get him on board as there were many duties for him to do in connection with the diocesan convention. Fr. Thomas was very obliging during this transition and now is officially installed as our Diocesan Spiritual Advisor. Welcome, Fr. Thomas!

Our 2019 Diocesan Convention was held at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Weyburn on May 5th and 6th hosted by the Weyburn region. There were over 180 members, dignitaries and guests in attendance. Fr. John Weckend presided at the opening mass, along with all attending priests concelebrating. Guest speaker, Tashia Toupin, Social Justice Co-ordinator for Regina Archdiocese, spoke on the new CWL theme, “Care For Our Common Home”. Our second guest speaker was Denise Mountenay, founder of *Together for Life Ministries*. She gave a personal testimony of her experience of abortion and how abortion, which has been legal in Canada for 50 years, has hurt women, men, families and our nation. Our convention was also blessed to have Carl Hetu, executive director of CNEWA (Canada) attend. He spoke of the work done in the Holy Land with the program initiated by the CWL called “Velma’s Dream” to protect and assist Christians who are under great stress because of the situation in the Middle East. Archbishop Don Bolen celebrated the closing mass along with other spiritual advisors concelebrating. Fr. Thomas Mutavanattu was installed as Diocesan Spiritual Advisor for a five year term and the new diocesan executive was installed for a two year term.

It was election year for us in the Regina diocese. We have a new executive with Yvonne Bachelu as our new president, Janette Rieger as president-elect and several new women who responded to God's call joining some of the previous members who are continuing to serve. Along with the core executive and standing committee chairs, we also have 9 dedicated women who lead the regional councils and attend our executive meetings and conventions.

I also want to congratulate Janette Rieger for applying and being accepted as a candidate for the second cohort of women to attend the Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation course. That is why she was not able to attend this convention because she is in Ottawa for the orientation to this program.

It has been my privilege to serve as president on the Regina Diocesan Council for the last two years, to get to know the other CWL women in our province through attending meetings and conventions, and to experience their hospitality and love as we journeyed together in our League work. I believe that every Catholic woman can find a home in the League and I am very excited about the changes that are on the horizon with the Strategic Planning initiatives that should make our beloved Catholic Women's League a force for the future.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to bless us as we work for "God and Canada".
This concludes my report.

Presidents Report for Provincial Convention 2019
June 2, 2019 Humboldt Sk.

Greetings from the Saskatoon Diocesan Council, consisting of 44 councils in five regions and 1,885 members. Our Diocesan Council is here to serve you. We would love to come to your region and hold a workshop or celebrate your council anniversary. The National office has prepared numerous workshops that are available on line. Make sure you check them out. Then invite for us to present them in your parish or region.

The 5 regions in our Diocesan council are:

Our Lady of Grace Region, which would include all of the Saskatoon Councils

St Angela's Region; Rosetown, Kindersley, Eston, Eaton, Fox Valley, Leader and Liebenthal.

St Joseph's Region; St Mary's and St Donatus Macklin, Unity, Kerrortbert, Luseland, Bigger, Denzil, Landis, Major and Tramping Lake.

St Peter's Region; Cudworth, Bruno, Humboldt, Englefeld, Lintlaw, Wadena, Watson and Perigord

Manitou Region ; Wynyard, Foam Lake, Allen, Outlook, Kenaston, and Lanigan,

Arlene Rey has been Our lady of Grace chairperson for the Saskatoon councils. She has finished her term so we are looking for someone to fill her position. Please contact me for more information on this position or information on how you can be a chairperson for any other of the regions in our Diocese.

Congratulations to the numerous councils celebrating Anniversaries this year:

St James, Wilkie have celebrated 75 years

Our Lady of Fatima Landis and St Theresa Lintlaw and St Anastasia Perigord celebrating 70 years

Sacred Heart Davidson, and Imaculate Heart of Mary Outlook celebrating 65 years

St John Bosco, Saskatoon, Little Flower Leader, St Philip Neri Saskatoon and St Andrew Kenaston

Celebrating 60 years

St Mary's Wynyard celebrating 55 years.

We were very pleased, in the past year to have been able to present some informative speakers at our fall and winter executive meetings. At our September meeting we had Shawna Arnold and Nancy Garez speak to us about their abortion experiences and the post abortion trauma that women go thru after their abortions. They informed us about the Fountain of Hope ministry, a ministry that goes into schools and sharing their testimony while informing the students about the many mental and physical side effects of having an abortion.

Jacqueline Saretsky, coordinator of Hospital Chaplaincy gave us a very informative talk on the Dying Healing program and on how we can foster a deep and lasting awareness of the meaning and dignity of each human life, and how the power of human presence is an integral way to reach another person and show compassion and love, especially if that person is suffering with a terminal illness. The dying healed program is not complicated and does not require advanced degrees. It requires faith in our own ability to effect change by being who we are and giving of our time to those most in need. Thank You to all Councils who organized this program in their parish and those who participated in this workshop. Please continue to promote this program.

For our February meeting Diane Anderson from the Saskatoon Diocesan Office spoke to us and shared many stories about her life and work in the Prison Ministry. Bob Gents of the Saskatchewan Hospice and Palliative Care Association gave us a presentation and informed us on the present situation in Saskatoon of Hospice and Palliative Care.

At our Diocesan convention in May we were very pleased to have Jim Anderson of St Therese and Bishop Mark Hagemoen as our guest speakers. They both gave wonderful presentations on our new theme. Bishop Mark had a wonderful way of connecting Pope Francis's encyclical "Laudet Si" with our Theme, Care of Our Common Home." Thank you, Bishop Mark.

Please ladies, remember to fill out your evaluation sheets at our Conventions so we can help you by getting an informed speaker for your concerns and for your growth as a CWL member.

Thank you to the many councils that have been showing the video "Fatal Flaws". If you haven't seen it. You may want to have a regional gathering and include this video. It is available on line from the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition.

As I mentioned at the Diocesan Convention, the Diocesan Council will be renting a van to travel to the National Convention in Calgary in August. Leaving on Saturday August 17th and returning August 22. Registration deadline for the National Convention is July 18th. Please contact myself or Margo de la Gorgendiere as soon as possible if you are interested in travelling with us.

The Clothing depot has had another very successful year in 2018. It has been in operation for 53 years. Charitable donations totalled 43,000 dollars.

The mandate of the Clothing depot is that no one in need is refused assistance due to lack of funds. 428 individuals were provided assistance at no cost to them. Examples would be the homeless needing clothes or blankets and refugees and fire victims in need of kitchen items, towels and sheets.

Donations were given to numerous charities in the past year. Among them was to Catholic Missions in Canada. Father David Reilander thanked the Clothing depot and requested pictures and a thousand word report. Watch for this article in the Catholic Missions Magazine. Our newly appointed Clothing Depot chairperson Marlene Kuch would like to thank all of the councils who promote clothing drives and encouraged donations from their parishes, families and friends.

This concludes my report
Ingrid Eggerman
Saskatoon Diocesan President

Saskatchewan Provincial CWL Organization Oral Report June 3, 2019

The goals of the organization standing committee are vital to the well-being of the League. The very first goal is to **recruit members and maintain membership**. In the **Handbook for Organization Chairpersons** it states, “I am a member of the Catholic Women’s League of Canada because I believe that as a human being and a Christian, I have a responsibility to witness Christ to the world, and that membership in the League opens a new vista, helping me to fulfill in greater measure my Christian mission in the community of human kind.” What a powerful statement! We as Catholic women know that we do have a responsibility to witness Christ in the world, and if we truly believe that our membership in the League helps us to do this, we should be absolutely convinced that sharing the gift of the League with others is part of our Christian mission. In reviewing your annual reports, many of you welcomed new members into your councils this past year, but more needs to be done. I believe that introducing the Catholic Women’s League to the young girls in our parishes through the establishment of the Catholic Girl’s League is a wonderful starter for girls to be initiated as future League members. I am very pleased to announce that one council in the Saskatoon Diocese will be starting a group this fall.

Realizing that changes needed to be made in order to enhance the League’s vitality, our national executive launched the strategic planning committees. Some of you may have attended an information session entitled **The Catholic Women’s League Plans Strategically 2018- 2022**, outlining the details of what changes members would like to see to ensure the League will continue to flourish. A new workshop has just been released entitled **Guiding Principles to our Envisioned Future** and is available to councils to stay informed and enthused about the changes coming which will facilitate recruitment.

Once we bring new members into the League, it’s very important to educate and to mentor them so that in time, they’ll feel confident in advancing to a leadership position. Again, **The Handbook for Organization Chairpersons** states, “In order to stimulate growth and develop skills, talents and personal potential of all members, it is important to provide opportunities for personal growth.” **Leadership development** should be an ongoing process in all councils. The National Development Fund was recently revised, and is available to all councils. Consider asking honorary life members and life members to facilitate leadership workshops in your council.

Communicating what we do with others in our province and in Canada is done in large part through the **annual reports**. This is the fourth year that the national online survey for reporting was used. Many councils still find this process very daunting, and as a result, many did not submit an annual report. Organization chairpersons at the diocesan level should identify the councils that require assistance with online reporting and assist them in completing their reports.

We are so fortunate to have a vast array of **League resource material** which help with the ongoing education of all members. Please visit our provincial website cwlsk.ca, and our national website cwl.ca to stay informed. Become familiar with the National Manual of Policy and Procedure and the Constitution & Bylaws by referencing them whenever you have a question about the League. I cannot stress enough, the importance of reading every article in The Canadian League magazine. This magazine is now available on line, and we've been asked to consider reading it there, rather than receiving a hard copy. Not only would this reduce production costs, but would preserve our trees and show support to the League's new theme **Care for Our Common Home**.

Life Membership also falls under the duties of the organization chairperson. One of the criteria for becoming a **Life Member** has changed. In past years the member had to have served as both a provincial, and as a diocesan president, but now, it is sufficient that the member has served as either a diocesan or as a provincial president. I'm happy to inform you that three new life members from Saskatchewan will be commissioned at the 99th annual national convention in Calgary this August. As the convention is within driving distance, I encourage all of you to attend to witness the heart and soul of our magnificent organization!

This concludes my report.
Chantal Devine

2019 Provincial Convention
Spiritual Development Oral Report

Beginning to implement the league's five year strategic plan is certainly an act of faith shown by those in leadership positions. Faith, it is one of the three core values identified by our members and highlighted in Goal one of the strategic plan. "Members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada grow in faith by sharing, witnessing, and developing leadership skills to create positive change." The first objective of this goal is to "increase opportunities for spiritual development." When is the last time you heard someone say "Our council spends too much time on spiritual development?" If some of the measurements for success for this goal are an increase in opportunities to come together in prayer, more bible studies, more spiritual retreats and workshops and our councils truly work to achieve this goal alone, I believe the rest of the plan will easily achieve success as well.

We exist as an organization because we have a mission as Catholic women firstly to grow in faith, and then because of that growth of faith we come to understand that the love of God calls us next to ministry and service. We need to use spiritual development to connect the dots. We are fortunate that the Catholic Women's League through its strategic plan, wants to ensure our members are provided with a space to grow spiritually. Our spiritual growth, through the power of the Holy Spirit, will provide us with the guidance to discern where we are needed. Through all this our leadership will provide us with the support and encouragement to take action in areas of service and social justice.

Our theme “Care of Our Common Home” provides councils with a vast array of ideas in terms of Spiritual Development. When was the last time your council read and discuss a papal encyclical? Laudato Si provides you this opportunity. It is an easy read and its topic is very relevant to all. Best of all it provides information that can result in action ideas for your council to share with their families, parish and communities.

As members, you don’t have to wait for your councils to supply you with spiritual development opportunities. There is an abundance of good videos available online if you are able to access the internet. You Tube is overflowing with good Catholic content: Bishop Robert Baron, Matthew Kelly, Fr. Mike Schmitz and some local born favourites Fr. Ronald Rolheiser and Ken Yasinsky. If you find one you especially like you could offer to share it at your next council gathering and have a discussion. Make a commitment to enhance your own spiritual life. Attend a daily mass this week, read one spiritual book this month, make time for daily prayer, the rosary. Look for an opportunity to attend a retreat or workshop and ask someone you know to join you.

This year I entered 170 member’s names in the Book of Life. They joined many wonderful women who have gone before who have kept our League strong for almost 100 years. These were all women of faith who took that faith out into their parishes and communities in service to God and Canada. Let us too continue to build our faith so that we too will leave a legacy that extends far into the future.

This concludes my report
Connie Crichton

CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE ORAL REPORT
SK Provincial CWL Convention, 2019
Marge Appell

Christian Family Life chairpersons and their committees continue to be challenged by numerous issues.

Pro Choice organizations are alive and well, at both ends of the life spectrum. Recently Health Canada lifted the ultrasound requirement to obtain a prescription for the abortion drug Mifegymiso and, a Campaign for Life Coalition spokesperson says this “falls in line with their history of dismissing the importance of women’s health” and adhering to the “ideological perspective that choice comes before women’s protection.” Also, according to a report published by Health Canada, assisted suicides are on the rise. Latest statistics show that one in every 100 deaths in Canada is administered by a doctor, however the number is likely higher since not all parts of our country report medically-assisted deaths.

Did you know that SK has the highest rates of reported abuse among Canadian provinces? This information comes from Family Services in Regina, and in that city alone, the police service receives, on average, 5000 abuse reports per year. SK has a 24-hour help line that individuals and families can call for location of services and programs across the province. The number is 211. Access by text, webchat, or sk.211.ca is also available.

The Christian Family Life portfolio has numerous resolutions from past years that are still active, including:

2004.01	Protection of Human Life
1999.01	Elder Abuse/Assault Awareness
1996.02	Natural Family Planning
1996.03	Advanced Directives for Health Care
1995.02	Abortion Funding
1992.05	Support Services for Pregnant Women
1989.04	National Strategy on Child Care
1984.06	Spousal Abuse
1975.02	Abortion Counselling

These are easily found on the National CWL website. Review the action plans and resolve to continue voicing concerns.

In April of this year, Pope Francis released his apostolic exhortation in response to the Synod on Young People held last October. He refers to the heart of a young person as “holy ground”, and says youth, as children of God, deserve not only to be acknowledged, but affirmed, not just listened to, but heard. He encourages youth to grow in holiness and commitment to personal vocation, and he tells us (the Church) that we must find ways and means to help youth embark on this precious experience.

In all our needs, Pope Francis, encourages us to turn to Mary, who, as the Mother of God, is a source of inspiration and strength in our world. In seeking to understand and remain faithful to our life vocations, Pope Francis says that Mary can help all believers dedicate themselves to “the path of peace and fraternity founded on welcoming and forgiving, on respect for others, and on love as a gift of oneself.”

This concludes my report.

2018 ANNUAL REPORT SASKATCHEWAN COMMUNITY LIFE STANDING COMMITTEE

Community Life – we have no choice. Unless we move alone to the far reaches of the galaxy we, by virtue of our contact with others, are involved in community life.

A **community** is a group of people living or working together. Our neighbourhoods are **communities**. Our towns and cities are **communities**. The Catholic Women’s League is a community. Our country is a community. The world is a community.

A **healthy community** is a cohesive, safe, confident, prosperous and joy-filled place. It provides a good quality of life for everyone that lives there. It values and promotes open, participative development processes.

A **community** is a familiar thread used to bring people together to advocate and support each other in the fight to overcome threats. As human beings, we need a sense of belonging, and that sense of belonging is what connects us to the many relationships we develop. The threats that the CWL Community Life Standing Committee deals with are: absence and loss of the

dignity and rights of persons, social and economic injustice, lack of development and peace in communities, and non-support or ignorance of refugees, immigration and citizenship issues.

Working at the **community** level to promote **healthy** living brings the greatest **health** benefits to the greatest number of people. It helps to reduce **health** gaps caused by differences in income, education, race and ethnicity, location and other factors that affect social and physical **health**. **Unhealthy** communities lead to chronic disease, such as the medical issues of cancer, diabetes, and heart disease. As well, it can lead to the cancer of ignorance and not caring, the diabetes of misplaced sweetness or kindness as in social justice and charity, and the heart disease of hatred, indifference and self-centredness. The health of our communities is critical to growth and development. Programs that simultaneously strengthen access to healthy shelter, food, mobility, participation in decision making, and connection to community reduce the risk of the above diseases both physical and social.

When we promoted healthy community life we followed the key principles of Catholic Social Teaching:

1. Options for the Poor and Vulnerable: Addressing basic needs such as food, shelter and education. Our work in schools, women's shelters, clothing donations, and food drives, soup kitchens show our generosity in this area.
2. Human Dignity and Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers: Treating others with dignity and respect. We worked at this close to home and far away. In studying the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we reminded ourselves of how we should think of and treat others. Our self-education and advocacy on human trafficking is growing and hopefully reaping benefits. Minority groups supported included those incarcerated, bullied, homeless, impoverished, suffering from domestic violence and from racism.
3. Rights and Responsibilities: Ensuring justice for others both social and economic. Throughout the year, members across the province participated in the work of organizations caring for those in need. We supported refugee families, the poor and disadvantaged in our communities and throughout the world. We are making progress although not yet fully aware of restorative justice programs or prison ministry and the plight of indigenous women. We have begun to acknowledge that the land we gather on is the traditional territory of our aboriginal sisters and brothers. We fought the government on the injustice of the Canada Summer Jobs Attestation requirement. We fought for the right of our medical professionals to conscientiously object to their participation in euthanasia and assisted suicide.
4. Reviewing and acting on resolutions such as 2017.01 Implementation of the Supreme Court Decision in R.V. Gladue for Indigenous Offenders, 2013.01 Building relationships and partnerships with Canada's Indigenous Peoples, 2011.02 Children of Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women.
5. Create opportunities for people to improve their lives. We promoted the Catholic Near East Welfare Association.

What do we get out of our focus on community life? We get a sense of satisfaction, of joy, a sense of God in us and in others. We also develop practical skills from community service such as the ability to work with a variety of people; time-management and prioritization skills as we choose projects and carry them out; leadership skills as we spearhead a project or teach a skill to others; communication skills and a sense of confidence as we interact with others of

different ages, cultures and interests; professionalism as we represent the CWL in our many projects without arrogance but with a sense of joy for our good works.

Did you have to step outside your comfort zone in 2018? Did your confidence grow? Our CWL Community Life projects are public relations tools for our organization, for Canada, and for God. Think of a TV ad. When we speak or act in Community life, we are advertising Christian living – community life.

Can you teach an “old dog new tricks”? Can you teach an old CWL member new things? Of course you can! As we enter the first year of our Strategic Planning action, we will adapt and learn and continue to carry out our Community Life mandate:

“Wherever there are people in need of food and drink, clothing, housing, medicine, employment, education; wherever (people) lack the facilities necessary for living a truly human life or are afflicted with serious distress or illness or suffer exile or imprisonment, there Christian charity should seek them out and find them, console them with great solicitude, and help them with appropriate relief. This obligation is imposed above all upon every prosperous nation and person.” (Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity)

Submitted by

Lorraine Thibeault

Provincial Communications Chair Oral report June 2 – 3, 2019

National Communications chair Doreen Gowans was asked by National President Ann-Marie Gorman to send out Communique #5 from April 30, 2019 requesting us to communicate better to have our information to filter down to all members. She is asking us to pass down the change to the national communication policy. We need to inform every sister from honorary life members to our new and grassroots members. Communication is an important tool to keep members informed especially with prospective changes through the strategic planning process.

National office staff is receiving calls for information that should be directed to the other levels of the League. Staff will continue to educate members at large of the change until further notice. As stated on page 8 of the Constitution & Bylaws, “The executive shall direct and administer the affairs of the League “and on page 19 “The president, as the chief officer, shall inform the membership of the position of the League on current issues and priorities and new programs.” To improve the flow of communication the national executive / board has chosen to make this change.

The changes to the national communication policy has stated in National Communications Communique #4, parish mail out and spring edition of The Canadian League. For all information, concerns and / or inquiries the flow of communication starts with the parish council and flows the chain of command to diocesan, then to provincial and then to national council. To endorse and promote this communication policy, the national executive has decided to discontinue the toll-free 1-888 phone line effective June 30, 2019 as it will no longer be required. Thank you for your cooperation.

Direction to councils,” Please inform members that for matters of administration (orders, membership, On the Spot, they should contact national office by e-mail. With respect

to all other matters as policy, procedure, programs, actions, concerns, please inform members to first communicate directly with the respective parish council executive member. If the inquiry is such that it needs to be raised to the diocesan level, the parish executive will represent its members and do so. In the event that it needs to be raised to the provincial level, the diocesan executive will represent its members and do so. Should the inquiry need to be raised to the national level, the provincial executive will represent its members and do so. “

These changes may appear like additional work but have been designed for ease and efficiency, enabling presidents to keep informed of information requested from various levels in an effort to include the information in an upcoming next communique or parish mail out, educate members, or to host a workshop on the issue. By doing this, all members are kept informed on the various issues arising across Canada.

An updated Pornography Hurts postcard that includes Resolution 2017.02 Mandatory Age Verification Mechanisms for Adult Pornographic Websites is available on the national website. Encourage members, friends and parishioners to send the postcards, no postage required, to the prime minister, members of parliament and the federal minister of justice requesting legislation be enacted to ensure that adult websites verify the age of users. Including a question on the postcard provides the recipient an opportunity to reply. The replies may influence how members vote in the federal election October 2019. Statistics Canada reported in 2017 that child pornography increased over 200% within the last decade. Canada currently does not have an age verification requirement, therefore minors can accidentally or knowingly access websites containing pornography.

Thank you for your support in my two years of Communications Chair. We have learned a tremendous amount about preparing articles for the provincial website which includes our three diocesan councils. Thank you for all the improvement in your submissions.

This concludes my report.

Adele Giblin

Education and Health Oral Report June 03 -- 2019

12 hours for Hospice Palliative Care has been acknowledged this year May 06-12. Councils were encouraged to take part in this initiative on a day within that week that best suited them. I believe many councils participated in this initiative.

Health:

If you are a blood donor or if you have family or friends that donated blood.

The National office is encouraging councils to register under the Canada Blood Services for Life program under the CWL ID #CATH011269. There is more information regarding this on the provincial website Education and Health Communiqué #06, dated January 2019.

The New Canada Food Guide is now available providing information under 5 categories: Food Choices, Eating Habits, Recipes, Tips & Resources. The new guide has been developed to be relevant to all Canadians as well as be inclusive of Indigenous people.

Mental Health

The Canadian Health Association states: We are all human beings with a body and mind. We also have emotions. We all have physical health and we all have mental health, if we have physical health problems we usually share them or they are visible. Mental issues are usually not talked about. One in every 3 persons will be effected with mental health at some point in their lives either directly or indirectly. You never know what people are going through and sometimes the people with the biggest smiles are struggling the most, so be kind.

Catholic Education

As many of you know the Theodore Appeal was held March 13 and 14 of this year. There were 5 judges presiding. Overall there is a feeling of optimism. The people involved felt that they received a good hearing and that the Court of Appeal Judges understood the arguments being made. The overall feeling is that a decision should be made within 6-18 months. If anyone is interested you can go to the website: [Open Catholic Education.ca](http://OpenCatholicEducation.ca) for additional information.

Regarding our theme Care for Our Common Home: --We have been made aware of the importance of everyone having save water, and to be able to have a decent supply of water. We are being challenged to conserve water in our homes and places of work if possible. Water Challenge Pledge forms have been forwarded to the Chairpersons of Education and Health. These forms were to be forwarded to the members in the different councils. There is a deadline of June 30 to complete the Challenge. At the bottom of the form are ways to conserve water and you are welcome to add your own water conservation ideas. I encourage you to the challenge.

This concludes my report.
Marian Zsombor

Legislation Report Saskatchewan Diocesan Council Catholic Women's League of Canada

June 3, 2019

Things are really buzzing in the House of Commons right now. This session being adjourned in less than two weeks and there are over 40 bills the government is most anxious to have passed. There will not be another sitting prior to this October's federal election and items that do not get passed this session are no longer valid and are removed. All items will need to be re-introduced once the government is in place after the election and start as a new bill.

The new North American free trade deal between Canada, United States and Mexico has not been passed. There is still haggling in the Senate and the House of Commons. If it not passed in time the old NAFTA agreement is still in place and will stay in effect until the new one is passed or the United States decides things are taking too long and change their mind.

Bill C-69, the over 700-page controversial omnibus budget bill, has not been passed and is still being discussed. The Senate has proposed 187 amendments to the to government's environmental assessment legislation in the bill. The bill proposes to overhaul the environmental review process for major projects and has been criticized by both environmentalists and industry groups. The Senate at this time has not given final approval.

The Senate has also stalled Bill C-48 which would impose a moratorium on oil tanker traffic along the northern British Columbia coast.

Another bill that is in limbo at this time is Bill C-97, the Budget Implementation Act. This is a 392-page monstrosity that enacts or amends more than 60 pieces of legislation on a wide variety of subjects (or a columnist stated “on everything under the sun”).

The Auditor General releases a report – a few highlights include: the frustration of Canadians trying to talk to a live person at government agencies on the phone; training of RCMP officers on the use and having access to carbines and body armour. This is five years after Mounties were gunned down in New Brunswick; Canada’s refugee determination system is unable to process claims in a timely fashion even though reforms were passed seven years ago, Canada’s sales tax system has failed to keep up with electronic marketing and has failed to collect approximately \$169 million in GST; public funds are being used to support partisan advertising due to inadequate controls; the National Museum of Science and Technology has had to have a large portion of its collection in leased storage. These have poor storage conditions and pose a risk to our treasures risking deterioration, damage and theft.

The Immigration Department has proposed changes to Canada’s citizenship oath to acknowledge the rights of the Indigenous. Added to the oath will be the phrase “including the Constitution, which recognize and affirms the Aboriginal and treaty rights of First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples, and fulfil my duties as a Canadian citizen.

With elections on the horizon I encourage all of you and your council members to use your hard-fought rights and vote. Get involved, work the election, work for a candidate, attend all candidate meetings. Please vote for whom ever you want but please get out and vote.

Respectfully submitted

Susan Melchiorre
Legislation Chairperson
Saskatchewan Provincial Council

Resolution Report

June 3, 2019

Susan Melchiorre, Chairperson

Saskatchewan Provincial Council

With “Care of Our Common Home” being our theme with care of our environment be in forefront, I thought I would bring your attention to an old resolution passed in 1990 that some of you have forgotten about or ignored and for some it occurred before you joined the Catholic Women’s League. Resolution 1990.06 bears remembering and practicing. It was entitled “Refuse-Reduce-Recycle-Reuse-Recover. As the title refers it entailed taking care of our land through education and knowledge to increase concern for our environment. There were a number of actions suggested, but we as councils have forgotten the one directed to us that we can easily practice in our own councils and parishes. Even way back in the 90s We were urged to stop using Styrofoam, plastic and paper product at our meetings and events. We have either forgotten this resolution that was a bit ahead of its time or we have gotten too lazy to wash the dishes or to use only recyclable (and do recycle them) products. I challenge you to get back to using real cups, plates, cutlery, etc. Do your part at your CWL meetings and events in

supporting our theme and environment! As a side benefit you will probably save money as you will not have to keep replacing these products. And isn't far more enjoyable to have your coffee or tea in a china cup!

I suggest you read Resolution Communique #2 for a complete description of the changes that are coming to the Resolution process. A new *Resolution Supplement to the Executive Handbook* (2019/01) has been written. It looks to improve various areas particularly when members debate "wordsmithing" rather than content of a resolution. The hope is to streamline the process and focus on the issue addressed in the resolution. These new rules will be tested and used for the 2019 national convention. When a resolution comes to convention floor debate will only be allowed on content not wordsmithing. Your own resolution committee which should be made up of knowledgeable resolution members may be asked to participate on the committee longer than two years at all levels.

Thank you to Cathedral of the Holy Family Council, Saskatoon, who gifted us with a resolution this convention. I am looking forward to the national convention with the hope that this resolution is accepted and debated on the convention floor.

I know next year seems a long way off. But now is the time to start thinking and working on resolutions for 2020. Your diocesan council needs to be aware of any resolutions by the end of November and the resolution needs to be presented to them prior to their February meeting so it can be prepared for convention.

We need to be aware of the power and influence of our resolutions and follow up needs to reflect change in our province, country and beyond.

Respectfully submitted

Susan Melchiorre
Resolution Chairperson
Saskatchewan Provincial Council

Catholic Women's League Saskatchewan
June 2, 2019
Past President's Report

This is our 99th year as the catholic Women's League of Canada and next year we will be celebrating 100 years...what an accomplishment.

There will be much planning as we march forward, each level of the CWL will be in a party mode as our big anniversary arrives. We will look back over the years in our own parishes to see what we have accomplished and how proud we are of those who came before us.

One of the things that we should be looking at this coming fall is each parish updating their Manual of Policy and Procedure. I know this is time consuming, but we need to be up to date with new information. I know for a fact that some parishes do not have a Policy and Procedure manual and when asked what do they use- the reply was that ‘they just do what they always do – ask the older members what they had done before’!

Check the national information center for the 800 Series workshops and you will find 812 “*How to Prepare a Parish Council Manual of Policy and Procedures*”.

Manuals of Policy and Procedures are complementary to the Constitution of Bylaws and must become standard of the Constitution of Bylaws – or as they are referred to as the C & B.

Be sure to make use of your past Presidents to help you with your term as President or to pick their brains for information about the CWL. Remember they didn’t get those grey hairs by sitting on the sidelines doing nothing.

Jean Reader

Saskatchewan CWL Past President

LIFE MEMBER LIAISON ORAL REPORT - 2019

It has been my privilege to serve as your Saskatchewan Life Member Liaison for this 2-year term. Our National Life liaison is Ann Doucet, who is in charge of the communiques, then sends them to each provincial liaison. I have relayed 15 communiques this year, most of them by email and 4 by post mail.

Our province has 5 Honourary Life members, (having served as National President) and 11 Life members. During my term, we’ve had 2 Life members pass away. Lottie Wihak, October 1, 2018, Provincial President in 1997-98. Margaret Lommer, March 13, 2019, Provincial President in 1961- 62. (just a note, in 1962, Margaret chaired the 14th Annual Provincial Convention here in Humboldt with 157 members attending) May they rest in peace.

At the 2018 National Convention held in Winnipeg, an amendment was made to the eligibility of Life members. In the past, provincial presidents were eligible, which is now changed to diocesan presidency and serving on provincial executive. This year we have nominated 3 members for Life membership. Life members have accredited voting privileges and must be willing to serve when asked, thus privileges bring responsibilities.

I have completed a Provincial Life Member Liaison Annual report on line for Ann Doucet.

I enjoyed being our provincial liaison, as my health and mobility problems have deterred me from being more active. I thank God that I had the strength through my journey to being your Provincial President.

This concludes my final report.

Marge Szabo

Prov. Life Member Liaison

