

The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Saskatchewan Provincial Council  
**Annual Reports 2020**



**Care for our**

**Common Home**

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# Saskatchewan Provincial Council President

## Annual Report 2020

Chantal Devine

Annual reports have always been a great way of communicating the activity taking place in parishes throughout the province. After reading the reports from our three diocesan presidents in Saskatchewan, I was reassured that in spite of the restrictions placed on us during this time of pandemic, the work of the League continued, albeit at a reduced rate. In all three dioceses, the number of councils reporting was down from last year. In the northern diocese only 38% of councils sent in their annual reports, while in the other two dioceses nearly 50% reported. The position of president was filled in just over 90% of those reporting. In the councils where the position was not filled, two members from that council shared the responsibilities of the office.

Our aging membership was evident in the information relating to our parish presidents. Over half of our council presidents were 65 years or older, and only 7% were under 55 years of age. Fifty- three percent of presidents have been members for over 25 years, and statistics showed 70% had previously held this position. Members were excited about the new initiatives proposed in the strategic plan undertaken by the League, which will hopefully attract new and younger members to the organization. The Canadian League magazine was the source that 90% of our members referenced for up- to- date information about the League. Other popular sources of information were, communiques from national, provincial, and diocesan councils, newsletters from diocesan and provincial, as well as, church bulletins. Probably due to the increased time spent in self- isolation during this past year, website use increased by 75%, as members visited the national and provincial websites for information.

The majority of councils were in favour of having a national theme and wished this to continue. Our present theme “Care for Our Common Home,” was well received as it was timely and allowed councils to actively support the theme in a personal way. Other areas of concern were, removing medical assistance in dying (MAiD) from palliative care and hospice facilities, the protection of conscience rights of health care workers, issues dealing with flushable products, and Bill C- 7, a bill to amend the Criminal Code in Canada regarding MAiD. Members voiced their concerns through emails and letter writing to government officials. Thirty- one percent of members also showed their support for the rights of the pre- born under the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**, by contacting their provincial and federal governments and by supporting pro- life organizations. This was in contrast to Canada’s support for the **Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons** which only garnered 2% support. Over 90% of councils reported discussing these topics at their meetings. Several councils wrote about the issues in newsletters or had a standing committee chairperson speak on the topic, while only 11% arranged for a speaker on the topic. Over 90% of councils felt their spiritual advisors were very supportive of the League. During 2020, just over half of councils reported meeting with their spiritual advisor monthly, while 7% said they never met. The most common reason given for this lack of attendance was that over 50% of priests have other parishes to administer and/or, other duties within the diocese which take priority. Also, one third responded that there was a lack of tradition in having the spiritual advisor at meetings. That tradition, along with the large influx of international priests, who are not well informed about the CWL, may also be a contributing factor for the lack of attendance at meetings. To help improve this situation, councils should ensure that each spiritual advisor is provided with a copy of the *Handbook for Spiritual Advisors*, and that he/she is consulted on his/her availability before setting the dates for the monthly CWL meetings.

Over half of councils stated that the most referenced resources were, the *Constitution and Bylaws*, the *Executive Handbook* and the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*. Several councils mentioned using *Roberts Rules of Order* and a few consulted *Parliamentary Procedure*. Those councils who had their own council policy and procedure manual, said they often referred to it during meetings. However, only 48% reported having their own parish manual. Thirty- eight percent of councils who did not have their own, thought the manual would be beneficial, and that they would require assistance in compiling it.

The most common documents signed by council presidents were cheques and bank documents. Letters directed within and outside of the CWL were the second most common item which would require the president's signature, while a few presidents reported signing petitions.

Before COVID-19 restrictions, the top two events where presidents represented their councils were, church functions at 62% and World Day of Prayer 51%. Presidents also attended other events such as: funeral guards, potluck suppers, Remembrance Day Services, CWL Masses, regional meetings, conventions, workshops, fundraising events, retreats, community fundraisers and school ceremonies. Subsidizing presidents' expenses to attend these functions, varied very little from council to council throughout the province. In all three of the dioceses, less than 15% of presidents were subsidized for their attendance at CWL conventions and other events.

The majority of presidents have read and made use of the *Executive Handbook*. It helped them in outlining the duties of each chairperson on their executive, and in organizing their council's activities.

All presidents reported that the work of the League is carried out via the various committees in their councils, primarily, social events, funeral lunches, visitations, annual teas, and bazaars. To a lesser degree, councils supported scholarships/bursaries, fundraising, catering, and donations. Other committees mentioned were spiritual, financial, organizational committees, World day of Prayer, Catholic Girl's League and Prayer Chain. One council had an organized group in charge of making baptismal stoles to provide as gifts at baptisms in their parish.

About 60% of councils provided an annual summary of activities to their councils. This was mostly accomplished through oral reports, but also by written reports, e-mails, newsletters, and parish bulletins.

Because of the restrictions of meeting in person this year, most presidents did not speak on behalf of their councils at public gatherings. They concentrated on growing spiritually through prayer, and reached out with phone calls, emails, and cards of support. Those presidents who had an opportunity to address their members spoke on our theme, **Care for our Common Home**, MAiD and palliative care, national resolutions, and mental health. They also encouraged members to attend the 12 Hours of Prayer, the parish sponsored Alpha Program and the rosary rally.

When assuming the role of president, the majority responded that the immediate past president and former past presidents offered the greatest assistance, followed closely by the treasurer, current executive and secretary. Thirteen percent mentioned having a personal mentor but did not disclose who this mentor was. Unfortunately, life members, who are an invaluable source of knowledge, and capable of providing guidance and support, were only called on 7% of the time.

The greatest challenges presidents faced were, not having a full slate of officers, keeping members enthused about the League, recruiting and technology. The remainder of the challenges had their roots in not being well enough prepared for the position. More workshops dealing with all aspects of the League would go a long way in eliminating many of these challenges.

Most presidents embraced the national theme as it gave their members a focus during the year in developing prayer services and other council events. Nearly 80% felt changing the theme every two years was a good practice, while the remainder felt it was okay, except for the 2% who favoured rejecting this practice.

Presidents expressed their pride and joy in being a part of a faith-based organization where members demonstrated their faith in serving God and neighbour in their many CWL activities. Whether they were participating in a prayer service, serving on lay ministries, helping in parish and community projects, writing letters to government officials, or running a membership drive, the work was accomplished in a harmonious and cheerful manner. Also, members initiated activities that could be done individually or virtually, such as; preparing bags containing toiletries and a change of clothing for women leaving a violent home situation, using the down time during COVID to set up a Catholic Girls League, holding virtual meetings, collecting baby items for pregnancy shelters, praying the weekly

CWL rosary, planting trees for the Centenary Project, 50/50 fundraisers and the list goes on! As one small council exclaimed, “We are a small but mighty, dedicated and cooperative sisterhood!”

COVID-19 accentuated some of the ongoing problems presidents have been facing. Encouraging members to take on executive positions, keeping everyone informed, and recruiting new members continued to be major issues. The inability to meet in person and to hold meetings required presidents to look at new ways to stay connected with their members.

Some of the challenges, members cited in filling out this survey, were, difficulty in logging into the site due to the long address, difficulty in understanding the questions, time consuming, not having options to provide input, having no standing committee chairpersons, so having to fill it out for all positions, and being a small council so the questions did not apply. Several reported that completing the survey, was easy, simple, user friendly, so all went well! One council mentioned that the **Completing Annual Reports** webinar provided by national proved very helpful.

Despite the restrictions the pandemic placed on all councils in Saskatchewan, I was gratified to witness the dedication and the love for the League that shone through these presidents’ reports. Now is the time to look forward to growing the results we had in 2020, by improving all lines of communication from provincial to diocesan chairpersons and down to our most important members, our parish council presidents. Through their leadership and the work of their councils, lies the future of the League! Until restrictions are lifted, we at the provincial and diocesan levels, must continue to stay connected with all parish presidents using the GoToMeeting teleconferencing app which the Saskatchewan CWL Provincial Council purchased for this purpose. In making ourselves more accessible and by providing learning opportunities through virtual workshops and webinars, and through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel, I believe we can look forward to the coming year with increased optimism.

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# Prince Albert Diocesan Council President

## Annual Report 2020

Helen Kayfish

8 of 21 councils reported

None of the councils reported as being an amalgamated parish. All eight president positions reported as being filled. Five of the presidents reported having been a member for more than 25 years and one each for 6-11 years, 11-15 years and 16-20 years. All eight reported having held this position previously. Four of the presidents reporting are 65-74 years old, 2 are 55-64 years old and 2 are 75-84 years old.

All councils reported getting their information from the League Magazine, six reported they get their information for the national website, six from the provincial website or newsletters, five from nation communiques and diocesan newsletters, three from CCCB and parish bulletins, two from local newspapers and Google searches and one from Catholic Organization for Life and Family.

Current national priorities introduced to be discussed or acted upon by the councils this year are:

- Six reported introducing care for our common home
- Five reported excluding media assistance in dying form Palliative Care Facilities
- two reported the rights of the pre-born
- two on the 'flushable' products
- one on none of the above

The methods used were: Discussions at a meeting was reported by the majority, a few arranged a speaker on the topic, two engaged the standing committee chairperson and one wrote about the topic in a newsletter/bulletin/email.

Meetings with the spiritual advisors: Four met monthly, three met rarely, and one meets weekly with the spiritual advisor. All councils reported that their spiritual advisor is supportive of the CWL". None of the councils reported on what could prevent the spiritual advisor from being present.

The resources they used to preside at meetings are as follows: Council policy and procedure manuals, constitution and bylaws, executive handbook, national manual of P&P, parliamentary procedure and one uses Robert's Rules of Order.

Checks are the number one document signed by the president followed by banking documents, letters directed within and outside the CWL are also signed by the presidents and one reported as signing petitions.

Events represented by the president were: World Day of Prayer, church functions, anniversaries, sacramental events, community events and dinners, workshops, regional meeting, diocesan meeting and conventions, Remembrance Day services and special masses. Two did not attend any events. Comment: 'Because of Covid 19 I was not able to attend more'

All reported that the councils did not subsidize the president to attend the conferences or fundraising dinners and events. One council subsidized the president 50% to attend a workshop. None of the councils subsidized the president to attend the Diocesan, Provincial or National Conventions, (there were none).

Five councils reported having a parish policy manual, three do not have a parish policy and reported it would be helpful to have one and they would need assistance in developing one. None of the councils developed new policies this year. All have read and understand the executive handbook and duties of the executive team. The handbook has assisted them in thier responsibility of overseeing the operations of their council.

Only one president provides an annual summary of the council activities to all the members and she uses the newsletter, oral report and written report has methods to provide the summary to the members.

The presidents reported has having the following committees other than the standing committees:

- Annual events such as teas and bazaars
- funeral lunches
- scholarships or bursaries
- visitation
- social events
- fundraising
- catering
- donations

Most of the presidents reported that they did not speak on behalf of their councils on any issues because of Covid 19 and not being able to meet face to face. They did however concentrate on growing spirituality such as prayer, mass and adoration, charitable projects and donations, listening to the online convention speakers.

Half of the presidents reported using letterhead, the other half do not use it. Two of the councils reference the membership total and one does not.

The following provided the greatest assistance to the president when she assumed the role:

- the immediate past president
- former past presidents
- treasurer
- secretary
- current executive
- personal mentor

The greatest challenges faced in the role as president:

- not having a full slate of officers
- keeping members interested
- technology
- recruiting
- resistance to new ideas
- feeling overwhelmed
- finding the time
- amount of paperwork
- running a meeting
- public speaking
- meeting expectations
- inexperience
- delegation
- tedious policies and procedures

The number one greatest challenge was Covid 19 and very few meetings.

All presidents reported having a National Theme and or Logo was beneficial, and they felt the change with each new National president was, very good, good and ok. The minimum of two years between theme changes was felt as important.

The top two or three things about which the presidents are most proud of their council are:

- dedication of members in prayer, serving on organized and lay ministries, our executive group is very dedicated and are willing to do things when asked.
- the way they get along, willing to give a hand, we had a lot of laughter. We got to know each other well.
- The participation in charitable activities
- Taking part in roles at mass organize activities for parish Cooperation to assist each other. Good spiritual aspects...opportunities provided.
- I was able to keep the council functioning for another 2 years by accepting to be president.
- The executive has remained in their positions for another term. We're a small council, 4 of our younger members live away in the cities but still want to belong to our council. They are always interested in what is discussed and decided at meetings. They help whenever they can.
- Whenever we have a project, members cheerfully help where they can.

The biggest challenge as president was: Not all members can attend meetings and so I keep them informed by phone or emails or by messaging. Another of the biggest challenge is to get members to take over the executive positions. 'We are entering our 5th year with the same group'.

'The lady that thinks she is better than me because she was president before, Delegating'.

I am moving away from the parish, so I will not be dealing with this challenge.

Lack of members attending meeting especially younger members.

Also recruiting new members Not sure!!!

I talked to members in person.

The biggest challenge was the takeover.

The co-president and I work very well together. Yet at the bank they can't seem to grasp this in their paperwork at higher levels. They make something so simple.... very complicated. Still working on it.

We need more time, more meetings, etc. To really get into it.

Recruiting new members. We have tried membership fun nights, incentives to pay membership fees, moving meeting time to afternoon, inviting guest speakers.

Covid 19 is a big challenge -can't have meetings or functions.

Will try to Initiate activities that can be done individually example, fill purses with supplies that a woman can use when she leaves violent home situation -comb, PJs, socks, deodorant etc.

The greatest challenge(s) in completing the survey, if applicable:

Webinar was useful

n/a nil was useful

No challenge.

Hard to fill out because of COVID 19 . a lot of activities cancelled.

We have not been in our roles long enough and haven't been able to do much due to COVID, not too much to report.

Accessing the survey online. I'm not very technologically savvy. It takes me a long time to get the courage to start doing the survey .I completed the whole survey 2 weeks ago, saved it to pdf but didn't save it to this site!! So now I'm redoing it. Basically, I'm afraid of my laptop, but I've been able to do this survey.

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## **Regina Diocesan Council President**

### **Annual Report 2020**

**Yvonne Bachelu**

After receiving the results of the President's annual surveys submitted on-line, although not quite as many as last year (40), thankfully 33 councils out of a possible 68 completed the on-line survey for the 2020 year. Considering the year we had...I congratulate all of you for taking the time to complete this task!

In this report, I will try to capture the essence of all comments, however some may seem the same as last year as there were very similar responses.

Of the responses that were received, only two reported not having the position filled and I want to thank those two for completing this survey for their council. More than half reporting have been a member for more than 25 years as well, and have held this position more than once. This tells me that you consider this organization an important part of your community. This holds as well for those that have not been a member for as long. You are just as important and I thank you for stepping up to the challenge!

The results this year present a close comparison to last year with respect to where you received your information - the Canadian League Magazine was the most popular once again. However, as with last year as well, the National and Diocesan communiques, Provincial website and newsletters, as well as the National website were well used. Parish bulletins came in very close for providing information for members.

The two National priorities that are being made available to your councils are:

1. Care for Our Common Home – continuing to be our National President's theme, I am ecstatic that members feel this is still a very important part of their community.
2. Excluding medical assistance in dying from palliative care/hospice facilities – This would, of course, be an important issue for many. I am happy to hear that our members do not give up and continue to advise our Government that we are not in agreement with the changes proposed.

Discussing these topics at your council meetings seemed to be the most popular way to deliver these important issues to your members. Standing Committee Chairpersons also helped in delivering these topics to members, along with arranging for speakers.

How frequently do you meet with your spiritual advisor? Half of you reported that you meet monthly, whereas slightly less than half rarely meet with your advisor. I know in these difficult times it is not easy to accomplish this, so I thank you for doing what you can. It is reported that 85% of your councils are supported by your spiritual advisor. I feel that is a good percentage and I know some spiritual advisors have more than one parish to administer to as you indicated 60% of your advisors have other duties outside the parish, as well as a lack of tradition for having them attend your meetings. So let's see what we can do for next year to make us feel that we have the support of 100% of our spiritual advisors!

The next question resulted in the same numbers as last year. The Constitution and Bylaws and Roberts Rules of Orders are tied #1 for a popular resource used at meetings, followed closely by the Executive Handbook, as well as the National and council Manuals of Policy and Procedure. This is very exciting to hear! The last two resources are the council's policy and procedure manual, which I am very happy to hear that councils have one of their own, and the last resource used is the Parliamentary Procedure. It is good to know that councils are using resources provided by National!

The next question asks what kind of documents you have signed on behalf of your council. The first, by a large margin, is cheques of course. We all need to pay bills! However other documents reported were letters directed within and outside of the CWL which tells me that members have participated in letter writing campaigns to our government, as well as petitions which is a very important part of our voice.

You reported that councils attended church functions, World Day of Prayer, Regional meetings, community events and workshops. Unfortunately Diocesan Conventions and meetings, and Provincial Conventions and meetings were way down on the list. This is understandable due to the gathering restrictions and both conventions in 2020 being cancelled.

The next few questions were about subsidizing specific events, and while all events were cancelled in 2020, I am surprised and perplexed to see that 94% to 100% of members were subsidized to attend events such as conferences, Diocesan, Provincial and National conventions. So I am not sure what cost members incurred with respect to these events, but I am happy to hear that your council was able to subsidize your expense.

Parish policy manuals are an important tool to have available, and the result did not change from last year. Only 49% have a parish policy manual, 24% feel it is helpful to have one, and 24% indicate you would like assistance in developing one. Please remember that your Diocesan Executive is here to help. If you are one of those councils that would like to develop a parish policy manual and need assistance, please contact me and I would be happy to help.

The majority of councils have read and understand the Executive Handbook. You reported it has assisted you in the responsibility of overseeing the operations of your councils.

Most councils provide an annual summary of council's activities to members in a variety of methods, such as written and oral reports, emails and newsletters are amongst the most popular.

Various committees also exist in your councils, like funeral lunches, annual events, social events and visitations, followed closely by scholarships or bursaries. Other committees reported were spiritual, financial, organizational committees, World Day of Prayer, Girl's League and Prayer Chain.

Other issues you report that have been spoken on behalf of your council is keeping in touch with your members via phone calls, emails, sympathy cards, etc. One council reported having written to three government officials in regard to the building of a new nursing home in Estevan, and another reported on Care for Our Common Home. Other important issues were Bill C-7, Valley Native Ministry, Chalice, support of Northern Missions, local charities, resolutions from National, mental health of your members, palliative care and MAiD.

The League letterhead is available for use, but not many of you use it when corresponding. Please remember this is for your use, and it also promotes the CWL without you really having to do anything extra for it.

When asked the question of who provided you with the greatest assistance when you assumed the role of president, the majority responded that assistance from the immediate past president was received. Following very closely to that is other former past presidents, as well as the current executive, specifically the secretary and treasurer. The Diocesan President, which is currently me, did not provide a lot of assistance, and that's okay. You need to find help where you feel comfortable. Just remember, I'm only an email (or phone call) away, and I will always be available to help.

Your greatest challenge you faced with transitioning into the presidency role was not having a full slate of officers, followed by keeping members interested, recruiting, technology, feeling overwhelmed, paperwork, feeling undertrained, finding the time, and the list goes on. Some Presidents reports that they have only been a member for a couple of years and don't feel they have the experience they should have, and that's okay. Many in your council have been president many times, and they are there to help you in any way they can. You will bring a fresh perspective to the council, and with that comes new ideas! I thank you for not letting it go un(wo)maned!

Most of you find a new national theme beneficial and embrace it as it gives your council a focus during the year. When asked if you like to have the theme changed with each new national president, 28% feel this is very good while 52% consider it good, 17% is okay with it, and 3% don't like it at all.

When asked about which you are most proud in your council, there are many positive comments like how engaged and eager your members are to take leadership roles and participate in activities, doubled membership, willingness to help the CWL, parish and community, sharing ideas to benefit the CWL and hold interest in membership, tapping into the different strengths in members, being cheerful and hardworking, having a strong leadership role in the parish, working well together, having a great executive to work with, working hard to meet goals set out, supportive of local

charities, support and pray for one another, influence on government with important issues, reaching out to isolated seniors, and the list goes on and on.

The biggest challenge you face and how to address it as president again came with many ideas such as reorganizing the executive once the new guidelines are implemented, of course COVID-19 was mentioned, trying to get more members, having to serve more than one or two terms continually, due to lack of being able to have meetings, it was difficult to make decisions due to lack of feedback from members so this will be solved by requesting more input from members. Other challenges mentioned were getting memberships excited about moving forward with a new way of doing things, maintaining memberships, finding members to take on executive positions. Of course COVID-19 was the biggest challenge for us all, and as many of you have reported, there is nothing we can do about that. However many reported that due to this pandemic, you have had to make more phone calls to connect, conduct meetings in a physically safe manner, and having to be patient thru it all.

Members were asked what was your greatest challenge in completing this survey...some commented they had difficulty getting onto the site due to the long address, not being able to print, time consuming, having no standing committee chairpersons so having to fill it out for all, did not understand some questions, not having options to provide input, feeling as this was an “off” year due to the pandemic the results will be skewed, inexperience, being a small council, most questions did not apply, do not have a computer so someone else had to complete it. Several reported they found it easy, it went well, seemed to be user friendly, found it simple however a challenge in convincing other committee chairs they can do it. One council did request the ability to save it electronically rather than just the option to print and submit.

In reading this report, you may find some similarities to my 2019 annual report. This is because many of the answers to the questions did not vary much, and although as with last year there were many many comments, it is difficult to include them all, so I reiterate that I tried my best to capture the essence of all responses.

We need to keep in mind that many of our Spiritual Advisors do not have much experience with the CWL, and we need to help them learn about our organization. This will encourage them to attend meetings and conventions.

I welcome members to contact me if they have any questions or concerns whatsoever. I’m available by email or phone.

We need to count our blessings:

Look to your left...what friend do you see?

Look to your right...what family members are there?

Look behind you...what memories of loved ones are following you?

Look ahead...this is your path going forward.

May God bless you, may his love shine upon your soul, and may you feel his presence as he walks beside you as you travel your path of life.

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## **Saskatoon Diocesan Council President**

### **Annual Report 2020**

#### **Ingrid Eggerman**

The reports we received this year were down from 2019. We received reports from 20 of our 42 Saskatoon Councils. Last year we had 30 councils reporting. Many of our Saskatoon councils have not been gathering because of the pandemic and the concerns of the age of many of our members and their health.

Most of our councils are not in an amalgamated parish. Only 15% are amalgamated. In the rural parishes most of the spiritual advisors have more than two parishes. I can see in the future, if our membership continues to drop, we may be seeing more councils joining together in the rural areas.

Our councils reported that 90% had the president position filled. Some of our councils are struggling to fill the position or have decided to fill this position by sharing this position with another member. Half of our presidents have been members for more than 25 years. I feel more education and encouragement is needed to inspire ladies to fill this position. Our presidents are being recycled since the statistics show 70% have previously held this position. Almost half of our members are 65 years of age and older and 40% of our membership is over 55 years of age.

90% of our members felt they were well informed by gathering their information from the League Magazine. The two other resources that are used frequently are The Diocesan Newsletter and National communiqués. National websites and Provincial Websites, especially in this pandemic year, are up at 75%. Parish bulletins were considered to be very good source of information.

Our councils were happy to have a theme and to focus on our National theme, "Care of Our Common Home" and would like to see this continue. Councils were very concerned about recent bills, including medical assistance for palliative care and hospice facilities. Another important concern for our members was about the rights of the unborn. Petitions to Government were encouraged and many members sent letters and emails.

I was happy to hear that 95% of councils felt that their spiritual advisor was very supportive, but because of other commitments they were only able to attend the meeting 60% of the time.

Over half of the councils felt the Constitution and bylaws, executive handbook and National Manual of Policy and Procedure was very helpful and were also very grateful to have the advice of past presidents. The responses for reading and understanding the executive handbook were very good.

Because of Covid restrictions many of the regular events were cancelled or postponed to a later date, so funeral guards, regional meetings, potluck suppers, Remembrance Day services, CWL Masses and Diocesan conventions were not held. Councils made efforts to stay in touch with their members by emails and phone calls. A Phoning team, (Connecting with Love) chosen to match the CWL letters was started with a team of 22 ladies.

I believe the question of whether councils helped their members attend events was answered from previous years since we were not able to have many events. I was disappointed to hear that only 10 to 15 % of councils paid or subsidised member's expenses to attend CWL events. I feel from my own experience that our councils are very good at fundraising. The money that could be raised would help our members to attend Diocesan and Provincial conventions, and in doing so to become more involved and comfortable to join the Diocesan council. In the future I hope to see more of our councils subsidizing their members to attend Conventions and workshops.

One of the policy council adoptions that was undertaken in the past year was to supply financial help to members who were no longer able to decide to continue and pay their fees as a member. I feel that we really need to see the value of our senior members after they have given so much to the league by their love and generosity of time and talent. It's our turn to give back to them.

70% of councils provided an annual summary to their councils, this year mostly by email, or by giving an oral report. The committees that most councils are involved in are funeral lunches, social events, annual teas, bazaars etc. The lesser committees are scholarship, bursary, fundraising, catering, and donations. I believe there were many letters written this year and sent to parliament about Bill C-7 (Euthanasia). Some councils encouraged their members to attend the alpha program and take part in the 12 hours of prayer and the rosary rally.

From reading the reports I feel we have a great organization that needs to be kept up by all members to keep this organization alive and viable for the future of our church and communities. I believe through this pandemic we have a new realization of the worth and value of our church and every member of The Catholic Women's League.

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## **Saskatchewan Provincial Council Joint Recording and Corresponding Secretary**

### **Annual Report 2020**

**Marion Laroque**

One third of the CWL councils in Saskatchewan completed the annual report survey for 2020.

#### **Our Secretaries**

The majority of our parish council secretaries were appointed and have held the position for an average of five years. Very few councils have both a recording and corresponding secretary. Many respondents commented that the council president looked after communications with the members through emails, newsletters and phone calls. The use of social media was not mentioned.

#### **Role of the Secretary**

All the secretaries record minutes and a large majority maintain a list of the executive with their contact information. Comments indicated that notes were recorded during virtual meetings. One astute secretary pointed out that the work of compiling minutes does not end with the meeting; it can take hours to ensure the accuracy of minutes, especially at the higher levels of the league. The number of secretaries reporting receiving written reports has increased this year. The majority of the secretaries have a copy of the *Handbook for Secretaries* which can be found on the national CWL website. Less than half have a copy of *The CWL Personal Letter Writing Guide*, also available on-line.

Just slightly over half of the secretaries are a signing officer. This may be an area that could be improved. One comment is a sad and cautionary tale: "*Biggest challenge: the sudden death of our treasurer.*"

#### **Comments**

Our secretaries have adapted to the challenges brought on by the novel coronavirus pandemic despite the lack of good internet connections in rural Saskatchewan. One secretary commented that she has kept a file of motions that will need to be approved once in-person meetings can begin again.

Two of the many thoughtful comments stood out. The first highlights the many important roles our members have outside of the CWL duties: "*...not being able to attend the fall meetings as I was combining.*" Agriculture is the backbone of our province and our members play a vital role in the family farm. The second comment from a member who returned to the CWL in 2015 is inspirational. "*It would without a doubt have taken much longer to catch on had I not accepted this role. It has enabled me to grow further in a spiritual and personal level as a result.*" The message to all CWL members: if you want to learn more about the league, get more involved.

## Final Thoughts

Yes, 2020 has been a difficult year, but we are women of hope and faith, praying for a time when we will meet and work together again. We look forward to our monthly meetings with a new appreciation for the gift of sisterhood that is the CWL.

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## Saskatchewan Provincial Council Treasurer

### Annual Report 2020

**Helene Marceau**

This year we had 60 councils submit their annual reports online as compared to 74 in 2019.

97% of reporting councils have filled the treasurer position with the President taking on the task of treasurer, who passed away.

100 % of councils reported using bank statements, 97 % deposit books and cheque books as tools with 50% using some form of computer tools such as computer programs or excel spreadsheets.

Councils collected membership fees minimum of \$20.00 maximum \$40.00. The majority of membership fees are collected in November, December and January and most send in their fees by the end of February. Most councils work with their organization chairperson in remitting per capita to national office.

Councils follow proper banking practices. For 98% two signatures are required on cheques and most councils have three signatories usually the treasurer, president and one other executive member.

53% of councils prepare budgets and 47% have someone review the books. Preparation of budgets provides the council the opportunity to determine the priorities of the council and plan for the activities for the year ahead.

Councils reported difficulty undertaking fundraising initiatives in 2020.

#### **Donations made by Saskatoon & Regina councils in 2020 as reported:**

|                                 |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Coady International Institute   | \$ 1,395.00      |
| Euthanasia Prevention Coalition | 1,145.00         |
| Catholic Missions in Canada     | 1,315.00         |
| CNEWA                           | 1,440.00         |
| National Bursary Fund           | 145.00           |
| Development and Peace           | 100.00           |
| Parish                          | 57,130.00        |
| Other                           | 9,092.00         |
| <b>Total Donations</b>          | <b>86,138.89</b> |

Donations made by PA Diocese were not itemized.

## General Comments:

1. What do other councils do to audit their annual financial affairs for the previous year?
2. Please expand instructions providing details on how to use the "PRINT" function to "Save to PDF". This function was new to me and may be to others as well.
3. Once I clicked on the PRINT icon on the bottom of screen of the completed report, I did not get a Print Menu pop-up (pop-ups enabled). Add instructions to use CTRL P or Shift CTRL P. Thanks!
4. I am the not treasurer - vacant at the moment Was not able to do much as of COVID 19 Voluntary Fund Donation was made to Development and Peace not Catholic Missions but no spot to enter it on your survey.  
Also we do not prepare a formal budget but use the previous years financials as our guide at meetings.
5. The Holy Trinity CWL bank account while only needing one signature continues to have all Cheques signed by 2 of the 3 signatories.
6. In 2020 our Council struggled with communication with National regarding membership remittances. As a Council we have worked very hard to ensure that our membership info is correct and current.
7. Our Council had limited activity in 2020 hence the volume of transactions (cheques written, Deposits made etc.) was small. The records are available at any time to be reviewed. Our major donations have been made directly to Catholic Missions in Canada; Catholic Christian Outreach; Euthanasia Prevention Coalition; Birthright; and the Archbishop's Appeal.
8. There are not enough transactions put through by our council for it to be necessary to have someone review our financial records. Our \$425 in donations this year represents almost 40% of what we had in the bank and we could not hold a fundraiser this year.
9. This was a different year with very little income, so we had to hold back on many of our Regular donations and we catered more to local donations.
10. The Outlook Council (like many this year) were unable to meet & also unable to fundraise as usual - that however did not stop the 21 members. We were able to raise almost all the necessary funds to cover our charities. We are small but mighty & we continue to do our best.
11. Other donations: Scholarship \$500; Palliative care \$1,881 (raffle proceeds); Chalice \$200, Save A Family \$250, Esk-OMI Missions \$150, Legion wreath \$42 (Q 15 would not allow me to continue further.

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# **Saskatchewan Provincial Council Organization**

## **Annual Report 2020**

Connie Crichton

Reports were received from all three of the Diocesan Organization Chairpersons summarizing the results received from 49 of the 131 councils in the province (31%). As nine of the councils indicated this position was vacant, data for only 40 councils was completed. Prince Albert diocese had 4 of 20 councils report (18%). Regina had 25 of 69 councils report (36%) and Saskatoon had 18 of 42 councils report (43%). This was a decrease of 17 councils from the previous year. Many of the councils had not met since March and felt they had nothing to report on, some are still challenged with using technology and some of the councils have not been participating in the annual reporting. Nine councils did not have this position filled. This reflects the previous surveys results that indicate members are reluctant to take on leadership roles and they do not fill this position as a president-elect. It is unfortunate that the amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws is delayed until 2023 as a change to council structures may bring a new energy to these positions.

### **Demographics of Membership**

The majority of councils (63%) reporting are from the rural areas. If all councils had reported this percentage would be larger. Of reporting councils, less than 2% of the members are under age 35. Most of the members are Caucasians (95%). With 2.4% being Asian and less than 1% being of any of the other groups that were listed. Executive members were representative of this with 98% being identified as Caucasian. Only 38% responded that this did not reflect the cultural diversity of their parish and community. Personal Invitations, parish announcements and bulletin boards were the main methods used to encourage a cross-section of potential members. Parishes used various cultural related activities to encourage diversity that included having speakers on indigenous issues, cultural feasts, and ethnic food making.

While most councils do not get more than 40 % of their members out to meetings, many more do participate in social gatherings, fundraising events, and spiritual gatherings.

### **Recruiting and Maintaining Membership**

Saskatchewan had 5,867 members on January 1, 2020. During 2020, there were 175 new members, 71 were reinstated, 394 did not renew, 5,719 were "Paid Members", 97 deceased, leaving a total of 5, 622 members on December 31, 2020. Of the reporting councils 30% of their new members were under the age of 40.

Personal invitations were most used for recruitment, other less successful methods included advertising in bulletins, presentations at masses, and membership teas and other social events. Reminders and collection of membership fees is done at meetings, setting up a table at Sunday mass times, phone calls, bulletin announcements.

Reporting councils indicated a total of 7 associate memberships. The online system has only a 60% usage among the reporting councils. Executive members lack of knowledge in using technology is still a problem in adopting the use of the online system and partially a problem in completing the annual surveys. It was also a barrier for many members to engage virtually when the opportunities to do so presented themselves.

Engaging new members done by welcoming at meetings, having conversations, providing a new members kits and trying to get them involved in activities. As most councils did not have in person meetings after March, newsletters, phoning trees and emails were used to keep members in touch. Some councils used their newsletters to encourage membership renewals by including forms and envelopes for them to return with their membership fees.



Councils recognize their members by having new members and affirmation ceremonies, presenting years of service pins, special CWL masses, and 11 councils presented maple leaf service pins.

### **Leadership Development**

Half of the reporting councils have members who play a role on an executive at another level. Most councils reported having no in person meetings or activities since March pandemic lockdown.

Most of those holding the Organization position reported that they were not the President elect and that there was no President elect in their council. Finding members to hold any of the offices was a challenge and the president's job was especially hard to fill with many president's staying on for many terms.

Four of our Saskatchewan members have volunteered for Strategic Plan Implementation Working Groups. Janette Rieger, Linda Maddaford, Margo de la Gorgendier and Connie Crichton. They are encouraging others to put their names forward as calls come out over the next few years for other working groups.

The Provincial and Diocesan councils adopted the use of virtual meetings to keep members across the province informed and engaged. A provincial fall workshop was offered to all executives of Provincial, Diocesan and Parish councils. At this workshop, the new Welcome Program was presented as well as the latest update on the implementation of the strategic plan. Diocesan councils have used virtual meetings to conduct business and keep members informed by inviting parish council presidents to attend as well.

An Advent retreat was offered by our Saskatoon council and the Provincial executive prayed the rosary together every Wednesday evening. A Provincial Facebook page was created to further reach out to our membership. Many have attended the virtual Summer Speakers series and Spiritual Retreat that was offered by our National Office. The information webinars have also been appreciated to assist in using the online tools the League has provided.

### **League Resource Material**

Questions on the survey referencing *The Canadian League* articles were responded to by councils using email, newsletters, and phoning trees more to disseminate information and keep members engaged due to the pandemic and gathering restrictions.

### **Annual Reports**

Half of the reporting parish council chairpersons had established guidelines for executive members to complete their annual reports. Many executives met as a group to complete reports and reviewed minutes or recorded activities to assist them.

### **Life Members**

There were a few councils report having life members in their council. There are currently four Honorary Life members and 13 Life members living in Saskatchewan. We had no new life members nominated in 2020.

Honorary-Life and Life members provide mentorship, guidance, and a wealth of knowledge to assist councils at all levels. We are blessed to have them in our midst. Few parish councils have gained assistance from them in 2020.

### **Stories of Success and Challenges**

One of our most inspiring stories came from a council whose priest was a former Provincial Council Spiritual Advisor. With his encouragement, his parish council signed up 53 new members. We all recognize how influential our priests can be, so it is important we continue to keep them well informed and engaged with our council activities.

Another council had a new president that offered personal invitations to many women in the parish and attracted several of them to join.

Social and spiritual gatherings and fundraising events seem to be the activities that engage more members. Most councils acknowledged that while only a small number of their members attended meetings regularly, those that did were very dedicated to the work the CWL does in their parish and communities. They come for fellowship and support in their faith and personal lives.

Most of 2020 was filled with challenges that most councils met with a desire to stay connected, and they did so through email, newsletters, and phone calls. Several councils that had special anniversaries had to put their plans on hold but will definitely celebrate when they are again able.

Challenges completing the survey were mostly focused on the breakdown of the race and ethnicity of their members. Some said they did not even know what some of the categories were, did not know what their members background was or which group they should be counted in. Determining age of members was difficult as they do not have birthdates for their members.

Accessing technology still proves to be a challenge. I am not sure how many members accessed the webinar for guidance but none of them mentioned it in their survey responses. Many councils had one member fill in all the surveys. Some asked for paper copies to submit and a few said the surveys were too long.

### **Final Thoughts**

Given all the challenges the pandemic has caused, our members strived to keep their members informed and connected. You could hear the sadness and frustrations in some of the open-ended responses but also the anticipation and hope of what could be accomplished once we are again able to meet in person. With this hope to build on 2021 will be a year of progress and achievement.

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# Saskatchewan Provincial Council Spiritual Development

## Annual Report 2020

### Position Vacant (prepared by Marion Laroque)

The hard work of our executives at all levels of the CWL to encourage participation in annual reporting seems to have hit a bit of a roadblock with the suspension of meetings this year. Only 37% of Saskatchewan councils completed this annual report. It may be that councils felt they didn't do much, but they certainly did according to the many activities listed by those who reported. Of the ladies reporting, most were appointed to the position.

### Spiritual Growth of Members

Almost two thirds of reporting councils spend one third of their business meetings on spiritual growth. Some councils attend mass before their meeting begins. Lack of time was the most common reason given for not devoting a larger portion of the meeting to spiritual development. The council spiritual advisor attended most of the meetings. Prayer is very important to our members. Praying the rosary was frequently mentioned, along with other prayers including the Stations of the Cross, Prayer for Our Common Home, the Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe for the Unborn, and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. One council held a prayer parade beginning in the church parking lot with a blessing from their priest. Another council attended an outdoor walk and rosary honouring Our Lady of Fatima. Prayer resources identified included the booklet *CWL Prays*, the 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care program from the national web site, and the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) website.

On a provincial level, the rosary is prayed every Monday on the Saskatchewan Provincial Council Facebook page. Every Wednesday the provincial CWL executive, along with other CWL members, pray the rosary over our virtual meeting platform GoToMeeting. Reflections from our provincial spiritual advisor Father Peter Nnanga MSP are also posted regularly on the Facebook page.

Resources used by the chairpersons for spiritual growth included videos, *The Word Among Us* magazine, *The Canadian League* magazine, national and diocesan communiques, and *The Catholic Registrar*. A nice gesture of support for those using a magazine might be to fund the subscription for the chairperson. A book club was organized by one council for both CWL members and their parish. On-line resources included *Celebrating the Word* from the Congregation of the Resurrection and the Advent Retreats sponsored by both the national CWL as well as the Saskatoon Diocesan CWL. One council facilitated *The First Spiritual Exercises* (authored by St. Ignatius of Loyola) and viewed a video titled *How to do Lent Differently*.

Council members were encouraged to view the televised mass sponsored by the CWL to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel. One council emailed the novena to Our Lady of Good Counsel to their members and encouraged them to pray it on the feast day. Another council mailed a fridge magnet with the message 'Blessed are You' to each member in honour of the feast day.

With the cancellation of meetings council newsletters and emails to members became a source of spiritual development with the inclusion of prayers, reflections and a memorial for deceased members.

### Study of Catholic Teachings

The national theme Care for Our Common Home has encouraged councils to explore the rich teachings of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*. Four councils hosted a speaker on the subject. Three councils hosted a book club to study *Laudato Si'*. The Saskatoon Diocesan CWL hosted a workshop on the theme.

After studying *Laudato Si'* many councils were inspired to take action. Activities listed included planting trees to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CWL, using only reusable dishes, organizing recycling projects, reducing paper by emailing meeting minutes, and becoming more aware of water consumption. Members prayed the Care for Our Common Home prayer. One council hosted an Ecological Rosary in their parish.

### **Role of Women in the Church**

A large majority of CWL council had members serving on the parish pastoral council. Other members serve on the finance committee, and one third are also members of diocesan councils or committees. Six ladies serve as pastoral associates.

Just slightly over one quarter of respondents studied Catholic teachings and the role of women in the church. One council held a book club using *Living as a Beloved Daughter of God* faith sharing guide by Patricia Mitchell. Another council had a ladies' luncheon and invited a priest to speak about the role of women in the church.

### **Evangelization and Mission Assistance**

Almost half of the reporting council support the Catholic Missions in Canada organization (CMIC) financially. Individual members are also encouraged to donate to this worthy cause. Some councils purchased calendars from CMIC to resell as a fundraiser. One council started 'Nickels for the North' to encourage children to donate coins for CMIC the total collected in a year is matched by the council if possible. Prayers are offered for all mission work in Canada.

Other missions supported financially include: ESK-Omi, Catholic Christian Outreach and St. Therese Institute of Faith and Learning.

Participation in the CWL Day of Prayer for Home Missions was mostly limited to special prayers given to members and rosaries organized. One council was able to host a guest speaker.

### **Lay Ministries**

While only slightly over one quarter of the reporting councils have joined their parish liturgy committee, CWL members are certainly active in all areas of lay ministry. Two thirds of the lay ministries are organized by a CWL member. Our ladies sing! Almost 100% of councils have members participating in the choir or music ministry. CWL members also fully participate in all other lay ministries, particularly Eucharistic minister, lector, and hospitality. Well over half of the councils have a member who serves as sacristan.

### **Ecumenism and Interfaith Endeavours**

A large majority of reporting councils managed to promote and participate in the World Day of Prayer, which luckily was held on March 6, before any health orders were in place. Half of the councils were also able to promote or participate in the Week of prayer for Christian Unity in January. Other interactions with interfaith groups were very limited, however one council did go to a Jewish synagogue for an evening with Archbishop Don Bolen and the Jewish rabbi. Two councils attended a blanket ceremony, while some attended an Indigenous awareness evening. Another council was given a tour of a Muslim mosque and learned about their faith.

### **Training for Spiritual Development Standing Committee Chairpersons**

Our ladies clearly voiced a desire for very specific resources or a formal program to follow. Several mentioned wanting a guidebook, or book of ideas would be a help.

One suggestion was a planning calendar with ideas for the whole year to facilitate long-term planning. Another suggestion was a workshop or information on Pope Francis' encyclical *Fratelli Tutti on fraternity and social friendship*. Perhaps with every new encyclical a workshop or information could be created for our members. Mentoring from past chairpersons would be appreciated. Interestingly, several ladies mentioned a virtual workshop as an option for training. We have come a long way since this pandemic began!

### **Final Comments**

Through adversity comes innovation. Our vocabularies have now expanded to include terms such as virtual meeting, Zoom, GoToMeeting and register on-line. It would be good to compare attendance of virtual events with in-person events to determine if our future will include a combination of the two types of programs in order to engage more of our members. On a cold winter's night starting my computer rather than my car certainly has appeal.

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# Saskatchewan Provincial Council Education and Health

## Annual Report 2020

### Position Vacant (prepared by Marion Laroque)

Slightly over one third of the CWL councils in Saskatchewan completed an annual report for this standing committee for the year 2020. Most of the chairpersons were appointed to the position and have often held it before. There were five respondents who are relatively new to the league, an encouraging sign.

#### **Catholic Education**

We are blessed in Saskatchewan to have publicly funded Catholic schools that our children can attend without paying tuition fees. There are currently eight Catholic school boards with a total of 120 schools. Two thirds of these schools are located in Regina and Saskatoon. As a result of this geographic disparity, many rural CWL councils are located in areas without a Catholic school and therefore were unable to become involved in school education. The councils that did become involved supported breakfast and lunch programs, extracurricular activities and sacramental development. One council has a three-year commitment to provide accessible playground equipment.

There are three Catholic colleges in Saskatchewan:

Campion College (Jesuit) federated with the University of Regina,  
St. Peter's College (Benedictine) federated with the University of Saskatchewan, and  
St. Thomas Moore College (Basilian) federated with the University of Saskatchewan.

Personal involvement in the Rights of Christian Initiation programs ranged from entering the Catholic church through the program, supporting the programs through prayer and providing gifts to participants.

#### **Literacy and Continuing Education**

Most councils do not have a list of scholarships and bursaries that are available for Catholic women. A few councils did contribute to, or provide a bursary, for Catholic women furthering their education. One council provided money to a refugee for further education. Another council donated funds to READ Saskatoon, a literacy program, for the purchase of books for their school program.

#### **Scholarships and Bursaries**

Over half of the councils provide scholarships or bursaries, mostly to high school students. The newly revised bursary certificate on the national CWL website was utilized by two councils.

The Regina Diocesan Executive Council presents a \$1,000.00 annual entrance scholarship to the child of a CWL member enrolled in the Campion College in Regina. The 2020 recipient was Alex Beauchesne.

Several councils donate to the National Bursary Fund, however, most did not promote this fund using the newly developed brochure. One council had a member make an application to the fund to attend the lay formation program in the Archdiocese of Regina. Monetary support was also given to the Coady International Institute, MyGen rally and NET (National Evangelization teams) ministry.

#### **Wellness and Sickness/Disease**

The biggest health issue in 2020 was the COVID 19 pandemic which affected every part of life. Our CWL members responded to the need. One council sewed hundreds of masks for their parish members, as did many individual members across the province. One council also helped with the screening and registration of parishioners wishing to attend mass. Prayers for an end to the pandemic, for front-line workers and all those effected by the pandemic were offered throughout the province. The provincial CWL executive organized a weekly virtual rosary prayer for the needs of our members. A presentation on the World Health Organization, its history and relevance, was given at a council meeting in February, just as an unnamed novel coronavirus was affecting the people of China.

Most councils supported one or more National Health or disease specific non-profit organizations. The Alzheimer Society, MaterCare International, Heart and Stroke Foundation and Ronald McDonald House were most frequently

listed. Individual CWL members may also have donated to a cause close to their heart. One council made a donation to Prostate Cancer Canada to honour fathers on Father's Day.

Almost half of the respondents were not aware of the Canadian Blood Services (CBS) Partners for Life program; however, one council did have members donate blood through the program. Another council has several members who volunteer at CBS blood donor clinics.

A large majority of the reporting councils either did not participate in the CWL Mental Health postcard campaign or weren't aware of it. More information and awareness on mental health issues was identified as a need.

Participation in the *12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care* was arranged by half of the councils using the prayers in the resource kit provided by our national office. Participation was limited to prayer in the home. One parish priest used material from the kit at daily mass. Five councils used the Palliative Care postcard.

Advanced care planning information was not a priority for most of the councils this year. The Saskatchewan government website does have information on emergency response kits, but this was not promoted by the majority of the reporting councils.

### **Environment**

Almost half of the councils were able to participate in the *Care for Our Common Home* program. Four councils participated in the plastic and waste cleanup, including one council who cleaned up the streets and alleyways in their village. Members committed to eliminating the use of plastic bags and straws and reducing their garbage. Eleven councils planted a tree to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the League and a few have postponed the planting until 2021. Locations for the trees included the church grounds, parks and cemeteries.

Celebration of World Water Day was limited this year. Some members were encouraged to sign the Water Pledge to reduce water consumption. Funds were raised by one council for a water system through Chalice. There were no Earth Day (April 22) activities planned by the reporting councils. Reducing, recycling, and eliminating plastic water bottles were the environmental issues addressed by the majority. One respondent lamented the increase in garbage caused by the use of disposable masks, and other personal protective equipment.

### **Genetics**

Most of the reporting councils considered their knowledge of technology to alter genes in the light of Catholic teaching as fair or good. Several commented that they would like to increase their knowledge of this complicated subject. Most did not subscribe to the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute newsletters; however, one council is considering subscribing.

### **Member Action**

There were thirty-two active resolutions under this Standing Committee included in the survey. Discussions on the subject at meetings, signing petitions, and writing letters to our Prime Minister and members of Parliament were frequently mentioned as actions taken by the members. Financial support for a new hospice centre was also listed.

### **Final Comments**

It is the nature of annual report surveys to reflect the work accomplished by our parish councils. Unfortunately, this survey cannot report the good things that may have been planned and not brought to fruition due to the health restrictions. May the year of 2020 be considered our sabbatical year and may all members come back renewed and refreshed to carry on the work of the League, for God and Canada.

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# Saskatchewan Provincial Council Christian Family Life

## Annual Report, 2020

Marilyn Schuck

The overwhelming response on the survey was the difficulty of carrying on the usual activities of the councils throughout the province because most councils shut down all meetings from March to September 2020 and some to the end of the year due to the pandemic. As a result, the number of councils reporting was 33%, compared to 42.5% last year. Thank you to Diocesan and Provincial CWL Organization chairs who have encouraged councils to fill out the survey even if they feel there is nothing of significance to report.

### **Marriage and Family**

Most councils were preoccupied with other topics although a few councils have supported programs to support people suffering from domestic abuse. Workshops or seminars on family life were attended by 2 councils but for most, these were not available. Again, only 2 councils celebrated or organized events for National Family Week. National Family Week occurs in Canada the week before Thanksgiving and resources are available at [www.familiescanada.ca](http://www.familiescanada.ca).

### **Sanctity of Life**

Most councils work in this area, probably because sanctity of life has been under attack in our country for many years, and most members see this as a priority for action. Most councils have a pro-life membership and support pro-life organizations financially. These include local pro-life groups, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, Saskatoon Pregnancy Options, Regina Birthright, and Pregnancy and Support Services. Because of the pandemic, most councils have not participated in demonstrations for life because they were cancelled. More than half of councils have written and promoted the writing of letters to government regarding the CWL resolutions on abortion and euthanasia. Prayers are offered for the protection of life. Only one council met with their legislator concerning pro-life issues. A few councils have made the CWL Pro-Life Brochure available to their parishes, but I would encourage councils to buy these from National, only \$.70 each, for each of their members and supply copies to their parishes. The responses, regarding the resolution calling on Canada to Honour its Commitment on the Rights of the Child to provide legal protection to children before birth, were particularly good with nearly half of councils writing the Prime Minister and Minister of Justice, educating members on the need for legal protection for the unborn, raising awareness of the Day of Prayer for the Unborn, January 22, and some councils are also monitoring the government's response to this resolution.

The Saskatchewan provincial council purchased a pro-life banner in 2020 with the plan to use it for the annual March for Life usually held in Regina in May.

### **Ministry to Youth**

There has been no activity to promote the next World Youth Day to be held in Lisbon, Portugal in 2022. The pandemic has made it difficult for members to participate in programs for young people, but a small number have continued to support Sunday school, Catholic Christian Outreach, summer camps, NET ministries, youth conferences, Girl Guides, and leadership camps or retreats. There is one parish with a Catholic Girls` League in the province.

### **Ministry to Disabled People**

No councils supported groups and respite care for caregivers but individuals finding themselves in the role of caregiver get support from family and friends. This is an area of service that we as CWL members should pay attention to. Most councils reach out to the disabled by praying for them, bringing communion, visiting, phoning, sending cards, and providing transportation.

### **Ministry to Seniors**

Saskatchewan councils are very good at keeping in contact with their senior CWL members and others in the community. Most bring communion, visit, involve them in CWL events, pray with them, and provide transportation to meetings and other events. Almost half the councils have a policy to gift memberships to their senior members.

Five councils prepared and shared a meal with seniors. Many councils have invited newly retired women to join the CWL. Some have organized specific social events at senior homes but the involvement in these activities was very much impacted by lockdown orders at senior and nursing homes from March to December.

### **Ministry to the Widowed**

Most councils are very good at supporting the bereaved. They send cards of condolence, host memorial services, and provide funeral lunches. Some also make a point of inviting widows to CWL meetings and events. Councils are not involved in providing bereavement programs but should be encouraged to promote them to their parishes.

### **Ministry to Separated and Divorced**

This ministry has not been attended to by many councils. While a few have supported their members, who fall into this category, there is more that could be done. I suggest that each council purchase a few copies of the new CWL brochure, “Annulments Today – Merciful and Just” and make them available in their churches. Three councils in the province have purchased these brochures for use in their parishes. Also suggested is having someone from the diocesan marriage tribunal give a presentation to the church community.

### **Vocations**

Most councils participated in prayers for vocations, some have adopted or supported seminarians, and some have encouraged families to invite priests and religious into their homes. A few councils have sent spiritual bouquets, hosted luncheons for priests and religious, and invited priests and religious to speak on vocations. None have considered supporting discernment events for youth. A majority of respondents visited the World Day of Prayer for Vocations and a few watched the YouTube video re:Vocations, that was recommended by the National Chair for Christian Family Life.

Thank you to all who submitted reports which has allowed me to compile this report for the Provincial CWL. I will conclude with the following quote from one diocesan report, “Christian Family Life is very much a lived experience. I believe that our greatest and first responsibility is being a member (mother, grandmother, aunt, spouse, et.) of a Christian family with all the role modelling and support for Christian family life that this involves. Our members excel at this.”

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## **Saskatchewan Provincial Council Community Life**

### **Annual Report 2020**

**Marian Zsombor**

This year less than half of the Saskatchewan CWL councils used the online annual report system for this standing committee and of those reporting only about half have a Community Life chairperson.

#### **Demographics:**

Most of these ladies were appointed to the position and have held the position previously. They are long-standing members of the CWL, with the majority over 55 years of age.

#### **Dignity and Rights of Persons:**

Slightly over two thirds were familiar with the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. The councils provided donations to support various minority groups. Several councils had guest speakers on topics such as: prison ministry, domestic violence, homelessness, and human trafficking. Due to Covid-19 most councils were unable to provide



volunteer hours in support of minority groups. There is a high degree of awareness of the struggles of Indigenous women.

Most councils had not discussed bill C-262 *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People*. Human trafficking was discussed by over half of the councils. A few councils gave donations towards alleviating human trafficking; a small number had a speaker who talked on poverty, homelessness, and racism. About one quarter of the councils took part in the 2020 International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking. The Holy Father declared February 8, 2020 as International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking. Several councils took part by praying either individually or as a group.

Some councils reported that we must continue to monitor the wording of the Canada Summer Jobs applications which are to support all organizations.

### **Social and Economic Justice:**

Due to Covid-19 restrictions councils were unable to do volunteer work as in the past. Many councils reported being inactive during this time of the pandemic. However, about half of the councils that reported were able to provide some financial help as well as donate baked goods to shelters and soup kitchens. Donations of clothing, kitchenware, and cozy blankets to teens in safe houses on the reserve were made. Boxes of food were donated and distributed to the Salvation Army, as well as personal items to Women's shelters.

Seniors in care homes and shut-ins received birthday cards, Christmas cards, and phone calls. Members were encouraged to phone the elderly, lonely, and shut-ins as well as pray for them. Some councils reached out to their members by delivering: food, cards, missals, calendars, and picking up membership fees.

Four years ago one council and their CWL president helped establish a Friendly Phone Link Program. The program was created to assist elderly persons living independently with a morning and evening check in phone call to stay in touch and ensure their safety. After the first year the Red Cross became involved. The program has been of such value that they hope to roll out a province wide system.

One council is starting a Catholic Girls Club in their parish.

A small percentage of councils supported the CNEWA (Catholic Near East Welfare Association) donating to repair the well cover in the Pieta Bhavan India project and are now supporting the second project to fund the school children of Adigrat Diocese in Ethiopia with food for the children. One council reported participating in the World Day of Peace on September 21 by informing members of the "day" and saying prayers.

### **Refugees, Immigration and Citizenship:**

Awareness of the needs and issues relating to immigrants and refugees was generally good. Refugee settlement in Saskatchewan tends to be centered in the urban areas where the services needed are readily available.

A small number of councils participated in the Remembrance Day services. A few supported the Royal Canadian Legion poppy campaign; one council wore red on Friday in support of Canadian troops. Three councils reported reading the article in the Winter 2020 Canadian League about FR. Charles. Three councils reported reviewing and monitoring Resolution 2016.01. Two councils took part in the 1% program.

### **Developing Countries:**

There are many worthwhile organizations doing good work all over the world whose efforts our council's support. Financial support was given to twelve different organizations, of these: *Chalice, Save a Family Plan, Habitat for Humanity, Samaritans Purse, and Operation Christmas Child* were most frequently mentioned.

### **Concluding Thoughts:**

Frequently mentioned was the small size of some of our councils and the aging of the members as barriers for accomplishing meaningful Community Life projects. Comments noted this year was the fact that many older members have a difficult time keeping up with technology, so they felt disconnected from each other as some rural

communities lack internet services or the members are not familiar with it. Zoom and other virtual means do not work for them. Mail and phones are their only means of staying connected. At the same time, prayerful support was listed for many areas. Our prayers are powerful! Perhaps choosing a Community Life concern to pray for each month would be a way for these smaller councils to participate in the most impactful way. There were many comments highlighting projects that may fall under the Christian Family Life standing committee. As the Strategic Plan takes shape both of these standing committees should fit well under the Social Justice pillar.

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## **Saskatchewan Provincial Council Communications**

### **Annual Report, 2020**

**Marge Appell**

The Communications portfolio includes extensive responsibilities and often the task is daunting. Enduring the first year of a global pandemic made it even more so. Forty out of a possible one hundred thirty-two councils completed annual reports, indicating that 30% of our councils were able to carry on in some fashion, showing determination and innovation in moving forward.

According to the Constitutions and Bylaws booklet 2013, the communications portfolio encompasses The Canadian League magazine, Media (for evangelization, to promote the League, for the evaluation and promotion of good content, newsletters and bulletins), media relations, and pornography. Though not listed in the C & B, the SK CWL website is another responsibility of the provincial communications chair. Provincial Council, the three diocesan councils, and individual parish councils use the website to keep members informed, report special events, and highlight accomplishments, with submissions filtered through the provincial communications chairperson. Saskatchewan has a proficient webmaster who managed/manages the website operation and posted submissions sent to her by the provincial communications chairperson after receiving and properly preparing them.

#### **The Canadian League magazine**

Our League magazine was a mainstay of the councils who reported. Top articles that resonated with respondents were:

Winter 2020 – Care for Our Common Home: Year Two, Inappropriate Medication Prescribing for Older Adults, the President’s Message, Who Do You Wish to Communicate with, and Protection of Minors: A Serious Issue.

In the Spring 2020 issue, councils consistently chose Living with Alzheimer’s Disease, Our History is Filled with Faith, Fun, and Fulfillment, Looking Back Looking Forward, Something Beautiful from God, and Psalm 8.

From the Fall 2020 issue, the following articles were cited: President’s Message, From the National Spiritual Advisor, 100 Years is Good - 200 Years is Better, and The History of the Catholic Women’s League in Saskatchewan, however, two dioceses didn’t submit preferences, one indicating that this particular issue was not well read.

Suggestions for future articles included Catholic Missions in Canada, abortion and euthanasia, methods to attract potential new/younger members, as well as more about our Blessed Mother Mary.

## **Media**

Exactly half of reporting councils promoted faith-oriented programs though less than a quarter promoted World Communications Day in June. Regarding promotion and use of Catholic newspapers, periodicals, magazines, and suitable programming on television networks, councils indicated a broad range of involvement. The League sponsored Mass on April 26<sup>th</sup>, daily televised masses, use of the National website and other on-line platforms were widely encouraged, but few councils subscribed to or financially supported media outlets to assist in their mission of evangelization. On average, half of the councils used media to advertise and promote local events and activities, however the preferred methods of communicating for 50 – 75% of reporting councils were the use of email, telephone committees/trees, church bulletins, and bulletin boards to inform members of anything pertinent. In one diocese almost 70% of the councils published newsletters that were distributed mostly by email and most councils had a publicity category in council budgets, however, that was not the norm throughout the province. Two dioceses reported having members who regularly monitored media content with concern raised about the TV show “Mary Kills People” which promotes euthanasia. Most councils used the CWL website for information and resources yet numerous councils were unaware of the Strategic Plan updates, therefore only about half were using the Renewal Prayer at meetings. Some of the above results probably reflect the fact that 40% of the councils reporting do not have communications chairpersons, and other executive members might have had to assume communication responsibilities. It appears that leads to councils relying on more familiar methods of communicating and dealing with those items they feel are essential.

## **Pornography**

Over 50% of councils reporting were/are aware of the issues surrounding pornography but few were actively involved in anything further. Less than 25% reviewed current legislation and very few acted on Resolutions 2017.2, 2004.11 or 2002.11. A small number of members attended a seminar to gain a better understanding of pornography and related issues. Though a few councils used Pornography Hurts postcards urging government leaders to create/improve legislation against pornography, not many letters were written/sent urging governments to do more to curb the practice. Some councils encouraged members to educate themselves and their families on safe internet use.

In regard to the documentaries “Over 18” and “Red Light Green Light”, these were not widely promoted within councils, though some councils indicated their interest if more information was available on how to access them.

## **Final Thoughts**

Recurring concerns of many councils are the lack of communications chairpersons, lack of computers skills, and in surprisingly significant numbers, lack of access to a computer. This applied more to rural areas where councils are small and often in areas where reliable, consistent internet capability is not in place, but surprisingly, it also includes members in urban areas who are not, for various valid reasons, connected by technology. We live in an exploding technological age and the League is embracing that fact. Unfortunately, though I’ve heard it said in another context that we strive to leave no member behind, in this case it is a startling and sad reality for some members in SK, presents a challenge for the League at all levels, and needs to be addressed as we move forward.

In closing, 2020 was an unusual year. With the help of the Holy Spirit and Our Lady of Good Counsel, we look forward, with renewed energy and increased resolve, to a brighter tomorrow as we adjust to the changing times and continue our work “for God and Canada”.

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# Saskatchewan Provincial Council Resolutions

## Annual Report 2020

Susan Melchiorre

Of the 131 councils in Saskatchewan, 41 submitted resolution annual reports. Of these that sent in annual reports only 12 have Resolution Chairpersons. The rest are all vacant and the report submitted by another council member.

The effect of the Covid-19 pandemic has been devastating. Since there have been no meetings, very little information has been shared in past year. Although we have shared emails and information on Resolution activities, Councils did very little in promoting our current resolutions or researching new ones. Very little action was taken on promoting resolutions during this pandemic. Let's hope for more action as we leave it behind us. In most councils' senior members outnumber the rest and they have all been inactive and stayed home during this crisis.

### A. Research and preparation of resolutions and briefs

Regina Diocesan Council has accepted a Resolution from one of their councils in the spring of 2020. Since we have not had annual meetings since then they will be holding the resolution until it can be presented at an annual meeting.

### B. Study and implementation of resolutions adopted by other levels

Some councils, 40%, are familiar with resolutions that require action on [cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca). The chief action on resolutions is to make members aware through meetings, email, or newsletters (70%). This was followed by writing to federal or provincial governments (40%) and signing petitions (30%).

### C. Contact with governments

Only three councils contacted the local government by letter and email. Three councils contacted the provincial government by letter, one by email. Three councils contacted the federal government by letter and two by email.

### Summary

Finding a chairperson for this committee is very difficult, especially in the small, rural parish councils, there is an element of frustration due to not getting feedback from the membership as to new ideas for resolutions or on issues about which members would like to hear. One of our diocesan councils does not have a Resolution Chairperson. There is an interest in resolutions, but it seems most want someone else to do the work of creating a resolution and then they would act on it and inform their membership. One thought was that our national executive relies heavy on promoting the League by "singing the praises" of our resolution, but this enthusiasm does not flow down to parish levels.

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# Saskatchewan Provincial Council Legislation

## Annual Report 2020

Shirley Lamoureux

In the Province of Saskatchewan only 14 councils reported online, and 1 Diocesan chair didn't state how many in her diocese reported. One Diocese has no one chairing Legislation at the Parishes and does not have a chair currently on the Diocesan Executive; one Diocese did not comply figures and the other has 2 elected representatives as chairs of Legislation. The rest was completed by the president or acting chairperson.

The survey was responded to by 2 dioceses, but the other diocese did not report on any of the questions in the survey except some of the actions that they have participated in. Most councils reported being familiar with their current government representatives on all 3 levels of government.

One diocese reported receiving mail-outs from government and two did not respond to the question. Covid 19 has curtailed any meetings with the government representatives although one council reported they had met in person earlier.

No council has accessed the Hansard Report.

The bills that councils have acted on or are monitoring to provide assistance when needed are in order of prioritization:

Bill C-7 – (MAID) – ongoing letter writing campaigns About 78% of councils are very aware of this Bill with only 22% having only some knowledge yet. All 3 Diocese are very interested in this Bill and eager to continue the campaign initiated by CWL.

Bills C-13 and C-14 – Covid 19 Emergency Response Acts – All councils reported forwarding the information to their members.

Bill C-15 – Canada Emergency Student Benefit Act - One Diocese reported that only 67% of councils had some awareness of this bill.

Other Bills councils reported monitoring – Bill S-203 Protecting young persons from exposure to pornography Act and Bill C-233, The Sex/Selective Abortions Act. Bill C071 an Act to Amend

Certain Acts and Regulations in Relations to Firearms – about 80% of councils reported being aware of this act and only a few councils reported being completely unaware.

No Provincial bills are being acted on at this time.

### **BIGGEST CHALLENGES facing Legislation:**

Most councils do not have a chairperson for Legislation and as before it is noted that issues are not coming to the meetings --- solution – format an easy-to-read workshop on what legislation is and how interesting it is so others will feel more willing to step up.

Not having legislation Chairpersons in the councils so the information sent out is presented to the members. Sometimes it is sent out to the President in lieu of a chairperson and it isn't passed on.

How to emphasize the importance of the Legislation Standing Committee as it is not recognized by most councils

Submitted by Blanche Bellerive, Legislation Chairperson for the Regina Diocese: In conclusion, a different type of legislation --- a brief note on the Vatican's announcement regarding Pope Francis' changing of the laws of the church, allowing women to serve as Eucharistic ministers and participate in other ministries. It has long been acceptable or women to serve on the altar, as Eucharistic minister and minister of the word, in many parts of the world. However, it was still actually up to the local Bishop of the Diocese to allow it. It is now Church Law that this be acceptable. Canon law has been changed from "lay men" to "lay persons".

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## **Saskatchewan Provincial Council Past President**

### **Annual Report 2020**

**Margaret Schwab**

This report is based on information received from the three diocesan past presidents as well as from the annual report survey. The number of councils reporting was down this year with approximately only one third of the councils reporting for this position. It is possible that councils are less active due to the pandemic, therefore, did not respond.

Most councils said that the position of past president was filled and most of those holding the position had been members for more than 25 years. The majority had held the position previously. The most common age groups fell between 55 and 74 years of age.

Most past presidents attended meetings and social/spiritual events, although there were a very few who reported never attending. Many were sought out for advice less than once per month, while a few were never asked. Most thought that their president felt supported.

About half of the respondents said they were responsible for the archives. A small number appointed the duty to someone else and a few made use of a historian. Most archives were stored at the church; over half of the councils had space designated for CWL. A few were stored in a member's home or a church museum. Some were kept at the diocesan archives vault. Almost all of the past presidents knew where their council charter was. Unfortunately, there were a few who did not.

Methods of storage ranged from photo albums (most popular), to scrapbooks, filing cabinets and bankers' boxes, to CD's (least popular). There was a small number that kept archives on other media such as memory sticks, and DVDs.

Most kept **annual reports** indefinitely, but there were some who only kept them anywhere from 1 to 10 years and a few did not keep them at all. The **books of life** were also mostly kept indefinitely with a few not kept at all and a few kept between 5 and 10 years.

A large number of councils kept **deceased member histories** indefinitely with half that number not keeping them at all. A few reported keeping them 5 to 8 years. The numbers of those keeping **financial information** indefinitely and those keeping it from 1 to 10 years were almost evenly split.

By far the most councils kept past **executive lists** indefinitely. **Membership renewal data** was kept indefinitely by many councils with almost as many reporting that they were kept only 1 to 10 years. Councils kept **minutes of executive meetings** most often indefinitely, but there was a large number also only kept them for 1 to 10 years. A few do not keep them at all. It appeared that more councils kept **minutes of general meetings** indefinitely than they did the executive meeting minutes. All keep general meeting minutes for at least several years.

A larger number of councils kept **records of pin and award recipients** indefinitely. **Written reports of the executive** were mostly kept indefinitely, with a moderate number that kept for 1 to 10 years and an almost equal moderate number that did not keep them at all. Most of the reporting councils kept **years of service of members**.

The majority of councils review archives as needed. Councils were evenly split on whether they maintain history books but almost all maintain a labelled photo album.

Almost all have a copy of the *Constitution & Bylaws*, but almost half of the councils rarely used it. The other half reported using it from once a year to multiple times a year.

Most have the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* but again, at least half rarely used it. Some used it once a year and others every couple of years with a few using it multiple times in a year. More than half of the councils reported not having a policy and procedure manual of its own. Those that do have one mostly reported updating only when a policy is changed. In this province, we need to work on educating members in the value of having policy and procedure manuals and of using the one provided by National.

Half of the councils had rarely or never sought advice from the diocesan council and those that did seek advice were split between monthly and annually. Most had not sought advice from provincial/national councils although there were a few who did on an annual basis. Most councils rarely or never sought advice from the national office with just a few saying they did annually or quarterly.

Those who had sought advice from their spiritual advisor were evenly split between monthly and rarely with a few that sought advice quarterly or annually. Councils rarely sought advice from the local Bishop or life members. One diocesan council reported seeking advice from Provincial/National executives and life members regularly. Some councils have no access to life members so; it is not easy for them to consult.

Past presidents were most often asked to chair meetings, chair nominations and elections committees, promote the council, attend conventions to represent the council, fill vacant positions, prepare agendas, organizing fundraisers and spiritual events and keeping in touch with both the provincial and national websites to share that information. Unfortunately, one council reported that their past president had not attended a meeting since taking on the position. At the diocesan level, one past president has helped prepare and facilitate several workshops for members.

After reflecting on time as president, past presidents said this about what would make their successor's time more enjoyable and fulfilling: being there when called on by the new president, teamwork, mentoring, keeping good notes and materials to pass on, attending meetings, helping chairpersons to know their responsibilities and assisting by giving them direction if needed, assist president in preparing for meetings, encourage her to attend workshops, conventions, being a positive support. One council used a 'task list' with members volunteering for specific jobs which they took full responsibility for – got more people involved and the jobs got done. Another idea was preparing an excel spread sheet for the incoming president with monthly duties, contact lists, preparing script for running a meeting with assistance on dealing with motions. A great comment was be patient; be kind!

Most supported the implementation of the envisioned future of the League through Planning Strategically by attendance at meetings, conventions and workshops following which they took information back to their membership. They also sent out information in council newsletters and invited provincial executive people to speak on the topic. They encouraged members to read the League magazine, and to follow the National CWL website to keep up on new information as it was released. Members were also encouraged to use the *Prayer for Renewal* prayer card.

There were so many ‘greatest successes’ even in this year of pandemic. These include learning to meet virtually to keep councils going, monthly newsletters, phoning partners, implementing a Spiritual adoption program, preparing kits for an international nursing program, encouraging members to assist with local soup kitchens, Christmas cards and birthday cards to members who are staying at home at this time, being prepared to take on convention registrations, helping the CWL to be visible in the parish through bulletin items, and even through the pandemic, many letter writing campaigns to government have been activated. Technology has allowed for members to attend meetings, rosary sessions and retreats between the dioceses of the province.

Of course, by far, the ‘greatest challenge’ was the arrival of COVID-19 which brought so many things to a halt. So many councils have risen to the challenge by working harder to keep in contact with the members just to make sure they are not forgotten. Other challenges mentioned were an aging membership, no new, younger members, keeping a positive attitude, accepting new ideas, getting members to attend meetings and a real lack of people willing to take on leadership roles.

Our councils have struggled through a very difficult year, but I am always amazed at not only the work that continues but also the positivity that comes out of these reports. Many are using technology to keep informed and to inform others. This is a positive, but there is also a downside as many of our members do not have access to internet and are feeling very left out. Councils are working hard to include everyone which means more personal and financial resources. I appreciate all of the efforts to keep all members connected at this time. As an organization, we must remember that many women have walked the path we are on before us and we owe the success of the League to them. They cannot be forgotten in their twilight years.

There is always, as usual, a great problem with finding women who are willing to take on leadership roles. Yet, as we know, the CWL members are among the most gifted people on this earth. We must continue to encourage mentorship to all members so that women will step into leadership feeling confident and supported.

There is a great evidence of love for God and his people in the actions of our CWL councils. Thank you to all who took the time to fill out this survey.

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## **Saskatchewan Provincial Council Life Member Liason**

### **Annual Report 2020**

**Susan Melchiorre**

Saskatchewan has 5 honorary life members and 13 life members. One life member, Mildred Young, passed away in 2020.

With 2020 being a year of the pandemic, the Saskatchewan Provincial Council did not meet in person during the year. I was, however, able to keep the Honorary Life and Life Members aware of our activities. All Communiques from the National Life Member Liaison (NLML) were passed on. Birthdays were remembered, provincial news and activities were passed on to the NLML for inclusion in her communiques.

Any video meetings, prayers services, on-line activities, and national events were shared with these ladies. We sent birthday cards, special events cards, and remembrance cards. Most information from the provincial executive was shared with these ladies.

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