

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Saskatchewan Provincial Council
Annual Reports 2018



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Saskatchewan Provincial President's Annual Report, 2018

I received annual reports from each of the three diocesan presidents. I would like to say at the onset of my report that online reporting across all of the dioceses was down from those reporting in 2017. We are in an uncomfortable time as some have access to computers and others still do not. There is also a big variation in the skill level when it comes to computers and performing online tasks – from none at all to very skilled. That being said, I have been hearing many comments about the level of difficulty those who did participate found with the survey. Saving to continue later sometimes kicked participants out all together; some hit the 'send' before they were able to save and print. I have noticed that in the places where councils had an opportunity to tell what was good about their council, they did not have enough room to put all of their thoughts resulting in many incomplete sentences in the final summary.

The reports of the three diocesan presidents were compiled by using the survey results from a total of 63 councils and 3 which were sent in. That resulted in 66 councils reporting out of a possible 131.

Inform the Membership

The Canadian League magazine continues to be the most used source of information followed closely by National communiqués, diocesan communiqués, National and Provincial websites, parish bulletins, Google and local newspapers. Less use was made of the CCCB website and COLF.

Members were very interested in the removal of the Canada Summer Jobs Attestation, palliative care, removing MAID from palliative care/hospice facilities, and the protection of the conscience rights of healthcare workers. Other subjects that were discussed or acted on to a lesser degree were the establishment of standards of testing and labeling for products deemed flushable, age verification requirements for adult pornographic websites, and the elimination of GST from child safety products. Study on requiring Gladue reports for Indigenous offenders took place in two of the three dioceses.

Standing committee chairpersons introduced these topics in most cases; all councils reported having discussions at their meetings and several had speakers address their group on a variety of the above topics.

For the most part, Spiritual Advisors are very supportive; approximately half the councils were able to meet with their Spiritual Advisor on a monthly basis. However, there were some councils who reported that they do not feel supported because of the Spiritual Advisor not being passionate about CWL or being disinterested.

The majority of councils reported using the National Policy and Procedure, the Constitution and Bylaws, Roberts Rules of Order and the Executive Handbook to assist them at their meetings. To a lesser degree was the use of Parliamentary Procedure, and other resources.

Documents signed by the president on behalf of the council were cheques, bank documents, letters, both those directed within CWL and those directed outside CWL as well as petitions.

The majority of presidents reporting represent their councils at church functions (including funeral and diocesan meetings and conventions). They are also busy representing their councils at Provincial meetings and conventions, World Day of Prayer, Community events, fundraising events and dinners, and other conferences/workshops and Remembrance Day services.

The amount of subsidization for presidents attending events varied greatly from diocese to diocese. In one a larger portion were subsidized completely for diocesan conventions while in the other two, few were subsidized more than 50%. As for provincial conventions, national conventions, conferences and workshops, there was none to very little subsidization. A very small portion of councils reported subsidizing 100% for national conventions.

More than half of the councils reporting do not have a policy and procedure manual. Most felt it was unnecessary. There was some interest in having help to develop one. This was an interesting revelation to me as I believe this would be of value to all councils. A P&P manual can be very beneficial to new members and assist in making new executive members comfortable with their positions. One council reported making a new policy for honour guards to include women with walkers and wheelchairs.

The majority of presidents make use of the Executive Handbook and have found it helpful.

Most councils provide an annual report by various methods – written, oral, email, newsletter and parish bulletin. Only a few councils did not provide such a report.

All reporting councils are very busy as shown by the numbers of committees other than standing committees that are formed for special events such as social events, funeral lunches, visitation, donations, bazaars, teas, scholarships, bursaries and fundraising. Other committees mentioned were: sending cards for special events, helping with devotional masses at care homes, catering and working on policy. A few councils do not form committees as they are smaller and do the work together.

Speaking on membership seems to be the most common topic spoken on behalf of by presidents. This is followed to a lesser degree by palliative care, social events, euthanasia and the conscience rights of healthcare professionals, mental health, Canada Summer Jobs program, rights of Indigenous offenders and flushable products.

In all dioceses, presidents reported that more do not use CWL letterhead than those who do, and most reference only their total membership for their council. Please note that one comment mentioned not understanding what the question regarding referencing membership meant.

Most presidents find support in their executive – immediate past president, secretary, treasurer as well as the former past president. It was of interest that a very few had no support from their immediate past president.

The biggest challenges faced when taking on the role of president were not having a full slate of officers, keeping members interested and recruiting. Feeling overwhelmed, undertrained, not having the time, too much paperwork, resistance to new ideas, lack of organizational skills and lack of technology knowledge were also great concerns. Public speaking was also an issue with quite a few presidents.

For the most part, councils are happy to have a national theme to center their focus on and most feel changing it every two years is acceptable. I believe the question regarding how many years between theme changes caused some confusion – best to just ask the question without sample standard.

In 2018, the provincial council requested all parish councils to do a project for Catholic Missions. There was a great variety of fundraisers throughout the province from ‘nickels for the north’ to bake sales. Unfortunately, we did not have an accurate reporting system in place to find how many councils actually took part.

For the most part, members are working hard and enjoying the work as a sisterhood with enthusiasm, fun and fulfilment. There is great concern from all presidents that it is so hard to find women who are willing to take on leadership roles. That being said, I am very glad to report the following quotes that presidents included regarding their groups: “enthusiastic, get along well, pitch in when needed, senior members who are loyal and helpful, cooperative, strong, reliable, very caring, laugh together, very interested, very involved, reach out, desire to work for the Lord, faithful to CWL, committed, mission-minded, I have only to ask and all will help, spiritual benefits from sharing , fellowship and pride in my council.” One council mentioned that they are helping to repay the loan for their new church. Others noted that it is the League members who step up to help with events even if they are not hosted by CWL. Presidents also mentioned that their members are very encouraging to new executive as well as new members.

As I go through these annual reports, I question what we as a provincial council can do to help these women who are working so hard for the League to make things a little easier. I think we have to work a bit at the annual reports, assist councils in developing their own policy and procedure manuals and perhaps encourage more councils to use some of their funds to send their presidents to conventions. When I read the comments from our presidents, I am filled with pride – our members carry on a large amount of work with relatively small numbers; they are sisters who work together with laughter, with joy and sometimes with frustrations. Yes, we are getting older, but we are a strong group of faith filled women who will persevere through to the next 100 years of the Catholic Women’s League of Canada.

This concludes my report

Margaret Schwab

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

DIOCESE OF PRINCE ALBERT

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2018

My annual report is taken from the 8 councils (Meadow Lake, Loon Lake, Goodsoil, Barthel, St. Joe's N. Battleford, St. Louis, Rosthern and St. Vital Battlefords) that completed the on-line reporting and 3 that did not report on line and forwarded their annual report to me for my report – Paradise Hill, Cut Knife and Mayfair; these councils appeared in the report from Nat'l CWL but did not report online: St. Walburg, Mayfair, Notre Dame N. Battleford and Cut Knife.....I am still inquiring as to where the other 8 councils are recorded.....

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT:

1) Informing the Membership:

Of All councils reporting (8) 100% use the League magazine; (7) 88% use the communiques from National and Diocese; 75% use the Diocesan newsletters and the Provincial website, newsletters and communiques. 50% (4) Google search and (5) 63% use local newspapers to bring information to their councils. None used the CCCB or Catholic Organization for Life and Family. The 3 mail in council did not respond to this question although they all stressed that communications in their councils is good.

2) What current National priorities have been introduced to and discussed or acted upon by your council this year?

(8) 100% of councils reporting online that the most active national priority they acted on was the issue of removing Canada Sumer Jobs program attestation and the issue of excluding medical assistance in dying from the Palliative Care/Hospice facilities; 63% (5) of councils submitting stated they discussed the protection of the conscience rights of healthcare professionals; 38%(3)on the issue of establishing standards of testing and labeling for products deems "flushable"; 13% (1) reported discussing the issue of requiring Gladue reports for Indigenous offenders; and requiring age verification mechanisms for adult pornography websites; and eliminating GST from child safety products; 100% (8) These topics are introduced by the chairperson of the standing committee for discussion and action and (1) 13% of councils have speakers on the specific topics. All set aside time at the meetings to discuss the topics that are an issue presented by the National CWL and format an action plan if requested.....

3) How frequently do you meet with your spiritual advisor?

Only the on-line councils reported. 75% (6) meet with their Spiritual Advisor on a monthly basis; and 13% (1) meet rarely and 13% (1) stated they never meet with their spiritual advisor. All agreed that their spiritual advisor is supportive of the CWL.

4) Preside at Meetings:

38% (3) of councils reporting use the Constitution and Bylaws, 25% (2) use the National Manual of Policy and Procedure; 38% (3) use the Roberts Rules of Order revised and 50% (4) use the Executive Handbook. 13 (1) use Parliamentary Procedure at meetings.

5) What types of documents have you signed on behalf of your council?

All presidents have signed the banking documents on behalf of their council; 100% (8) sign cheques; and 25% (2) sign letters directed outside and 63% (5) inside the CWL; 33% (4) have signed petitions with or on behalf of their councils (this includes submitted reports not done online

6) At which events did you represent your council:

All councils 100% (12) reporting on-line or by mail have represented their council at Church functions and workshops; 80% (8) have attended the Diocesan meetings and conventions; all (12) submitted reports stated they help with funeral and lunches, special masses and the World Day of Prayer including both mail-in councils; 40% attend other conferences, pro-life events, Remembrance Day services and (4) 30% reported celebrating anniversaries, fundraising events and dinners; sacramental events, school ceremonies.

7) Did your council subsidize your cost to attend these events and, if so, by how much?

Councils all varied in the amount of subsidies provided to attend functions with 10 councils receiving no reimbursement or funding to attend the CWL functions; 2 reported having 50% paid for the Diocesan convention and workshop and 3 (4) reported being funded 100% to attend.....

8) Did your council subsidize your cost to attend fundraising dinners and events?

75% (6) stated they received no subsidy; 13% (1) received 100%; 13% (1) received 50%;

9) Did your council subsidize your cost to attend workshops?

38% (4) received 100% subsidy; 25% (2) received 25%; 25% (2) received no subsidy to attend and 13% (1) received half expenditures

10) Did your council subsidize your costs to attend Diocesan convention)?

50% (4) received no reimbursement; 38% (3) received 50%; 13% (1) was fully paid

11) Did your council subsidize your cost to attend the Provincial convention?

38% (3) received no subsidy; 25% (2) received full subsidy; 25% (2) received half; and 13% (1) received 25% subsidy

12) Did your council subsidize your cost to attend the National Convention?

100% (8) received no reimbursement

13) Does your council have a parish policy manual?

50% (4) have and 50% (4) do not.....

14) Would it be helpful to have one?

50% (2) agreed; 50% (2) disagreed

15) Would you need assistance in developing a parish policy manual?

75% (3) would not need assistance and 25% (1) would need assistance

16) Did your council develop new policies this year?

100% (4) did not

17) Have you read the Executive Handbook and understand the duties of your executive team?

75% (6) have read it and 25% (2) have not

18) Has the Executive Handbook assisted you in the responsibility of overseeing the operations of your council?

100% (6) agreed

19) Do you provide an annual summary of the council's activities to all members?

50% (4) said yes, they do and 50% (4) said they do not.

20) By what method?

50% (2) report orally; 50% (2) provide written reports; 25% (1) send report by email, newsletters or parish bulletin.

21) What committees, other than standing committees does your council have?

70% (7) funeral lunches; 60% (6) teas, bazaars etc; 60% (6) social events; 60% (6) donations;

38% (3) scholarship or bursary; 50% (4) visitation; 50% (4) fundraising; 25% (2) have no other committees; and 13% (1) have other committees not listed here.

22) Other, please specify in two or three words what other committees your council has:

Sunshine convener for birthdays, anniversaries, sympathy, get well cards, devotional masses at care home,

23) On what issues have you spoken on behalf of your council this year?

38% (3) membership; 25% (2) social events; 13% (1) mental health; 13% (1) Canada summer Jobs program and 13% (1) reported on none of the issues

24) Does your council use League letterhead when corresponding? 63% (5) no; 38% (3) yes

25) Do you reference only the membership total for your council when doing so? (I do not understand what this question means)

67% (2) said no; and 33% (1) said yes

26) Who provided the greatest assistance to you when you assumed the role of president?

39% (3) current executive; 25% (2) secretary; 25% (2) treasurer; 13% (1) diocesan president

27) What were the greatest challenges you faced in transitioning into the role of president?

87% (7) not having a full slate of officers; 63%(5) keeping members interested; 50%(4) finding the time; 38%(3) amount of paperwork; 38%(3) running meetings; 38%(3) recruiting; 25%(2) feeling overwhelmed; inexperienced; technology; tedious policies and procedures; organizational skills; 13%(1) feeling undertrained

Other: please describe in two or three words the greatest challenges you face: (this is only 1 of two questions that the 3 reports submitted to me and not done online would have any impact on this report in their answers):

Members lack of a love for the league, won't initiate anything on their own;
Aging membership; nobody comes to the meetings; all the work is done by all the same people;

28) Do you find it beneficial to have a national theme and/or logo through which you can focus your council activities?

100% (8) agreed it is useful

29) Do you like the change of theme with each new national president?

57% (4) good; 29%(2) very good; 14% (1) okay

30) How many years should there be between theme changes? Please insert a number

Count 8 sum 23 mean 2.10 minimum (2) maximum (8) range (6)
(again, I have no idea what this means?)

If you wish, please share one brief paragraph of what makes you most proud of your council....

-When we meet a safe space is created for spiritual sharing and growth. Not always with formal spiritual advisor. He is very busy but we have an exceptional member (past-president) who does a great work to be the priest's backup....

-Many of our members do not have internet. It would be helpful if more immediately useable information were included in the magazine so that all members had access. It must be remembered that for every theme, policy and suggestion that National and Provincial has there is a.....(*my comment: obviously too long because it was cut off there*)

-I am most proud when my ladies enjoy a new way of approaching league activities and when they step up and take on a leadership role. It pleases me that they attend the meetings and enjoy coming out. I love to see their faces and hear their laughter when we reminisce;

-The Executive work well together Spiritual Advisor is supportive and attends meetings.

-Even though our active members are few my executive are always there to pitch in and help. And many members do not like to come out to the meetings, they are willing to volunteer when we need help.

-We are a small council 18 members – 2 and in their 90s, 4 never attend meetings, 4 live in other distant communities, 3 attend meetings periodically and 5 are the core group. These facts may sound discouraging but all our members, weather near or far, are very interested in what goes (not finished)

This concludes my submitted annual report as taken from the report from National CWL from answers from 8 councils submitting online and 3 reports given to me but not presented online.

Respectfully submitted

Shirley Lamoureux

President – Diocese of Prince Albert

REGINA DIOCESAN CWL PRESIDENT
ANNUAL REPORT 2018
Marilyn Schuck

I received the results of the presidents` surveys for the diocese of Regina noting that 30 were submitted out of a possibility of 68. Of the 30 councils that replied, all report having a president. Thank you to all who submitted their survey. The information in my report is based on these 30 replies. I admit to some frustration that despite making every effort to inform our presidents about this process and the deadlines, the number of responses is less than last year by 5. I am hoping that National CWL will continue to try to make this online reporting more user-friendly and that our presidents will adhere to the deadline.

Inform the Membership: The sources of most of the **information** that councils use are the Canadian League magazine, National communiques, and diocesan communiques. The National website is getting used more as well as the provincial website.

The top **current national CWL priorities** that have been introduced, discussed or acted upon are excluding medical assistance in dying from palliative care/hospice facilities, protecting the conscience rights of healthcare professionals and removing the Canada Summer Jobs program attestation. A few councils dealt with establishing standards of testing and labelling for products deemed “flushable”, requiring age verification mechanisms for adult pornographic websites, requiring Gladue reports for Indigenous offenders and eliminating GST from child safety products. Two councils out of 30 did not act on any of the above issues.

Method used to introduce these topics by most councils was discussing the topic at a meeting. Nine councils engaged the standing committee chairperson , and three councils arranged for a speaker on the topic.

Interaction with Spiritual Adviser: Over half reported that they meet monthly with their spiritual advisor and most reported that their spiritual advisor is supportive of the CWL. Those who did not feel that their spiritual advisor was supportive gave reasons such as, he doesn`t seem dedicated or passionate about CWL, doesn`t have the interest, and is not a people person.

Preside at Meetings: Most presidents use the following resources to help them preside at meetings – Constitution & Bylaws, Robert`s Rules of Order, council policy and procedure manual, National Manual of Policy and Procedure Manual, and Parliamentary Procedure, in that order.

Presidents use their signing authority for cheques, banking documents, letters directed within the CWL, petitions, and letters directed outside of the CWL.

Provide Active Leadership: Presidents are very busy representing their councils at church functions, regional meetings, World Day of Prayer, diocesan meetings, conventions , and special

masses. They also attend fundraising events and dinners, provincial meetings and conventions, and anniversaries. A few attend sacramental events, community events, and community fundraisers. Other events attended include Global Rosary evening and Prayer for Palliative Care.

Most councils did not subsidize their president the cost to attend **conferences**.

No council subsidized the president to attend **fundraising dinners and events**.

Most councils did not subsidize the cost to attend **workshops**.

12 councils subsidized their president 100% to attend the **diocesan convention**. 13 councils did not subsidize their president to attend this convention while 4 councils subsidized 50% and 1 council subsidized 25%.

Presidents attending **provincial convention** and **national convention** were less likely to be subsidized. Most presidents who attend these conventions pay out of their own pockets.

Parish policy manual: More than half of councils reporting do not have a parish policy manual. Of those without a manual, 11 said it would not be helpful while 7 said, yes, it would be helpful. 10 said they would not need assistance in developing a parish policy manual while 8 said they would need assistance. 12 out of 30 councils did not develop new policies in 2018.

Almost all presidents reported **having read the Executive Handbook and understand the duties of their executive team** and report that **it has assisted them in the responsibility of overseeing the operations of their councils**.

Most the councils reporting said they **provide an annual summary of the council's activities to all members** by a written report, an oral report, by email, newsletter, and parish bulletin. A few said they do not provide a report.

For the question asking about **other committees other than standing committees** there were a variety of responses indicating that these councils are busy. Committees are struck to look after funeral lunches, annual events such as teas, bazaars, social events, visitation, scholarship or bursary, and fund-raising. A smaller number of councils do catering and one has a committee to work on policy. Those councils indicating no extra committees are likely to be very small with elderly members. One council said because they are small, they do everything together.

President as Official Spokesperson: The two issues that inspired presidents to speak about are membership and palliative care. Other topics such as euthanasia, indigenous issues, mental health, Canada Summer Jobs Program, scholarships, social events were touched on by a few. 4 councils reported not acting on any of the issues listed.

The councils not using **CWL Letterhead** slightly outnumbered those who do. Most councils **ensure that they reference only the membership total for the council they represent in all external correspondence**.

Presidents reported that the **immediate past president** and **current executive** were of the most assistance when they assumed the role of president. Some had help from a former past president, treasurer, secretary or life member.

Greatest challenges in transitioning into role of president: the top three challenges were **not having a full slate of officers, keeping members interested, and recruiting**. Other challenges that resonated with presidents were **delegation, feeling overwhelmed, resistance to new ideas, inexperience, public speaking, amount of paperwork, feeling undertrained, trying to please everyone and technology**. Receiving information from other levels on time and getting information to members who don't come to meetings were also mentioned.

Almost all presidents appreciate having a **National theme and/or logo** in order to focus their activities. Most thought it was good or very good to **change the theme with each new national president**. An opinion was sought on **How many years should there be between theme changes** – as far as I could tell from the data it was 2.63 years. Perhaps a longer interval than 2 years is needed before councils get up to speed with a new theme.

Council Presidents share their pride in their councils:

The comments reflected how well the CWL is leading, working and pulling together the parish community. Many councils give generous financial support to their parishes. Some shared about the spiritual growth, caring and fellowship of their members. Commitment among members to the CWL and the Church was mentioned several times. The following quote represents well how presidents feel about their councils – “The (CWL) ladies are a true voice of Catholic women being united in faith and promoting Christian values in all that they do.”

As diocesan president I am encouraged that presidents are doing their best to keep the work of the Catholic Women's League alive in their parishes. I will be finishing my term as president in May, 2019 at the annual diocesan convention. During my two years as president, I have been sorry to see 3 councils disband in small rural towns. However, I have been encouraged by a new council reactivating in Radville after 22 years and attracting at least 17 new members. I have also been encouraged by the renewal of a larger council in Estevan which also has attracted many new members. In these two places, the energetic spiritual advisors have been very influential and deserve much credit. In our diocese we have many vibrant councils, large and small, who work together for the Lord for the good of all.

This concludes my report.

**Catholic Women's League of Canada
Saskatoon Diocesan Council
Annual Report
President 2018**

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This is the 3rd year of on Line reporting. I have received 25 responses out of 44 councils. 24 out of the 25 councils have a president.

-83% of our councils received information to inform their member from National Communiqués

- 83% from the Canadian League Magazine.
- 75% from Diocesan newsletters
- 67% from provincial websites and news letters
- 67% from parish bulletins
- 63% from National Website
- 38% from Google searches
- 25% from local newspapers
- 25% from Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops
- 17% from Catholic Organization for Life and Family
- 13% from other resources

Some of the issues that have been introduced, discussed and/or acted upon by councils in Saskatoon Diocese include:

- 96% on physician assisted dying and palliative care
- 88% on Canada Summer Jobs attestation
- 71% on protecting the conscience rights of healthcare professionals
- 33% on establishing standards of testing and labeling for products deemed flushable
- 17% on requiring age verification for adult pornographic websites
- 13% on eliminating GST from child safety products

The methods used to introduce these topics were 100% discussion at their meetings, 48% engaging the standing committee chair, 22% wrote about the topic in a newsletter/bulletin/e-mail. And 17% arranged for a speaker.

58% of our councils meet with their spiritual advisor monthly. 29% said rarely. But 92% of the councils felt their spiritual advisor was very supportive of CWL. 50% of our councils felt that there was a lack of tradition and other duties and commitments that prevent the spiritual advisor from attending.

The resources that are used at meetings are:

- 63% National Manual of Policy and Procedure
- 58% Council policy and procedure manual
- 50% Executive Handbook
- 42% Roberts Rules of Order
- 21% Parliamentary Procedure
- 4% used other resources

The documents that were signed by the presidents on behalf of the council are:

- 96% cheques
- 63% banking documents
- 54% letters directed within the CWL
- 42% letters directed outside of the CWL
- 38% petitions

The events that the president represented her council are:

- 88% church functions
- 83% Diocesan meetings and conventions
- 46% community events
- 46% special Masses
- 42% Provincial meetings and conventions
- 42% World Day of Prayer
- 38% Community Fund raisers
- 33% fund raising events and dinners
- 29% conferences
- 29% workshops
- 29% Remembrance Day services

79% of councils did not subsidize the conferences, 13% paid 100%, 4% paid 50% and 4% paid 25%.

96% of councils did not subsidize the attendance for fundraising dinners and events. 4% paid for the event.

83% of councils did not subsidize the attendance of workshops. 13% paid 100% and 25% paid 25%

71% of councils subsidized the Diocesan Convention by 100%. 13% paid 50%, and 4% paid 25%.

54% of councils did not pay to attend provincial convention. 38% paid 100% to attend Provincial Convention.

4% of councils paid 100% to attend the National Convention. 88% did not pay to attend the National Convention.

63% of councils do not have a parish policy manual, 38% have a parish policy manual.

40% of councils would find it helpful and 60% said it would not be helpful.

89% of councils did not develop new policies this year 80% said they would need assistance with to develop a parish policy manual.

New policies could be made for honor guards and inclusion of ladies with wheelchairs and walkers.

88% of presidents have read the executive handbook and understand the duties of the executive team. 95% of presidents found it assisted them in the responsibility of overseeing the operations of the council.

67% of presidents provided an annual summary of the councils activities to all members, in different ways:

63% by written report

56% by oral report

38% by email

31% by newsletter

13% by parish bulletin

The committees that are used by councils other than the standing committees are:

75%- social events

71% - funeral lunches

58% - for annual events such as teas, bazaars etc.

38% - Scholarship or bursary

33% - donations

29% - catering

21% - visitation

8% - none

The issues that have been spoken about most was membership by 33%, 13% on social events, 8% on palliative care, 4% on Euthanasia, conscience rights for healthcare professionals, and standards for flushable products.

67% of councils do not use the League letterhead and 33% do. 63% of councils reference only their total membership for their council when doing so.

The greatest assistance for the role of the new president was provided by the past president by 57%, 22% by the former past president, 9% by the treasurer and current executive and 4% by the secretary.

The greatest challenges presidents faced in the transitioning of the role of president was:

54% - keeping members interested

46% - recruiting

42% - feeling overwhelmed

33% - feeling undertrained

33% - not having a full slate of officers

- 29% - running meetings
- 25% - finding the time
- 25% - public speaking
- 21% - technology
- 17% - resistance to new ideas
- 17% - amount of paperwork

83% of councils found it beneficial to have a National Theme. 17% said no, it was not beneficial.

38% said it was OK to change the theme with the new National president. 38% thought it was good. 21% thought it was very good and 4% thought it was poor.

I can see from the wonderful sharing and spirituality within our councils that there is a great deal of unity that women feel by belonging to the CWL. There is a lot of enthusiasm, fun and fulfilment, and a great deal of loyalty from older members who are still willing to help out when they are able to. I know that our priests and parishes feel very Blessed to have a CWL council in their parishes.

Many presidents are dealing with lack of interest in taking on leadership positions, due to the points mentioned above. At the same time we have some very dedicated women who are on their third term as president, in order to keep their councils going. There is the factor of aging membership with a lack of recruitment of the younger generation. We will continue to pray and be an example to those women and inspire them with our spirituality to take out a membership and join the CWL.

Saskatchewan Provincial CWL Joint Secretary Annual Report, 2018

The Importance of a Secretary

The position of recording secretary is a priority and is filled almost one hundred percent of the time. This is not true of the corresponding secretary, which in most cases is filled by the recording secretary. At the Diocesan executive level in Saskatchewan only one diocese has both a corresponding and recording secretary. At the Saskatchewan provincial executive level, I fill both positions. This is probably a reflection of the use of technology; corresponding can now be done with just a click or two and an email is on its way. As the National Executive moves forward with the Strategic Plan, perhaps consideration to having only one secretary position could be entertained. Secretaries are loyal to the position, having held it for an average of four years.

What do our Secretaries do?

Our secretaries record the minutes. This is seen as their primary job, which of course, it is. And they work hard recording those minutes: only six reporting councils use a lap top to record minutes and less than half receive written reports from the executive members. Minutes are distributed by email to slightly over half of the councils. A large majority of the secretaries read the minutes at the general meeting and about half of the secretaries are signing officers. Embracing technology may make the task of recording minutes, and distributing and approving those minutes, easier and possibly more accurate.

Since the position of corresponding secretary is usually either vacant or combined with the recording secretary, the job of looking after council correspondence seems to be shared among many other positions. Sending special occasion cards, for example, often falls to other executive members including President, Communications Chair, Spiritual Development Chair and Christian Family Life Chair.

General Comments:

The CWL is blessed with many hard-working secretaries who, I believe, take their job seriously. Most secretaries have a copy of the CWL Personal Letter Writing Guide, and everyone has a Handbook for Secretaries. These resources can also easily be found on the National CWL website, a very valuable resource.

It is very disappointing that less than half of our Saskatchewan councils took part in the annual reporting this year. I can only hope that this report reflects some of the good things being done in our province. Some of the valuable comments made were also cut off, I assume because of a lack of space in the comments area on the web site. Participating in the annual reporting process gives our executive members a good chance to review their activities and may encourage them to adopt new practices. Hopefully next year there will be more engagement.

This concludes my report.

Marion Laroque

Recording and Corresponding Secretary

Saskatchewan CWL Provincial Executive

Saskatchewan Provincial Organization Annual Report 2018 Chantal Devine- Provincial Organization Chairperson

All three diocesan organization chairpersons submitted their annual reports outlining the many interesting facts about the councils in their diocese. Unfortunately, many councils did not participate in the online national organization survey. Regina Diocese has 69 councils and only 19 councils reported, that was a 50% drop from 2017! Saskatoon Diocese had 21 of 46 councils

reporting, and in the Prince Albert Diocese 8 councils out of 20 filled in the online organization report.

Recruiting Members and Maintaining Membership

Ninety-five new members joined the Catholic Women's League in Saskatchewan in 2018. More than half of the councils in the Regina Diocese indicated an increase in membership from the previous year. A total of 61 new members were welcomed into the Regina diocese. Twelve councils in the Saskatoon Diocese saw an increase of thirty-four new members and half of these members are under the age of 40! However, there was a decrease of 58% in new memberships reported in these 21 councils in 2018. The Prince Albert Diocese showed a 75% increase in new members with 13 members. The majority, 83% are over the age of 40.

The size of a council varies depending on what area of the diocese the council is located. In the Regina Diocese, the largest council can be found in the city of Regina with 161 members, while in the rural area there is a council with only seven members. In the Saskatoon Diocese, the numbers vary from 25 to 192 members per council.

Over 90% of councils reported that the most effective method used in recruiting new members is through personal invitations. Church bulletins and bulletin boards ranked at 70%, and CWL Sundays at nearly 60%. Other methods used were presentations at Mass, membership teas, social events, spiritual advisor's support, promotional displays at parish events, gift memberships, and least effective were telephone trees and social media.

Members did not renew their membership for various reasons. In the Saskatoon Diocese, 44 members did not renew their membership in 2018. Regina Diocese, had 43 members, while in the Prince Albert Diocese, seven members failed to renew their membership. The most popular method used to invite these members back was through a personal telephone call. When former members were no longer able to participate, councils maintained communication by personal visits, phone calls, providing transportation to events, sending cards and newsletters, taking Holy Communion to them, and having monthly masses said at their care home.

Appreciation and recognition for dedicated service was shown over 60% of the time by the presentation of service pins. To make all members feel welcome and appreciated, councils provided luncheons, teas, reaffirmation and new member ceremonies, and presentations of awards and certificates.

Over 50% of councils still administer their memberships manually, the rest are done on line. Members were reminded to renew their membership through the church bulletin (47%), announcements at meetings and at Mass, via Canada Post, handouts, emails and phone calls.

Leadership Development

Over 80% of councils reported that they did not participate in League Development Days. The highest percentage of attendance is at diocesan conventions, followed by diocesan retreat days, and the provincial convention. Sixty- one percent of members in Saskatchewan attended the Strategic Planning workshop. Nearly half of the councils in the Regina Diocese reported attending this workshop.

Only one-third of respondents said that their councils set annual goals, and only half are familiar with the **Catholic Women’s Leadership Foundation**.

About 66% of councils follow the suggestion set out by the 2018 Organization Chairperson, Anne Gorman, to dedicate one-third of the parish council meeting to each of faith, fun and fulfilment. Those who did not follow these guidelines say it is due to lack of time, aging members, and lack of participation by members.

Many members serve on another level of the League. About half of the councils that responded serve at the diocesan and regional level, while one-third serve on provincial. One member serves on the National Executive.

League Resource Material

Ninety five percent of councils, choose the Canadian League Magazine as the most widely read resource. They also made effective use of the National Manual of Policy and Procedure, Constitution and Bylaws, and the Ceremonies Booklet. As well, they reference the Executive Handbook, Guidelines for Treasurers, Handbook for Organization Chairpersons, and the Handbook for Spiritual Advisors. To enrich the spiritual aspect of their meetings and gatherings they used CWL Prays. Members also indicated downloading on-line resources such as the Handbook for Secretaries.

The most popular promotional materials for use in council’s membership drives continue to be service pins, and welcome brochures. Prayer cards, invitation cards, Mass cards, membership certificates, invitation handbills, note cards and CWL pens were also widely used by councils.

Annual Reports

Just over 60% of councils report not using guidelines to assist their executive members in completing their annual reports. The most common method (70%) used by members to complete their reports is by reviewing past minutes. Many councils also reported getting together as a group to complete their annual reports. They also made use of the monthly/regular record of activities, and reviewed the chairperson’s reports.

Life Members

Only 36.6% of councils in Saskatchewan have a life member in their parish council. Those councils who have access to a life member indicate that they are good mentors, provide guidance in decision making, listen to members concerns, research topics of interest, and at times, serve as parliamentarian. The Saskatoon Diocese is blessed to have an honorary life member as their spiritual advisor.

Summary and Final Thoughts

Studies have shown that people are happier when they live in community. We, as Catholic women, have been blessed with a wonderful organization in the Catholic Women's League. All three dioceses in the province report that members value their membership in the League because they can come together with other like-minded women, and grow spiritually, intellectually and socially. There is a feeling of hopefulness and excitement in our councils as they await the effects of the changes that will be proposed by the strategic planning committee. Meanwhile, our members are continuing the work started nearly 100 years ago in maintaining a strong CWL presence in the province of Saskatchewan working joyfully for God and Canada.

This concludes my report.

Saskatchewan Provincial Spiritual Development Annual Report - 2018

Connie Crichton – Provincial Spiritual Development Chairperson

This report is based on the spiritual development annual report I received from the Saskatoon diocesan council, the Regina diocesan council, and on the national spiritual development electronic report. I did not receive a report from Prince Albert diocesan chairperson. The national electronic report is based on 50 councils reporting out of a possible 138, or a representation of 36% of councils in the province.

Spiritual Growth of Members

While our National Council has provided some excellent resources to complement our theme ***"Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call"***, less than half of the councils reporting have used the resources or in many cases were unaware they existed.

Just over half of the councils say they spend a third of their time on the spiritual aspect of membership. Attending masses, saying the rosary and the league prayer, Stations of the Cross, reflections on scripture, Intercessions and having deceased member services/honor guards were the most common liturgies and prayers organized by the councils.

The CWL Ceremonies Booklet, CWL Prays Booklet, Living with Christ missal, and The Word Among Us Magazine were the most common resources used for developing Liturgies and spiritual programs. There were some online resources mentioned such as: *Ascension Presents*, and *Dynamic Catholic*

Some members have enrolled in retreats, bible studies, lay formation, and programs offered elsewhere.

Of our responding councils, 60% celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel on April 26th by attending mass or having some sort of social gathering.

Council meetings are usually following Mass and 60% of the councils are able to have their Spiritual Advisor attend their meetings most of the time.

Study of Catholic Teachings

Pope Francis' encyclicals, *Evangelii Gaudium* or *Laudato Si'*, have been studied by two councils. Some of the councils have indicated they encouraged their members to enroll in studies and programs, or view the CCCB or Vatican websites. These are resources that would expand their knowledge of the Catholic faith.

Role of Women in the Church

Six councils reported that they had studied women in scripture. Less than half of the councils reported promoting awareness of women's place in church and society.

Councils have reported that many of their members have taken leadership roles in their parish, region or diocesan councils or have other roles in their parishes or dioceses. Less than half of the councils have members on the parish liturgy committee when one exists in the parish.

Evangelization and Mission Assistance

The Knights of Columbus, **Keep Christ in Christmas Campaign**, was supported by a quarter of the councils who had Knights of Columbus councils in their parishes.

Over half of the councils contributed in some way to Catholic Missions in Canada. Most of those that do make contact do so through monetary contributions with a few contributing clothing, food or school supplies. Some of the other missions supported were: Esk-Omi Missions; Kee-Pas Missions; St. Francis Xavier Mission, On Eagles Wings, Valley Native Ministries, St. Gertrude Parish in Pelican Narrows.

Lay Ministries

Many members are very active in the lay ministries in their parish. They participated as Eucharistic ministers, lectors, ushers, hospitality, choir/music, decorating/cleaning, sacristan, and catechist.

Other activities members were involved in were: collection count, sacramental preparation, activities in support of funerals and grief ministry, children's liturgy, volunteer work at the CWL Clothing Depot, provide child care for programs, volunteer work at schools, assisting in seniors' homes, making prayer shawls and quilts.

Many of these ministries were chaired/organized by a CWL member in the parish. **Our members are truly the heart of their parishes.**

Ecumenism and Interfaith Endeavours

Many of the councils reached out to women of other denominations or faiths by: initiating joint prayer services, inviting women to council meetings, inviting women to social events.

Councils reported promoting awareness or participating in: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (60%), Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada (30%), World Day of Prayer (92%), WUCWO Day (10%) and one council reported yes to promoting/participation in the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

In Summary

It is evident that our members play an active and valuable role in their parishes. Some shared specific stories of ways in which they carry out their ministries to the sick, provided education on palliative care and issues surrounding euthanasia. Some reported outreach to their communities through a sharing of meals and invitation to pray. Our Humboldt council was especially grateful for the overwhelming support they received after the tragic bus accident that impacted their community. Taking time to pray and develop our faith is important and it gives us the strength and desire to take our service to others.

This concludes my report.

Saskatchewan Education and Health Annual Report – 2018

Provincial Education and Health Chairperson - Marian Zsombor

Saskatchewan is divided into 3 dioceses: Regina, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert.

Statistics

There has been a decrease in participation in the survey from last year, 42 councils participated, out of 92. Last year 56 councils participated. Additionally about 80% of our councils have a Chairperson of the Standing Committee Education and Health.

Catholic Education

Have you become informed about the quality and availability of Catholic religious instruction in your parish and local area schools?

A majority responded to receiving information about the quality and availability of Catholic religious education instruction in the parish and in the local area schools. Approximately half of the councils encourage parental participation in all areas of school activity. The needs identified and met were: the breakfast or lunch programs, clothing drives, field trip or recess supervision, extracurricular activities, school supplies, and sacrament/faith development. In areas where there are separate schools most councils offer scholarships or bursaries to high school students.

In response to awareness of family programs some councils reported becoming involved in the sacramental initiation programs in the parish, a few replied as not becoming personally involved. Most councils do have access to a list of scholarships and bursaries available for CWL members to further their education, while some rural councils reported having no access. CWL members are encouraging and/or assisting members to improve literacy skills in Continuing Education.

Councils reported the promotion of the National Bursary Fund, the Coady International Institute, Catholic Christian Outreach and Net Ministries of Canada.

Wellness and Sickness/Disease

Spring 2018 edition of The Canadian League, former national chairperson of Education and Health was Fran Lucas. She wrote about the importance of being present to persons struggling with their mental health. In keeping with the national priority chosen for 2018, has your council taken steps to become more aware of mental health issues in your community?

50% of councils reported yes. National organizations supported by councils were: Southwest Crisis Center, Ronald McDonald House, Save a family, Sask Pro Life, Canadian Health, Right to Life and Hospice, Telemiracle, Alzheimer Society of Canada, Canadian Cancer Society, Canada Mental Health Association, Canada Health Alliance of Canada, Heart and Stroke Foundation, Children's Wish Foundation of Canada, Canadian Red Cross Association, Canadian Diabetes Association, Mater-Care International, Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada, Relay for Life, The Arthritis Society, and Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB). A small percentage did not support any organization.

On May 4, 2018, Councils participated in **"12 Hours for Palliative Care"** through following ways: Arranged for a prayer space in church, invited neighbouring churches to participate in prayer services, welcomed and supported those who shared their own experience of palliative care facilities and services, offered refreshments and a time for fellowship, arranged for a prayer space in a home, said a prayer at their regular meeting, had a parish council discussion about how to assist palliative care, supplied brochures on local palliative care facilities and services, and took up a free will offering and donated it to a local hospice. A small number of the councils reported as not participating this year.

A request was made for more information on euthanasia and mental health.

Environment

Resolution 2018.02 Setting a Standard for Products Marketed as Flushable calls for the federal government to establish a national standard of testing and labelling of products marketed as “flushable”. What action has your council taken to support this resolution? Over 50% of councils are recycling, as well councils are reducing use of Styrofoam cups, eliminating plastic water bottles, using green bins for organic waste, reducing paper use, alternatives to plastic bags, use of glass dishes at meetings, eliminating use of plastic straws. Some councils are doing roadside or community clean up. One council attended Ukrainian ecumenical prayer and song service for environmental protection.

Did your council participate in **International Earth Hour Vigil** on March 25th 2018? A very small percentage participated, most responded no.

Genetics

Does your council subscribe to the Canadian Bioethics Institute newsletters to keep you informed of current issues in bioethics? 100% of the councils responded “no”.

How would you rate your knowledge in regard to the advantages and disadvantages of technological development in light of the teaching of the Catholic Church? One council rated excellent, the rest fared almost equally between good, fair, and poor.

Summary

Councils are doing great work at their local levels. Due to factors such as: age of members, technological changes, sizes of councils and communities, etc; councils are not finding time or people to engage in many issues which are important as a national organization.

Thank you to the chairpersons of the 3 dioceses in Saskatchewan for submitting your reports. Thank you also for all the great work that is being done in the different councils around the province. Through our faith and commitment to serve, we fulfill our great law of charity at home and abroad.

This concludes my report.

SK Provincial CWL Council

Christian Family Life Annual Report, 2018

Marge Appell

2018 has been a busy year for members chairing the Christian Family Life Standing Committee in their parishes/dioceses. Quotes from the [Executive Handbook](#) point out the importance of the work we do and I am very proud of the services SK League members provide.

Marriage and Family

“The family is the basic cell of society. It is the cradle of life and love, the place in which the individual “is born” and “grows”.” (Christifideles Laici, E.H. CFL section)

On average, about 35% of the councils spent time, talent, and treasures on engaged encounter, marriage preparation, and/or marriage encounter programs, celebrating special events such as Father’s Day, Mother’s Day, and special anniversaries, and several councils found ways to reach out and assist those suffering from domestic abuse.

While a high percentage of councils reporting did not use the publications/website listed in the survey to assist them with planning programs, an average of 15% - 20% of councils utilized a combination of Prayers and Rituals for the Home booklets, “The Joy of Love” at the Heart of the Family publication, Pocket Prayer for Parents book, CCCB Life and Family website, Prayer and Rituals for the Home booklet, and Families on the Way of the Cross.

Sanctity of Life

“It is the belief of the League that the right to life is sacred from the moment of fertilization to natural death.” (E.H. CFL section)

SK CWL members worked very hard in promoting the sacredness of life and lived this belief through their extensive actions in this area. Of the councils reporting, 89% hold memberships in a local pro-life organization. Members attended pro-life events such as dinners, life chains, marches for life, and 40 Days for Life. Councils also had masses said for pro-life causes. Dependent upon the diocese, 20 – 54% of the councils reporting supported Birthright, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, Pregnancy and Family Support Services, and the Campaign for Life Coalition.

Ministry to Youth

“Young people are the church, the people of God. Youth today have much to share; and exchange of ideas between generations is a source of growth and renewal for all.” (E. H. CFL section)

SK CWL councils are involved in engaging youth in their communities. 50-75% of the councils reporting encouraged young people to become involved in ministry. A good number of encouraged and supported youth in attending Catholic Christian Outreach and Net Ministry events, Leadership and Summer Camps, and Youth Conferences. Numerous councils provided monetary support for World Youth Day participants and pledged prayer support, as well.

Ministry to the Disabled and to Seniors

“The aim of each council is to create an attitude that regards disabled individuals not only as people to be loved and served, but as responsible partners in the church’s mission.”

“Seniors provide a gift to society of tradition and heritage acquired through a lifetime of experiences.” (both quotes taken from E.H. CFL section)

These are areas of service in which a number of SK councils excelled. They encouraged seniors and the disabled to participate in liturgical celebrations. They continue to be aware of and work toward improving accessibility for those with mobility issues. They supported shelters and programs for challenged individuals and seniors. Where possible, they provided transportation, shared meals, visited, offered companionship and friendship. Invitations were extended to special events, and in some instances respite care was made available. Spiritual care was also provided. Taking communion to the homebound, sending cards, and offering prayers for seniors and the disabled was a priority.

Ministry to Widowed, Separated, and Divorced

“By sharing of their gifts in church and society, the widowed may find their personal fulfillment in reaching out to others,” and “Many single and divorced people face the responsibility of raising children alone. The need to express the message of hope by offering assistance can be very beneficial.” (E. H. CFL section)

Outreach efforts to the widowed ranged from 54-88% in SK dioceses. Members were involved in the following ways: visiting and sending cards to the bereaved, helping arrange funeral services and/or funeral lunches, extending invitations to meetings and special events, gifting of prayer shawls, and encouraging participation in programs offered by the parish/diocese. Councils also invited separated or divorced individuals to participate in community gatherings and CWL events. Members provided babysitting services if required, offered prayers for those in need, and encouraged participation in support groups and counseling services. Only one council sponsored informal presentations on the annulment process.

Vocations

According to Ecclesia in America, *“Vocations are a gift of God and they are born in communities of faith.”* (Ecclesia in America, E. H. CFL section)

Reporting councils indicated a high percentage (54-83%) offered masses and prayers for vocations. Some adopted or supported seminarians, hosted luncheons for priests and religious, invited priests and religious to speak on vocations, sent spiritual bouquets to their clergy, and donated to priest retirement funds. Individual members invited clergy, religious, and/or seminarians for visits and meals in their homes.

From the submissions received, it was clear that, no matter how small the council, CWL members across SK continued to be generous in serving others. Additional comments included several councils delivering Meals on Wheels, one council providing financial aid to a young woman wanting to further her faith formation at St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission in Bruno, SK, arranging fundraisers for events such as Telemiracle, and several councils participating in a Spiritual Adoption Program for unborn babies at risk of abortion.

All the good works included in this report were carried out by League members intent on creating a better world for the greater honor and glory of God. Their efforts are tireless and ongoing. May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide them in all they do.

This concludes my report.

SASKATCHEWAN COMMUNITY LIFE STANDING COMMITTEE

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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

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

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

A **community** is a familiar thread used to bring people together to advocate and support each other in the fight to overcome threats. As human beings, we need a sense of belonging, and that sense of belonging is what connects us to the many relationships we develop. The threats to community life that the CWL Community Life Standing Committee deals with are: absence and loss of the dignity and rights of persons, social and economic injustice, lack of development and peace in communities, and non-support or ignorance of refugees, immigration and citizenship issues.

Working at the **community** level to promote **healthy** living brings the greatest **health** benefits to the greatest number of people. It helps to reduce **health** gaps caused by differences in income, education, race and ethnicity, location and other factors that affect social and physical **health**. **Unhealthy community life** can lead to the cancer of ignorance and indifference, the diabetes of misplaced kindness as in social justice versus charity, and the heart disease of hatred and self-centredness. The health of our communities is critical to growth and development.

When we promote healthy community life we follow the key principles of Catholic Social Teaching:

1. Options for the Poor and Vulnerable: Addressing basic needs such as food, shelter and education. Our work in schools, women’s shelters, clothing donations, food drives, and soup kitchens show our generosity in this area.

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

What do we get out of our focus on community life? We get a sense of satisfaction, of joy, a sense of God in us and in others. We also develop practical skills from community service such as the ability to work with a variety of people; time-management and prioritization skills as we choose projects and carry them out; leadership skills as we spearhead a project or teach a skill to others; communication skills and a sense of confidence as we interact with others of different ages, cultures and interests; professionalism as we represent the CWL in our many projects without arrogance but with a sense of joy for our good works.

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

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

“Wherever there are people in need of food and drink, clothing, housing, medicine, employment, education; wherever (people) lack the facilities necessary for living a truly human life or are afflicted with serious distress or illness or suffer exile or imprisonment, there Christian charity

should seek them out and find them, console them with great solicitude, and help them with appropriate relief. This obligation is imposed above all upon every prosperous nation and person.” (Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity)

Respectfully submitted,
Lorraine Thibeault

Saskatchewan Provincial Communications Annual Report 2018

Adele Giblin – Provincial Communications Chairperson

This report is based on the communications annual report I received from the Saskatchewan Prince Albert and Regina diocesan councils and the national communications electronic report. At this point, the Saskatoon diocesan annual report is not submitted. The national electronic report is based on 41 out of a possible 138 councils were reported. The following percentages that I mention below relate to the councils that reported. 32 of the 41 councils reported they do have their communications position filled.

The Canadian League magazine

The majority of the Councils report the League magazine is very good or good as useful as an educational tool for their members. About half the councils reported the league magazine found the usefulness as a resource for advocacy / action. Less than half reported using the League magazine as a resource for new ideas and as a spiritual resource. The articles that resonated with our members from the Winter 2018 edition was Mental illness and Legislation and Being present and responding to God’s call. The articles published in the Spring 2018 edition that all 3 dioceses reported as really resonating with them was There is no “I” in Team. Every One in the Council is Vital for Success. The topics suggested for more information needed is about strategic planning and engaging working mothers.

Written and Electronic Communication

Resolution 1978.03 Catholic Press encouraged members to subscribe to and promote Catholic newspapers. Over half reporting councils do not financial or subscriptions to assist them in their mission to evangelize.

8 councils participated in watching the 2018 annual national convention keynote speaker which was available for at-home viewers by live feed on cwl.ca. 25 councils have encouraged members to visit CWL on Facebook or Twitter. The majority of the councils encouraged the members to use cwl.ca for current information. Over half of our reporting councils used local media to advertise the council’s activities. $\frac{3}{4}$ of the councils use telephone committee to invite member to events. $\frac{1}{4}$ of the councils prepared news releases for their council. 4 councils have

set aside a budget for publicity. Over half councils used email to send out meeting agendas or minutes.

A big concern is that parish CWL councils do not hear from their diocesan counterparts for most of the standing committees during their two year term. While information is found on the provincial and national websites, councils miss the communication with those they elected or who were appointed to fill the diocesan positions.

Promotion

Nearly all councils promoted their council's activities and events by church bulletin boards and church bulletins. Most councils were unable to rate Salt and Light: Woman on a Mission but 6 councils rated the video excellent to very good. CWL's Testimonial video had 6 councils rating it very good but majority were unable to rate. Over half councils encouraged members to monitor media content. In January, when Shari Guinta alerted councils to voice their objection to Mary Kills People, over half reported councils acted to her request. 5 councils spoke out about inappropriate content in 2018. The offending material was sexually explicit parts in shows on TV shown during family time, and the network did not respond. Euthanasia and suicide, pornography, speaking about Mary was spoken to members and letters were written to parliament. As a result, a letter was received from minister of justice. 6 Councils produce a newsletter which the majority are written by the Communications chair twice annually or quarterly and mostly distributed by email. The majority of councils did not invite local media to attend an event. A few articles have been submitted for publication; Facebook, texting friends, community web pages, promotional brochures, community calendars, weekly community web pages, diocesan website, email, WhatsApp, messenger and flyers and face to face sharing during meetings and throughout the community.

Over half councils have promoted faith-orientated programs such as week of Christian unity, Women's Ecumenical Service, World Day of prayer, mass, conventions, rosary, workshop on intentional discipleship, sacramental preparation, and sharing of personal faith journeys like pilgrimage trips, organ donation experience; Seven councils promoted World Communications Day; Parish priests are a resource for councils; Access to speakers, tv shows and sharing books were used at meetings. Members report to the parish pastoral council and parish ladies get-togethers; working funeral lunches advertises the League with communicating with pastors, families, friends and funeral home directors.

Pornography

To keep informed about the influence of Pornography has on children and adults was the majority of councils encouraging reading newspaper and articles. With a federal election in 2019, over half of the councils do not know the various political parties / candidates' platforms on pornography and human trafficking. Councils will discuss the situations closer to election

time and request the members become educated about these issues. Nearly no one has viewed the website fightthenewdrug.org. About half the councils have distributed the League's Pornography Hurts postcards except during the months of July, August, September or December. Over 94 % of councils did not promote "Over 18", "Red Light, Green Light" or information sessions.

Resolution 2017.02 Mandatory Age Verification mechanisms for Adult Pornography Websites requests the federal government to enact laws requiring these mechanisms to prevent minors from accessing pornography. Over 50 % did not act on this resolution by contacting members of parliament, the minister or justice and the prime minister; About half of councils encouraged members to become educated on internet safety and responsible and appropriate technology use; Slightly over 25% councils made members aware of the lack of age verification controls on adult websites; Less than 20 % councils monitored the federal government's response to the issue.

Resolution 2004.11 Link between violent, graphic imagery and aggressive behavior and the Mechanics of Killing saw 3 councils write to provincial / territorial government to establish procedures to prohibit the sale / rental/ distribution to minors of videos, movies, and games that contain graphic imagery which promotes violence and even killing as an acceptable behavior; 1 council ensured that the educational system contains required curricula to promote students with the tools to respond thoughtfully and critically to media content.

Resolution 2002.11 Responsible internet use for children saw over 75% of councils not encourage federal government to continue supporting research and development of tools to protect children against offensive content on the internet; Less than half encouraged members to educate themselves and their families on safe, wise and responsible internet use.

New national website

Half the councils have viewed the new national website and over 80% liked it. They liked the ease of finding informative communiques and articles with the bright images and titles. Improvements could be made with a search tool added at the top of the home page. Over 80 % of councils did not have anything else they wished to share about their councils' communications activities such as resolutions worked on. Councils wish to share that their resolution committee worked on increasing age of consent for legal marijuana; they signed a local petition regarding summer jobs program and were happy to hear that it has been changed; member actively involved in Pro-Life work by sending letters to our federal government and attending the march of life held locally in Saskatoon; their position is vacant so it is difficult to tackle the various issues as a council. Membership is practically 50% are seniors so not necessarily internet-savvy or available as active members.

This concludes my report.

**SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCIAL COUNCIL
RESOLUTIONS ANNUAL REPORT – 2018
Susan Melchiorre
Provincial Resolution Chairperson**

Councils Reporting: **37 Of 136** councils

Only **2** of Saskatchewan’s three Diocesan Councils sent in Resolution annual reports.

Members who replied to the 2018 annual survey have attended a workshop pertaining to resolutions. The communiqués and reports are read and reported on by most of the chairpersons. Some discussed topics that could lead to a resolution, and some councils consider studying and writing a resolution but only one of the councils actually prepared a resolution. It appears the main reasons for this are lack of participants willing to work on a resolution, lack of time, and intimidation of the resolution writing process. One council prepared a resolution on use of marijuana and gifted it to the Saskatoon Diocesan Council. Due to governments at both levels already acting on the marijuana usage issue the resolution was withdrawn.

Most of the reporting councils are familiar with the resolutions that were passed at the 2018 CWL National Convention. Some of the actions undertaken by councils regarding resolutions was to raise awareness at meetings, write letters, sign petitions, and email information to council members. One member reported that they met with their local Member of Parliament. A small number of chairpersons have attended a resolutions dialogue at a national convention, and those who did enjoyed the event.

With only 37 of our councils completing the Resolution Annual report it hard to gauge the actual interest in resolutions and their impact on our members

Comments were made that the resolution process is too involved and intimidating for most council members. This is coupled with the lack of people who are available and willing to work on a resolution.

Actions that were mentioned on reports include: studying the attestation requirement on Canada Summer Jobs Program, discussion on legislation on Hospice/Palliative Care services, watching films on euthanasia including *Fatal Flaws*, signed petitions and wrote letters.

Those who attending the Resolution Dialogue at National Convention mentioned that the process was not as good as in past years and they think the “nit picking” on words is a waste of time. Wording changes need to be done prior to coming to convention floor.

This concludes my report.

Susan Melchiorre

SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCIAL COUICL CWL

LEGISLATION ANNUAL REPORT – 2018

Susan Melchiorre

Provincial Chairperson

Councils Reporting: **29** of 136 councils

The first portion of the annual survey asked only those councils who have a chairperson to respond. These members knew the names of their local, provincial, and federal government representatives. However, most of these chairpersons receive little to no correspondence from them. No one attended a government forum of any type or received Hansard, the official printed record of federal government proceedings. They do keep themselves informed regarding issues at all levels.

The second portion of the survey asked all respondents to comment on their awareness of specific bills that were before the federal government in 2018. The survey mentioned 8 federal bills in particular. Respondents were very aware or had some knowledge of bills pertaining to the exploitation and trafficking in person (C-38), development of a framework on palliative care in Canada (C-277), and an act regarding the trafficking in human organs (S-240). The majority of respondents were not aware of acts regarding post-traumatic stress disorder (C-211), the development of a national maternity assistance program strategy (C-243), the amendments regarding the Assisted Human Reproduction Act (C-404), the amendments regarding the Tobacco Act and the Non-smokers' Health Act (S-5), or the amendments to the Food and Drugs Act regarding food and beverage marketing aimed at children (S-228). In addition, a very large majority of the respondents were aware of federal bills that were not mentioned in the survey and those were legislations regarding cannabis, and regarding Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID).

Specific questions were asked in the survey regarding resolutions that were passed at previous National CWL Conventions. The first question was regarding 2018.03 Legislate Designation of Hospice/Palliative Care Services in Facilities to Exclude Medical Assistance in Dying. Some councils took no actions, but the other councils did multiple things including keeping their members educated on the issue, writing letters, and monitoring the federal government.

The second question was regarding 2017.03 Zero-Rated Status Under the Goods and Services Tax Provisions of 3 the Excise Tax Act for Child Safety Products. For this resolution, the majority of councils took no action. The ones that did take action monitored the issue, wrote letters, and one council reported inviting a guest speaker to educate members on this issue.

The third question was regarding 2017.04 Protection from Coercion of Conscience for Healthcare Professionals. Over half of the reporting councils took no action. The councils that did take action were very busy educating members on the issue, writing letters, and finding ways to support healthcare workers who will not perform procedures in opposition to their conscience.

Those who reported monitoring legislation included parental consent regarding abortion for minors, palliative care, training for commercial truck drivers, cannabis legislation and mental health issues.

Concern was also mentioned that due to many other things going on at their councils and parishes Legislation and Resolutions were last items discussed if mentioned at all. Particularly in small communities chairpersons felt they needed to make more effort to improve interest in Legislation.

This concludes my report.

Susan Melchiorre

SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCIAL CWL COUNCIL

PAST PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT – 2018

All three of our dioceses reported that the number of annual reports from parish past-presidents was very low. Part of the reason for this might be that many women are serving as president for more than one term and therefore are functioning as president and past president at once.

Most reporting councils do have a past president. No more than half of the past presidents attend executive meeting with a few reporting that they never attend. Attendance at general meetings was much higher with most attending all of the time. A large number of past presidents attend social and spiritual events with only one council reporting that they never attend these events.

In one diocese, the past president is called on for advice two to three times a month, while the other two reported monthly or less than once a month requests.

Most past presidents felt their president was supported and encouraged by their support.

Archives seem to be mostly the responsibility of the past president with a few reporting that it is the responsibility of the treasurer, secretary, historian or another chairperson. It is common for the archives to be stored at the church. Only one diocese reported that almost half of their councils have a designated CWL room at the church. Very few archives are stored in members houses; one at the Parish centre and one council reported having them in the local historical museum.

Most know where their council charter is. Photo albums are the most common storage for councils from two of the three dioceses, with the third one reporting the most common storage being filing cabinets. Banker boxes, and scrapbooks are also commonly used. Of less common usage are memory sticks, CDs and DVDs. This is a good time to note that some educating needs

to take place as memory sticks, etc may go the way of the floppy disk and not be readable on all computers in the future.

Approximately half the councils keep annual reports indefinitely. The remainder is divided fairly evenly over the options of 1 to 4 years, 5 to 8 years and 9 to 10 years.

The Book of Life is kept indefinitely in all councils except a very few who do not keep it more than 10 years. The majority of councils also keep deceased member histories indefinitely – those who do not usually keep them only 1 to 4 years.

Financial information in two of the dioceses is kept for 5 to 8 years (the most common answer). In the third diocese, the councils are split between indefinitely and all of the time periods presented in the question.

List of past executives are kept indefinitely by the majority of councils with only a few keeping them for less than 10 years. Half of the reporting councils keep membership renewal data for an indefinite period. There was an even division of those keeping them 1-4 years and 5-8 years.

In two of the dioceses, executive and general meetings were kept indefinitely. The third reported a majority kept them indefinitely, but about one third kept them for the year spans listed.

Again, the councils that kept records of pin and award recipients were in the majority. A few reported keeping them for 1-4 years while councils in one diocese also chose the 5-8 years and 9-10 years in small numbers.

Keeping written reports of the executive varied a great deal between the three dioceses with one reporting that they are mostly kept indefinitely, one split evenly between indefinitely and 1-4 years and the third showing a higher tendency to keeping them 1-4 years.

It appeared to be a priority of councils to keep records of years of service for members indefinitely.

Archives are reviewed on an as needed basis. The majority of councils do not have a history book, but a large percentage maintain labelled photo albums.

While most councils report having a copy of the *Constitution and Bylaws*, most reported using rarely or at most once or twice a year. There were a few who use it multiple times in a year and also a few who do not have a copy in their council.

Again, councils do have the *National Policy and Procedure*, but two dioceses reported using it rarely. The third, reported using it once or twice a year. There were a few in each diocese who do not own a copy of the document.

Unfortunately, most councils reporting do not have a policy and procedure manual of their own. Those who have a policy and procedure manual report updating it when a policy is changed, with a few reporting that they do it annually, every two years and every five years.

In one diocese, councils sought the advice from diocesan executive annually, while in the other two dioceses, the most common answer was rarely. In all dioceses, councils never or rarely sought advice from provincial executives. The results were the same for seeking advice from the national executive with exception of one diocese that had a few councils who did so quarterly.

Councils seem to seek advice from their spiritual advisor on a monthly basis although the number who rarely sought advice from their spiritual advisor was a very close second to the monthly answer.

Local bishops were never or rarely contacted for advice. The same results held for seeking advice for life members, although there was no place to say whether life members were available in a council's area.

Under duties taken on, the most mentioned duties were: representing the council, chairing general meetings, filling the role of a vacant position/chair a standing committee, representing the council and checking the national website for information. Most past presidents also organize fundraisers, charitable, spiritual and social events. In two of the dioceses, approximately one third of the past presidents chair the nominations and elections committee.

Did you support the implementation of the envisioned future of the League through Planning Strategically 2018 – 2022? Two dioceses responded with a majority 'no' to this question, while one responded with a majority 'yes'.

Those who did support the envisioned future did so by: passing on information to council members, taking part in workshops and diocesan convention discussions, participating in the survey, promoting CWL positivity and stressing the successes of CWL, keeping informed, inviting provincial executive to speak on the implementation process, attending national conventions and prayer. It was also reported that the questions were very complicated for answering at conventions without having an opportunity to think about them.

It is also to be noted that the space given on the annual reporting survey for independent answers was not sufficient to record all of the words; therefore, some good suggestions were not completed.

The majority of past presidents did not feel that there was anything they could do to make their successor's experience more enjoyable and fulfilling. Those who did feel more positive about this question had these suggestions: keeping archives up to date and documenting all council activities for future reference, be present for the current executive for collaboration and

guidance, be available to give advice and support as needed, contact the president more often to discuss issues that should be brought to the membership, offer to do some tasks jointly for transition purposes, be available to answer questions, help with special events and share ideas, and letting my successor know that I am willing to step in and chair the meeting in the case of an emergency.

In closing, I can see that there is some work to be done by the provincial council in education members on the importance of using the documents prepared by national to assist in running meetings and making decisions. It is also worthwhile to encourage councils to prepare their own policy and procedure manuals.

It is obvious from these reports that our councils are active, but struggling to get executive members and to keep up with all that needs to be done. These women are to be commended for their commitment to the League as many have held executive positions for a long time. May the Lord continue to bless them as they continue in their work for God and Canada.