

## SECRETARY-TREASURER



**Shirley Bernier**

At its pre-convention meeting, the national executive reviewed the 2005 audited financial statements prepared by Chambers, Fraser & Co. You will find this information and a broad explanation included in your convention booklet. Although per capita fees were not sufficient to cover expenses, investment income rebounded so that the League was able to show a surplus of \$28,955.

With the move of national office, a total review of equipment was made and an updated list compiled. The leasehold improvements of the new premises will be amortized over the 10-year lease. As the new premises covers an area that is two-thirds of the previous space, the rent has been reduced from \$4,877 to \$2,845 per month and some savings should be realized in utility expenses.

During the winter mid-term meeting in Winnipeg, I had the opportunity to meet with the auditors who assured me that our funds are being well administered. As you know, during the last four years I have counseled members to live within their means. So, I also raised my concerns about bringing in a deficit budget. Given our financial position, we are able to do this at present. However, should this practice continue, an increase in per capita fees may be required. Our financial policy states that, "Where the 5-year forecast indicates a drop in investments below 50% of the operating budget, it would be prudent for the finance committee to examine the recourse available through cost cutting and per capita increases." I would urge the new executive to bear this in mind.

Regarding the Statement of Revenue and Expenditure as of June 30, 2006, per capita fees of \$764,384 representing 95,548 memberships were received by June 30<sup>th</sup>. This is a decrease of 4,425 over last year at the same time but indicates 95% of this budget line has been achieved. Investment income is lower than last year due to a reduction in the sale of equities. The gross margin on sales of inventory supplies reflects an increase in the sales of pins, brochures and cards but a decrease in the sale of specialty products and gift items.

Expenses include the cost of the national executive to attend the WUCWO Study Days, a \$2,500 donation to the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute to sponsor a keynote speaker, and the cost of printing revisions to the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* at a cost of \$16,333. Several of our budgeted items are already overspent and a deficit is projected this year if we continue in this way.

While national office does not give the organizations supported through national voluntary funds the names and addresses of parish councils, the results of a survey conducted at the end of last year indicate that many councils are now dealing directly with these organizations. This poses the question, do we still need to educate members about these concerns through national voluntary funds or is our job done? If we are to have national voluntary funds, it is better that the money is forwarded to national office. A total of \$186,089 was collected from July 1, 2005, to June 30, 2006, for the national voluntary funds: Coady International Institute (Coady), Catholic Missions In Canada (CMIC), Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP), pro-life, MaterCare International (MaterCare) and WUCWO. This represents an increase of 1.7% over last year. All members are to be congratulated for their generosity.

We would like to publicly acknowledge and thank the late Life Member Thérèse Rehaume Mackey from Quebec for her remembrance of the League in her will. The bequest of \$5,000 will be added to the national bursary fund.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**Kim Scammell, CA**

It is a pleasure to report on behalf of national office to the delegates at this 86<sup>th</sup> annual national convention. National office is responsible for the administration of League affairs at the national level.

National office was challenged to increase its archival records and has undertaken two projects in this regard. The first project was to compile an historical file of each life member. I am pleased to report that this project was completed, although some files are very slim. These files are available on request should you require any information about current life members.

The second project is also complete. We compiled a list of all resolutions ever adopted. Why did we do this? It seemed to us that new resolutions were being adopted each year and the older ones shelved, even though the older resolutions were still current, still relevant and needed continued action in order to achieve their objectives. What a pity it was to see all of that effort, energy and those good solid issues forgotten!

To complete this project, we reviewed every issue of *The Canadian League* and every annual report that is still available,