

This year we have raised \$13,677 for the WUCWO National Voluntary Fund. Two requests have been sent to WUCWO asking for their audited financial statement. To date no response has been received. A letter will be going forward with the funds explaining that no funds will be forwarded in the future until an audited financial statement is received.

Members of the League have represented Canada on the WUCWO board for 26 of the last 31 years. However, for the next four years Canada will be represented by Luba Kowalchuk, past president of the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada. We wish Luba well on the board and look forward to hearing from her over the next four years.

Executive Director Kim Scammell and three members of the national executive will be attending the centenary assembly as representatives of the League. This assembly will consist of lectures by renowned speakers, visits to holy sites, discussions, and, most of all, celebrations of the Holy Eucharist and prayer.

As you have heard over the past two days, this past year saw members of the national executive travel internationally with the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and *Peace* and the Coady International Institute. The members came back enthusiastic about our participation, committed to the organizations, and certain that our contributions were improving the lives of others in the developing world.

Members are to be congratulated for their ongoing commitment to support organizations that are dedicated to improving the lives of others on the international scene, such as MaterCare International. I am confident that the League will continue to make a difference in the lives of others long into the future. May Our Lady of Good Counsel intercede for us and guide us as we go forward, striving to be *Women of Peace and Hope*. †

and National Chairperson of Community Life Mary Nordick spoke on *Hope for Africa*.

I was pleased to be able to represent our provincial membership at many of these conventions and to observe the numbers of members who attended. There may be quite a range of formality, but a consistent and keen desire to pass on knowledge and energize the members.

The *Year for Priests* was embraced as councils held various creative functions to recognize, thank and show continued support for their past and present clergy. One diocesan council got to know its priests better through a *Your Time to Shine* initiative that encouraged each spiritual advisor to speak on his call to the priesthood. In another presentation, *Called to Serve*, a deacon spoke on his journey of faith, which began later in his life as he was not baptized until the age of 50.

Over the past year councils continued to work on projects locally and internationally to support the poor. The provincial Pennies for the Poor project, which began in 2006, has generated in excess of \$35,000, all of it sent to Sister Maria Goretti in Burundi.

Councils have written letters to local, provincial and federal governments expressing their views on issues such as euthanasia, pornography and human trafficking. Members have also been made aware of the importance of organ and tissue donation.

Leadership will be a main focus in the months ahead as many councils struggle to elect an executive.

Alberta Mackenzie has seven Catholic Girls' Leagues (CGL). As I attended the diocesan conventions, I challenged each diocesan council to have at least one CGL within the next 12 months. Work on this has begun in two councils.

The diocesan councils have many reasons to be proud of the work their members accomplish. Here are a few examples:

- In the Calgary diocese, members have raised \$1.2 million for the CWL Chair for Catholic Studies at St. Mary's University College.
- Members of the Edmonton diocese support St. Benedict Chapel in downtown Edmonton by covering one month of its operational costs. Councils have also been very generous in their donations to the Cornerstone of Faith campaign for the new St. Joseph Seminary and Newman Theological College, which accommodate seminarians from across Canada.
- St. Paul diocese had exceptionally strong support for Walk for Life and members volunteered many hours at women's shelters and crisis centres.
- In Grouard McLennan, members worked closely with Catholic schools in fundraising and providing leadership. They are excited about a new summer camp program where grandmothers teach faith to their grandchildren.
- Members of Mackenzie-Fort Smith devoted large amounts of time to presentations on human trafficking given by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Native Women's Association of Canada, and Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

The provincial convention was held in Fairview, which involved some members travelling in excess of 1,200 kilometres

## ALBERTA MACKENZIE



**Fran Lucas**  
Edmonton, Alberta

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council membership for 2009 totalled 10,057, and with the initiatives offered by national and diocesan councils, we are certain that number will grow beyond our expectations! Some inquiries are already being received for new council start-ups.

Our five diocesan councils held annual conventions with the theme of *Women of Peace and Hope*; a theme that was truly evident in their speaker choices, prayer services, and displays. The majority of the speaker topics related to euthanasia, assisted death, dignity therapy, palliative or hospice care, and forgiveness. At the Calgary convention, Bishop Fred Henry spoke on *Hope*

to attend. On Friday, we recognized members in the Military Ordinariate (MO) and showed support for troops by wearing red. It was a moving scene to look out on the delegates and see nothing but red. The solidarity with our sisters in the MO was enhanced by our speaker, Denise Kantor, telling of her life as a member married to a soldier who has seen active service.

Our moving spiritual reflections drew tears and applause, while the speakers on *Promoting Peace* and *Journey into Life* did so to standing ovations.

Training workshops were given by each standing committee chairperson, with evaluations indicating that more of the same is needed. My workshop on membership included a demonstration on how to use the new on-line membership. Members left with a clear understanding of the need for all councils to utilize this process and confidence in its the simplicity. †

## B.C. & YUKON



**Nancy Simms**  
Kamloops,  
British Columbia

Each year B.C. & Yukon Provincial Council strives to reach its goal of 10,000 or more members. For 2009 our membership totalled 9,549

which is an increase of 113 members from the year before.

Our “Leadership Training Workshop Part II” is still being offered throughout the province. This day long workshop focuses on “Realizing the Beauty within the League”, “How to Maintain *Peace* in the League” and challenges members to step forward as effective leaders. Participants reported being enthused, energized and equipped with greater knowledge to continue their work.

In March, a delegation met with both the provincial government and members of the opposition. We received positive and constructive feedback regarding national resolutions on human trafficking and palliative care and on the provincial resolution Regulating the Use of Personal Electronic Devices On School Premises. We also commended the government for enacting a recent law to ban the use of cell phones while driving. This was a provincial resolution adopted at the 2009 convention.

February was a very exciting month for us as Vancouver welcomed the world to the 2010 Olympics. Many members were a part of the More Than Gold campaign which was a group of faith-based organizations and church denominations that worked together to create spaces to extend the radical hospitality of Christ. As a provincial council we also welcomed the world

through an advertisement in the *B.C. Catholic* and members throughout the province participated in the Buying Sex is Not a Sport campaign which brought to public attention the enormity and travesty of human trafficking at major sporting events.

This spring we facilitated a workshop at each diocesan convention entitled “Leading and Outreaching into our Communities”. This less-than-two-hour workshop focused on the different facets of why members are hesitant to take on leadership roles within the League and how to turn these concerns into an enthusiastic response. Members were then reminded how once the League has enthusiastic leaders it can be an incredible outreach to our communities and the world at large. We are God’s hands!

Our provincial convention was dedicated to the *Year for Priests*. A video was compiled of many priests throughout the province and shown at our Friday dinner. We also celebrated the League’s 90 years by having a day acknowledging our assigned decade, the 1940s. Members dressed in outfits of the ’40s and great fun was had by all! Yet, amidst our fun we still managed to educate ourselves through incredible guest speakers who motivated us spiritually, intellectually and creatively. Chairpersons presented reports that informed the members on the work of their standing committees while diocesan presidents encouraged us with the wonderful work being done in each diocese. Just a few examples of this is the establishment of two Catholic Girls’ Leagues, a parish council that had the highest absolute increase in membership across Canada for 2009, and how the Whitehorse diocesan president initiated the first annual March for Life in the Yukon with the numbers in attendance far exceeding expectations. These are just a few examples of the wonderful work being done in each of our six dioceses.

Two resolutions were presented and adopted at the convention. One was directed to our provincial and territorial governments, entitled Strategies for Alzheimer’s and Related Dementias. The other resolution, Safe Haven Law, was forwarded on to national for consideration.

Also, this year the Life Members Arts and Cultural Award to recognize Catholic authors/artists was presented to a well-deserving student who also received the provincial Molly Boucher Bursary.

So as you can see the League is alive and well in British Columbia and the Yukon. We are *Women of Peace and Hope* who continue to serve with faith and joy. †

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## MISSION STATEMENT

*The Catholic Women’s League of Canada is a national organization rooted in gospel values calling its members to holiness through service to the people of God.*

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