

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. †

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.
