

WOMEN OF PEACE AND HOPE



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Are CWL members *Women of Peace and Hope*? Searching for answers, I turned to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary.

P **Peace** is defined as “a state of tranquility or quiet...freedom from civil disturbance...a state of security or order within a community provided for by law or custom...freedom from disquieting or oppressive thoughts or emotions...harmony in personal relations...”.

H **Hope**, closely related to “trust and reliance”, is defined as “desire accompanied by expectation of or belief in fulfillment...expectation of fulfillment or success... someone or something on which **hopes** are centered... something **hoped** for”.

Last year National President Danielle McNeil-Hessian chose the theme *Women of Peace and Hope*. As with every theme, members are called to live it with enthusiasm and exemplify it to all they meet. All are called to:

Prepare and act on resolutions aimed at improving life for various target groups

Embrace the opportunity to use God-given talents in service to others

Accept with gratitude the gift of friendship and sisterhood that the League offers

Choose **Peace** over conflict

Earnestly pray for and appreciate the support of clergy, lay ministers and spiritual advisors

And

Habitually monitor government Web sites to be aware of unjust laws



Open hearts to the blessings of membership in the League

Pray constantly for all people everywhere especially the sick, the poor and the lonely

Encourage women to join and experience firsthand, the *faith, fun and fulfillment* of being members

I have been a member of this organization for 25 years, coming in contact with hundreds of amazing, intelligent, happy, prayerful, caring, hardworking members from every province in Canada.

Members work at sharing **peace** with others when they address government leaders on injustice to the poor and marginalized in an effort to bring solutions.

They share **peace** while raising monies to feed, clothe and help with the education of the poor.

Members are **peace** in action at every national convention. Witness the gathering of 600-800 women together in the same room amicably working, praying, learning, laughing and enjoying meals together.

All members, myself included, know that **hope/trust** is essential for sanity, for fulfilling commitments to our patroness, country and League family.

Even in moments of weakness, members are women of **hope**. Prayer is the greatest weapon against despair. Prayer helps to strengthen **hope**. **Hope** brings freedom from stress, makes a person healthier both in body and mind and makes **peace** possible. Prayer is a powerful weapon.

Members are rooted in gospel values and prayer. They share **peace** when they pray for those who struggle with personal illness or sickness or death of family members. Prayer for all seasons and all reasons is what the League encourages members to practice.

Members are painfully aware that the League will not survive if members have no **hope** in its future. As women of **hope** they continue to act, speak, and share their optimism and **hope** with League sisters and potential members. They do not burden themselves with concerns of how or how soon change in membership will come. They let go and trust Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Peace follows **hope** and when **hope** is strong, it can conquer fears of the unknown, sickness or other adversities. When these sometimes irrational feelings are gone, **peace** is attained. ✠