



# THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

Amanda McCormick  
Guest Journalist  
C-702 Scotland Ave.  
Winnipeg, MB R3M 1X5

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fredericton, New Brunswick – 585 members, spiritual advisors and guests attended the 94<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention of The Catholic Women's League of Canada from August 10-13, 2014, at the Crowne Plaza Lord Beaverbrook in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Under the theme, *We Have Seen the Lord!* members united in prayer, were inspired and challenged by guest speakers, and engaged in important discussion on a number of social justice and health issues affecting Canadians.

In his homily at the opening mass on August 10<sup>th</sup>, Bishop Robert Harris expressed his appreciation for League members stating, “You are a force to contend with.” He assured all members they are beloved by God; they are “chosen, blessed, broken and given”.

Guest speakers included Bishop Robert Morneau, whose topic was *To Live with the Spirit*; retired Senator, the Hon. Michael Kirby, who spoke about *Mental Health and Young People*; Imelda Perley, who shared ideas for *Building Relationships with Aboriginal Women* and Sheila Isaac, who informed the assembly about the *Indigenous Women in Community Leadership Program* at the Coady International Institute.

The League, founded in 1920, is one of the largest organizations of women in Canada with almost 90,000 members represented in every province and territory, with military representation as well. The League is organized to serve all citizens and has often received the commendation and keen appreciation of federal, provincial and municipal authorities for the voluntary services ably performed by its nationwide membership.

Five resolutions were adopted this year by the national council for action by members:

- Restoration of Health Care for Refugee Claimants urges “the federal government to reinstate health care for all refugee claimants comparable to coverage for Canadians on social assistance”.
- Electronic Cigarettes encourages “provincial councils to become aware of the issue of electronic cigarettes as it pertains to their province/territory, and to act on it, as deemed necessary”.
- Flavoured Tobacco Products Ban encourages “provincial councils to become aware of the issue of flavoured tobacco products as it pertains to their province/territory, and to act on it, as deemed necessary/prudent”.
- National Standard for Newborn Screening Including Screening for Severe Combined Immunodeficiency urges “the federal government to implement a national standard for newborn

screening including screening for SCID (Screening for Severe Combined Immunodeficiency) and urges provincial councils to become aware of newborn screening including screening for SCID as it pertains to their province/territory, and to act on it, as deemed necessary/prudent”.

- Old Age Security Allowance for Individuals 60 to 64 Years of Age Regardless of Marital Status urges “the federal government to include all individuals 60 to 64 years of age, regardless of marital status, to be eligible for Old Age Security Allowance”.

On August 12<sup>th</sup>, 13 nominees were commissioned as life members, accepting responsibility to support and actively serve the League. On August 13<sup>th</sup>, Barbara Dowding, Port Moody, British Columbia was installed as National President. Ten other members were installed as national officers.

At the closing Eucharist, Bishop William McGrattan (Peterborough) referenced Micah 6:8 as he urged members to “act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with our God” throughout life.

-30-

For further information, contact Erica Johnson at (204) 927-2314 or by e-mail at [communications@cwl.ca](mailto:communications@cwl.ca)