THE CATHOLIC WOMEN’S LEAGUE OF CANADA

96th Annual National Convention
Program &
2015 Annual Report

August 14-17, 2016
Halifax, Nova Scotia
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.

The Catholic Women’s League of Canada
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Where is it? What time does it open?

**REGISTRATION, TICKETS**  
*Level 3 Pre-function Area*

- Saturday, August 14: 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, August 15: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Monday, August 16: 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 17: 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, August 18: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**RESOLUTIONS DIALOGUE FOR ALL MEMBERS**  
*Resolutions Dialogue, WTCC Ballroom A*

- Sunday, August 14: 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**EXHIBITS/SALE OF NATIONAL OFFICE SUPPLIES/  
RELIGIOUS BOOKSTORE**  
*WTCC Level 1*

- Monday, August 15: 8:15 a.m. – 5:15 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 16: 8:15 a.m. – 5:15 p.m.
- Wednesday, August 17: 8:15 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**PRAYER ROOM**  
*WTCC, Level 1, Suite 101*

- Sunday, August 14: 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.
- Monday, August 15: 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 16: 8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

**SECRETARIAT OFFICE**  
*WTCC, Level 2 Show Office*

- Monday, August 15: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 16: 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, August 17: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
GREETINGS
KWE’ (Greetings in Mi’kmaq)

Carolyn Lawrence
Halifax-Yarmouth Diocesan President

On behalf of all Halifax-Yarmouth diocesan members, I am so pleased to welcome you to the 96th annual national convention of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada. We have been anxiously awaiting your arrival, a time to share with sisters in the League, grow spiritually, share stories, renew friendships, engage in dialogue regarding resolutions, and rejoice in One Heart, One Voice, One Mission.

As one, we welcome our sisters, spiritual advisors and visitors to Halifax. Pjila’si! Ciad mille failte! (One hundred thousand welcomes). Bienvenue! Nova Scotia is strongly influenced by Mi’kmaq, Acadian, African Nova Scotian and Gaelic cultures.

Ten years ago, I attended my first annual national convention, here in Halifax. At that time, little did I know that ten years later, I would be welcoming members from across Canada, back to our vibrant city by the sea, rich with history and culture. We have opened wide the doors to our city and province. Whether you come by land, sea or air, we hope you get an opportunity to enjoy our hospitality and visit our historic sites, national parks and museums. Halifax is known for its many diverse restaurants, mouth-watering cuisine to tempt your taste buds, and live music venues. During your visit, a visit to Pier 21 is a must. We hope you will tour the many attractions that our city and province has to offer.

Enjoy your stay! As we journey together during convention, may Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide us in all we do “For God and Canada.”
Fr. Craig Christensen
Halifax-Yarmouth Diocesan Spiritual Advisor

Welcome to the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth for the 96th Annual National Convention of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada!

You will notice that in most the churches in the diocese we have adopted Rembrandt’s image of the Prodigal Son for the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy—the moment of embrace. “While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him and was deeply moved. He ran out to meet him, threw his arms around his neck, and kissed him. …Quick! Bring out the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. Take the fatted calf and kill it. Let us eat and celebrate” (Luke 15).

As we know, the father’s embrace and actions was an act of mercy and an act of restoring the person’s identity and dignity. I have seen the League’s action and spirit from coast to coast to coast embody this image as the League has reached out in countless ways as a visible sign of mercy within the church and society.

For all who have travelled here, may this convention be a time of restoration, a time to embrace and a time to be embraced. May you find in us, your humble host, the embrace of hospitality. I am sure we will be able to find a fattened calf or lobster for you.

* * *
Welcome to Nova Scotia!
As Nova Scotia provincial council president, it is my pleasure and honour to welcome you to the 96th annual national convention of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada.

May the convention strengthen your faith and fill your hearts more fully with love as we work together to spread Jesus’ message to bring good news to the world with One Heart One Voice One Mission.

As you witness so many members using their gifts and talents may your time together be one of prayer, rekindling friendships, celebration and a renewal to go forward in peace and hope.

I pray God richly blesses you for an enjoyable and fruitful convention.

* * *

Dear members of the Catholic Women’s League,

Once again, it is a real pleasure to welcome all of you to Nova Scotia as we come together for the annual national convention. An added bonus this year is that members of the World Union of Catholic Women’s Organizations are a part of this gathering. Much has changed since the last convention in Halifax. However, our city and surrounding areas retain the charm of the Atlantic coast. I hope that you are able to participate in the various activities and trips that will allow you to see the beauty and charm of our province.
The beauty of Nova Scotia is at its best in mid-August and you get a chance to see it early every morning. So, it is good to have all of you here in “Canada’s Ocean Playground.”

As members of the church, we are aware of changes within the Christian community as well as Canada. Some of these invite us to reflect deeply on what it means to be a person of faith in a post-modern society where secular values and relativism have an ever increasing influence on our lives.

On the other hand, we have been blessed with the leadership of Pope Francis whose message of God’s mercy and compassion call us to hope and renewal. You will have the opportunity to enter Saint Mary Cathedral Basilica and experience personally the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy.

Conventions are busy times with much to accomplish. The theme speakers will challenge us to become more aware of the call to be missionary-disciples. The resolutions presentations are always a time to help us learn about important issues that affect all Canadians. With this and all the work we take on at the convention, we are especially brought into a time of prayer, reflection and action “For God and Canada.” The League does its work because members work with One Heart, One Voice, One Mission.

May this time together enliven our spirits and help all of us to be ever more committed to the work of the League and of building the kingdom where mercy and justice prevail.

* * *

Barbara Dowding  
National President

Welcome to the 96th annual national convention of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada! For some time now, the convention planning committee has been waiting with open arms to welcome all to the beautiful city of Halifax.
They are prepared to open their collective arms and doors, to greet us warmly and to invite us in.

Conventions are a time for celebrating the year’s accomplishments and making plans for the future. It is a time to reacquaint with League sisters from across Canada and to make new friends as we gather in discussion, conversation and deliberation. Take advantage of all the opportunities over these next days to think about the encounter between Mary and Elizabeth. As you greet one another with charity and openness, you will come to appreciate what you see in each other.

During this Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, the opportunities for practicing the “art of accompaniment” are many, and I look forward to hearing how League members have put the theme One Heart One Voice One Mission Palliative and Hospice Care into action and how from prayer to parliament our voice is being heard.

As members of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada, we have so much for which to be grateful.. Imagine, 96 years of dedication and service! That is remarkable!

Pope Francis says the mission of the church is “to heal the wounds of the heart, to open doors, to free people ....” During this Holy Year, I pray our annual national convention will bring us together in unity so we might see how to open wide the doors, and how to invite others in with generous and compassionate hearts.

May our gratitude radiate outward as we look for new ways to answer God’s call with courage and confidence and go forward with One Heart, One Voice, One Mission to make a difference in the lives of others bringing compassion and mercy to all who need it. Have a wonderful convention!
As the delegates and participants of the Catholic Women’s League come together for the 96th annual national convention in Halifax it will be important to mark this Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. It is an extraordinary year in the life of the universal church and The Catholic Women’s League of Canada.

Every national convention can awaken in those who attend a deep sense of gratitude for the gift of faith that you share as Catholic women from across Canada. This year especially is a time to reflect on the many corporeal and spiritual works of mercy undertaken by all the members through their witness of service and prayer at the parish, diocesan, provincial and national levels. As you come to experience the local hospitality, receive new insights through the presentations, and renew friendships at the convention may the gift of God’s mercy be received and celebrated.

As we discover in sacred scripture, “Mercy is the key word that indicates God’s action toward us”. Mercy is the very foundation of the church’s life and the witness of Her pastoral activity. It is my hope the League will discover new ways to live this Christian witness in being One Heart, One Voice, One Mission so that the church in Canada is strengthened in its mission of promoting a “culture of life.”

May this convention instill in all who attend the hope and confidence that their living witness of faith through the League will challenge the church and our society of Canada to promote the dignity of all human life and in doing so become a sure path in revealing God’s mercy. Blessings on this 96th annual national convention.
Dear friends,

On the occasion of the World Union of Catholic Women’s Organizations (WUCWO) North American regional conference, I would like to send you my thoughtful encouragement for your commitment as women organized who offer the best of their gifts and capabilities to promote the respect of the human being with a special attention to the promotion of women in every field.

In this Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, we are called to be “merciful like the Father,” which, according to the words of Pope Francis, means “the experience of opening our hearts to those living on the outermost fringes of society: fringes which modern society itself creates”… “open our eyes and see the misery of the world, the wounds of our brothers and sisters who are denied their dignity, and let us recognize that we are compelled to heed their cry for help!” (Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy)

“It is absolutely essential for the church and for the credibility of her message that she herself live and testify to mercy. Her language and her gestures must transmit mercy, so as to touch the hearts of all people and inspire them once more to find the road that leads to the Father.” (cfr 12)

As WUCWO women, we are aware of the necessity to show the merciful face of the church, our priority, our resolutions voted during our general assembly in Fatima encourage us to work for the respect of the dignity of every human being starting from the weakest, the most vulnerable and defenseless. As women who live in the most developed part of the world you are urged to “to bring a word and gesture of consolation to the poor, to proclaim liberty to those bound by new forms of slavery in modern society, to restore sight to those who can see no more because they are caught up in
themselves, to restore dignity to all those from whom it has been robbed. The preaching of Jesus is made visible once more in the response of faith which Christians are called to offer by their witness.“(cfr 16)

May Mary, mother of mercy watch over you so that you may help everybody to rediscover the joy of God’s tenderness.

* * *

Most Rev. Anthony Mancini
Archbishop of Halifax

Dear Members of the CWL,

Welcome to Atlantic Canada, to Nova Scotia and to Halifax. It is with joy that the Church of Halifax-Yarmouth and our provincial CWL members open their hearts to all of you from across our country. As you gather for your 96th annual national convention, I offer my blessing and best wishes for a successful convention.

May your gathering here be fruitful in strengthening your resolve to serve God and Canada.

In present circumstances, where our country has become more and more secular, the need for effective Christian and Catholic witnesses in the public arena has become acute and very demanding. Coming together as members of the CWL will be a source of continuing support for your Catholic values. Let your voice be heard far and wide, as you courageously uphold the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Enjoy your visit to the Maritimes, as you discover our hospitality and the sights, which make this place special. May Mary, who is the patron of our Archdiocese, be your inspiration.

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# 96th Annual National Convention Program

(All events take place in World Trade and Convention Centre Room 200 Ballroom unless otherwise stated.)

## Saturday, August 13

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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| 7:00-9:00 p.m. | Cruise on Historic Halifax Harbour (ticket required) |}

## Sunday, August 14

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Grand-Pré National Historic Site Tour (ticket required)</td>
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<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Amazing Race (ticket required)</td>
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<td>2:00-3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Resolutions dialogue, Ballroom A</td>
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<td>3:30-4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>WUCWO conference opening, Ballroom B</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Official opening, Eucharistic celebration and Opening Reception, St. Mary’s Basilica (bus transportation available)</td>
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## Monday, August 15

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30-9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>WUCWO prayer service</td>
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<td>9:00-9:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Velma Harasen, WUCWO</td>
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<td>9:15-10:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Sr. John Mary, <em>Women of Mercy United in One Heart, One Voice, One MIssion</em></td>
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<td>10:15-10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Health Break</td>
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<td>10:30-11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Sr. John Mary (cont.)</td>
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<td>11:30-12:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Eucharistic celebration</td>
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<td>1:00-2:15 p.m.</td>
<td>WUCWO Officers’ Luncheon, Suite 301 &amp; 302 (ticket required)</td>
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<td>2:30-2:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Memorial service for deceased members</td>
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<td>2:45-4:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Business sessions</td>
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<td>• Call to order</td>
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<td>• Opening remarks</td>
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<td>• Introductions</td>
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<td>• Notice calling meeting</td>
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<td>• Credentials report</td>
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<td>• Adoption of standing rules</td>
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<td>• Approval of agenda</td>
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<td>• Approval of previous minutes</td>
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<td>• Convention committees</td>
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<td>• Correspondence</td>
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<td>• Report of pre-convention meeting</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Reports of provincial presidents</td>
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4:15-4:30 pm       Closing prayer
6:00 p.m.           Original Nova Scotia Lobster Supper, The Shore Club
                     (ticket required)
                     - bus transportation required

**Tuesday, August 16**

8:30-10:30 a.m.     Year of Mercy pilgrimage and Eucharistic celebration, St.
                     Mary’s Basilica
10:45-11:45 a.m.    Fr. James Mallon, *I Am a Mission on This Earth*
11:45-12:00 p.m.    Commissioning of life members
12:00-1:15 p.m.     Life members’ luncheon, Suite 301 & 302
                     (ticket required)
12:00-1:15 p.m.     Spiritual advisors’ luncheon, Suite 303
                     (ticket required)
1:30-1:45 p.m.      Reconvening prayer
1:45-3:00 p.m.      Business sessions
                     • Credentials
                     • Reports of provincial presidents (cont.)
                     • Report of secretary-treasurer
                     • Report of executive director
                     • Review of resolutions process
                     • Report of spiritual development chairperson
                     • Report of organization chairperson
3:00-3:20 p.m.      Health break
3:20-4:45 p.m.      Business sessions
                     • Catholic Women’s Leadership Foundation
                     • Report of Christian family life chairperson
                     • Report of community life chairperson
                     • Catholic Near East Welfare Association
                     • Report of education and health chairperson
4:45-5:00 p.m.      Closing prayer
7:00 p.m.           Provincial dinners

**Wednesday, August 17**

8:30-9:00 a.m.      Morning prayer
9:00-9:45 a.m.      Dr. Nuala Kenny, palliative care
9:45-10:20 a.m.     Business sessions
                     • Credentials
                     • Report of education and health chairperson (cont.)
10:20-10:35 a.m.    Health break
10:35-11:45 a.m.    Business sessions
                     • Report of education and health chairperson (cont)
                     • Report of communications chairperson
                     • Report of resolutions chairperson

11
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:45-12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Ceremony to archive resolutions</td>
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<td>12:00-1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Honorary life members luncheon</td>
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<td>1:30-1:40 p.m.</td>
<td>Reconvening prayer</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:40-2:40 p.m.</td>
<td>Business sessions</td>
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<td>- Presentation by 2017 convention committee</td>
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<td>- Report of legislation (cont.)</td>
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<td>- Report of laws chairperson</td>
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<td>- 100\textsuperscript{th} celebration committee</td>
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<td>- Report of national spiritual advisor</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:40-3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Health break</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00-4:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Business Sessions</td>
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<td>- Report of national president</td>
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<td>- Introduction of new theme</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Other business</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Registration report</td>
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<td>- Prayer for outgoing executive</td>
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<td>- Rite of elections</td>
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<td>- Adjournment</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:15-6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Closing Eucharistic celebration &amp; installation of officers,</td>
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<td>St. Mary’s Basilica</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Gala banquet</td>
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<td>(ticket required)</td>
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**Thursday, August 18**

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00-3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Nova Scotia’s South Shore tour</td>
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<td>(ticket required)</td>
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96th Annual National Convention
Business Sessions Agenda

1. **Call to order:** National President Barbara Dowding
2. **Opening remarks:** Barbara Dowding and National Spiritual Advisor Bishop William McGrattan
3. **Introductions:** Barbara Dowding
4. **Notice calling meeting:** National Secretary-Treasurer Shari Guinta
5. **Credentials report:** Chairperson of Registration Joan Bona
6. **Adoption of standing rules:** National Chairperson of Laws Betty Anne Brown Davidson
7. **Approval of agenda:** Barbara Dowding
8. **Minutes of the 95th annual national convention:** Shari Guinta
9. **Convention committees:** Barbara Dowding
   a) Registration and credentials: Joan Bona
   b) Resolutions: National Chairperson of Resolutions Jacqueline Nogier, National Chairperson of Legislation Janet McLean, Life Member Rolande Chernichan, Toronto Past President Mary Capobianco
   c) Elections: Betty Anne Brown Davidson, Honorary Life Member Heather Kolla, Honorary Life Member Irene Lefort
10. **Correspondence:** Shari Guinta
11. **Report of pre-convention meeting:** Shari Guinta
12. **Reports of provincial presidents:**
    a) **Alberta Mackenzie:** Cathy Bouchard
    b) **B.C. & Yukon:** Evelyn Rigby
    c) **Manitoba:** Faith Anderson
    d) **Military Ordinariate:** Coreena Cole
    e) **New Brunswick:** Marie Rackley
    f) **Newfoundland and Labrador:** Ruby Sharpe
    g) **Nova Scotia:** Peggy MacNeil
h) **Ontario:** Pauline Krupa
i) **Prince Edward Island:** Irene Gallant
j) **Quebec:** Ingrid Lefort
k) **Saskatchewan:** Jean Reader

13. **Report of national secretary-treasurer:** Shari Guinta
14. **Report of executive director:** Kim Scammell
15. **Review of resolutions process:** Jacqueline Nogier
16. **Reports of national chairpersons:**
   a) **Spiritual development:** Anne Gorman
   b) **Organization:** Margaret Ann Jacobs
   c) **Christian family life:** Judy Lewis
   d) **Community life:** Doreen Gowans
   e) **Education and health:** Nancy Simms
   f) **Communications:** Fran Lucas
   g) **Resolutions:** Jacqueline Nogier
   h) **Legislation:** Janet McLean

19. **Presentation by 2017 convention committee**
20. **Reports of national chairpersons (cont.)**
   a) **Laws:** Betty Anne Brown Davidson

21. **Report of national spiritual advisor:** Bishop William McGrattan
22. **Report of national president:** Barbara Dowding
23. **Introduction of new theme:** Margaret Ann Jacobs
24. **Other business:** Barbara Dowding
25. **Registration report:** Joan Bona
26. **Rite of elections:** Barbara Dowding
27. **Adjournment:** Barbara Dowding
Standing Rules of the 96th Annual National Convention

Registration
1. Each person attending this convention shall register at the convention registration desk and shall be required to wear the official convention badge for admission to all meetings.
2. Registrants shall be classified as voting delegates [provincial presidents], accredited delegates [national officers, provincial accredited, diocesan accredited, honorary life members, life members], CWL members, spiritual advisors and guests.
3. The registration and credentials committee, at the beginning of the first business session, shall provide a credentials report summarizing the number of voting members registered at the convention. When adopted, the credentials report shall be the official roll of voting members. If additional voting members register after the report has been adopted, a supplementary report shall be given and adopted at the beginning of the next day’s business session.

Publicity
4. Official public statements of the national council shall be released by the national president or the national administrative committee only. Interviews about the work and policies of the CWL shall be at the discretion of the national president.
5. All publicity shall be under the supervision of the convention communications chairperson in cooperation with the national chairperson of communications. Registrants with news items are requested to submit them to the national chairperson of communications.

Seating Arrangements
6. The business sessions of the convention shall have a designated area in which all voting members will be seated. All members are requested to be in their seats at least five (5) minutes before the scheduled sessions open.

Debate
7. The mover of a motion, or her designate, may speak to open and close debate. No other member shall speak more than once
on the same motion on the same day, or longer than three (3) minutes without permission of the assembly granted by a two-thirds vote without debate.

8. Those wishing to speak shall use the floor microphones; take a place in line and, upon being recognized by the chair, state name, status, diocese and province.

9. When time is of the essence, voting members shall be given priority to speak over non-voting members.

Voting

10. Voting cards shall be issued to voting members and these cards shall be exhibited when a member votes.

11. The chair shall ask for affirmative and negative votes only. A voting member wishing her abstention to be recorded in the minutes shall request same before the vote is taken.

Motions/Resolutions

12. Five (5) copies of substantive motions or amendments to resolutions shall be prepared in advance of the time of presentation to the assembly: four (4) copies submitted to the executive director and one (1) retained by the mover.

13. Only resolutions submitted to the resolutions committee by provincial councils or national chairpersons by the deadline date set by the national resolutions chairperson shall be considered for presentation to this convention.

14. Resolutions concerning urgent matters may be accepted after the deadline date and shall be presented to the convention at the discretion of the resolutions committee.

15. The procedure for presenting resolutions to the business sessions shall be:
   i. the resolutions chairperson shall read the resolutions after the appropriate chairperson’s report
   ii. the president of the province submitting the resolution shall move its adoption; if more than one province has submitted the resolution, the provincial presidents concerned shall decide prior to the meeting who will move its adoption
   iii. the president of the province submitting the resolution, or her designate, shall speak first to the resolution

16. Final wording of titles and briefs shall be the responsibility of the resolutions committee.
17. Grammatical or minor changes to a resolution may not need to be formally amended but may be given to the resolutions committee prior to the resolution being presented to the assembly.

18. Adopted resolutions shall be printed in the fall issue of *The Canadian League* and posted to the website of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada.

**Miscellaneous**

19. Registrants are asked to refrain from photography and/or electronic recording of the convention proceedings. An official photographer has been appointed by the national president and copyright laws forbid the electronic recording of speeches or convention sessions.

20. No materials shall be distributed, displayed or sold at this convention without the prior approval of the national administrative committee.

21. No appeals for support or collections of any kind shall be made unless a written request, clearly stating the purpose and identifying the persons making the request, is presented in advance to the national president and approved by the national executive.

22. Any motion adopted at this convention shall become effective at the adjournment of the convention unless an alternate time for the action to become effective has been stipulated in the motion.

23. Minutes:
   (i) The national president shall appoint a minutes review committee to verify the minutes of all meetings of the convention.
   (ii) The national executive shall approve the minutes of this convention at its winter meeting. If corrections are necessary after approval, they may be made by motion at a convention.

◆◆◆◆

**Notes**

- Provincial presidents shall have the power to vote on all
Accredited delegates may vote on any question except the election of officers, amendments to the Constitution & Bylaws and increases in per capita fees.

A parliamentarian (advisor on procedure and rules) may be appointed for the convention at the discretion of the national president.

Non-voting members and spiritual advisors may speak at business sessions when recognized by the chairperson, but shall not introduce motions or vote.

Position Papers
A position paper, which has been approved by the national executive, may be adopted by the assembly by a motion, “to suspend the rules and adopt the position paper on….” This motion requires a second, may not be debated or amended and needs a two-thirds vote for approval. If the motion is adopted, the position paper is adopted. If the motion is defeated, the position paper is not adopted.

Elections Procedure
National elections are conducted in accordance with the Constitution & Bylaws, Part XVI, Section 5, and the National Manual of Policy and Procedure.

1. Voting delegates shall be seated in a way which ensures balloting secrecy.
2. The election of national officers is conducted within the context of a liturgical service and according to Rite on the Occasion of the Election of Officers as outlined in the Ceremonies Booklet.
3. A complete slate of candidates shall be posted at the commencement of elections.
4. The president shall remain in the chair to preside over the convention, which is still in session. At the request of the president, the elections chairperson provides a brief overview of the elections procedure and introduces the candidates for office.
5. Prior to voting, the executive director, acting as secretary of elections, will show each voting delegate her province’s nomination form.

6. Each voting delegate (presidents of each provincial council or their designate) carries an instructed vote on the first ballot only. On second through fourth ballots, where necessary, each voting delegate carrying an instructed vote exercises a free vote.

7. Any voting delegate not carrying an instructed vote forfeits her privilege to vote on any ballot for that office.

8. Election shall be by ballot vote unless
   a. there is only one candidate for an office or only the required number of candidates for standing committees
   b. the nomination forms indicate a clear majority for a candidate (candidates in the case of a plurality vote) in which case approval shall be by motion to declare the candidate(s) elected.

9. The election committee will distribute ballot slips to each voting delegate for completion.

10. The election of officers shall be by majority vote.
    i. If a majority vote (more than half) has been obtained by nomination AND no voting delegate has been released from her instructed vote, the president shall declare the candidate elected.
    ii. If any voting delegate has been released from her instructed vote as a result of the withdrawal of a candidate or the removal of a candidate due to her election to another office, a first ballot shall be taken. If the first ballot produces a majority, then the president shall declare the candidate elected.
    iii. If no majority vote has been obtained on the first ballot, a second ballot shall be taken and, if necessary, a third. It shall be the decision of the voting delegates as to whether the results of any ballot shall be made available for their review.
    iv. If three ballots fail to produce a majority vote for one candidate, then the candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. In the event of
a tie vote on the third ballot, a fourth ballot, using only
the names of the tied candidates, shall be taken.

11. The election of standing committee chairpersons shall be by
plurality vote.
i. The elections chairperson announces the number of
standing committee chairpersons required to be elected. Chairpersons are not elected to a specific standing
committee. Standing committees are assigned by the
incoming national president to elected chairpersons in time
for the executive meeting immediately following the
election.

ii. If the nomination forms indicate which candidates have the
highest number of votes, without a tie for the final position,
AND no voting delegate has been released from her
instructed vote, the president shall declare the candidates, in
alphabetical order, elected.
iii. If any voting delegate has been released from her instructed
vote as a result of the withdrawal of a candidate or the
removal of a candidate due to her election to another office,
a first ballot shall be taken. Voting delegates are asked to
indicate the names of candidates for whom they wish to
vote on one ballot. They may vote for the required number
or less. Voting for more than the required number of
candidates results in a spoiled ballot.

iv. After the ballots are collected and the votes counted by the
elections committee and the national spiritual advisor, the
president declares elected those candidates, in alphabetical
order, who have received the highest number of votes.

v. In the event of a tie involving the final position of the
required number, balloting shall continue until the required
number of candidates is elected.

12. A member may be a candidate for more than one office and,
when elected to an office, her name shall be stricken from the
candidates list for other offices. When this happens, voting
delegates who have been instructed to vote for this candidate
are released from their instructed vote and may vote for the
candidate of their choice.
13. Nomination forms and ballots shall be destroyed by the elections committee following the elections.

14. Voting delegates shall be seated in a way which ensures balloting secrecy.

15. The election of national officers is conducted within the context of a liturgical service and according to Rite on the Occasion of the Election of Officers as outlined in the Ceremonies Booklet.

16. A complete slate of candidates shall be posted at the commencement of elections.

17. The president shall remain in the chair to preside over the convention, which is still in session. At the request of the president, the elections chairperson provides a brief overview of the elections procedure and introduces the candidates for office.

18. Prior to voting, the executive director, acting as secretary of elections, will show each voting delegate her province’s nomination form.

19. Each voting delegate (presidents of each provincial council or their designate) carries an instructed vote on the first ballot only. On second through fourth ballots, where necessary, each voting delegate carrying an instructed vote exercises a free vote.

20. Any voting delegate not carrying an instructed vote forfeits her privilege to vote on any ballot for that office.

21. Election shall be by ballot vote unless
   a. there is only one candidate for an office or only the required number of candidates for standing committees
   b. the nomination forms indicate a clear majority for a candidate (candidates in the case of a plurality vote) in which case approval shall be by motion to declare the candidate(s) elected.

22. The election committee will distribute ballot slips to each voting delegate for completion.

23. The election of officers shall be by majority vote.
   v. If a majority vote (more than half) has been obtained by nomination AND no voting delegate has been released from her instructed vote, the president shall declare the candidate elected.
vi. If any voting delegate has been released from her instructed vote as a result of the withdrawal of a candidate or the removal of a candidate due to her election to another office, a first ballot shall be taken. If the first ballot produces a majority, then the president shall declare the candidate elected.

vii. If no majority vote has been obtained on the first ballot, a second ballot shall be taken and, if necessary, a third. It shall be the decision of the voting delegates as to whether the results of any ballot shall be made available for their review.

viii. If three ballots fail to produce a majority vote for one candidate, then the candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. In the event of a tie vote on the third ballot, a fourth ballot, using only the names of the tied candidates, shall be taken.

24. The election of standing committee chairpersons shall be by plurality vote.

i. The elections chairperson announces the number of standing committee chairpersons required to be elected. Chairpersons are not elected to a specific standing committee. Standing committees are assigned by the incoming national president to elected chairpersons in time for the executive meeting immediately following the election.

ii. If the nomination forms indicate which candidates have the highest number of votes, without a tie for the final position, AND no voting delegate has been released from her instructed vote, the president shall declare the candidates, in alphabetical order, elected.

iii. If any voting delegate has been released from her instructed vote as a result of the withdrawal of a candidate or the removal of a candidate due to her election to another office, a first ballot shall be taken. Voting delegates are asked to indicate the names of candidates for whom they wish to vote on one ballot. They may vote for the required number
or less. Voting for more than the required number of candidates results in a spoiled ballot.

iv. After the ballots are collected and the votes counted by the elections committee and the national spiritual advisor, the president declares elected those candidates, in alphabetical order, who have received the highest number of votes.

v. In the event of a tie involving the final position of the required number, balloting shall continue until the required number of candidates is elected.

25. A member may be a candidate for more than one office and, when elected to an office, her name shall be stricken from the candidates list for other offices. When this happens, voting delegates who have been instructed to vote for this candidate are released from their instructed vote and may vote for the candidate of their choice.

26. Nomination forms and ballots shall be destroyed by the elections committee following the elections.
Convention Planning Committee

**Chairperson:** Danielle McNeil-Hessian  
**Co-chair Accomodations/Reservations:** Carol LeBlanc  
**Co-chair Special Events:** Linda Waterhouse  
**Registration/Credentials:** Joan Bona  
**Public Relations:** Peggy MacNeil  
**Hospitality:** Joanne Cormier  
**Decorations:** Sheila Manuel  
**Secretariat Office:** Barbara Nash  
**Sale of League Supplies:** Glenda Carson  
**Exhibits:** Janice Peddle  
**Treasurer:** Theresa Duann  
**Secretary:** Pat Crossman  
**Printing:** Carolyn Lawrence  
**Transportation:** Jesse Parkinson  
**Liturgy:** Cecile Miller  
**Spiritual Advisor:** Fr. James Richards  
**Protocol:** Janice Graham-Migel  
**Support:** Peggy Deschambault
The Catholic Women’s League of Canada

Annual Report
2015

(Contains full reports of national officers and provincial presidents)
The role of president is a unique privilege at every level of the League, bringing its own set of challenges and rewards. Presidents reported wonderful opportunities to help League sisters become the best they could be by recognizing their gifts and talents.

Annual reports indicated presidents took their role seriously and endeavoured to represent themselves and the League in the best way possible. Because presidents are a model of what the League believes, people form opinions of the League based on their interactions with others.

Some duties of the president include:
• informing the membership of the League’s position on current issues
• fostering open communication
• presiding at all council meetings and conventions
• providing active leadership
• being fully informed on the operation of the League and report annually to the membership
• being the official spokesperson for the council
• appointing committees

The reports from provincial presidents were comprehensive and highlighted the work not only of parish, diocesan and provincial presidents but, in great detail, the work that went on in all standing committees. One president put it this way, “Our League members continually contribute to and participate in the ecclesial, cultural, social and economic life of our parish community and allow it to flourish and grow.” Presidents proudly reported innovative
initiatives and complimented their counterparts for their dedication in carrying out this role.

Whether elected, appointed, re-appointed or asked to serve, nearly every president had a personal testimony of what the role meant to them. All were extremely proud of members. Presidents credited members for increases in membership, establishing new councils and working as a team on the executive. The president guided the team, but together they decided what was to be done.

The leadership style of presidents varied from person to person, but their involvement in all aspects of the executive inspired others to participate. Some presidents had limited time to spend but took advantage of life members’ expertise and availability to assist on committees and with elections.

Nearly all reported challenges with membership and leadership development, which continued to be the reality. In addition to ongoing good works, presidents reported improved relationships with spiritual advisors when intentional efforts were made to meet on a regular basis. This was particularly helpful at the parish level. Diocesan and provincial presidents reported feeling affirmed and valued by bishops and many of the clergy, and continued cultivating good relationships with all.

Presidents reported trying new things, for instance, meeting via Skype or conference call when distances were great. Looking forward to a new way of doing things rated high for presidents. Councils initiated “e-blasts” for speedy communications and reported using teleconferencing more often.

Spiritual development was reported by all as a priority, but fun and fellowship remained critical to councils. Presidents reported much enthusiasm from members for social gatherings where invitations were extended to neighbouring councils and to women of other religious denominational groups to celebrate with food and sometimes even entertainment.

Presidents lead with confidence and, for the most part, were not content to opt for the status quo. One president wished the standing
committees would be revamped to be more in-line with the reality of the League. She was frustrated the League seemed to be slow moving. She felt the League had too many themes at diocesan and provincial levels and would have liked to see all levels using one national theme.

Other new initiatives included annual exclusive meetings for parish presidents at the diocesan level that enabled presidents to share information and problem solve as a group. It was reported to be very successful and was planned to continue. One president makes a point of calling all presidents who did not attend meetings and she takes it upon herself to keep in regular contact either by phone or in person.

Presidents were proud of members and clearly sang praise and thanks. Some presidents used delegation as a means of teaching and training, and clearly mentored future leaders. One president reported the theme *One Heart, One Voice, One Mission* was a call and focus, and diocesan and parish presidents and councils worked diligently and were rewarded for their devotion to God and Canada.

I have seen with my own eyes how presidents at all levels took their role to heart. I have met with parish presidents and attended annual diocesan and provincial conventions where even the newest and least experienced president gave her best efforts to members.

This is what presidents said:

- “[The members in my councils] are truly ‘women rooted in gospel values’ and live the League prayer to ‘teach us to share at home and abroad the good things you have given us’ doing this ‘For God and Canada.’”
- “Nearly one hundred years ago, The Catholic Women’s League of Canada came into being because of the need for women to support immigrant families… we have come full circle.”
- “When I look at the main issues and priorities of our councils, I feel a sense of joy and pride that so many Catholic women step forward to serve the church and the world.”
“As provincial president, I am blessed with an abundance of opportunities to celebrate the women of the League.”

“As provincial president, I have the honour of serving on the national executive of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada. Attending meetings with members from across Canada has been an amazing experience for me. It is good to see and hear how the League is visible in every province, and it is good to see and share how our members make a difference as members of our national organization.”

“My years (as provincial president) have gone by too quickly…. I have been given wonderful opportunities to develop my spirituality. I have met beautiful women and heard their stories. I have been blessed by this opportunity and for this I am grateful.”

“I believe the level of a person’s faith is the openness of being a leader…. [and] knowing your gifts and knowing when to call on someone else who has the gifts you need to get the job done is crucial.”

“I am deeply appreciative of the many encounters I have experienced in these past two years. The journey has been full, my cup runneth over, and I express my heartfelt thanks to all who have walked with me. Our theme has made a difference, challenged us to new opportunities and we have responded through thought, deed and action.”

“My first year as provincial president was filled with an abundance of learning opportunities and wonderful new friendships. I have given advice and guidance, but more frequently, I sought advice and guidance from the many remarkable women I have come to know.”

“It has been a joy and an honour to represent and to work with these dynamic and dedicated ladies and truly an experience I will never forget.”

“We need to invite women to become involved in the meaningful work of the League. We must treat the League as a desirable gift that we have and want to share with others, a blessing to share time and service with other women.”
“This has been a wonderful and a learning year for me as my first term as provincial president.”

Presidents began preparing for the next year in December by actively finalizing plans with their councils and preparing to celebrate this important year with the corporal and spiritual works of mercy at the forefront. One president challenged diocesan presidents to focus on a “blessed” and how that person lived the works of mercy. The same president asked standing committee chairpersons to relate their reports in the coming year to the beatitudes. This was forward thinking and will make for interesting reporting next year!

With the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy beginning at the end of 2015, it was clear from the reports that councils at all levels will rise to Pope Francis’ challenge. The national theme has been well used and, for the most part, kept as the theme studied in the context of Evangelii Gaudium and prayed over.

Bishop William McGrattan
National Spiritual Advisor

This past year I was present at all of the national executive meetings and, upon request, offered ongoing support to National President Barbara Dowding and National First Vice-President and Chairperson of Spiritual Development Anne Gorman.

I celebrated masses for the deceased members and their families, and conducted the annual televised mass on the Feast Day of Our Lady of Good Counsel that is sponsored by the League. The participation of members at this mass continued to grow. It was broadcasted by Vision TV and Salt + Light TV. There were daily prayers and intentions I offered the national executive who are united in praying the common prayer of the church.
I was called upon for consultation by the standing committee chairpersons. The spiritual development standing committee completed the new spiritual advisors brochure and the protocol and guidelines for League funeral liturgies, and reviewed the Eucharistic liturgies and prayer services for the annual national convention. The Christian family life and education and health standing committees asked me to review letters and briefs to government on physician-assisted suicide, euthanasia and palliative care, and to make suggestions for improvement. I was present for the national resolutions committee deliberations and contributed where necessary to strengthen those resolutions that were eventually presented and voted on at the annual national convention.

Finally, the articles I wrote for *The Canadian League* in the past year included commentary on the family and the new evangelization, being vigilant in promoting the *Gospel of Life*, and Pope Francis’ encyclical *Laudato Si’*.

National office is responsible for the daily administration of League affairs at the national level. This is done to allow the national executive to focus on projects and priorities in keeping with objects of the League and to allow timely response to current issues.

**Personnel**

National office staff is comprised of the full-time positions of executive director, accounting clerk, membership coordinator, communications assistant and office assistant, and the part-time/seasonal positions of shipper/receiver, data entry clerk and corresponding secretary. There were no changes to personnel in 2015. Collectively, staff has provided 64 years of service to the League at its members.
Equipment and Technology
The rotational schedule for capital assets allows for replacement of computer hardware once every five years and furniture once every 10 years. Under this rotation, five desktop computers were purchased at a total cost of $7,593. The replaced desktops were donated to a computers for schools program.

Finance
Expenses were processed, on average, within 15 days of receipt. Monthly unaudited financial statements were prepared and distributed to the finance committee, along with quarterly investment statements.

National office deposited and disbursed over $2,337,000, $319,700 of which was deposited through electronic funds transfer. Electronic funds transfer for membership represents 24,594 of the 85,246 member payments received, or 29% of the membership. Manual deposits were made up of parish council membership remittances, inventory sales and voluntary fund contributions. Disbursements were made up of allocations of per capita fees to the provincial and diocesan councils from the membership remittances, operating expenses as outlined in the financial statements and voluntary fund donations.

Investments were managed through consultation with CIBC Wood Gundy. Four fixed income instruments matured and were reinvested in bonds with a future maturity of June 2020, bearing interest rates of 2.26% and 2.6%. Three provincial bonds were cashed in to pay for the $500,000 total donation to the Catholic Women’s League Leadership Foundation.

Membership
Membership packages sent to parish councils in October 2014, 95% of which were returned to national office and processed by June 30, 2015, a percentage similar to previous years. Fifteen percent of the 2015 per capita fees were processed before the year began (eight percent in 2014). Renewals were processed at an
average rate of 1,019 members per day (971 in 2014) between two staff persons during the busy season.

The popularity of the online administration system has had the side benefit of spreading out the busy season. Previously March-May was the peak processing period; now the membership season extends from November of the previous year until May.

**Executive Services**
Staff provided support for four executive meetings, 11 committee meetings and one convention, making arrangements, preparing materials, gathering research, providing advice on past practice, taking and transcribing minutes, and fulfilling other duties of a secretarial nature.

Secretary

Only one provincial council submitted a secretary report. I followed up this past year with a communiqué and a submission to *The Canadian League* with information about motions. I found from questions received and from first hand observations at parish councils and other diocesan councils that sometimes things are done just because they have always been done a certain way. Motions to adopt minutes, when discussion was permissible and roll call were other issues that came up. At the national level, I suggested to the executive the roll call be dispensed with at business sessions when a credentials report was given to establish quorum.

E-mail was used more as was technology to record minutes and handle correspondence. Secretaries were cautioned to ensure minutes were stored in two different ways and not just to rely on a computer file, USB flash drive or disc. It was reported secretaries still handled correspondence for councils and often council presidents. Secretaries reported more accessing of websites, including the national website. Membership lists and records were made easier with technology, and secretaries assisted executive members with preparation of annual reports. Challenges remained the same. Secretaries found keeping up with technology, finding time for League work, and keeping contact information updated challenging.

At the national level, I had no problem getting review committees for each of the executive meetings and the annual national convention. Minutes of executive meetings were prepared by staff and reviewed by a committee of the national secretary and two provincial presidents. There was little done in the way of
correspondence as this mostly came from or through national office.

I redesigned the expense reporting form for national executive and officers and worked on a conflict of interest policy with the executive director and a committee. It would be vetted by legal counsel and presented at the 2016 pre-convention executive meeting. Some work was done regarding a gifting agreement from the League to the Catholic Women’s League Leadership Foundation (Foundation).

**Treasurer**

It was gratifying to see the treasurers’ reports come in, and 11 provincial councils reported. A temporary national voluntary fund was added this year in support of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition.

The national voluntary funds contributions (both through the voluntary funds and directly to the organizations) to Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, Catholic Missions In Canada, Coady International Institute, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition and Velma’s Dream/Canada Near East Welfare Association totalled $251,683. Contributions to other causes and organizations falling under the standing committees totalled $2,125,861. Other donations including donations to parishes amounted to $2,054,185. The grand total for all donations and contributions from the League for 2015 amounted to $4,431,729. The Military Ordinariate reported having its own provincial voluntary fund and collected $2,135 for it.

At year end, national council incurred a deficit of $463,672 as compared to budget of a positive $24,300. Total income from all sources totalled $1,334,042 and expenditures totalled $1,801,227. There was a small amount of additional income from investments in the amount of $3,513. The negative impact of a $400,000 donation to the Foundation was the main reason for the negative year end balance.

Per capita income totalled $1,114,399 as compared to the 2014 income of $1,135,241 and the budget of $1,116,700. The market
value of the socially responsible investment (SRI) fund decreased by 14% as $100,000 was withdrawn to cover part of the donation to the Foundation, and a market devaluation of about $50,000 affected the fund. The fixed bond portfolio was also affected when $300,000 was withdrawn to fulfil the obligation to the Foundation set by national council at the annual national convention. Three bonds were sold, and the value of the fund decreased due to the cash withdrawal.

Amounts carried at year end in national voluntary funds increased by nine percent with the addition of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition as a temporary voluntary fund. The total in the funds were $63,129. Monies in these funds would be disbursed in August 2016. Interest rates affected the various funds and it was noted the bursary fund shrank by four percent Almost $11,000 was disbursed, but only $3,700 was earned in interest.

There was an increase (24%) in inventory, mostly due to the stocking of new service pins.

Convention costs were over budget last year and this always fluctuates depending on where the convention is held, the venue and activities. The League was $37,124 over budget. It was good to see The Canadian League stay within budget ($250,067).

Eighty-four thousand, seven hundred forty-one per capita payments were collected for 2015, and 982 back payments were processed for previous years. It was very close to budget; however, there was a 1.8% decrease in membership. It should be noted 448 members received free membership through the Catch The Fire! participation contest.
THE CATHOLIC WOMEN’S LEAGUE OF CANADA

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2015
August 17, 2016

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

To the Members of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada, which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2015, and the statements of revenues and expenditures, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management’s Responsibility for the Financial Statements
Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor’s Responsibility
Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor’s judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity’s preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity’s internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion
In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada as at December 31, 2015, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Other Matter
Our examination did not extend to the budget which has been provided as additional information and therefore we do not express an opinion concerning the budget.

Scarrow & Donald LLP
Chartered Accountants
Winnipeg, Canada

For this communication, together with the work done to prepare this communication and for opinions we have formed, if any, we accept and assume responsibility only to the addressee of this communication, as specified in our letter of engagement.
THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

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<th>December 31</th>
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<td>Current liabilities</td>
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<td>National voluntary funds (Note 5)</td>
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<td><strong>NET ASSETS</strong></td>
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Commitments (Note 8)

APPROVED BY THE BOARD

___ Barbara Docting ___
National President

___ [Signature] ___
National Secretary-Treasurer
# THE CATHOLIC WOMEN’S LEAGUE OF CANADA

## STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015 Actual</th>
<th>2015 Budget</th>
<th>2014 Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenues:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per capita fees</td>
<td>$1,114,399</td>
<td>$1,116,700</td>
<td>$1,135,241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Product sales (Schedule B)</td>
<td>163,474</td>
<td>155,800</td>
<td>181,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration fees</td>
<td>33,010</td>
<td>35,200</td>
<td>26,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magazine subscriptions</td>
<td>5,048</td>
<td>4,800</td>
<td>5,304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life memberships</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>1,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bursary donations</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>16,486</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenues:</strong></td>
<td>1,334,042</td>
<td>1,313,600</td>
<td>1,351,021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015 Actual</th>
<th>2015 Budget</th>
<th>2014 Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditures (Schedule C):</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>153,524</td>
<td>116,400</td>
<td>109,084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation donation</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>49,986</td>
<td>49,600</td>
<td>5,030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International relations</td>
<td>11,110</td>
<td>9,500</td>
<td>18,467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>League development</td>
<td>88,208</td>
<td>143,700</td>
<td>74,073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magazine</td>
<td>250,067</td>
<td>267,500</td>
<td>246,742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National executive</td>
<td>109,020</td>
<td>104,100</td>
<td>87,978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office building</td>
<td>62,791</td>
<td>63,500</td>
<td>58,984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office equipment</td>
<td>37,036</td>
<td>51,900</td>
<td>42,655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating costs</td>
<td>67,090</td>
<td>74,400</td>
<td>69,761</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Product sales</td>
<td>113,055</td>
<td>122,300</td>
<td>134,825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>359,340</td>
<td>362,200</td>
<td>350,294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditures:</strong></td>
<td>1,801,227</td>
<td>1,465,100</td>
<td>1,197,893</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Difference between revenues and expenditures from operations**

|                              | (467,185)   | (151,500)   | 153,128     |

**Investment income (Schedule A)**

|                              | 3,513       | 127,200     | 161,636     |

**Difference between revenues and expenditures**

|                              | (463,672)   | 24,300      | 314,764     |
# THE CATHOLIC WOMEN’S LEAGUE OF CANADA

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Internally Restricted to Fund Bursaries</th>
<th>Invested in Capital assets</th>
<th>Unrestricted Net Assets</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance, beginning of year</td>
<td>$162,163</td>
<td>$29,210</td>
<td>$2,482,207</td>
<td>$2,673,580</td>
<td>$2,358,816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difference between revenues and expenditures</td>
<td>(6,420)</td>
<td>(13,662)</td>
<td>(443,590)</td>
<td>(463,672)</td>
<td>314,764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of capital assets</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7,593</td>
<td>(7,593)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proceeds of disposition of capital assets</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(50)</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance, end of year</td>
<td>$155,743</td>
<td>$23,091</td>
<td>$2,031,074</td>
<td>$2,209,908</td>
<td>$2,673,580</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


### THE CATHOLIC WOMEN’S LEAGUE OF CANADA

#### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year ended December 31</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash flows from:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating activities-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difference between revenues and expenditures</td>
<td>(463,672)</td>
<td>314,764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Items not affecting cash-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amortization</td>
<td>13,712</td>
<td>20,649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain on disposal of capital assets</td>
<td>(50)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain on disposal of investments</td>
<td>(238,602)</td>
<td>(36,075)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrealized loss (gain) on investments</td>
<td>296,616</td>
<td>(82,663)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(391,996)</td>
<td>216,675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net changes in non-cash working capital affecting operations (Note 6)</td>
<td>(20,157)</td>
<td>32,656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(412,153)</td>
<td>249,331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Financing activities-</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in national voluntary funds</td>
<td>5,246</td>
<td>(28,883)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Investing activities-</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of capital assets</td>
<td>(7,593)</td>
<td>(1,343)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proceeds of disposition of capital assets</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in investments</td>
<td>503,718</td>
<td>(402,430)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>496,175</td>
<td>(403,773)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Change in cash</strong></td>
<td>89,268</td>
<td>(183,325)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash, beginning of year</strong></td>
<td>207,109</td>
<td>390,434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash, end of year</strong></td>
<td>$ 296,377</td>
<td>$ 207,109</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE CATHOLIC WOMEN’S LEAGUE OF CANADA

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

1. Purpose of the Organization:

The Catholic Women’s League of Canada, founded in 1920, is a non-profit organization federally incorporated on December 12, 1923. The Mission Statement is “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.” For Canadian income tax purposes, the League is qualified as a not-for-profit organization, which is exempt from income tax under the Income Tax Act (Canada).

2. Significant accounting policies:

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. An assumption underlying the preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations is that the entity will continue for the foreseeable future and will be able to realize its assets and discharge liabilities in the normal course of operations.

The financial statements include the following significant accounting policies:

a) Critical accounting estimates and judgements-

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reported period.

Accounting estimates are included in financial statements to approximate the effect of past business transactions or events, or to approximate the present status of an asset or liability. It is possible that changes in future economic conditions could require changes in the recognized amounts for accounting estimates. These estimates are reviewed periodically, and, as adjustments become necessary, they are reported in the period in which they became known.

Significant areas of estimation by management include the impairment of non-financial assets, the useful lives of capital assets and the fair value of financial instruments.

Management bases their judgments, estimates and assumptions on factors they believe to be reasonable in the circumstances, but which may be inherently uncertain and unpredictable.
2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

b) Inventory-

Inventory consisting of goods available for sale is valued at the lower of cost, on a first-in, first-out basis, and net realizable value. The cost of inventories comprise the purchase price, non-recoverable taxes, transport and handling costs directly attributable to the acquisition of inventories, net of any discounts or other rebates.

c) Capital assets-

Capital assets are recorded at cost and amortized over their estimated useful lives, except for donated assets which are recorded at fair market value at the time of the donation. This requires estimation of the useful life of the asset and residual value. When a capital asset no longer has any long-term service potential, the excess of its net carrying amount over any residual value is recognized as an expense. As is true for all accounting estimates, it is possible that changes in future conditions could require changes in the recognized amounts for accounting estimates.

Capital assets are amortized on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the asset as follows:

- Computer equipment: 20%
- Furniture and fixtures: 10%
- Leasehold improvements: Straight line over life of the lease

d) Revenue recognition-

Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonable assured.

Investment income includes interest, realized and unrealized investment gains and losses. Interest revenue is recognized on a time proportion basis. Other investment income is recognized as received. Unrealized gains and losses on held for trading financial assets are included in the statement of revenue and expenditures in the year that they are incurred.

e) Internally restricted to fund bursaries-

The national bursary fund was established by the national executive with the interest earned on the fund to be used for business. These internally restricted amounts are not available for other purposes without approval of the board of directors.
2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

f) National voluntary funds-

Contributions are received by the League designated by the donor to these national funds. Monies are forwarded annually to the appropriate organization.

g) Donated materials and services-

Donated materials and services are recorded at fair market value. Volunteer time is not recognized in the financial statements because of the difficulty of determining fair value.

h) Financial instruments-

Except for certain related party transactions, financial instruments are measured at fair value on initial recognition adjusted by, in the case of a financial instrument that will not be measured subsequently at fair value, financing fees and transaction costs that are directly attributable to its origination, acquisition, issuance or assumption. Transaction costs related to financial instruments that will be measured subsequently at fair value are recognized in net income for the period incurred.

h) Financial instruments-

In subsequent periods, investments in equity instruments that are quoted in an active market and certain derivative contracts are measured at fair value without any adjustment for transaction costs that may incur on sale or other disposal. The Organization may elect to measure any financial instrument at fair value when the asset or liability is first recognized or for equity instruments that previously measured at fair value when the equity instrument ceases to be quoted in an active market. Other investments in equity instruments are measured at cost less any reduction for impairments. All other financial instruments are measured at amortized cost. Amortized cost is the amount at which the financial instrument is measured at initial recognition less principal repayments, plus or minus the cumulative of any difference between that initial amount and the maturity amount, and minus any reduction for impairment.

The Organization measures cash, accounts receivable and accounts payable and accruals at amortized cost. Investments are measured at fair value.

The Organization assesses impairment of all its financial assets, except those measured at fair value. Management considers whether there has been a breach in contract, such as a default or delinquency in interest of principal payments in determining whether objective evidence of impairment exists. Impairment is included in current earnings.
3. Capital assets:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>December 31</th>
<th></th>
<th>December 31</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>Accumulated Amortization</td>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>Accumulated Amortization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer equipment</td>
<td>$146,000</td>
<td>$130,865</td>
<td>$143,818</td>
<td>$130,466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture and fixtures</td>
<td>46,771</td>
<td>38,815</td>
<td>46,771</td>
<td>37,193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leasehold improvements</td>
<td>92,368</td>
<td>92,368</td>
<td>92,368</td>
<td>86,088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$285,139</td>
<td>$262,048</td>
<td>$282,957</td>
<td>$253,747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net book value</td>
<td>$23,091</td>
<td></td>
<td>$29,210</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Investments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fixed income investments</td>
<td>$1,146,809</td>
<td>$1,559,335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portfolio Canadian equity investments</td>
<td>$921,393</td>
<td>$1,070,599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$2,068,202</td>
<td>$2,629,934</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fixed income investments bear interest at 1.95%-10.5% (2014 – 1.95%-9.5%) with maturities from January 2016 through June 2020 (2014 – January 2015 through June 2026).
5. National voluntary funds:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Balance of year</th>
<th>Contributions received</th>
<th>Interest earned</th>
<th>Contributions forwarded</th>
<th>Balance end of year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Catholic Mission in Canada</strong></td>
<td>$14,058</td>
<td>$35,425</td>
<td>$160</td>
<td>$(35,198)</td>
<td>$14,445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coady International</strong></td>
<td>$11,427</td>
<td>$29,143</td>
<td>$161</td>
<td>$(28,972)</td>
<td>$11,759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Canadian Catholic</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development and Peace</td>
<td>$22,391</td>
<td>$67,242</td>
<td>$280</td>
<td>$(64,691)</td>
<td>$25,222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Euthanasia Prevention</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$3,910</td>
<td>$4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$3,914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Catholic Near East</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welfare Association</td>
<td>$10,007</td>
<td>$21,680</td>
<td>$130</td>
<td>$(24,028)</td>
<td>$7,789</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total**                  | **$57,883**     | **$157,400**           | **735**         | **$(152,889)**          | **$63,129**       

6. Cash flow statement:

Net changes in non-cash working capital affecting operations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>$(3,415)</td>
<td>$2,607</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventory</td>
<td>$(11,479)</td>
<td>$13,153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>$(23,589)</td>
<td>$1,967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accruals</td>
<td>$(5,397)</td>
<td>$(2,976)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government remittances</td>
<td>$(1,607)</td>
<td>$(356)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred revenue</td>
<td>$25,330</td>
<td>$18,261</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total**                        | **$(20,157)** | **$32,656** |

During the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014 the League did not pay any interest and was not subject to income taxes. Cash receipts of interest and dividends included in net income for the year ended December 31, 2015 was $88,422 (2014 - $69,219).
7. Risk Management:

Management’s risk management policies are typically performed as a part of the overall management of the League’s operations. Management is aware of risks related to these objectives through direct personal involvement with employees and outside parties. In the normal course of its activity, the League is exposed to a number of risks that can affect its operating performance. Management’s close involvement in operations helps identify risks and variations from expectations. The League has not designated transactions as hedging transactions to manage risk. As a part of the overall operation of the League, management considers the avoidance of undue concentrations of risk. These risks include, and the actions taken to manage them are as follows:

Liquidity risk:

Liquidity risk is the risk that the League cannot meet its financial obligations associated with financial liabilities in full. The League’s main sources of liquidity are its operations and investment. The funds are primarily used to finance working capital and capital expenditure requirements and are adequate to meet the League’s financial obligations associated with financial liabilities.

Interest rate risk:

Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in market interest rates may have an effect on the cash flows associated with some financial assets and liabilities, known as interest rate cash flow risk, or on the fair value of other financial assets or liabilities, known as interest rate price risk. Fixed income investments with fixed interest rates minimize cash flow risk.

Credit risk:

Credit risk arises from the possibility that debtors may be unable to fulfill their commitments. For a financial asset, this is typically the gross carrying amount, net of any amounts offset and any impairment losses. The League has credit policies to address credit risk on accounts receivable, which may include the analysis of the financial position of the debtor and review of credit limits. The League also may review credit history before establishing credit and reviews credit performance. An allowance for doubtful accounts or other impairment provisions are established based upon factors surrounding credit risk, historical trends and other information. No allowance for doubtful accounts has been recorded as at December 31, 2015 (2014 - $nil).

Other price risk:

Other price risk is the risk that changes in market prices, including commodity or equity prices, will have an effect on future cash flows associated with financial instruments. The cash flows associated with the Leagues’ investments are affected by investment performance.
8. Commitments:

The League has committed to office and equipment leases with expiration dates ranging from 2016 through 2025. The following is a schedule of minimum payments required under the leases:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>49,917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>49,296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>48,138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>39,077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>41,345</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. Contingency:

In the normal course of operations, the League is subject to legal and other claims. It is not possible to reasonably estimate the maximum amount that may have to be paid under such claims and no amount has been accrued. The amounts are dependent upon the outcome of the future contingent events, the nature and likelihood of which cannot be determined at this time. The League feels that claims are without merit and does not expect to incur any potential payment in connection with these contingencies that could have a materially adverse effect on its financial statements.
THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENT INCOME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Year ended December 31</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Actual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>$59,453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Realized gain on disposal of investments</td>
<td>238,602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dividends</td>
<td>28,969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>327,024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: investment counsel fees</td>
<td>26,895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrealized (loss) gain on investments</td>
<td>(296,616)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$3,513</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Schedule B

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada**

### Schedule of Product Sales

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product Type</th>
<th>Year Ended December 31</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2015 Actual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pins and crests</td>
<td>$70,048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manuals, programs and books</td>
<td>10,007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brochures and leaflets</td>
<td>6,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialty products</td>
<td>11,505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificates and forms</td>
<td>2,285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cards and paper</td>
<td>12,683</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift items</td>
<td>49,951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$163,474</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

### SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schedule C</th>
<th>Year ended December 31</th>
<th>2015 Actual</th>
<th>2015 Budget</th>
<th>2014 Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Convention:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Convention</td>
<td>$153,524</td>
<td>$116,400</td>
<td>$109,084</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Foundation donation:</strong></td>
<td></td>
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THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES

Schedule C

Year ended December 31

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53
“Spiritual growth is the very heart of the League and the essence of its existence” (Executive Handbook).

It is truly a privilege to serve as chairperson of spiritual development at any level. One may never know who is touched by the choice of programs and reflections, but rest assured that someone will be.

**Spiritual growth of members**

“The spiritual dimension sets the League apart from all other women’s organizations” (ibid).

All provincial chairperson reports included all or some of the following in order to feed their members, new and seasoned, mobile and stationary. The list was comprehensive, and the prayer life of members was not static. The League provided exceptional traditional and new opportunities to grow.

Members studied the national theme *One Heart, One Voice, One Mission* through invited speakers, prayer services and visual displays. Recitation of the Hail Mary at masses brought parishes together in seeking the intercession of Mary and for personal and parish healing. Eucharistic celebrations were held before meetings to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel on April 26th. Members were encouraged to attended daily mass where possible, to celebrate significant council anniversaries, to remember and honour deceased members, to hold honour guards at funerals, to attend first Friday and Saturday masses and to reflect on the personal value of this practice.
Spiritual bouquets, services and reflections to honour Mary were held, and an empty chair ceremony to honour deceased members was held in November. Members attended rosary Sundays at Martyrs’ Shrine, “Lift Jesus Higher” rallies, conferences, prayer days and evenings, pilgrimages and beatitude prayer services. They provided presentations on the rosary to councils, and in the parish in general. One council produced a beatitude quilt for reflection, then recited and reflected on the League Prayer and encouraged its recitation daily, as well as before meetings and workshops, prayer vigils and stations of the cross. One council produced a CD on The Mysteries of the Rosary.

Pope Francis’s proclamation of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy gave many opportunities for reflecting while taking a pilgrimage through the Holy Door. Members used several League spiritual development resources on the website.

Members were encouraged to read or view and discuss Christian books, videos, magazines and online reflections including women in scripture, Catechism of the Catholic Church, Matthew Kelly’s Rediscovering Catholicism: A Spiritual Guide to Living with Passion and Purpose, Fr. Richard Rohr’s daily reflections, the works of Fr. Ron Rolheiser and Terry Modica, The Word Among Us, Lectio Divina, The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation, the World Union of Catholic Women’s Organization’s website, David Suchet: In the Footsteps of St. Paul, Matthew: The King and His Kingdom, Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN), Salt + Light TV and YouTube.

Councils introduced and used Shorter Christian Prayer, The Better Part: A Christ-Centered Resource for Personal Prayer, Could You Not Watch with Me One Hour?: How to Cultivate a Deeper Relationship with the Lord through Eucharistic Adoration and the Daughters of St. Paul’s Ordinary Grace: Daily Gospel Reflections. Councils organized prayer partners within councils and included prayers for prayer partners as part of the national prayer partner initiative. Councils: included names in the Book of Life and wrote specific intentions for masses before meetings; created a stained
glass window with Mary, Our Lady of Grace and 12 female saints; supported by a booklet on each saint to allow reflection; and developed a guide and directions for planning a Mary’s Garden. Councils organized speakers from the Secular Order of the Discalced Carmelites and celebrated the Marian feast days (April 26th, December 8th and 12th) with masses and luncheons. One member recreated her council’s Book of Life, going back 60 years.

Study of Catholic teachings
“Faith is a way of life which is characterized by a constant and ongoing conversion and renewal of mind and heart. Members must constantly be in the process of spiritual growth” (ibid).

Councils coordinated reflections by parish priests or spiritual advisors, Alpha courses, Christian life and faith seminars, DVD screenings and a day of reflection on “The Seven Pillars of Catholic Spirituality.” Councils provided links to Following Jesus: Through the Gospels in a Year, Read the Catechism in a Year, Best Advent Ever™ Rediscover Mercy, Best Lent Ever®, 3-Minute Retreats, Bishop Robert Barron’s The Catholicism Series and seminars from Jesuit Forum for Social Faith and Justice. Information from Pope Francis’s communications, exhortations and teachings was distributed.

Members watched an eight episode series entitled, Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother and facilitated an explanation of Advent for an entire parish on each of the four Sundays. Members used the Catholic Digest website, the League’s Ceremonies Booklet and Prayers and Workshops for Women of Peace and Hope. Members were encouraged to read and discuss articles printed in Catholic magazines and journals, as well as on the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops’ website.

Councils acted on resolutions related to spiritual development, particularly Resolution 1974.01 Prayer for Peace. One member wrote And So We Go... From Season to Season with assistance from other members and clergy.
Role of women in the church
“Women are called to take an active and responsible leadership role in the church’s life and mission by actively participating in League, church and community” (ibid).

Members provided leadership and assisted with faith development. They sat on parish councils and parish leadership teams, liturgy and finance committees, provided an honour guard at a conference and promoted women’s place in the church and society.

Thousands of hours of volunteer work, of women selflessly giving their time to the growth of the church and community, was reported. A servant leadership workshop was conducted throughout one province so women could reflect on their God-given gifts and how they could use them “For God and Canada.”

Evangelization and mission assistance
“Members are called to lead all people to encounter Christ. The League’s mission will remain incomplete until we can say we have shared not only our material goods with others but, more importantly, our gift of faith” (ibid).

In terms of evangelization, members presented bibles to Grade 4 students, printed World Meeting of Families prayer cards for parishioners, coordinated a presentation by the director of a deaconate formation program and a presentation by a deacon on evangelization through embracing the gospel, organized family fun nights to assist with evangelization of youth and participated in parish or diocesan renewal programs. Prayer lines assisted with evangelizing.

Catholic Missions In Canada (CMIC) was a high priority. Some councils reported making financial donations but did not indicate amounts. Esk-Omi Missions, Kee-Pas Missions and St. Francis Xavier missions were also supported monetarily. Cookbooks, spaghetti dinners and bake sales were often the means to raise funds for missions in Canada.

Resolution 2005.01 Christmas Postage Stamps was supported among councils. There was some support reported for Resolution
Lay ministries
“The strength of League ministry can be measured in proportion to the depth of members’ spirituality” (ibid).

Members assisted in all lay ministries of the parish. No gift was greater than another; all were welcomed, and all served with the gifts God gave them. Many of the lay ministries were organized and led by members. Members selflessly coordinated, set up and served most parish functions including meals, feast day celebrations, fundraising initiatives, sacramental celebrations, bazaars, counting collections, cultural activities, coffee Sundays, taking communion to the sick, and bereavement team coordination.

Ecumenism and interfaith endeavours
“Ongoing interfaith dialogues have revealed vast areas of common action and resulted in the collaboration of churches on a range of social issues” (ibid).

Members attended World Day of Prayer services, were part of community sectors of the Women’s Inter-Church Council of Canada, attended ecumenical prayer breakfasts, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity services, and community nativity pageants, passion plays and gospel choirs.

Other initiatives
A new hymn honouring Our Lady of Good Counsel was chosen and introduced at the annual national convention from a field of more than 20 entries. The winning entry was composed by Mary Ertel of Kitchener, Ontario. A protocol for honour guards at funerals of members was prepared and pended approval by the national executive. A service for executives ending their terms was prepared by sub-committee chairperson Judy Look.

Recommendations (options for provinces, some new and some a review)
Teleconferences of provincial and diocesan chairpersons were considered a successful means for fostering communication.
Theme study was considered very important, so all chairpersons of spiritual development were encouraged to focus each meeting with prayer and reflections that support the theme. It was recommended that meetings continue to be organized around the one-third principle for spiritual development of members. Chairpersons were encouraged to always ask for the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel. Members were encouraged to contact locally and nationally-selected prayer partners. Councils were encouraged to make a practice of spiritually feeding members by promoting programs to enrich faith development, provide financial support to CMIC and pray for life from its beginning to its natural end.

Margaret Ann Jacobs  
National President-Elect and Chairperson of Organization

National life member liaisons: Pat Battensby and Ann Dobie.

Carefully prepared, detailed reports from provincial chairpersons of organization reflected the sincere, dedicated efforts undertaken to recruit, develop and affirm members. As of December 31, 2015, there were 83,990 members, which reflected 98% of the budgeted 85,900 membership.

Recruit members and maintain membership
“The best recruitment tool for any membership initiative is a visible and effective organization” (Leading the League).

Pride emanated from reports that reflected the many and varied ways members were recruited and sustained including special invitations to new parishioners, “bring a friend campaigns”, incentives for early birds/snowbirds, hand-outs reflecting the national theme, brochures promoting League activities, pulpit talks,
bulletin announcements, ministry fairs, envelopes in parish offering boxes and personal letters/cards promoting the League with an enclosed membership renewal and self-addressed envelope. The support of the spiritual advisor was a great asset to fostering a strong council. Gift memberships were presented to members who recruited the most members, newlyweds, the elderly, sick and shut-ins, and candidates for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

Special events encouraged members to remain active—barbecues, potluck dinners, speakers, card parties and game nights, Celtic Colours, memorial lighting ceremonies, Christmas parties, fall expositions and displays at parish events. Follow up contact by telephone, e-mail and personal visitation helped sustain interest.

The League was promoted by the wearing of pins, scarves, aprons, blazers, vests, t-shirts and jackets and sharing testimonial stories, celebrating CWL Sundays and through collaboration with the Knights of Columbus. CWL Sunday often had members participate in all ministries at one mass. Creative promotional ideas included council-sponsored concerts, hosting floats in parades and taking out membership in local chambers of commerce. Promotional materials such as the invitational handbills, gratitude cards, BINGO cards and hospitality survey were used to promote a positive and affirming image of the League.

Councils celebrated the dedication, service and hard work of members by presenting certificates, anniversary pins, maple leaf service pins, other religious gifts, cards and flowers as well as special awards often named after exemplary past members. Bellelle Guerin awards and life memberships were presented to most worthy recipients. Special events celebrated key milestone anniversaries. Ceremonies were held to welcome new members, reaffirm current executives and install new executive members.

**Leadership development**

“A seasoned leader knows that self-development is a lifelong commitment, and learning new skills is a never-ending journey” (*Leading the League*).
Programming was provided to enrich leadership skills by offering development days including workshops on *Catch the Fire!, S’Mores*, servant leadership, public speaking, parish executive training, parliamentary procedure, ethical guidelines, the Objects of the League, mentoring, the 5 W’s of meetings, Catholic Voices, and parish manuals of policy and procedure.

Incentives to become more actively involved in the workings of the League were provided by orientation and personal mentorship of new members, provision of welcome kits and calendars of upcoming events, involvement of new moms, encouragement to attend conventions, and providing financial assistance for members to participate.

**League resource material**

“To ensure your council operated efficiently and effectively, it is essential to have a good working knowledge of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada” (*Handbook for Organization Chairpersons*).


**Annual reports**

“Annual reports bring accountability and credibility to the achievements of each standing committee. Reports reflect the work of all members across Canada as they energetically pursue activities ‘For God and Canada’” (*Leading the League*).

Most annual reports were completed in November or December, sometimes individually, but more often done as a group with a social aspect connected, e.g., potluck dinners, dessert parties, morning teas, and wine and cheeses. Minute books and calendars of events were noted as beneficial in completing the reports.
Seminars and “how to” workshops were conducted to facilitate the task. Some provincial chairpersons reported the use of provincially revised annual report forms.

Life membership
“Councils are encouraged to draw on the gifts and experience of their life members” (*Handbook for Organization Chairpersons*).

On the last day of the year, there were 341 life members and 15 honorary life members. National council mourned the loss of Doris Brick, Gladys Dewey, Ella Ell, Marion Fogan, Evelyn Robson, Mary Starek, Mary Tymich and Willis Wren, and celebrated the approval of new life members Caroline Ann-Alter, June Brown, Gail Finnamore, Mary Hawkley, Lucy Hendrikx, Jean Mackinnon, Colleen Martin, Margaret McCallum, Anne McKinnon, Janet McLean, Evelyn Rigby, Rosanne Sogan, Marge Szabo, Heather Sisk, and Jeanne Wilson.

Life members continued to serve on parish, diocesan, provincial and national council: serving on resolutions committees, archiving committees, convention committees, nomination and election committees and as parliamentarians; revising manuals of policy and procedure; welcoming committee leaders; mentoring; facilitating workshops; funding bursaries; organizing World Day of Prayer services; leading charity endeavours; speaking; attending conventions; and participating in parish ministries including honour guards. Social functions were hosted for many with birthday, Easter and Christmas cards being circulated.

One hundred forty-one cards and 44 life member newsletters were sent from national life member liaisons containing prayer requests, well wishes or congratulatory notes, which were passed down to counterparts via e-mail, Canada Post or verbally.

One provincial chairperson of organization reflected on the comments of other organization chairpersons. “It is encouraging to see our councils carrying on the works of God and the League in spite of difficulties in finding leaders and maintaining members. Much dedication is present between the lines of these (diocesan)
annual reports. Our theme of *One Heart, One Voice, One Mission* comes alive because of our wonderful members.”

“Great League members do not just happen; they must be encouraged, trained, helped and supported” (*Handbook for Organization Chairpersons*).

Chairpersons of organization make this happen! Commendation goes out to these women whose energy, enthusiasm and passion for the League inspired others to experience the empowerment of working with other like-minded Catholic women to change the world with *One Heart, One Voice, One Mission.*
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Councils across Canada celebrated and supported Christian family life with the following activities with one heart filled with compassion, one voice united in harmony and one mission “For God and Canada.”

**Marriage and family**

World Marriage Day was observed in February. Councils facilitated and supported Momnipotent (a Catholic guide to motherhood), marriage encounter weekends and enrichment programs, marriage preparation and natural family planning. Councils acknowledged significant wedding anniversaries with mass and presentations of crucifixes, flowers, gifts, cards, special meals and notices in newsletters. Councils organized potluck dinners, children’s games, picnics, movie nights, skating parties, spirit days, and coffee and fellowship after mass. They held a week of prayer for the family and displayed posters in November for Family Violence Prevention Month. Councils presented movies such as Bella and Irreplaceable to educate parishioners. A speaker from one chancery office spoke on family resources.

The study program “Travelling Mary Kit” went from home-to-home on a weekly basis in one area. A coin collection was taken to purchase a baby-to-toddler car seat for a needy family. New parents were given “Precious Feet” pins and a “Baby bottle” campaign in May raised funds for and awareness about the needs of mothers and their babies. Members processed and placed a “Book of Mothers” among flowers by the altar to pray for deceased mothers in the parish.

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**Judy Lewis**

**National Chairperson of Christian Family Life**
Members: distributed Advent and Lenten calendars and prayer cards; encouraged new, young families to come to church; supported families that evangelized; and prayed for families. Special prayers were said for family members and blessings were given for Mother’s and Father’s Day. Members were informed of the rare occasion of the canonization of a married couple Marie Zilie and Louis Martin, parents of Ste. Therese of Lisieux, and members displayed posters of families and quotes by Pope Francis in their parishes. Members visited new parishioners in their homes and financially supported a mothers’ group to pay for a young girl who looked after the children while the mothers reflected on scripture, prayed and shared stories. When families struggled with relationships, members contacted social agencies on their behalf, and assisted families experiencing abuse by providing information on where to get help.

Members reported following the events surrounding the Synod of the Family 2015 held in Rome and some attended the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia. Support for families who lost loved ones, which involved meals, prayers and support, was provided. In one case, a Mexican military member was in Canada and his wife and two boys came for a visit. There was an accident, and both boys died. The closest parish council was about an hour-and-half away, but a few members spoke Spanish and made the trip with their spiritual advisor to offer translation and moral support. This was much appreciated by the parents.

**Sanctity of life**

Councils prayed the rosary before mass with the intention to end abortion and euthanasia. They kept informed of concerns referencing euthanasia, abortion, assisted suicide and the RU-486 abortion pill. Members wrote letters of protest to members of parliament and members of the legislative assembly, and signed petitions online against these actions.

Pro-life prayers were published in parish bulletins. A pro-life mass was held on December 8th. One council partnered with the Knights of Columbus to host a dinner and Chinese auction to support pro-
life causes; it was a sold out event. Members spiritually adopted an unborn baby. Nine months later, those members asked for donations for a baby shower. All gifts were given to Birthright International.

Donations were made to Euthanasia Prevention Coalition. Members attended presentations on legal issues, assisted suicide and euthanasia, and some councils hosted a speaker on assisted suicide. Members attended 40 Days for Life vigil, and pro-life banners were put up in the towns. Members viewed the video October Baby, inspired by the life of abortion survivor, Gianna Jessen, and encouraged a young woman to have her baby and provided a baby shower for her. Members also attended pro-life masses and receptions.

Councils participated in various walks for life. They promoted the Hidden Treasures abortion series, Silent No More Awareness Campaign, anti-abortion vigils and services for the unborn. Councils hosted an annual baby shower for the needy and supported one bishop’s pro-life fund. One delegation met with its member of parliament to discuss euthanasia and the sanctity of life, and members attended an international symposium against euthanasia and assisted suicide.

Ministry to youth
Councils assisted with youth rallies, conferences, bible camps and masses, and were prayer partners with catechism students. One council sponsored a dinner to raise money for the youth group’s spring trip to Haiti and another assisted youth who went to New York to help the homeless. Youths were encouraged to participate in the mass as readers, collectors, altar servers and gift bearers. One member taught youth in the parish all aspects of mass. At Life Chain and parish events, youth were encouraged to share their talents. Youth art work was used at a convention.

Councils supported the Girl Guides of Canada, Safe Grad, Catholic Christian Outreach, 4-H Canada clubs, NET Ministries of Canada, the Catholic Girls’ League, the Terry Fox Run, Little Flower Girls’ Club® and students going to the annual March for Life. Councils
led music ministry and Theology on Tap for youth, taught the Kids 4 Jesus Program and billeted NET teams.

Members taught catechism, assisted youth for communion and confirmation, provided gifts and receptions for children receiving baptism, first communion and confirmation, and supported intergenerational gatherings as well as providing a youth program for first communion and confirmation for First Nations. Members attended a gender identity discussion at Campion College and supported youth with Christian ethics awards.

**Ministry to disabled**

Members visited, listened and assisted with driving the disabled to appointments, shopping and mass, helped with meals for the CNIB, supported a disabled child and raised money for an elevator and wheelchair, and presented dinner and a gift to one woman and her family. Funds were donated to build accessible entry for those with disabilities and others in need. A prayer line was established for all prayer requests, and members were encouraged by a “faith and light” group for people facing physical challenges.

**Ministry to seniors**

Councils held senior appreciation lunches, afternoon teas, a fellowship gathering after the anointing of the sick mass, memorial services, birthday and Christmas parties celebrated with some extra attention, and meetings at care facilities. They delivered meals, flowers on the Feast Day of Our Lady of Good Counsel, and Easter and Christmas baskets. Councils organized outreach committees, bingos, entertainment, weekly activity nights and a parish visitor program that paired volunteers with the lonely or elderly to make sure they were okay. They encouraged members to volunteer in a cognitive training program for seniors and Alzheimer’s patients in a Chinese seniors’ home. Councils were involved in the prayer shawl ministry and masses were said for shut-ins and veterans. They offered a computer course and participated in a petition to establish an independent seniors advocate. Councils presented certificates and provided food. They offered free membership to
90-year-olds or those who could no longer afford them and provided birthday cakes and adult bibs for nursing homes.

Members sang at seniors’ homes and hospitals, especially at Christmas, and joined the parish pastoral ministry team. They brought and helped prepare meals where required. Members spoke to parishioners at mass to let them know they were seen and valued. Members took communion, Meals on Wheels and baking trays to shut-ins. Members helped with mass, novenas, rosaries, prayers and honour guards at nursing and funeral homes. Senior members were kept informed on services and were given assistance in filling out forms.

Seniors received Living Faith booklets, religious calendars, prayer shawls, weekly bulletins, cards, League newsletters, gifts and mass cards, and were called and visited regularly. Transportation was provided for parishioners who needed to go to mass, the hospital for kidney dialysis, to doctor and other appointments, or to a weekly quilting group. Donations to a mass for shut-ins were made.

Ministry to widowed, separated, divorced
The Family Fully Alive program was demonstrated in many provinces where families represented each diocese. The following programs were promoted: a retreat on new beginnings, “Women on their Own” and “Encompass Group”. Councils provided rosaries, funeral receptions, masses for the deceased, bereavement and outreach programs, memory boxes and prayer shawls.

Members encouraged involvement in the League, church and community with personal visits, telephone calls, visitation, meals, babysitting, transportation, gifts at Christmas and special activities to show Pope Francis’ vision of mercy toward divorced people.

Vocations
The Year of Consecrated Life was celebrated. A poster was made for the Year of Consecrated Life, and members attended ordinations for priests and deaconates. Councils provided financial assistance to religious and seminarians at home and abroad, diocesan bursaries for seminarians, gifts to priests and funds to a priests’ retirement fund. Councils arranged for seminarians to
speak on consecrated life and invited the parish priest for meals. Life members served on diocesan vocation awareness and appreciation committees. Annual appreciation dinners were held. Many councils sent cards and gifts, both spiritual and material, throughout the year in support of seminarians’ journey to ordination. One spiritual advisor was presented with new vestments. A subscription to The Canadian League was gifted to many seminarians and spiritual advisors.

Members prepared receptions for chaplains graduating from their basic military courses, sent Christmas gifts and cards to priests and religious, and celebrated birthdays and ordination anniversaries of parish priests. Members supported a new priest by providing housekeeping and some meals for him as well as looked into buying new supplies for his home. They supported oblates in Peru and Kenya, organized projects such as a colouring contest with a vocation theme for young children, invited priests and sisters to tell their vocation stories to young adults, wrote letters to candidates, formed strong prayer circles and adopted candidates to be a prayer partner while they were discerning. Many members attended a special prayer service for the intentions of Pope Francis. Members were dedicated to praying the rosary and novenas, having masses for vocations and attending Ordinandi Dinners and the Arise Program.
Sub-committee Chairpersons:

- Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace: Life Member Marlene Pavletic
- Poverty: Life Member Joyce Green

Chairpersons of community life inform, educate and challenge members to take action on the corporal works of mercy. Action was taken as members followed Pope Francis’ invitation in the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. The reports have shown that time has been given freely and was truly a service to God, Canada and the church community.

**Dignity and rights of persons**

Daily prayers were said by members leading up to Human Trafficking Awareness Day and concluding with councils hosting presentations on the issue. One council held a presentation on human trafficking given by a law enforcement officer and invited not only the parish but the wider community. Councils promoted letter writing campaigns to government officials on the issue of human trafficking through Resolution 2009.01 Exit Strategies for Prostituted Persons.

Other members supported anti-bullying programs in keeping with Resolution 2002.02 Anti-Bullying Programs. One council held a discussion on the article in the magazine entitled “Helping Women Living in Poverty” written by Life Member Joyce Green.

Guest speakers educated members on the prevention of domestic violence and *Feathers of Hope: A First Nations Youth Action Plan*. Members participated in aboriginal celebrations such as the Walking with Our Sisters march, Sisters in Spirit Vigil on Parliament Hill, walks against racism and First Nations...
reconciliations. Every Sunday for the past 15 years, one member has visited Okimaw Ohci Healing Lodge, a federal prison for aboriginal women. Members collected school supplies for backpacks for First Nations youth, as well as supported First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada.

Reports have stated the importance of educating families, members and parishioners on issues relating to the dignity and rights of persons. Letters were written to the government petitioning for an inquiry into murdered and missing women as members took action on Resolution 2011.02 Children of Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women and Resolution 2013.01 Building Relationships and Partnerships with Canada’s Indigenous Peoples.

Other concerns addressed included issues facing seniors, women’s shelters, aboriginal women’s issues, women’s rights and the rights of the disabled.

**Social and economic justice**

Members knew and believed that everyone has the right to food, shelter, warm clothing and love. Members helped single mothers with food hampers and parish families in need, and donated to St. Vincent de Paul Society, inner city ministries and transition houses. One member belonged to a program that provides breakfast and lunch to school children. One diocesan council reported members worked to find employment for the needy in their community, including those with disabilities, by recruiting businesses that might be interested in employing clients.

Members provided food for food banks, volunteered at drop-in centers, and collected clothing and hygiene products for street people, inner city children’s centers and groups helping with sex-trade workers. Baskets of hygiene items were made for women in shelters. Donations were made to support youth employment and support services and groups providing housing for young mothers. Members asked government to end child poverty and women living in poverty in Canada, knitted scarves for Special Olympians, and collected backpacks filled with clothes and toiletries for the needy. Councils provided lunches to seniors after morning mass,
distributed socks to those in need and adopted foster families. Other councils supported L’Arche communities.

One council raised $1,200 for a family who lost their husband and father, a member of the RCMP killed in the line of duty. The council made 1,200 white lapel ribbons and 100 tree bows in solidarity with the community for the funeral. A Christmas project which included a fancy basket raised $500.00 for a family in need. Members helped by praying together and singing with residents in nursing homes and hospitals. One council received an $800.00 grant from its local health board to provide cooking classes for children to educate them on healthy choices, learning cooking skills and proper cleanup techniques.

Members worked on Resolution 2003.01 Affordable Housing for Low-Income Canadians, especially for those who are mentally ill and developmentally challenged. Financial aid was given to Habitat for Humanity and the Right to Housing Coalition. Members helped to alleviate homelessness by caring for the homeless, working with the marginalized, preparing dinners for the hungry on the street and supporting shelters for homeless youth.

Members were informed of the 211 program of the United Way that specializes in providing information and referrals regarding community, government and social services. The program offers live answering service 24-hours a day. The telephone calls are free and interpreters are available in more than 170 languages. Service was available in most provinces.

Councils helped the Elizabeth Fry Society, The Salvation Army, Meals on Wheels, outreach programs, donated diaper programs, prison support programs and community living centres. Members assisted the poor by paying for their heating bills, medication, groceries and household supplies. They supplied knitted hats and mittens for newborns or premature babies, as well as distributed hats, scarves and mittens to schools during the winter months. Councils provided speakers on a wide array of topics including prison ministry, homelessness, poverty and L’arche.
The Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) was promoted and supported at national convention and by councils at all levels. Member contributions helped the Infant Welfare Center in Jerusalem to provide critical support to at risk teenagers encouraging them to remain in school and Shepherd’s Field Hospital in Beit Sahour to provide healthcare to the poorest mothers and babies.

**Refugees, immigration and citizenship**

Members welcomed many refugees and supported them by contributing to their welfare with clothing, furniture and money, and helping them integrate into society. One council collected small change at each meeting to donate to refugees. One diocesan council reported sponsoring a young mother and her son from an Ethiopian refugee camp. One provincial council reported 31 parish groups sponsored a total of 184 Syrian refugees, while another provincial council was involved in settling 2,500 refugees. Others reported helping refugees through donations to the Canadian Red Cross and helping to find affordable housing.

Many parish councils worked on Resolution 2014.01 Restoration of Health Care for Refugee Claimants by writing letters to the federal government urging it to reinstate health care for all refugee claimants comparable to coverage for Canadians on social assistance, an action that has since been accomplished.

Besides volunteering for and attending citizenship ceremonies, many councils hosted speakers to help raise awareness of the needs of refugees and immigrants by educating people as to the issues immigrants face. Some members participated in an interdenominational program to provide financial and spiritual support and assistance to immigrant families in their community. One woman was honoured by her council as she received her Canadian citizenship. One diocesan council reported financially assisting temporary foreign workers. Father’s Day gift bags were put together and given to migrant workers.
Prior to the federal election, action was taken on Resolution 1978.06 Know your Candidate for Office asking members to make sure they knew their candidates’ positions before voting.

Councils supported current and past serving military members through donations of money and goods for care packages, supporting the Military Family Resource Centres and sending cards to deployed soldiers. Veterans were remembered as members attended Remembrance Day services and placed wreaths in their memory.

**Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP)**

Most councils donated to CCODP through the 1% Program to help in the global south. At the national convention, items made by women in Afghanistan were sold with the proceeds going back to them, and 1% Program brochures were distributed to every registered member. Sub-committee chairperson Marlene Pavletic attended CCODP’s orientation assembly, held every five years to determine strategic priorities dealing with major global and social issues. Her report was published in the magazine.

Some councils distributed 1% Program brochures or held an auction, soup and bun lunch during Lent, “Poor Man’s Meal” or card party with the proceeds given to CCODP. Councils continued to participate in Share Lent and THINKfast and by collecting postage stamps. Some councils reported they had met the challenge of donating 11 cents per member to help increase donations to CCODP.

Members were informed about the 1% Program through slide presentations and talks by CCODP representatives. They signed postcards for the climate change campaign and became actively involved in the CCODP committees in their parishes.

**Developing countries**

Countries were supported through Operation Christmas Child, Operation Eyesight Universal, Save a Family Plan, Canadian Food for Children, Society of St. Vincent de Paul Jamaican mission projects, Missionaries of Africa and The Mother Teresa
Foundation. Also supported were orphanages in Guatemala and the Philippines, a girls’ school in Honduras and Syrian families in refugee camps abroad. Members travelled to help in missions in Peru, Costa Rica and Honduras. One council supported two students who went to Honduras with Global Brigades.

Councils adopted children in India, Ghana and Nigeria, as well as distributed shoes in Haiti. Four councils supported free trade coffee and chocolate. One council gave microfinance loans to women and supported providing clean water to communities. Another council organized a project to make sleeping mats for the people in developing countries.

Members were educated on issues such as child soldiers by The Honorable Roméo Dallaire, retired lieutenant general of the Canadian Armed Forces.

Community life standing committee chairpersons are to be commended for their work over the past year. May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide members as they work together “For God and Canada”.

The year was both challenging and hope-filled for the education and health standing committee, challenging due to both the many changes to provincial education curriculums that undermine Catholic values and the pressure to quickly establish quality palliative care as an alternative to physician-assisted dying. Yet, the year was hope-filled as members stood firm with One Heart, One Voice, One Mission to keep Catholic values alive in Canada.
Catholic education
Parish councils supported religious education programs through teaching, coordinating, hosting receptions, giving gifts and certificates as well as helping with financial needs. Many councils sent letters to provincial governments asking for support of Catholic schools and what effects revisions to provincial education and health curriculums would have on Catholic schools. Councils also initiated or supported Catholic school singing, writing and/or art contests.

Members were Catholic school board trustees, support staff, teachers’ assistants, members of parent advisory councils, volunteers and cooks for hot lunch or breakfast programs in the schools. They were involved in children’s liturgy, bible camps, the Rosary Apostolate, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Catholic Christian Outreach and Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Members were also involved in lay formation programs and bible studies.

Literacy and continuing education
Councils developed Christian libraries and donated funds for Catholic school and/or community libraries. Members volunteered in literacy programs for both youth and adults and worked with refugees and immigrants to learn English.

Councils encouraged continuing education through guest speakers at their meetings, hosting or encouraging attendance of workshops, retreats, conferences and conventions. Members attended theology classes at Newman Theological College, studied English as a second language and various other educational endeavours. Courses included, but were not limited to, learning to be a lay minister for prisoners, driving safety and a defibrillator course.

Scholarships and bursaries
Councils offered gifts, bursaries and scholarships to the Catholic Girls’ League, students continuing on in post-secondary education, students attending Catholic high schools and students involved in music and art festivals. Councils promoted bursaries at all levels of the League. The total financial amount given in bursaries
throughout Canada is unknown but would have amounted in the
tens of thousands of dollars. Many councils also subsidized
students at Catholic elementary schools. One provincial council
created a new lay ministry bursary for its active members.

The League gratefully acknowledges the following individuals and
council donations that were designated to enhance the national
bursary fund.

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**Wellness and sickness/disease**

Members and councils wrote letters to all levels of government
opposing healthcare dollars going towards physician-assisted dying
and abortion, that prescription labels have expiry dates and that
unused medications be taken to drug stores for disposal. Members
attended town hall discussions and organized information sessions
on physician-assisted dying.

Councils encouraged members to get vaccinated and spoke on the
importance of mammograms. Members participated in line
dancing, walking and exercise clubs, and wellness groups. They
canvassed and/or donated for: the Canadian Cancer Society, Heart
& Stroke Foundation, Canadian Diabetes Association, The
Arthritis Society, Canadian Mental Health Association, Canadian
Hospice Palliative Care Association and many more. Members
participated in Relay for Life, the Autism Speaks Canada Walk, the
Multiple Sclerosis Walk, the Terry Fox Run, the Ovarian Cancer
Canada Walk of Hope and other walks for cancer. Members also
donated blood to the Canadian Blood Services program and trained
for hospice care, crisis intervention and grief training. Members
participated in the Misericordia Health Centre Foundation Angel
Squad that raised funds for the centre. Quilts were provided for clients at Ronald McDonald House and in chemotherapy units. Bingos were organized for mental health care patients at one local hospital.

Many letters were written to government regarding various education and health resolutions. All resolutions were supported through prayer and education. Guest speakers presented information on mental health, comprehensive health and wellness, Lyme disease, heart disease, women’s health, advance care planning, stem cell research, organ and tissue donations, the benefits of saving cord blood, the sale of aborted babies’ body parts, hospice and numerous other topics. Councils also educated themselves through relevant articles regarding health issues such as prescription costs, depression, Parkinson’s, stem cell research, cancer, glaucoma, Alzheimer’s disease, the effects of exposure to cell phones and radio waves, and much more.

Environment
Councils and members recycled and composted. They used environmentally friendly items at all functions, sent agendas by e-mail to cut down on paper waste and encouraged carpooling whenever possible. Councils educated members on the environment through articles, guest speakers, workshops, study of Pope Francis’ encyclical Laudato Si’ and the video series Cultivating and Caring for Creation.

Councils informed members on Resolution 2015.03 Banning the Use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides and 2015.02 Ban the Use of Microbeads in Personal Care Products, and action was taken. Some councils continued to recycle plastic milk bags to make sleeping bags for developing countries; others collected aluminum can tabs for wheelchairs, soup labels for education and had designated days to clean roadsides in their communities. Councils recycled by successfully operating thrift shops. One council reported maintaining a chemical-free vegetable garden and donating the produce to the local food bank. Another council sponsored three children to attend a summer ecology camp. Councils followed the
United Nations Paris Climate Change Conference and discussed the dangers of fracking.

**Genetics**
Councils wrote letters to government regarding genetics. Some of the letters requested that laws remain in place to ensure genetic manipulation does not overstep the boundaries of God’s laws of nature. Councils discussed active resolutions regarding genetics in an effort to understand the issues. Members shared information from Dr. Moira McQueen’s book *Bioethics Matters: A Guide for Concerned Catholics* and reviewed the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute website. Many councils studied and had guest speakers on genetically modified foods, bio-technologies and newborn genetic testing.

**Activities undertaken**
Education and health standing committee chairpersons at all levels were busy informing themselves and inspiring members to speak out on the importance of hospice and palliative care, along with the other many issues that fall under their purview. One of the biggest challenges reported by chairpersons was the enormity of this portfolio. Chairpersons were encouraged by their personal growth and knowledge while proceeding with their work in this standing committee. Chairpersons of education and health continued to trust in God and work diligently together with *One Heart, One Voice, One Mission.*
Sub-committee chairperson for pornography: Life Member Rosanne Sogan

The communications standing committee reports demonstrated great enthusiasm for the role of chairpersons and the creative and meaningful activities accomplished by councils. With the theme *One Heart, One Voice, One Mission*, the communication mandate was easily carried out.

**The Canadian League magazine**
A consistently reliable resource, *The Canadian League* was used as a source for articles and items for in-depth discussion at meetings or as information for chairpersons to share. Explanations of the national theme *One Heart, One Voice, One Mission*, Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace initiatives and the Pornography Hurts campaign kept members current on these topics.

Almost every provincial report mentioned councils having submitted items for publication and the specific appreciation for national profiles and the listing of resolutions adopted at convention in the magazine. Sharing magazines or leaving them for pick-up by non-members at churches was a common practice.

**Media for evangelization**
Councils promoted religious programming by supporting Salt + Light TV, Vision TV and Eternal Word Television Network. Other councils submitted articles and photographs to local publications and advertised events such as “A Day in the Life of a CWL Member”, World Day of Prayer, vocations masses and Life Chain.
Members subscribed to *Western Catholic Reporter, The Catholic Register, Marian Helpers, St. Anthony Messenger, Prairie Messenger, National Catholic Reporter* and *The New Freeman*.

**Media to promote the League**
Tried-and-true methods to promote the League included using display boards to advise of special events, creating or refreshing websites, starting Facebook pages, posting newsletters on parish bulletin boards, using a parish bulletin to invite women to hear a speaker at a membership coffee party, displaying posters on community boards and hosting information tables at events. Many councils noted visiting the websites of various councils and levels to gain ideas.

More councils took advantage of placing announcements of events on radio and television and in community newspapers. Pamphlets placed in churches were readily picked up. Councils used the new testimonial video to attract members via information events, often including a time for hospitality. A release in December of a resource to use in promoting the League was the Salt + Light TV documentary *Woman on a Mission*.

**Media, evaluation and promotion of good content**
Members were increasingly made aware of and encouraged others to become aware of the importance of supervising and promoting good television viewing and safe Internet usage. Movie, book and magazine content was also monitored and, when needed, letters were written to the Canadian Radio-television Telecommunications Commission as well as federal and provincial politicians.

**Media, newsletters and bulletins**
The monthly *Be League* electronic newsletter was noted in every provincial report as a way to gain insight on activities of other councils and as a means to follow the national president’s latest activities. Parish bulletins were used to report on council activities such as meetings, fundraisers, special Eucharistic celebrations, potlucks and picnics. Parish, diocesan and provincial levels published their own newsletters monthly, quarterly or annually.
Media relations
Realizing the importance of good media relations, councils took the time to thank media for coverage of events. One council sent out 100 “thank you” posters to the community to thank the media and retailers that helped promote or attended council events. The local newspaper reciprocated with the printing of the thank you in its “Letters to the Editor” section. One council advertised its Nativity Tea and displayed numerous nativity sets at the function, always inviting the media to attend.

Pornography
Councils overwhelmingly supported the Pornography Hurts postcard campaign during their designated months and for many additional months as well. Most identified the campaign as a priority and had the opportunity to support it through parish bulletin inserts and messages from the pulpit. Letters and petitions were sent to government indicating the need for more awareness of and work to curb pornography, with a specific letter-writing campaign asking for legislation that would govern Internet content with regards to pornography. Videos on the various consequences of pornography were shown at council meetings and to youth groups, prompting awareness about the pornography issue in some schools. The book Good Pictures Bad Pictures that speaks to “porn-proofing” children was promoted. Councils monitored the news media regarding pornography issues and shared the information with members. Others engaged speakers on the topic at their council meetings or conventions. Some councils continued to take action on past resolutions falling under this standing committee that were still current. One diocesan council continued the use of its Pornography Hurts Bus Campaign and the use of roadside, television advertisements and billboards. This initiative gave daily exposure to more than 150,000 people! One diocesan chairperson of communications led the development of a pornography brochure and PowerPoint presentation that was shared across the country. Some councils supported local White Ribbon Against Pornography campaigns.
**Initiatives undertaken**

The members-only online forum saw some traffic but not as much as was hoped. Those who did use this resource found it helpful. A fall initiative “A Day in the Life of a CWL Member” realized minimal participation. Press releases were more frequently issued during the year, a total of seven, and were issued at the launch of each national initiative.

The project to tape testimonials of members from across Canada was successful and well received. It continued to be accessed with ease from the national website. The attendance and participation of Salt + Light TV at the national convention was the starting point for the creation of the documentary *Woman on a Mission*. Having been shown on Salt + Light TV at least 15 different times, with more anticipated, and with the availability of the documentary on the national website, many members and the public accessing the site were able to see the good works of the League. A recap video of the convention was also created and remains on the website as a resource to attract more members to attend conventions.

Having a crew from Salt + Light at the convention post to its Facebook and Twitter accounts gave the League exposure to over 17,200 followers. The use of Facebook and Twitter was more prolific this year, and it was expected to continue to increase moving forward.
Research and preparation of resolutions and briefs

Provincial councils reported on the research and preparation of resolutions. Many resolutions were directed towards the federal government, and the ultimate direction was through national council, but there were also many that had topics fall under provincial jurisdictions and, as such, were directed toward provincial governments by provincial councils. Workshops were held throughout Canada to help members learn how to research and prepare resolutions.

Five resolutions were adopted at the 95th annual national convention in 2015:

• 2015.01 Increased Early Intervention and Access to Children and Youth Mental Health Services
• 2015.02 Ban the Use of Plastic Microbeads in Personal Care Products
• 2015.03 Banning the Use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides
• 2015.04 Invoke Section 33 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms in the case of Carter v. Canada
• 2015.05 Reinstatement of the Mandatory Long-Form Census

Study and implementation of resolutions adopted by other levels

Councils reported that letter writing still played an important cornerstone in their activities and their contact with provincial and federal governments. It remained one of the most effective ways for members to take action and engage government officials. Some councils provided sample letters as a guide for members to use, and
others kept track of responses received. One council reported a letter writing campaign to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB). One provincial executive researched resolutions adopted by other provincial councils, and learned about an issue and what happened in its own province.

Members strove to study and implement ideas put forth in resolutions adopted by other levels. They attended public meetings, listened to speakers, organized and attended information nights and workshops and took part in online polls and petitions. Members educated themselves and others by hosting guest speakers and by visiting provincial and federal government representatives

**Meetings with provincial governments**

Many provincial chairpersons of resolutions reported they were able to secure meetings with government officials, and each had its own unique approach for these meetings. One provincial executive was fortunate enough to meet with its premier and the entire cabinet not once, but twice—an excellent way to continue to share resolutions and concerns of the League with the entire provincial caucus. Some provincial delegations met with individual government ministers and this allowed for very detailed and specific conversations to occur around issues of concern and interest to the League.

**Meetings with federal governments**

Three days of meetings were held in March with many government officials, including a meeting with the minister of justice and attorney general of Canada. The national delegation shared the League’s 2014 resolutions adopted in Fredericton, New Brunswick, and discussed the issue of the Supreme Court of Canada decision regarding *Carter v. Canada* and the need for more equal availability of palliative care across Canada. The delegation met with Bishop Paul-André Durocher (Gatineau), past president of the CCCB, as well as Archbishop Luigi Bonazzi, apostolic nuncio to Canada, to share information about the League, its resolutions and its role within parishes and the country.
In Conclusion
As I read the reports it was evident that members embraced the call to action through resolutions. Action was taken on issues in all parts of Canada by researching and writing new resolutions, following the suggestions in the action plans of existing resolutions and meeting with provincial government officials.

Thank you for the hard work done on the topic of resolutions. In spite of the fact that so many find resolutions an intimidating task, many took on that challenge and effected real change in themselves and the country. The League is blessed to have such women as members.

Janet McLean
National Chairperson of Legislation

From all provincial chairperson of legislation reports received, there was no doubt that councils across Canada were concerned, worried and dismayed about the question of upcoming legislation on euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide. Provincial reports indicated that members responded to the External Panel on Options for a Legislative Response to Carter v. Canada on assisted dying, established after the Supreme Court of Canada’s decision on the Carter v. Canada case. Members were encouraged to respond to this panel so that legislation, when drafted, would be as restrictive as possible concerning physician-assisted suicide. During campaigning for the October federal election, many members studied the platforms of the candidates, met with them and discussed their concerns; they also encouraged members to vote. Provincial chairpersons of legislation reported members took action with respect to outstanding resolutions relating to requested changes to federal legislation.
Provincial chairpersons monitored legislation in their provinces, and particular areas of concern included mental health issues, human trafficking and advocates for seniors. The need for palliative and end-of-life care was also examined from a provincial legislative perspective.

There were a number of challenges reported by provincial chairpersons, the common one being the lack of members willing to take on this standing committee at the parish and even diocesan level. Reasons for this included the fact that the legislation standing committee was not understood by many members, or they felt they would be overwhelmed with information. It was sometimes felt that not all information or communiqués were shared at the various levels. However, it was also mentioned that one of the greatest rewards of this standing committee was making members aware of and interested in the legislative process and how they could become engaged in it. It seemed like a long process, from the introduction of legislation to its becoming law, but it was rewarding to feel part of it. I recommend that members be educated, through discussion, hands-on training sessions or workshops about the legislation standing committee so that members will have a better understanding of, and be willing to serve as, a chairperson of legislation. I know I have found it a most rewarding experience and my knowledge and understanding of the Canadian legislative process has been enhanced.
The reports from my provincial counterparts were the most reasoned, helpful, positive, willing and joy-filled reports I have ever received in the League! Not because they raved about a huge increase in membership numbers, but mainly because, all across Canada, these women “got” what membership in the League was all about. Provincial past presidents unanimously spoke about the spiritual development of members and the resultant outreach of loving services to the people of God. They believed passionately in the importance of the presence of the League in Canadian society, and they whole-heartedly offered themselves as workshop facilitators, council representatives and mentors to move along the plans of the year.

**Served in a consultative capacity**
Past presidents made themselves available to newly installed presidents and executives by advising, suggesting, pointing to resources, chairing committee meetings and representing their councils at conventions or at parish and community events. Their “ministry of presence” encouraged members, and they led by example in many provinces. One provincial council reported that because many parish councils were small with incomplete executives, the province functioned best using a “shared leadership style.” In another provincial council, the past president served as the executive liaison for the provincial convention planning committee.

**Were responsible for archives and history**
This was a daunting task that involved serious decision-making by past presidents. Culling, organizing, amalgamating, arranging for safe storage and displaying past historical events in a meaningful
way involved an unsung gift of time in many corners of Canada. Binders celebrating award recipients and summaries of presidential terms were generally well maintained and appreciated by members. Members in one provincial council requested an archive workshop to demonstrate how to save, write and digitize archival materials.

Facilitated the study and implementation of the Constitution & Bylaws
Updating and correlating local, diocesan and provincial manuals of policy and procedure with the Constitution & Bylaws (C&B) proved to be a teachable moment for some past presidents. One council conducted a C&B quiz at a meeting. Maintaining motions books proved to be helpful for the running of council business.

Performed other duties as assigned by the president
Past presidents were very active participants in the projects of their councils. Every provincial report noted the creative and enthusiastic attendance of past presidents at conventions seemed to encourage other members. Very often, they chaired nominations and elections committees as well as ad hoc committees for special events and remembrance.

Chaired the laws committee at national level
There was an innate comfort in one’s years of contacts and experience when approached by councils for advice on interpreting League policy, procedures, resources and ways of operating for the good of the whole.

The challenges
Retirement, family moves, illness and death robbed some councils of their immediate past presidents. In many cases, former presidents stepped into the breach with their experience to ensure that League work remained continuous. Good naturedly, past presidents were referred to as “elders,” “grandmothers,” “grease monkeys” and “wise owls”. In reality, all respected it as a privilege to serve as modern day disciples of Jesus, making a difference where they found themselves.
Members were grateful for the willingness of their past presidents to pitch in, serve, mentor and advise, and thus actively live the League theme *One Heart, One Voice, One Mission*.

2015 Membership: 9,674 members in 163 councils

*One Heart, One Voice, One Mission*—this theme was the League’s call and focus during this past year through its councils and activities. Diocesan and parish council presidents and their councils worked diligently and were rewarded for their devotion to God and Canada.

One of the key reasons women joined and stayed in the League was the desire for spiritual enrichment. Members celebrated their faith primarily through the Holy Eucharist, shared around the table of the Lord with their sisters. It was with creativity that members developed their spirituality, and members prayed together in many voices and styles.

Members moved from their parish ministries to serve “in the world”. Members evangelized in many ways. They lived out the gospel message by serving God and Canada. Councils became informed and participated in the Pornography Hurts postcard campaign and sponsored refugees from Syria and other developing countries. Letters were written to government to respond to the issues of physician-assisted dying and access to quality hospice palliative care. Petitions were shared, and members spoke to their members of the legislative assembly about a provincial independent senior’s advocate. Support for Catholic schools was evident through letters and action to protect Catholic schools. Members were involved with a number of issues, including supporting youth, refugees, trafficked persons and worldwide
concerns, especially through partnership with the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP) and Catholic Missions In Canada. Councils focused on the papal encyclical *Laudato Si’* and the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy with speakers, shared information and action.

Council presidents provided active leadership by representing their councils at conferences, fundraising dinners and events, workshops and annual conventions at all League levels. The annual conventions have been cited as where parish council members truly see the “big picture”. A few councils were able to meet with politicians, and the provincial council wanted to make this a priority. Presidents used a variety of methods to communicate and inform the membership of the League’s position on current issues and priorities and new programs. Information and action plans were shared at diocesan council and executive meetings. Websites and newsletters provided fresh and detailed information.

Members were recognized in a variety of ways. Provincially, parish council growth was recognized in the areas of increased individual membership and percentage of membership increase. In this way, even smaller councils could demonstrate and celebrate their growth. Members who modeled extraordinary service by their lives were recognized with the Elsie Yanik Award. Individuals were recognized with the Bellelle Guerin award. A new life member was added to the provincial numbers, while the loss of Life Member Ella Ell was mourned.

Members of the provincial executive represented the League at various meetings and functions including the Alberta Catholic School Trustees’ Association annual general meeting, Covenant Health luncheons, CCODP workshops, every annual diocesan convention, anniversary celebrations and as many workshops as possible.

The bishops were supportive and promoted the League, as did many parish priests. The parish priests were needed to enthusiastically support the League’s work in order that parishioners would see the value of what the League does.
Presidents who met regularly with the spiritual advisor, and requested his or her support, experienced more success as a council.

All levels became more mindful of goal-setting and priorities. Councils continuing to use League resource manuals and programs experienced the most effective member retention and recruitment. Members shared the concern across Canada of declining membership, participation and lack of members taking leadership roles. Conversely, those who did take on leadership were rewarded by the gains in their own skills and abilities. The challenge was to consider new possibilities and change the way the League met, conducted business and “did things.”

For the League to grow and sustain itself, members must invite women to become involved in the meaningful work of the League. The League is a precious gift to be shared with others. It is a blessing to share time and service with other women. While members hope for new and improved ways to recruit members, the reality is that members join and stay because they want a relationship with God and their spiritual sisters.

I am pleased to report that the League was very healthy and active in B.C. & Yukon! Despite the inactivation of two parish councils and the disbanding of another, there were 130 parish councils and close to 9,000 members. Most councils were using the online membership system, and it seemed to be working quite well for them.

The 38 life members residing in the province
suggest all parish councils keep a scrapbook of living and deceased life members, with copies sent to the provincial life member liaison so she could keep life members’ history up-to-date. Councils could use the expertise of their life members to put this book together. In 2015, the national president, two national officers and the provincial president sat on the national executive!

Membership was kept informed through communiqués from national, provincial and diocesan officers and by using the corresponding websites. Information was shared at meetings, by e-mail, and in newsletters and church bulletins. Councils reported an improvement in communication with their pastor/spiritual advisor and met with them regularly. They were included in annual planning, and were happy to attend meetings when they could and to provide opportunities to celebrate mass and direct retreats or days of recollection. The provincial newsletter, Communicator, was very popular and helped “spread the word”.

Councils focused on writing letters and sending out many, many postcards! One council sent out 250 euthanasia and assisted suicide postcards, ten at time, to have them arrive every weekday for 25 days. Members continued to respond to online polls and petitions. It was suggested that the pornography section of the communications standing committee was misplaced and should be handled under the community life standing committee. One sub-committee chairperson, Christa Grillmair, and her team handled this and did such an excellent job of preparing materials (brochure, DVD and PowerPoint) that the work was posted on the national website.

One prominent member of parliament recommended the use of petitions rather than postcards, as petitions could be tabled in the House of Commons whereas postcards would be filed. It was suggested the current guidelines for the Public Petitions section under the House of Commons Procedure and Practice be reviewed. If used concurrently, the postcards would get individuals’ attention, especially with the sheer volume received, while the petitions could be tabled for presentation.
The biggest challenge reported by councils was getting members to take on leadership roles and fill standing committee positions. The executive worked to keep struggling councils active and to motivate members to take on these positions. Executive members participated in almost every event that took place, demonstrating leadership in action, and talked to members on a one-to-one basis to build their confidence. Executive members were requested to give oral reports to sharpen their public speaking skills. Some councils reported that the one-third model of spirituality, business and social time was sometimes difficult, and instead decided to hold special spiritual days as often as possible.

The reports almost unanimously noted that members felt standing committee duties overlapped and should be revised, particularly in the area of education and health. Most of the work emanated from this committee, and it was too large. Despite hearing this repeatedly, the suggestion to change hasn’t gotten anywhere at the national level. Councils were encouraged to have co-chairpersons for this standing committee in the meantime. Many letters were written on education and health resolutions with increased interest in action on end-of-life issues.

S’Mores workshops were held. At conventions, every attempt was made to have speakers inform members on important issues and to motivate members to work for their causes. Councils were encouraged to determine what the needs and interests of their members were, then choose which social justice causes they wished to support, rather than trying to be active on every cause.

The provincial council was blessed to have funds available for League development workshops and for assistance for members to attend conventions, which are considered the two best ways to educate members. Three applications for workshops were approved in 2015. Subsidies were provided to 31 women to attend the 95th annual national convention in Vancouver and to 12 recipients to attend the provincial convention.

All councils used the national theme *One Heart, One Voice, One Mission* and the provincial theme *Joyfully Serving the Lord*, and
the work members did in their parishes and the decorations for conventions reflected it. My personal feeling is that there are too many themes (one at each level) and it should be simplified by using the national theme only, as many useful resources are available.

The provincial convention was held in Prince George and was well attended. National President Barbara Dowding presented a workshop, along with Sr. Irene Baker, CSJ, regarding the national theme. Members heard Dr. Moira McQueen, executive director of the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute, speak on end-of-life issues. Donna Flood, executive director of the Prince George Hospice Society, spoke about “Going Forward with Palliative Care”, and Rev. Vincent James, OMI, spoke about the Rose Prince Pilgrimage.

The provincial council was well represented and enjoyed hosting the 95th annual national convention in Vancouver. As part of the planning committee, I was proud of the host team that did a magnificent job under the capable leadership of Vancouver Diocesan President Roxanne McDonald.

Two provincial resolutions were adopted at the national convention, Resolution 2015.01 Increased Early Intervention and Access to Children and Youth Mental Health Services and Resolution 2015.04 Invoke Section 33 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms in the case of Carter v. Canada. Members brought forward a motion to establish a temporary national voluntary fund in favour of Euthanasia Prevention Coalition. A second motion asking the federal government to halt the sale of abortion drug RU-486 and enter into discussion on this subject was also brought forward. Both motions were carried.

Members of the provincial executive presented resolutions to the government and, with the help of the diocesan presidents, provided a copy of them to each of the six bishops. The provincial chairperson of resolutions, Dianne Barker, has, along with a past diocesan chairperson of resolutions, established a connection between Grade 12 students at their local co-ed Catholic high
school to help them understand the League’s resolutions process. They taught them about the League and helped them select a topic of interest for a resolution. Gift memberships were offered to any girl who wished to join.

Members were very active in the March for Life in front of the parliament buildings in Victoria. Provincial officers and members attended mass together prior to the walk. Bishop Gary Gordon (Whitehorse) joined the walk, as well as many priests. An information table was set up with League brochures and postcards about League issues for people to sign.

A group of members worked with Sharon Cieben to produce a testimonials video that had been requested by the national chairperson of communications. It was a compilation video of members’ thoughts and feelings about the importance of being a member.

A workshop was held for the provincial executive, presented by professional registered parliamentarian and presentation skills training and coach, John Noonan. Each executive member was presented with Pope Francis’ encyclical *Laudato Si’* and *Magnificat Year of Mercy Companion* for their personal use and to share in their communiqués.

I am extremely proud to have represented the almost 9,000 members in this western-most province and territory. This report cannot possibly list all they do “For God and Canada”! They are hard-working women *Joyfully Serving the Lord*. I express my most sincere thanks and love to my executive team. It has been a joy and an honour to work with these dynamic and dedicated women, and it was truly an experience I will never forget.
Keewatin-The Pas, St. Boniface and Winnipeg diocesan councils actively promoted the League to parish councils and lived the national theme *One Heart, One Voice, One Mission*. They continued to offer development opportunities by hosting *Catch the Fire!*, an annual day of reflection on evangelization, fall meetings, a workshop on letter-writing and a presentation on the law pertaining to the Supreme Court of Canada ruling on physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia. Due to the vast distance between councils in the north, Keewatin-The Pas Diocesan Council held a full-day resolutions workshop in conjunction with its annual diocesan convention where a resolution was gifted to a council to complete and put into practice. St. Boniface Diocesan Council arranged for a presentation on conflict management and reconciliation at its annual diocesan convention.

Members attended diocesan, provincial and national conventions. Councils held teas, suppers, bazaars, movie nights, wind-ups, Christmas gatherings, potluck dinners, children’s games and picnics, and fellowship after mass. Members were recognized for their service through the presentation of certificates of merit, years of service pins (some 45, 50 and 65), maple leaf service pins and Bellelle Guerin awards. Members’ commitment and service were acknowledged by these presentations.

Members participated in various programs to help those in their community. They collected aluminum cans for wheelchair programs, soup labels for education, toiletries for a women’s shelter and baby items for a pro-life dresser project for a single mother. They supported Catholic summer camp programs, teen programs, a collection for Mary’s Meals, Esk-OMI Missions and Kee-Pas missions, and helped a community school. Parish councils in Winnipeg were involved in S.N.O.W. (Safe Night Off Winnipeg
streets) for sex trade workers and Dignity House for women leaving the sex trade. Members participated in an inter-denominational program to provide support and assistance to immigrant families in their community.

Members’ outreach extended beyond their communities to support various initiatives such as Operation Eyesight International, Save a Family Plan, NET Ministries of Canada and the Open Doorways Orphanage Inc. in Haiti (started by a Manitoba member in 2000). A child in Colombia was fostered through Chalice. Families in Mexico, India and Poland received monetary relief and most northern councils participated in Operation Christmas Child. A young seminarian in the Philippines was financially supported. Councils participated in the 1% Program for the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP) as well as participating on parish committees. Members also participated in CCODP’s Share Lent Campaign and THINKfast program, and they collected stamps for CCODP. Councils supported Canadian Foodgrains Bank and Buy-a-Net Malaria Prevention Group. One council made dresses for women through MaterCare International. Monetary donations were sent to the Coady International Institute, CCODP, the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, Catholic Missions In Canada and MaterCare International.

Members were involved in their communities in a variety of ways—cuddling babies at the Children’s Hospital of Winnipeg, acting as Girl Guides of Canada leaders and participating in the Misericordia Health Centre’s Angel Squad gathering that broke the Guinness World Record for the largest gathering of angels. Councils financially and/or physically supported over 20 different organizations, locally and provincially, that worked with marginalized and homeless persons (women’s shelters, refugee sanctuaries, food banks, drop-in centres for food or clothing, inner city children’s centres, and groups helping with sex-trade workers or collecting hygiene products for people living on the street). Members volunteered at citizenship ceremonies and supported Holy Names House of Peace, a sanctuary for single immigrant women and their families and trafficked women seeking refuge.
with transitional housing and life-skill services. Many councils held presentations to raise awareness about the needs of refugees and immigrants. Prayer shawl ministries were active in a number of councils.

In their parishes, members: led the rosary and stations of the cross; were lectors, Eucharistic ministers, sacristans, musicians and choir members, greeters and catechists; and brought communion to shut-ins. It was noted “League members continually contribute to and participate in the ecclesial, cultural, social and economical life of our parish community and allow it to flourish and grow.” Councils continued to be generous with their donations by buying nine videos for catechetical program, gifts for first communion and confirmation students, and supplying food or sponsoring luncheons for their parishes.

Councils kept in touch with members by distributing council meeting minutes, using bulletin boards in their parishes, publishing newsletters, and, for one northern council, using its daily newspaper to apprise the community and members of awards presented. Prayer calendars were used, a decade of the Rosary for Peace was recited at the closing of a monthly meeting, two League Sundays were instituted, and members began their day with daily mass on Vision TV in isolated areas where there was no access to daily mass.

There was concern with the disbanding of some parish councils; however, a highlight was the organization and chartering on March 5, 2015 of Ste. Anne-des-Chênes Parish Council (St. Anne), a rural council in the Archdiocese of St. Boniface. Holding a membership coffee party and using the testimonials video provided avenues for membership drives. The membership dues of elderly members living in nursing homes were paid by some councils. Facebook was used to post photographs of “A day in the life of a CWL Member”. Membership kits were used for new members. “Focus has been on increasing membership, celebrating member achievements, increasing the visibility of the League, and being a proud member
by wearing a CWL pin or scarf,” as noted in the provincial chairperson of organization’s annual report.

Councils were creative in writing their annual reports. Potluck dinners were held, members worked after meetings to fill out reports, breakfast meetings were held to review minutes and brainstorm, and a seminar was held on “How to Prepare Annual Reports.”

Members took action on various issues and resolutions. Petitions and letters were sent to governments indicating their position against pornography, human trafficking and sexual exploitation. In the northern diocese, most councils reported participating in the Pornography Hurts postcard campaign. Several councils sponsored parish-wide letter writing campaigns and information sessions on physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia, and thousands of letters were mailed. Members educated themselves about microbeads in health care products, the importance of recycling, Pope Francis’ encyclical *Laudato Si’*, organ and tissue donations, planned parenthood, bio-technologies, the sale and use of aborted baby parts and the benefits of collecting and saving cord blood.

The Nominations and Elections Guidelines binders for parish, diocesan and provincial councils were revised according to changes to the *Constitution & Bylaws* and the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*. Copies and electronic files were provided to councils.

The provincial council introduced, established and promoted various initiatives. A provincial banner was purchased and displayed at the 100th anniversary mass of the Archdiocese of Winnipeg. A pro-life banner was purchased and used at the annual March for Life, where members from across Manitoba marched behind the banner. Work began on a new provincial website that would be launched at the 2016 Annual Day of Celebration. A delegation met twice with the provincial premier and cabinet ministers to bring forward concerns raised through resolutions. A resolutions workshop was held, guiding members through a poorly researched and written resolution. The annual life member
gathering was held and included, for the first time, Bellelle Guerin award recipients. The council hosted its annual day of celebration at Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Aboriginal Catholic Parish, where the aboriginal culture and spirituality was celebrated along with a presentation of “The Blanket Exercise”.

Members embraced the national theme by actively acting on contentious issues with “one voice”, helping those in need through actions and monetary contributions with “one heart” and extending their arms of support to the parishes, communities, Canada and abroad with “one mission”. They are truly “women rooted in gospel values” who live the League prayer to “teach us to share with others at home and abroad the good things you have given us”, doing this “For God and Canada.”

Shelley DeSerres
Military Ordinariate Provincial Council President

I am amazed at the work that has been accomplished by so few women who have a common goal. That is what I felt when I read the annual reports from councils across Canada. Members were busy, not only with their personal and private lives, but with their work “For God and Canada.”

Members kept their spiritual life blossoming by attending World Day of Prayer, bible studies and pilgrimages. They were active in Catholic Missions In Canada, St. Anne’s Mission (Watson Lake, Yukon), YESS: Youth Empowerment & Support Services, and other organizations in their communities.

The bishop of the Military Ordinariate of Canada was very involved in pilgrimages to Lourdes and one League spiritual advisor has been sponsored by the League to attend. It was hoped this would become an annual tradition.
The provincial council developed a new bursary program for its members to attend training, workshops or courses that pertain to furthering their faith. Work with The Romeo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative to end the use and recruitment of child soldiers was ongoing. As well as provincial support, some councils decided to make annual donations to the initiative.

The newest project of the provincial council was to work toward introducing a resolution on post traumatic stress disorder. Members were busy researching the issue and how members could help those who suffer from this debilitating health issue.

Margaret McCallum
New Brunswick Provincial Council President

As provincial president, I was blessed with an abundance of opportunities to celebrate the women of the League and the work done so well and so often throughout the beautiful province of New Brunswick. When I read the annual reports of the provincial chairpersons and diocesan presidents, I was treated to countless reminders of the gifts members share. There was a common thread in these reports—the service members provided to the church and communities, combined with their deep concern for justice throughout the world. Members provided and enjoyed faith-based opportunities for spiritual growth, leadership development and service. Day-to-day acts of kindness attributed to members were countless and overwhelming.

Like all provincial presidents, I had the honour of serving on the national executive to represent the provincial council. Attending meetings with members from across Canada was an amazing experience for me. It was good to see and hear how the League was visible in every province, and it was good to see and share how
members in the province made a difference as members of a national organization.

The year was a busy one. Reports reflected projects that were well received and executed. With the help of the National Development Fund, facilitators presented “Servant Leadership” workshops to over 200 members. Other workshops presented were “Discernment” and “Affirming Workshop”. Saint John Diocesan Council hosted an annual retreat that provided spiritual programs and direction, and was open to all women.

Councils made special efforts to celebrate the Feast Day of Our Lady of Good Counsel and members’ feedback was positive. Celebrations focused around the Eucharist, and attendance was fantastic. Councils were committed to providing more opportunities for spiritual development. Motivational speakers, prayer services and workshops proved to be what members were seeking.

Members and councils were active in their support of Syrian refugees by forming committees and providing financial and other assistance. This was the work that began the League. Members have supported immigrants to Canada for close to a century now.

Membership continued to be a challenge. A national report indicated a total membership of 2,115. Sixty-three new and reinstated members were welcomed by councils, while they sadly bid farewell to 51 deceased members. Membership declined by a further 160 members in those who did not renew. The provincial council asked parish councils to look at their membership, to identify and seek out those 160 members and ask why they did not renew. Councils were encouraged to take action and invite them to come back.

In the fall, the New Brunswick Prayer Card was introduced and a membership drive geared toward all women was launched. The project was new and had a slow beginning, but, as I wrote this report, I heard of good results in the parishes. The aim was to distribute the prayer cards at weekend masses and have a member speak, inviting all women to gather following mass, meet with members, hear about the League, and join.
The provincial executive began the process of reviewing the structure of the League in the province. The question was to consider if the three levels of parish, diocesan and provincial put too heavy a burden on members to fill positions. A committee has been struck to attend local meetings and conventions, provide information, discuss the role of the diocesan level and analyze the feedback. Following this consultation, an instructed vote was planned for annual diocesan conventions in 2017.

It was a pleasure and a great honour to serve as provincial president. My two years went by too quickly. I was happy to prepare reports, but my wish was that all members could see what I saw and hear what I heard. I was educated by speakers and at workshops. I was given wonderful opportunities to develop my spirituality. I met beautiful women and heard their stories. I was blessed by this opportunity, and for this I am grateful.

I pray that Our Lady of Good Counsel continues to watch over the League and guide its work “For God and Canada”, and, as in the New Brunswick Prayer, “May she help us sustain our membership by encouraging all women to join the League.”

Ruby Sharpe
Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial Council President

The 2015 annual report incorporated summary reports of online surveys as completed by 12 parish council presidents and five written annual reports. Two annual reports were not available at the time of this report. An online survey for annual reports was piloted in Newfoundland and Labrador and revealed many councils have significant struggles and issues not easily resolved.

Parish council presidents reported the most common methods of seeking information to share with members were communiqués,
The Canadian League, provincial websites and newsletters. Information was shared largely through use of e-mails, meeting reports and telephone trees. Only a small percentage reported using social media to share information.

Almost all councils reported meeting on a monthly basis. At least one council avoided meetings during the winter months due to concerns of aged members traveling during inclement weather. Many councils possessed copies of the various national resources (Constitution & Bylaws, Executive Handbook). National, provincial and parish council policy and procedures manuals were used as a resource regularly in conducting meetings.

A multi-year effort to encourage more active participation from spiritual advisors continued. While a high percentage of presidents indicated their spiritual advisors were publicly supportive of the League, there continued to be a relatively low participation by the spiritual advisor at council meetings and/or meetings with him. This continued to be a challenge for councils as well as the spiritual advisors, many of whom were not residing on a permanent basis within the parishes and, thus, were not always accessible.

Parish council presidents had been very diligent in their efforts to ensure they attended provincial conventions and meetings and various workshops. Attendance was problematic for a small number of presidents due to geographic distance and travel. Cost was sometimes a factor in smaller councils with very limited financial resources.

Consistent themes emerged among councils’ identification of priority issues. At an organizational level, presidents reported concerns with membership recruitment, the number of aging members and the inability to recruit members who were willing and/or able to accept leadership positions. All presidents reported the spiritual development of its membership as a priority. In the areas of legislation and education and health, presidents identified priorities as opposing access to physician-assisted death, the need for quality and effective palliative care, advocating for seniors, the protection of children and those marginalized in society (e.g., the
poor, the disabled) and, most prevalently, welcoming and assisting refugees and new Canadians.

Advocating for seniors continued to be a multi-year priority for councils. A resolution adopted in 2014 to promote the appointment of an independent seniors advocate for the province was actioned. The provincial council was pleased when a commitment from the government was made to implement the same, and the council closely monitored progress, remaining steadfast in ensuring this became a reality.

Members were enthusiastic in their pursuit of educating themselves regarding priority issues. Numerous members attended multiple education sessions and presentations on topics of physician assisted death, palliative care and the refugee situation. Some of these sessions were hosted by parish councils, while others were hosted within the church or by community agencies. The League had a visible presence at these various forums.

Parish councils performed many acts of mercy, some of which were not able to be reported in the online surveys. Presidents had countless stories of charitable acts—donations, monetary and in-kind (clothing, school supplies and books, food) to a multitude of individuals and organizations including the Centre for Life, The John Howard Society of Newfoundland and Labrador, women’s transitional housing, social outreach programs for the homeless, The Gathering Place, food banks and other parish related groups.

Fun and fellowship remained critical to councils. Presidents reported much enthusiasm from members for social gatherings including potluck suppers, spring luncheons, Advent celebrations and other socials where invitations were extended to neighboring councils and, in some situations, women of other denominations. These gatherings often included entertainment and, in at least one council, the occasional fashion show!

There is sad news to report with the disbandment of two parish councils. This continues to be a challenge given recruitment and leadership issues. While the two disbanded councils have been struggling for sometime and they were small in numbers, the
provincial council remained grateful for their many contributions over the years and hopeful that the members will join another council in their area.

The provincial council was thrilled to produce its first cookbook, *Cooking With Love*. This book was a compilation of favourite family recipes from members, their families and friends. It was beautifully bound and was met with tremendous zest and quick sales.

As the calendar year came to a close, all councils participated in the opening celebrations for the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. Members attended the mass and opening of the holy door as celebrated within their parish or diocese. Presidents actively finalized plans with their councils to commemorate this most wonderful year.

My first year as provincial president was filled with an abundance of learning opportunities and wonderful new friendships. I have given advice and guidance but, more frequently, I sought advice and guidance from the many remarkable women I have come to know, across Newfoundland and Labrador and Canada. To all of you, I am eternally grateful. God bless you all!

**Joan Bona**  
**Nova Scotia Provincial Council President**

Nova Scotia Provincial Council, which is set to welcome members at the 96th annual national convention in August 2016 in Halifax, held a number of planning meetings so as to ensure the event would be a memorable one for all and a celebration of members.

Representatives of the provincial council met with the minister of health and wellness to discuss health-related resolutions, such as the ones on e-cigarettes, drug
recycling programs and waiting lists for seniors’ placement in nursing homes. Resolution NS.2015.01 Coverage for Psychologists under the Nova Scotia Medical Services Insurance Program was discussed as well, which requested initial assessment, diagnosis and therapy for adolescents with psychological and emotional disorders. This resolution was generated as a result of former senator Michael Kirby’s presentation at the 2014 annual national convention in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Gratitude was expressed to the minister for the opportunity to discuss the resolutions in depth.

New annual reports forms, revamped in 2015, were well received, and it was noted they were easier to work with and less repetitious. PowerPoint presentations were provided in each diocese in anticipation of the release of the new forms in the fall.

The Aboriginal Leadership Development Program project was completed. A partnership forged with St. Francis Xavier University, the program empowered indigenous women to assume leadership roles and work on projects that enhanced their leadership and project management skills within their communities. In the summer, graduates of the class of 2012 connected with St. Francis Xavier University to share their leadership experiences since graduating. The outcome included the recognition of three themes for the projects—food network (community garden, cooking club and traditional recipes), grandmothers’ involvement (traditional and current roles) and physical health and activity. Four applications were received and three were accepted for the practicum. The total number of participants involved was 80, three of them being fathers who wanted to be involved in the process. The perspectives of each of the project recipients were shared with the provincial council. All were pleased with the outcome of their projects and, for some, it was the only chance to socialize with other women in their community. St. Francis Xavier University reported the result was increased self-confidence and an eagerness to assume leadership roles within communities in the future. It also resulted in one community creating a new policy ensuring equitable access to resources and activities, and committing to take
a leadership role in raising awareness and understanding of gender equity among members of the community. More than 100 women learned invaluable information about the need for food security, the value of sharing traditional information among themselves, the important role they play within their families and community, and the strength they gain through cooperation. The community garden component was intended to continue on an annual basis. Members contributed $8,367.55 toward these projects.

The provincial convention was hosted by St. Joseph Parish Council in Kentville in conjunction with its 90th anniversary. Life Member Rita-May Munro was in attendance and was recognized with a 60-year pin. National President-Elect and Chairperson of Organization Margaret Ann Jacobs was the theme development speaker.

The provincial council continued to experience a decline in membership. To address this financial challenge, a notice of motion was distributed to parish councils to increase per capita fees by $2.00, with the instructed vote to be taken at 2016 provincial convention. Despite the reality of fewer councils through amalgamation or inactivation, diocesan and parish councils continued to work hard to sustain membership.

In both dioceses, parish councils connected with the call of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy to corporal and spiritual works of mercy. This was evident through the many initiatives planned to assist the dying, those in need, and the abandoned, marginalized and isolated. Many service organizations in the province were the benefactors of contributions by members.

The impending legislation regarding physician-assisted dying received much attention. Resolution 2015.04 Invoke Section 33 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms in the case of Carter v. Canada was studied and members wrote letters to the federal government, colleges of physicians and surgeons (provincial and national) and local members of parliament, voicing concerns about the expected legislation. Councils identified that more education was needed on end-of-life issues and health care
directives. Councils continued to work diligently to protect life by advocating for legislation that was life saving, not life ending.

Councils reported working to recruit and build capacity through leadership, faith development and member recognition. Despite the decline in membership, members continued to offer leadership development days, retreats and other initiatives to engage and educate members.

In both dioceses, members were actively engaged in refugee programs. Members attended planning sessions, contributed financially and provided support through prayer, faith and action. Councils raised funds to support refugee families in their efforts to settle in a new country and assisted families where necessary.

Members were tuned to the events of the XIV Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops (Synod on the Family) and the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, both influenced by Pope Francis.

Sadly in 2015, two life members were lost—Marguerite Peters and Mary McLeod. Their influence and dedication in service to the League was invaluable and their presence was missed. The provincial council also missed the presence of 128 deceased members. The legacy of these members was recognized and remembered at gatherings.

It was interesting to note from one report that one council made a quilt depicting the Beatitudes. One beatitude was reflected upon at each meeting. Several councils reported initiating a Facebook page, Halifax-Yarmouth Diocesan Council created a website, and Antigonish Diocesan Council planned to create a website in 2016. Reports noted that websites and social media were effective communication tools. Members were also sensitive to the needs of those who did not have access to computers.

At the beginning of my tenure as provincial president, a vision was established by each standing committee chairperson and compiled into a working document. The document was reviewed in November and much was accomplished. Through the dedication
and devotion of each provincial executive member, who in turn was supported by diocesan and parish council members, the vision and mission was an important aspect of League work, guided by the inspiration of the national theme, One Heart, One Voice, One Mission.

Pauline Krupa
Ontario Provincial Council President

The emphasis in 2015 was on the culmination of social justice projects. Councils continued supporting local organizations in need of financial support and those requiring more basic needs such as food and clothing. Others made time to journey with individuals for any number of reasons, be it spiritual, emotional or physical. Two specific projects caught the attention of some members, the “Sisterhood Project” in Sudbury and a prayer poster in the Diocese of Pembroke. The “Sisterhood Project” was instituted by one parish to help patients and the families of patients who were in the regional hospital for extended stays and far away from their homes and support networks. Members spent time with them and supported them in varied ways. The prayer poster in Pembroke was produced to encourage members to pray for the six men in its seminary. The poster was placed in each parish as a reminder of the prayerful support these young men need every day.

Membership continued to be a concern for all councils. To that end, membership drives included sending out “missing you” letters to those who had not renewed, acting as membership angels and offering training programs to encourage new members. St. Catharines Diocesan Council celebrated the reactivation of St. Joseph Parish Council in Grimsby, and Toronto Diocesan Council welcomed the newly formed parish council St. John XXIII Parish Council in North York.
Spring was the time for the 13 diocesan councils to gather in convention. Emphasis was placed on the stigma attached to mental illness (Resolution ON.13.01 Reduce the Stigma Attached to Mental Illness), the needs of First Nations peoples, especially youth (Resolution ON.14.02 Feathers of Hope - Empowering First Nations Youth), Resolution ON.11.02 Limit the Sodium in our Food, palliative and hospice care, Catholic education, the Year of Consecrated Life and the 14th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the Family. Many included S’Mores modules as part of their League development during convention. Each was spiritually rewarding for participants.

June saw the delegation to the provincial government at Queen’s Park for a day of networking and idea sharing. The launch of a new health and physical education curriculum by the government proved to be of concern to members. Under the guidance of the provincial bishops, members were encouraged to study the revised curriculum, so as to better understand it and its impact on Catholic education.

With the Supreme Court of Canada’s Carter v. Canada ruling in July, members became educated on issues surrounding physician-assisted dying. Forums, symposiums, workshops, speakers series and webcasts were used to keep members informed. Letter-writing campaigns and meetings with members of parliament became the norm.

Technologically, councils have initiated “e-blasts” to inform members of happenings, monthly meetings and special events. Provincial council used teleconferencing more frequently. Standing committee chairpersons met with their counterparts more frequently, and some diocesan executives held meetings using teleconferencing to overcome the time and financial impact of long distance travel. The provincial website and Facebook page continued to be popular. Subscriptions to the ON-Line Newsletter increased and the new format of the Trillium News and Views newsletter was a breath of fresh air.
July saw a new slate of officers elected at the provincial convention in Niagara Falls. The inaugural Social Justice Award was presented to Colleen Martin from Thunder Bay Diocesan Council in recognition of her passion and work for equality of First Nations youth. Colleen was a co-founder of the Mikinakoos Children’s Fund that addresses child poverty on remote reserves. Five resolutions were adopted and sent to the national resolutions committee for consideration, and three of these were adopted at the 95th annual national convention. Another was sent to the provincial councils, encouraging them to become aware of the issue.

The national theme *One Heart, One Voice, One Mission*, combined with the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, was the stimulus for the provincial project introduced at the post-convention executive meeting. Each of the 13 diocesan councils chose a blessed proclaimed by Pope Francis to study and emulate for the year. The good works of councils did not change, the colour and shape of the umbrella did. Included in the good works shared was time spent learning about beatification and the road to sainthood, creating prayer cards and information pamphlets on a chosen blessed, participating in prayer services in honour of the chosen blessed in the hopes that he/she may be canonized, understanding the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, and completing at least one activity for each of the works of mercy.

In a similar vein, provincial standing committee chairpersons and officers focused on one of the beatitudes by relating it to a chosen saint canonized by Pope Francis. Their focus was to demonstrate how members’ activities dovetailed with the chosen beatitude and the lives of the chosen saints, imitating the care and kindnesses shown to the elderly, abandoned and vulnerable, and supporting ways to welcome the stranger, feed the hungry, care for the sick and dying, evangelize and spread the good news of the gospel.

Members took to heart the need to support refugee families coming to Ontario. Councils provided financial support, hosted clothing and household drives to outfit families and their new homes and made themselves available to help in as many ways as needed.
Some held baby showers for expectant mothers. Groups went on shopping trips and gave cooking demonstrations to help women adjust to their new lifestyle. Nearly 100 years ago, the League came into being because of the need for women to support immigrant families. The League has come full circle.

Members in Ontario lived Mother Theresa’s words, “Kind words [and deeds] can be short and easy to speak [do], but their echoes are truly endless.”

Louise Doiron  
Prince Edward Island Provincial Council President

The annual reports submitted by council presidents outlined many interesting, rewarding projects and activities completed by members within their parishes and communities “For God and Canada.” In my last report as provincial president, I will summarize these accomplishments. It clearly shows that members understood the meaning of the theme One Heart, One Voice, One Mission.

The 2,064 paid members benefitted from individual and collective spiritual development programs. At monthly meetings, there was the opportunity to share spiritual thoughts, as meetings began sometimes with mass and ended with prayer. Prayers were offered for deceased members, prayer lines were organized in councils, and the rosary was said during the months of May and October, and also before weekday masses. Other events participated in were a mass on the Feast Day of Our Lady of Good Counsel, a memorial mass in November, a rosary and pilgrimage for the Canadian Martyrs, a daily rosary for the abortion issue, a Friday mass followed by reciting the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction, a special holy hour at church
in prayerful support of the XIV Ordinary Synod of Bishops (on the family), a celebration of the beginning of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy on December 8th with overnight adoration, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity services, World Day of Prayer, Mary’s Way of the Cross during Lent, Theology of the Body and mini-retreats. Some members belonged to a weekly prayer group. Councils supported mass for shut-ins that helped many people share in the celebration of Eucharist during the week. Some members took part in discussing Pope Francis’s encyclical Laudato Si’.

As membership declined due to the deaths of senior members (49 this year), the provincial council was faced with many challenges. With members getting older, the future of councils was of great concern. There was difficulty in filling leadership positions. Councils worked hard to recruit new and younger members. Seven parish councils reported an increase in membership. Personal invitation seemed to be the most effective method. Membership dues were collected through church envelopes, personal contact, telephone calls, notices in bulletins and monthly meetings. Some councils payed dues for members over a certain age and those in nursing homes. Members participated on CWL Membership Sunday by serving as hospitality ushers, lectors, Eucharistic ministers and singing in the choir. During this weekend, members spoke on what the League was and why it was a great organization. Parish priests supported the League by acting as spiritual advisors and attending monthly meetings.

Councils wished to be kept informed on key issues. The provincial focus this year was on seniors and their concerns. Two parish councils hosted fall conferences, St. Paul Parish Council (Summerside) and St. Joachim Parish Council (Vernon River). They provided members with an opportunity to grow in holiness, fellowship and League development. Being the Year of Consecrated Life, a Congrégation de Notre-Dame sister was asked to speak on her life journey and what life was like in retirement. Members enjoyed listening to her speak; she was once was spiritual advisor for St. Paul Parish Council. In Vernon River, a sister from
the Sisters of St. Martha recalled many interesting and humorous events in her life journey.

At both conferences, a provincial executive member gave an account of her involvement with seniors. A workshop was held for each group of chairpersons, with the provincial chairperson explaining how to write annual reports following the Constitution & Bylaws. The executive director of the Catholic Family Services Bureau spoke to the membership on the Triple P Parenting Program and offered it to anyone who wished to use it. The provincial past president spoke on the issues concerning euthanasia and what members could do. In Vernon River, a grand knight from the Knights of Columbus spoke on how his council was able to increase membership and gave members tips they could use in their own councils to get more members.

The annual provincial convention was well attended. The day began with mass and prayer followed by two main speakers who focused on the national theme. A speaker from the Catholic Family Services Bureau spoke on how music therapy helps quiet, withdrawn clients to converse more easily with other people and feel more comfortable in their surroundings. The convention provided time for spiritual enrichment, open discussion and opportunity to renew friendships and make new ones. Attendees enjoyed watching life members perform their “Sister Act”.

The four area meetings allowed for networking with sister members and opportunities for sharing, which provided encouragement to continue the good works in councils.

Members remained active in all areas of parish life. They served on committees and parish councils, and as hospice volunteers, Eucharistic and hospitality ministers. They were lectors and gift bearers, sang in choirs and brought communion to the sick in hospitals. They provided assistance for luncheons after funerals, priest zone meetings and Knights of Columbus fundraising dinners. They prepared and served a meal twice for patrons of the Upper Room. Gifts were given to first communicants and confirmation candidates. Financial support was provided for refugees. One
council adopted a community care home where members visited regularly to help seniors with activities. This same council baked sweets on the last Sunday of the month for the local soup kitchen. Members visited seniors in their homes and manors and brought spiritual Christmas cards.

Members respected life from conception until natural death. They supported the PEI Right to Life Association through membership and taking part in the annual March for Life and silent vigil. Many signed a petition requesting no abortions be carried out in the province. Members also wrote letters to politicians opposing the government’s program of paying for abortions in Moncton, New Brunswick. Members wrote letters to federal and provincial politicians expressing their views against physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia. Birthright International was supported by volunteers and financially. Some members were part of a group working to eradicate poverty. Other members supported the Catholic Family Services Bureau by participating in its fundraising efforts and attending its annual meeting.

Members generously shared financially in their own communities and the world. They gave to their local hospitals, IWK Health Centre, Hospice Palliative Care Association of PEI, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Food Banks Canada, Canadian Cancer Society, the PEI Catholic Women’s League Girls Bursary, bursaries for college and university graduates, Coady International Institute, Catholic Missions In Canada, Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, Velma’s Dream and to Fr. Roy Shea’s project, to name a few.

The provincial council brought greetings to a parish council celebrating its 90th anniversary. Members were encouraged to read *The Canadian League* magazine, and access *Be League* online and take a copy to their meetings to share with those who do not use the Internet. Councils were asked to submit items to *Be League* highlighting special activities in their councils.

Pope Francis declared the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. Parish councils received a pamphlet from national office asking members
to support palliative and hospice care in their communities through spiritual and corporal acts of mercy, personal encounter and prayer. Councils made use of their pledge cards. For example, a council donated hand made pillows to breast cancer patients.

The provincial council prepared a biannual newsletter and triannual communiqués to assist parish councils in learning more about current issues and what was happening in other councils. The practise of calling parish council presidents to find out if they were receiving all the necessary information for their councils seemed to be very much appreciated. This contact also gave presidents a chance to clarify any concerns they had. *The Canadian League* continued to keep councils informed on national issues.

The first presidents’ meeting, hosted in Belcourt, provided a rare opportunity for presidents to talk with other presidents and share openly their success stories and concerns. It was hoped that this event, if monies permit, would be able to happen every second year.

As my term as provincial president comes to an end, I want to thank Fr. Paul Batchilder, the provincial executive and all sister members for their prayers and support. May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to bless members of Prince Edward Island with the giftedness of generosity that they share so freely.

Ingrid Lefort
Quebec Provincial Council President

Councils were invited to use the online reporting system as much as possible in order to transition to a new method of reporting. Some found this an enjoyable experience; others preferred using both methods and some continued with the standard method of reporting. In order to fully experience this change, the provincial executive also did its
reporting differently, though not online. It was discovered that when a new process is trusted, it can be surprising what is revealed.

Once having consulted the statistics report summary of the parishes, the main issues of concern in councils were physician-assisted dying, pornography and the refugee crisis. The main priorities identified were membership and maintaining councils, prayer and helping others.

When I looked at the main issues and priorities, one positive element I observed was the sense of joy and pride I felt that so many Catholic women stepped forward to serve the church and the world.

One challenging element I observed was the concern for maintaining councils and membership that needed to be tackled with simplicity and, more often than not, a leap of faith. It was hoped that this would bring about some concrete action or pilot projects in the future.

Provincial officers were asked, “What was at the heart of your mission as a provincial officer this past year?” This year, the heart of my mission was to strengthen the provincial council’s work as an executive team. I also tried to give both support and encouragement to the provincial chairperson of organization, along with the rest of the executive, so that it might have three different provincial workshops to offer this year.

When asked to name one thing that each provincial officer discovered or that they wished to share, particularly of use for the future, it seemed the executive focused on strengthening members through training and fellowship. In future, the provincial council would be called to go one step further and become missionary as sisters with non-members in the future (building new partnerships).

Many members and leaders in the province at different levels attended the 95th annual national convention in Vancouver. There were many fruits from the spiritual nourishment received through the keynote speakers and other content -- at many meetings since then, someone will reference what was learned from these gospel
witnesses. As a provincial executive, part of the decision making was inspired by the concepts learned. It is with a sense of gratitude that we look back at the accomplishments of the previous year, all while looking ahead to the work to be done.

The theme *One Heart, One Voice, One Mission* really said what the League was all about! Members worked together as one for God, their homes, parishes, communities and Canada. 2015 was an exceptional year for Saskatchewan Provincial Council. All three diocesan councils had increases in membership. The total membership in each diocese was 908 for Prince Albert, 3,277 for Regina and 2,751 for Saskatoon, totaling 6,936 for the province.

The League must not let its membership numbers shrink. It is an organization worth fighting for, worth spreading the news about its good works. Sometimes, I think the League is the best kept secret in the province. For the members who worked so hard on recruiting new members and making sure people renewed their memberships as well—a pat on the back. “Well done, good and faithful servants.”

The provincial executive worked diligently, passing information on from national chairpersons to their diocesan counterparts. At the fall meeting where provincial and diocesan executives attended to formulate objectives for the year, a S’Mores workshop was presented by Regina Diocesan Chairperson of Communications Yvonne Bachelu and Regina Diocesan Chairperson of Spiritual Development Janette Rieger (provincial secretary as well).
During the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy designated by Pope Francis, the provincial council had the chance to practise various mercies. Due to the forest fire in the summer, four major cities overflowed with over 13,000 people from the north fleeing smoke and fire. Many returned to ashes, no home and, for some, no community. Others were more fortunate. It was a time for one and all to work together to help those in need.

New Canadians from Syria arrived, and everything for them was new. However, as usual, they were welcomed with open arms.

The Social Justice Award of $1,000 was presented to Melanie Fauchoux, a League member herself. I would like to thank Life Member Mary Nordick for the “behind the scenes work” she did in organizing this award.

What a joy it was for me to visit various parish councils as they celebrated anniversaries: the 50th anniversary of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Council (Fort Qu’Appelle); the 60th anniversary of St. Louis Parish Council (St. Louis); the 90th anniversary of St. Paul’s Co-Cathedral Parish Council (Saskatoon); and the 75th anniversary of St. Mary Parish Council (Macklin). I also attended the Sisters’ Legacy Monument Unveiling and Mass in Wascana, Regina.

At the annual provincial convention in Regina, a Bellelle Guerin Award was presented to Marlene Schnell of Holy Trinity Parish Council (Regina) by National President Barbara Dowding. To make this event even more meaningful, Marlene’s three daughters joined the League that evening and received pins from their mother. This was a wonderful and educational year for me during my first term as provincial president.
In The Catholic Women’s League of Canada, life membership gives to the recipient, in addition to the honour, a permanent place on the national council, the same voting privileges as accredited delegates at an annual meeting or convention (C&B, Part XV, Section 2(c)), a voice in its affairs and eligibility for a national appointment. Privilege entails responsibility as national council expects support and service from its life members. Life members are expected to maintain their memberships by paying annual per capita fees through their parish councils and to provide research, present workshops, and actively respond to requests made to them by national, provincial and diocesan councils.

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<td>Toosje Van de Sande</td>
<td>Nova Scotia Provincial Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Van Meeuwen</td>
<td>Peterborough Diocesan Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wilma Vanderzwaag</td>
<td>St. Catharines Diocesan Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandra Wieckowski</td>
<td>Thunder Bay Diocesan Council</td>
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The Prince Edward Island Provincial Council invites League members from across Canada to attend the 97th Annual National Convention of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada August 6-9, 2017 in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island