



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

MEMO

DATE: September 11, 2017

FROM: Janet McLean, National Secretary-Treasurer

TO: All members

ALL ABOARD FOR THE 2018 ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

You read it correctly - All Aboard! The 2018 100th anniversary project is an invitation to travel by train to the annual national convention in Winnipeg, Manitoba, August 12-15, 2018. Imagine how much fun it would be travelling to or from the convention, just as members did during the first 40-50 years of the League's existence. VIA Rail will never be the same!

A trip on The Canadian, VIA's legendary transcontinental train travelling between Toronto and Vancouver, is something Canadians should experience. Service is also offered from the Maritimes and throughout the corridor, between Quebec City and Windsor, to Toronto making it accessible to many members.

Choose to travel one way or return. The Canadian (train #1) leaves Toronto, Ontario, on Thursday, August 9th at 10:00 p.m. and arrives in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on Saturday, August 11th at 8:00 a.m. Eastbound, the train leaves Winnipeg, Manitoba, on Thursday, August 16th at 10:30 p.m. and arrives in Toronto, Ontario, on Saturday, August 18th at 9:30 a.m.

Coming from the west? The Canadian (train #2) leaves Vancouver, British Columbia, on Tuesday, August 7th at 8:30 p.m. and arrives in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on Thursday, August 9th at 8:45 p.m. Westbound, the train leaves Winnipeg, Manitoba, on Thursday, August 16th at 11:45 a.m. and arrives in Vancouver, British Columbia, on Saturday, August 18th at 9:42 a.m.

The League has been given the discount code 13562 by VIA, offering a 10% discount off the best available fare in economy, economy plus, business, business plus and sleeper class. This discount is valid for travel between August 7th and August 17th, 2018 from all stations throughout the VIA system to and from Winnipeg. The fare applies to a maximum of two passengers per booking; one complimentary stopover is allowed at no additional charge.

More information is available on VIA's website (viarail.ca) including descriptions of available accommodations on The Canadian: economy and sleeper class upper and lower berths, single rooms and bedrooms for two. Sleeper class fares include all meals cooked by a chef on board the train. With economy class fares, meals are available for purchase in the activity car or food may be brought on board.

Several important points to know about train travel before booking:

1. VIA Rail travels on Canadian National Railway's tracks, where freight trains are given priority. Down time is included in the schedule, however, trains can be late due to unforeseen circumstances.
2. You need to be mobile to travel by train as it can move quickly and with a swaying motion.
3. Upper berths or bedroom bunks require you to climb a ladder to/from the berth/bunk while the train is moving.
4. If you can't live without the Internet or access to cell service while on board, then you may have a problem. Internet service is not available on the train and cell phone service is only available at certain station stops.
5. Book early to get the best price and accommodation as summer is peak season. Tickets may be purchased up to 11 months in advance, which means tickets for August can be purchased starting in late September.
6. Take the train if you want to meet people from around the world, see Canada from a whole new perspective, relax and let go of stress.

To book online, log into your profile or create one prior to booking. On the passenger information screen, select convention fare from the discount type drop-down menu. Enter the convention discount code (13562) in the discount code field. The conference fare will be shown on the next page. Travel may also be booked by calling VIA at 1-888-842-7245. Remember to provide the discount code to the booking agent.

If you have any questions about travelling to the 2018 national convention by train, I will be happy to help you and can be reached at cwlconventiontrain@gmail.com.

ALL ABOARD!



Janet McLean