



# THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Toronto, Ontario—February 17, 2018—The national executive of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, with over 80,000 members across the country, met February 15-17<sup>th</sup> for its annual winter executive meeting. Every Canadian province and territory was represented as various committees met to discuss matters important to Catholic women and their families.

The increasing marginalization of the Catholic voice and the rights of Catholics to live their beliefs and hold their convictions was a prominent theme during the meetings. Among other matters, the national executive agreed to write a letter to the prime minister of Canada expressing members' concern about the attestation requirement of the 2018 Canada Summer Jobs Program. The attestation affects not only Catholic charities and non-profits, it affects devout Catholics, and non-Catholics with similar beliefs, who contribute to the economy by providing temporary jobs through their own independent businesses. All Catholics, regardless of their choice of vocation, should be eligible to apply and receive funding from the federal government without being asked to compromise or deny their beliefs.

Another primary focus of the weekend was a continuation of long-term strategic development. After extensive consultation with representation from within the CWL, the national executive was presented with draft strategies that support the long term vision of the League. With the blessing of the national executive, the steering committee will be making consultative visits at all diocesan conventions to affirm the direction that will be undertaken, prior to presenting a five-year strategy plan in August 2018.

The national executive is pleased to affirm that life membership will be bestowed on Ruth Boden of Hay River, Northwest Territories; Marjorie d'Entremont of Bathurst, New Brunswick; Mary Dobbelsteyn of Fredericton, New Brunswick; Joanne Hough of Lindsay, Ontario; Joyce LeBlanc of Galloway, New Brunswick; Judy Look of Calgary, Alberta; Lynn Olenik and Genevieve Sexton of Geraldton, Ontario; Stephanie Spinelle of Smiths Falls, Ontario; and Sharon St. Jean of Ashton, Ontario. The national executive applauds the service they have given to the League and their commitment to continue to serve.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.cwl.ca/>

### ***About the Catholic Women's League of Canada***

The Catholic Women's League of Canada, founded in 1920, is one of the largest organizations of women in Canada with in excess of 89,000 members represented in every province and territory and in the military. The League is organized and pledged to serve all citizens and has often received the commendation and keen appreciation of federal, provincial and municipal authorities for the voluntary services ably performed by its nationwide membership.