



# The Catholic Women's League of Canada

## MEMO

**DATE:** Oct 5, 2017

**FROM:** Anne-Marie Gorman, national president-elect and chairperson of organization

**TO:** Parish presidents

**CC:** Diocesan presidents, provincial presidents, life members (on request)

### **The Process of Planning Strategically for the next five to ten years: The Possibilities**

The League has embarked on an exciting process to respond to the present and future needs of the organization. Everyone should have either been involved with the topic through the town hall sessions held at the 97<sup>th</sup> annual national convention (on site or remotely via technology), or have begun to be educated through their diocesan and provincial executives. The following is a brief list of points of which you will become aware:

- The League commissioned two reports (2000 and 2008) that pointed to the need for changes in the organization
- Fall 2016: serious discussions began regarding implementation of the two reports, whose content is still relevant today (National President Margaret Ann Jacobs, National Past President Barbara Dowding, National Spiritual Advisor Bishop William McGrattan and myself)
- Winter 2017: presentation of Terms of Reference for a steering committee to the national board (executive) which were unanimously approved
- Appointment of four additional members to the committee that would carry the process to various levels of the League as it moved forward (Honorary Life Member Danielle McNeil-Hessian, Ontario Past President Pauline Krupa, Quebec Past President Ingrid Lefort and Vancouver Diocesan Past President Roxanne McDonald)
- August 2017: workshop on the process of planning strategically facilitated by Donna Dunn of Tecker International, for the national board and the steering committee
- August 2017: town hall sessions were held at the 97<sup>th</sup> annual national convention, facilitated by Donna Dunn, where convention and remote registrants across Canada participated in answering key questions. Two steering committee members, Pauline Krupa and Ingrid Lefort, along with Donna Dunn, collated the answers (with the help of technology) and found three strands that were presented the following day:
  - 1) What we are most proud of
  - 2) What we would like the League to stop
  - 3) What our vision of a League of the future is

- Presentations were also made at convention the following day by the entire steering committee, with the results of the previous day's town hall
- Fall 2017: Members of the steering committee will facilitate workshops on the process with each provincial executive; a member of each provincial executive will be recommended to liaise with the steering committee going forward
  - All information from provincial workshops will be collated and added to the body of information collected to date
  - Fall 2017: Steering committee meets to finalize the critical issues determined by the provincial executives in preparation for a discussion at the fall 2017 national executive meeting: At the national board meeting, develop a vision for the League using the critical issues approach
  - Winter 2018: A first draft of a strategic plan would be presented to the national board at its winter meeting, and make revisions as required
  - Spring 2018: Second draft is reviewed by diocesan/provincial executives at pre-convention executive meetings. One member from each diocesan executive, where applicable, will be selected to lead and promote the planning initiatives going forward
- NOTE: Nothing will be completed without the support of the national board at every step of the process; i.e., members will give input at each stage
- August 2018: Final draft of strategic plan will be presented to the board at the pre-convention executive meeting for approval, including Terms of Reference for implementation committee that will include timelines and task forces to address each critical issue in the plan; and present a plan for monitoring, evaluating and updating the plan
  - August 2018: Present a formal presentation of the approved plan at the 98<sup>th</sup> annual national convention in Winnipeg

This is a good deal to digest, but with only one chance to present this brief timeline, I want to provide as much information as possible without overwhelming you. Please note that Barbara Dowding has written an all-encompassing article for the fall issue of *The Canadian League*, a must-read for all members, in order to provide a background and a place from which you may wish to ask questions of diocesan and provincial executives in your respective provinces.

May God grant us the wisdom and strength to follow through with this endeavour, and may the Holy Spirit and Our Lady of Good Counsel guide us through the process, enlightening our minds and hearts to what is good "For God and Canada", as women respond to God's call.

Blessings on your year.



Anne-Marie Gorman  
National President-elect and Organization Chairperson