



# The Catholic Women's League of Canada

## MEMO

**DATE:** March 26, 2018

**FROM:** Betty Colaneri, national chairperson of community life

**TO:** Parish council chairpersons of community life

**CC:** Parish council presidents, diocesan presidents, provincial presidents and life members (on request)

The season of Lent is the perfect time to reflect on Jesus' footsteps and walk with him on the terribly difficult journey to His cross and resurrection. Our own crosses may seem too heavy to bear at times, but with God's grace and love we can pick them up and follow Jesus. Along that same journey members may realize they have been given the grace to help the less fortunate and marginalized. You don't have to look very far to see the victims of homelessness and abandonment. In the words of Pope Francis, "It is a good occasion to see his face in the face of a suffering brother or sister." Often these unfortunate situations can lead to human trafficking.

### **What is human trafficking?**

Human trafficking, a crime and human rights abuse through sex trafficking, forced marriages and labour exploitation, affects people worldwide and is considered one of the fastest growing sectors of organized crime. Not to be confused with human smuggling which would involve crossing the border, it most often occurs with girls or women who are citizens or permanent residents. The national website has a link to the Government of Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services helpline which provides information to learn more about human trafficking and ways to stop it. Additional information may be found at the [thetraffickedhuman.org](http://thetraffickedhuman.org).

### **Prayer for an End to Human Trafficking**

"God of freedom, beauty and truth, we believe that Your deepest desire, your most powerful energy, is that all creation might know abundant life. We raise our voices in anguished prayer for our sisters and brothers, women and girls, men and boys, who are modern-day slaves. They are Your beloved daughters and sons, exploited sexually and forced to work because of human violence and greed. Fill us with Your holy anger and Your sacred passion that those who are trafficked might know healing and justice, that traffickers will come to repentance and conversion; that all of us might live in such a way that others are not made to pay the price for our comfort and convenience. Hasten the coming of day when all people and our precious Earth itself will be treated not as a commodity, but as radiant images of Your freedom, beauty, and truth. Amen. May it be so" (Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, Convent Station, New Jersey).

### **Canada Summer Jobs Program**

In order to receive funding from the Canada Summer Jobs 2018 program, the federal government made it a requirement of eligibility that citizens must attest to values not in keeping with Catholic teaching, thereby discriminating against many Canadian citizens and faith teachings. In response, a letter was written by National President Margaret Ann Jacobs to the prime minister of Canada which may be viewed on the national website. Additional information may be found in community life communique #7 also available on the website. Encourage members to send letters to the prime minister and the minister of employment, workforce development and labour. Letters may be sent postage free using the address: House of Commons, Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6.

### **Dignity and Rights of Persons**

On January 23, 2018, the minister of Indigenous services announced that “the Department of Indigenous Services Canada will add close to 250 drinking water systems to the total number covered by the federal government’s commitment to ensure clean drinking water on public systems on reserve. As a result, the federal government will provide financial support to end 24 additional long-term drinking water advisories by March 2021. This brings the total number of long-term drinking water advisories that remain on public systems on reserve to 91 as of January 23, 2018.”

On February 20, 2018, Indigenous Services Canada announced that “... the Honourable Jane Philpott, Minister of Indigenous Services, joined Grand Chief Rupert Meneen of Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta to celebrate the official grand opening of the Nations of Treaty 8 Urban Child and Family Services Office in Edmonton. The Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta designed the concept of an urban office as an approach to provide prevention and early intervention services to children and families on reserve....The federal government is investing approximately \$4.2 million in funding to support the Nations of Treaty 8 Urban Child and Family Services Office.”

“Love, overflowing with small gestures of mutual care, is also civic and political, and it makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world” (*Laudato Si*).

May Our Risen Lord bless you and your families as you share in the joy of Easter!

Betty Colaneri  
National Chairperson of Community Life