



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

MEMO

DATE: October 3, 2022
FROM: Faith Anderson, national chairperson of community life
TO: Parish chairpersons of community life
CC: Parish presidents, diocesan presidents, provincial presidents and life members (on request)
ATT: Food Bank Project Report

“We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty. We must start in our own homes to remedy this kind of poverty” (Saint Mother Theresa).

Food Bank Project

The Food Bank Project culminated in June 2022. Councils and members can be proud of their contributions which boosted and supported the many food banks across Canada. Please share the attached final report with your members.

National Truth and Reconciliation

Pope Francis' visit to Canada to apologize to Indigenous peoples was historical, and the path to truth and reconciliation is ongoing. Councils are encouraged to learn more about his visit by continuing to be informed and educated on the healing process that took place. Searching the Internet for “Pope Francis' Visit to Canada” will produce many short videos that councils can use. National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is held each year on September 30th. Hopefully, councils took action to recognize this day, embracing the healing process with Indigenous peoples in Canada. Planning ahead for next year is encouraged.

Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA)

CNEWA recently welcomed a new national director, Dr. Adriana Bara, to its organization. Prior to her appointment, Dr. Bara directed the Canadian Centre for Ecumenism in Montreal, a registered charity founded in 1963.

CNEWA is a national voluntary fund through which members support two projects in the Holy Land. In 2022, \$15,000 US is needed to support the **Infant Welfare Centre** in Jerusalem and \$20,000 for **Shepherd's Field Hospital** in Beit Sahour. Please order the CNEWA brochure (#350) for members, as it contains additional information on both projects.

Development and Peace—Caritas Canada (D&P), by Mary Nordick

As the world slowly emerges from the global COVID-19 pandemic and strives to cope with the ever-increasing problems caused by climate change, the work of D&P is needed more than ever. Its commitment to work in solidarity with developing countries, to enter into partnerships rather than coming in with projects, and to educate Canadians about global needs for justice and peace, provides true hope in an often-dark world. D&P provides humanitarian relief when war or natural disasters occur, for example, the war in Ukraine, sub-Saharan drought and famine in Africa and flooding in India. Such help is possible through generous support in Canada. The League strongly supports D&P through the 1% Program commitment. If your council temporarily withdrew support for D&P during past concerns from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, now is the time to renew that support. Its 2022 fall campaign is a continuation of last year's *People and Planet First* campaign and calls for action at home and abroad. A new campaign will be rolled out in the New Year in time for Share Lent. Visit the D&P website (devp.org/en/) for more information.

The organization is celebrating 55 years of seeking justice and peace for all and recently appointed a new executive director, Carl Hetu, whom some of you may know from his work with CNEWA. After eight years, the projects supported by the 1% Program were reviewed and three projects in Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Niger and Burkina Faso were approved. A brochure (#352) outlining the projects is available on the national website (cwl.ca) and can be ordered from national office to share with members.

Implementation Committee Resources

#622 *Calendar of Social Justice/Catholic Social Teaching in the Church*

#624 *Catholic Social Teaching Resources*

#629 *Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers*

These documents are available on the national website (cwl.ca).

Domestic Violence in Canada

The federal government website reports, “Family violence is considered to be any form of abuse, mistreatment or neglect that a child or adult experiences from a family member, or from someone with whom they have an intimate relationship.” November is Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Canada. For further information on family violence, please refer to justice.gc.ca/eng/cj-jp/fv-vf/.

Look for a webinar on domestic (family) violence in November. The webinar will be open to everyone, so please share and promote the information when received.

Immigration and Refugees

The 2022-2024 Immigration Levels Plan of Canada aims to welcome from 360,000 to 445,000 new permanent residents in 2022, from 380,000 to 465,000 in 2023, and 390,000 to 475,000 in 2024. Newcomers are brought to Canada to drive economic growth and recovery. These newcomers may need support to adjust and be comfortable in their new way of life—source out ways in your community or diocese to see where there is a need.