

# THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

*103<sup>rd</sup> National Annual Meeting of Members Program &  
2022 Annual Report*



**CATHOLIC**  
and **LIVING IT!**



*August 13-15, 2023  
Saint John, New Brunswick*

# Mission Statement

The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.



*faith*

| *service*

| **SOCIAL  
JUSTICE**

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# Where is it? What time does it open?

## REGISTRATION, TICKETS Trade & Convention Centre: Lobby

Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday,  
August 15<sup>th</sup> 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

## RESOLUTIONS DIALOGUE Trade & Convention Centre: Marco Polo

Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup> 2:30 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

## PRAYER ROOM Trade & Convention Centre: Spencer 1

Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup> Noon–3:30 p.m.

Monday, August 14<sup>th</sup> –Tuesday,  
August 15<sup>th</sup> 6:30 a.m.–10:00 p.m.

## SECRETARIAT OFFICE Trade & Convention Centre: Lobby

Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday,  
August 16<sup>th</sup> 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

## Transportation Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Boarding</b>
Sunday, August 13 <sup>th</sup>	Trolley Tour	9:45 a.m.
	Opening Mass	5:15 p.m.
Tuesday, August 15 <sup>th</sup>	Closing Mass	4:00 p.m.

All buses depart from and return to the Hilton Saint John. Please meet at the bus loading area (entrance to the main lobby of the hotel).

# Photographs

## Monday, August 14<sup>th</sup>

10:30 a.m.

- Prince Edward Island
- Military Ordinariate

Noon

- Alberta Mackenzie
- Saskatchewan
- Manitoba
- Quebec

4:30 p.m.

- National Executive
- New Brunswick
- B.C. & Yukon

## Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>

10:00 a.m.

- Ontario
- Nova Scotia
- Newfoundland and Labrador

Noon

- Honorary Life Members
- Life Members
- New Life Members

Photographs will take place in the foyer of the Marco Polo room. The various life member and honorary life members photographs will take place at the applicable luncheons. A flash drive of all photographs will be available to order from the photographer for \$15.00.

# Greetings

## Most Rev. Christian Riesbeck Bishop of Saint John



It gives me great joy to welcome members of the Catholic Women's League to the Diocese of Saint John for the 103<sup>rd</sup> national annual meeting of members on August 13-15, 2023.

Led by the Holy Spirit through the gospel and the Eucharist, we are called to raise up disciples who are joyfully living out the mission, proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ and making disciples of others.

Through your many activities and ministries, members bear witness to the fact that as a body of Christ, we are called to be *Catholic and Living It!*

The League is a great blessing to the Canadian church. Through your mission of growing in faith and witnessing to the love of God through ministry and service, members form a strong Catholic presence that not only supports parishes but also the wider community. Here in New Brunswick, despite the many challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, League members throughout the diocese found creative ways to serve and build up the kingdom of God these past few years. Some of these projects included acts of mercy in the community, support of local pro-life ministries, providing bursaries to high school graduates, ministry to the disabled, seniors and widowed through cards of encouragement, telephone calls, Meals on Wheels and other faith and outreach activities.

On behalf of the Diocese of Saint John, it is my great privilege to extend a heartfelt welcome to the League for your annual meeting. May God continue to bless you as you work together to enrich the church in Canada.

## Madonna Clark New Brunswick Provincial President



As New Brunswick Provincial Council president, I am delighted to welcome you to my home province and Saint John, the oldest incorporated city in Canada, also referred to as the “Port City,” a port of call to ships from across the world.

The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and Bishop’s Palace on Waterloo Street are designated as Local Historic Places for their significant historical and religious ties to the early Irish Catholic immigrants and for their architectural value. The city quickly grew, with the largest influx of immigrants occurring during the Irish famine of the 1840s, adding “Canada’s most Irish City” to its list of names.

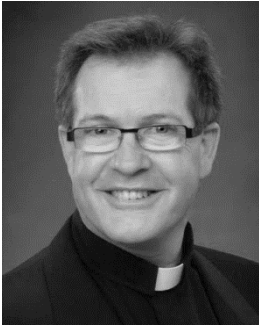
Located on the Atlantic Coast and nestled on the Bay of Fundy along the Saint John River, Saint John is an oasis of lakes, rivers, ocean beaches, forests, trails, heritage buildings and modern conveniences.

New Brunswick Provincial Council is excited to host the 103<sup>rd</sup> national annual meeting of members. The planning committee of many hands has spent hours preparing and looks forward to you reaping the benefits. I hope this get-together will be a joyous event for you, a time to renew old friendships and make new friendships—cherish each moment.

To quote a line from the *Catholic and Living It!* Prayer, “Through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel may we be joyful and responsive to our Christian calling by truly being Catholic and Living It.”

Blessings as we journey together.

**Fr. David Fulton**  
**New Brunswick Provincial Spiritual Advisor**



Welcome and greetings to delegates from across Canada to the annual national meeting of members in Saint John, New Brunswick. I hope and pray that much can be discussed and achieved during our time together.

Saint John, Canada’s oldest incorporated city, is a beautiful port city. As time will allow, I encourage you to relax and see the many interesting sites.

Thank you for your participation and remember you are always welcome to come back again.

**Fran Lucas**  
**National President and Chairperson of International Relations**



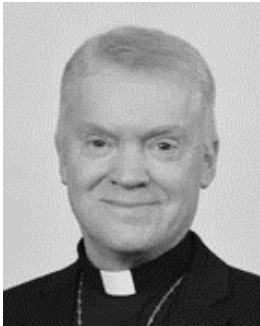
What a difference a year makes! 2023 is seeing a resurgence of meetings, conventions and council projects. Gatherings of various sorts are flourishing, and members are exhibiting great hope for what’s to come. As I travel the country attending conventions, it is clear that members are showing an even greater strengthening by coming together and voicing their love of the League.

It is with great joy that I welcome all of you to this national annual meeting of members. Saint John Catholic Women’s League members have been working tirelessly to ensure this first-ever in-person national annual meeting of members is all it should be. The spiritual time, reports and fellowship will fill us with so much of what we seek to sustain our continued service and draw energy to work towards a stronger new League.



As we celebrate the 103<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada, may God continue to bless us with a deep spiritual life filled with good works to build up all our lives by being *Catholic and Living It!*

**Most Rev. Stephen Jensen**  
**Bishop of Prince George**  
**National Spiritual Advisor**



We have come to one of the most historic cities in Canada for this year’s national annual meeting of members. To the rich story of Saint John and New Brunswick, we add the history of the Catholic Women’s League. Both stories reflect the initiative and courage of the pioneers who established these two communities.

Knowing our history orients us toward the future and gives us the confidence to continue the work that others began long ago. The vision that inspired the founders of the League, springing from the gospel, is a firm foundation for the ongoing renewal that is underway through the implementation of the strategic plan. The practical suggestions that have emerged from the working groups offer a framework for members at every level of the League to contribute to a stronger and more focused Catholic Women’s League in the service “For God and Canada.”

I welcome everyone to this meeting and ask Our Lady of Good Counsel to accompany us with her prayers and guide this event to bear abundant fruit.

# 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Meeting Program

(All events at the Hilton Saint John unless otherwise stated.)

## Sunday, August 13

- 10:00-12:00 p.m. Saint John Highlights Trolley Tour (ticket required)
- 2:30-4:00 p.m. Resolutions dialogue
- 6:30 p.m. Official opening, Eucharistic celebration and Opening Reception, Holy Redeemer Church (ticket required for transportation, buses leave at 5:15)

## Monday, August 14

- 8:30-10:30 a.m. Business sessions
- League prayer
  - Call to order
  - Opening remarks
  - Introductions
  - Notice calling meeting
  - Credentials report
  - Adoption of standing rules
  - Approval of agenda
  - Approval of previous minutes
  - Convention committees
  - Correspondence
  - Report of pre-convention meeting
  - Reports of provincial presidents
  - Announcements
- 10:30-11:00 a.m. Health Break
- 11:00-12:00 p.m. Eucharistic celebration
- 12:00-1:15 p.m. Grab 'N Go Lunch (ticket required)
- 1:30-1:45 p.m. Reconvening Prayer

- 1:45-2:45 p.m. Business Sessions
- Report of national president
  - Report of secretary-treasurer
  - Report of executive director
  - Review of resolutions process
  - Report of spiritual development
- 2:45-3:15 p.m. Health Break
- 3:15-4:15 p.m. Business Sessions
- Report of organization
  - Report of Christian family life
  - Report of community life
  - Announcements
- 4:15-4:30 p.m. Commissioning of Life Members
- 6:30 p.m. Little Country & Little Rock'n'Roll (ticket required)

## **Tuesday, August 15**

- 8:30-8:45 a.m. Morning Prayer
- 8:45-9:45 a.m. “The League of the Future: Year 5”
- 9:45-10:15 a.m. Health Break
- 10:15-11:30 a.m. Business Sessions
- Credentials report
  - Report of education and health
  - Report of communications
  - Report of resolutions
  - Report of legislation
  - Report of laws
  - Instructed vote on C&B
  - Announcements
  - Angelus and grace
- 11:30-11:45 a.m. Ceremony to Archive Resolutions and Position Papers

- 12:00-1:15 p.m. Life Members' Luncheon (ticket required)
- 12:00-1:15 p.m. Luncheon for Non-Life Members (ticket required)
- 1:30-1:40 p.m. Memorial for Deceased Members and Spiritual Advisors
- 1:40-2:30 p.m. Business Sessions
- 2024 convention committee
  - Report of international relations
  - Report of WUCWO representative
  - Report of national spiritual advisor
  - Announcement of new spiritual advisor
  - Announcement of new theme
  - Other business
  - Registration report
  - Announcements
- 2:30-3:15 p.m. Business Sessions
- Rite of elections
  - Closing prayer
  - Adjournment
- 5:00 p.m. Closing Eucharistic Celebration & Installation of Officers and Spiritual Advisor, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception (ticket required for transportation, buses leave at 4:00)
- 7:00 p.m. Gala Banquet

# Business Sessions Agenda

1. **League prayer:** Cathy Bouchard
2. **Call to order:** National President Fran Lucas
3. **Opening remarks:** Fran Lucas and National Spiritual Advisor Bishop Stephen Jensen
4. **Introductions:** Fran Lucas
5. **Notice calling meeting:** National Secretary-Treasurer Janet McLean
6. **Credentials report:** Chairperson of Registration Marilyn Smith
7. **Adoption of standing rules:** National Chairperson of Laws Anne-Marie Gorman
8. **Approval of agenda:** Fran Lucas
9. **Minutes of the 102<sup>nd</sup> annual national convention:** Janet McLean
10. **Convention committees:** Fran Lucas
  - a. **Registration and credentials:** Marilyn Smith and Ghislaine Wheaton
  - b. **Resolutions:** Fran Lucas, National President-Elect Shari Guinta, National Chairperson of Resolutions Rolande Chernichan, National Chairperson of Legislation Glenda Carson, Life Member Betsy Currier, Quebec Provincial Executive Member Susan Kaller
  - c. **Minutes review:** Janet McLean, Alberta Mackenzie Provincial President Mary Hunt, Ontario Provincial President Linda Squarzolo, Life Member Susan Bernier
  - d. **Elections review:** Anne-Marie Gorman, Honorary Life Member Margaret Ann Jacobs, Honorary Life Member Velma Harasen

11. **Correspondence:** Janet McLean
12. **Report of pre-convention meeting:** Janet McLean
13. **Reports of provincial presidents:**
  - a. **Alberta Mackenzie:** Mary Hunt
  - b. **B.C. & Yukon:** Catherine L'Heureux
  - c. **Manitoba:** Crystal Reiter
  - d. **Military Ordinariate:** Theresa Schopf
  - e. **New Brunswick:** Madonna Clark
  - f. **Newfoundland and Labrador:** Linda Corbett
  - g. **Nova Scotia:** Jessie Marie Parkinson
  - h. **Ontario:** Linda Squarzolo
  - i. **Prince Edward Island:** Karen Rossiter
  - j. **Quebec:** Alice Noble
  - k. **Saskatchewan:** Connie Crichton
14. **Report of national president:** Fran Lucas
15. **Report of national secretary-treasurer:** Janet McLean
16. **Report of executive director:** Kim Scammell
17. **Review of resolutions process:** Rolande Chernichan
18. **Reports of national chairpersons:**
  - **Spiritual development:** Cathy Bouchard
  - **Organization:** Shari Guinta
  - **Christian family life:** Dorothy Johansen
  - **Community life:** Faith Anderson
  - **Education and health:** Margaret Schwab

- **Communications:** Betty Colaneri
  - **Resolutions:** Rolande Chernichan
  - **Legislation:** Glenda Carson
  - **Laws:** Anne-Marie Gorman
19. **Instructed vote on *Constitution & Bylaws*:** Anne-Marie Gorman
  20. **Reports of national chairpersons (cont'd):**
    - **International Relations:** Fran Lucas
  21. **Report of WUCWO representative:** Honorary Life Member Barbara Dowding
  22. **Report of national spiritual advisor:** Bishop Stephen Jensen
  23. **Announcement of new national spiritual advisor:** Fran Lucas
  24. **Announcement of new theme:** Shari Guinta
  25. **Other business:** Fran Lucas
  26. **Registration report:** Marilyn Smith
  27. **Rite of elections:** Anne-Marie Gorman
  28. **Closing prayer:** Cathy Bouchard
  29. **Adjournment:** Fran Lucas

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**“For God and Canada!”**

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# Standing Rules of the 103<sup>rd</sup> National Annual Meeting of Members

## Registration

1. In person: Persons who receive an invitation letter to attend the annual meeting of members shall register by completing the required forms and returning them by reply mail to the national office. Upon arrival at the venue, they shall present themselves at the registration desk to receive their official registration nametag for admission to all meetings.

Virtual: Persons who do not receive an invitation letter to attend the annual meeting of members may listen to the proceedings of the annual meeting of members by registering online at the link provided on the national website, [cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca). Virtual attendees may not participate in the discussions and debates.

2. Registrants shall be classified as voting delegates [provincial presidents], accredited delegates [national officers, provincial accredited, diocesan accredited, honorary life members, life members], CWL members, spiritual advisors and guests.
3. The registration and credentials committee, at the beginning of the first business session of each day, shall provide a credentials report summarizing the number of voting members registered. When adopted, the credentials report shall be the official roll of voting members.

## Publicity

4. Official public statements of the national council shall be released by the national president or the national administrative committee only. Interviews about the work and policies of the CWL shall be at the discretion of the national president.
5. All publicity shall be under the supervision of the public relations and publicity chairperson in cooperation with the



national chairperson of communications. Registrants with news items are requested to submit them to the national chairperson of communications.

### Seating Arrangements

6. The business sessions shall have a designated area in which all voting members will be seated. All members are requested to be in their seats at least five (5) minutes before the scheduled sessions open.

### Debate

7. The mover of a motion, or her designate, may speak to open and close debate. No other member shall speak more than once on the same motion on the same day, or longer than three (3) minutes without permission of the assembly granted by a two-thirds vote without debate.
8. Those wishing to speak shall use the floor microphones, take a place in line and, upon being recognized by the chair, state name, status, diocese and province.
9. When time is of the essence, voting members shall be given priority to speak over non-voting members.

### Voting

10. Voting cards shall be issued to voting members and these cards shall be exhibited when a member votes.
11. The chair shall ask for affirmative and negative votes only. A voting member wishing her abstention to be recorded in the minutes shall request same before the vote is taken.

### Motions/Resolutions

12. Five (5) copies of substantive motions or amendments to resolutions shall be prepared in advance of the time of presentation to the assembly. Four (4) copies shall be submitted to the executive director and one (1) retained by the mover. Motions from the floor, without prior filing of the

written copy before approaching the microphone, will not be entertained.

13. Only resolutions submitted to the resolutions committee by provincial councils or national chairpersons by the deadline date set by the national chairperson of resolutions shall be considered for presentation.
14. Resolutions concerning urgent matters may be accepted after the deadline date and shall be presented at the discretion of the resolutions committee.
15. The procedure for presenting resolutions to the business sessions shall be:
  - i. the national chairperson of resolutions shall read the resolutions after the appropriate chairperson's report
  - ii. the president of the provincial council submitting the resolution shall move its adoption; if more than one provincial council has submitted the resolution, the provincial presidents concerned shall decide prior to the meeting who will move its adoption
  - iii. the president of the provincial council submitting the resolution, or her designate, shall speak first to the resolution
16. Final wording of titles and briefs shall be the responsibility of the resolutions committee.
17. Grammatical or minor changes to a resolution may not need to be formally amended but may be given to the resolutions committee prior to the resolution being presented to the assembly.
18. Adopted resolutions shall be printed in the fall issue of *The Canadian League* and posted to the website of The Catholic Women's League of Canada.

## Miscellaneous

19. Registrants shall refrain from photography and/or electronic recording of the proceedings. An official photographer has been appointed by the national president and copyright laws forbid the electronic recording of speeches or business sessions.
20. No materials shall be distributed, displayed or sold without the prior approval of the national administrative committee.
21. No appeals for support or collections of any kind shall be made unless a written request, clearly stating the purpose and identifying the persons making the request, is presented in advance to the national president and approved by the national executive.
22. Any motion adopted at the annual meeting of members shall become effective at the adjournment of the meeting unless an alternate time for the action to become effective has been stipulated in the motion.
23. Minutes:
  - i. The national president shall appoint a minutes review committee to verify the minutes of the annual meeting of members.
  - ii. The national executive shall approve the minutes of the annual meeting of members at its winter meeting. If corrections are necessary after approval, they may be made by motion at the next annual meeting of members/convention.
24. The national executive shall approve the audited financial statements at its winter meeting. These approved audited financial statements will be presented to the assembly by the national secretary-treasurer.

## Voting

- Provincial presidents shall have the power to vote on all questions.
- Accredited delegates may vote on any question except the election of officers, amendments to the *Constitution & Bylaws* and increases in per capita fees.
- A parliamentarian (advisor on procedure and rules) may be appointed for the annual meeting of members at the discretion of the national president.
- Non-voting members and spiritual advisors may speak at business sessions when recognized by the chairperson but shall not introduce motions or vote.



# National Elections Procedure

National elections are conducted in accordance with the *Constitution & Bylaws*, Part XVI, Section 5, and the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*.

1. Voting delegates shall be seated in a way that ensures balloting secrecy.
2. The election of officers is conducted within the context of a liturgical service and according to the “Rite on the Occasion of the Election of Officers” as outlined in the *Ceremonies Booklet*.
3. A complete slate of candidates shall be posted at the commencement of elections.
4. The president remains in the chair to preside over the annual meeting of members, which is still in session. At the request of the president, the chairperson of elections provides a brief overview of the elections procedure and introduces the candidates for office.
5. Prior to the commencement of the voting process, the executive director, acting as secretary of elections, shows each voting delegate her provincial executive’s nomination form.
6. Each voting delegate (presidents of each provincial council or their designate) carries an instructed ballot on the first ballot only. On the second through fourth ballots, where necessary, each voting delegate carrying an instructed vote exercises a free vote.
7. Any voting delegate not carrying an instructed vote forfeits her privilege to vote on any ballot for that office.
8. Election shall be by ballot vote unless
  - a. There is only one candidate for office or only the required number of candidates for standing committees.
  - b. The nomination forms indicate a clear majority for a candidate (candidates in the case of a plurality vote).

9. A member may be a candidate for more than one office and, when elected to an office, her name shall be stricken from the candidates list for all other offices. When this happens, voting delegates who have been instructed to vote for this candidate are released from their instructed vote and may vote for the candidate of their choice. The other voting delegates must maintain their instructed votes.
10. Where balloting is required, the elections committee will distribute ballot slips to each voting delegate for completion.
11. The election of officers, with the exception of chairpersons, shall be by majority vote.
  - a. If a majority vote (more than half) has been obtained, by nomination AND no voting delegate has been released from her instructed vote, no ballot shall be taken. The president shall declare the candidate elected.
  - b. If any voting delegate has been released from her instructed vote as a result of the withdrawal of a candidate or the removal of a candidate due to her election to another office, a first ballot shall be taken. If the first ballot produces a majority, the president shall declare the candidate elected.
  - c. When no majority vote has been obtained on the first ballot, a second ballot will be taken and, if necessary, a third. It shall be the decision of the voting delegates as to whether the results of any ballot shall be made available for their review.
  - d. If three ballots fail to produce a majority vote for one candidate, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. In the event of a tie vote on the third ballot, a fourth ballot, using only the names of the tied candidates, shall be taken.
12. The election of chairpersons shall be by plurality vote.
  - a. Three chairpersons are elected, but not to a specific standing committee. The chairpersons are assigned by the incoming

national president before the executive meeting immediately following election.

- b. If the nomination forms indicate which candidates have the highest number of votes, without a tie for the final position, AND no voting delegate has been released from her instructed vote, no ballot shall be taken. The president shall declare the candidates, in alphabetical order, elected.
  - e. If any voting delegate has been released from her instructed vote as a result of the withdrawal of a candidate or the removal of a candidate due to her election to another office, a first ballot shall be taken. Voting delegates indicate the names of the candidates for whom they wish to vote on one ballot. They may vote for the required number or less. Voting for more than the required number of candidates results in a spoiled ballot. If the first ballot results in a list of candidates with the highest number of votes and without a tie for the final position, the president shall declare the candidates with the highest number of votes, in alphabetical order, elected.
  - f. In the event of a tie involving the final position of the required number, balloting will continue, with all of the candidates listed, until a ballot results in a list of candidates with the highest number of votes and without a tie in the final position. It shall be the decision of the voting delegates as to whether the results of any ballot shall be made available for their review. Once a ballot indicates a list of candidates with the highest number of votes and without a tie in the final position, the president shall declare the candidates, in alphabetical order, elected.
13. When results of the election have been duly recorded, the nomination forms and the ballots shall be destroyed.

# **Planning Committee**

**Co-Chairperson:** Mary Donovan

**Co-Chairperson:** June Brown

**Co-Chairperson:** Marie Rackley

**Secretary:** Louise O'Connor

**Treasurer:** Louise Ongo

**Accommodations and Reservations:** Marie Rackley

**Budget and Fundraising:** Louise Ongo/Mary Donovan

**Decorations:** Mary Sorenson

**Hospitality:** Doris Dickson/Jackie Waye

**Liturgy:** Pauline Bourque/Marg McCallum

**Prayer Room:** Pauline Bourque

**Printing/Tickets:** Judy Ingram

**Protocol:** Marg McCallum

**Communication and Public Relations:** Leslie Carr

**Registration and Credentials:** Marilyn Smith/Ghislaine Wheaton

**Secretariat Office:** Judy Ingram

**Special Events:** June Brown/Mary Donovan

**Support:** Louise O'Connor/Louise Ongo

**Transportation:** Jennie Gallant

**Spiritual Advisor:** Fr. David Fulton



# **The Catholic Women's League of Canada**

## **Annual Report 2022**

(Contains full reports of national officers  
and provincial presidents)



## Report of National Level

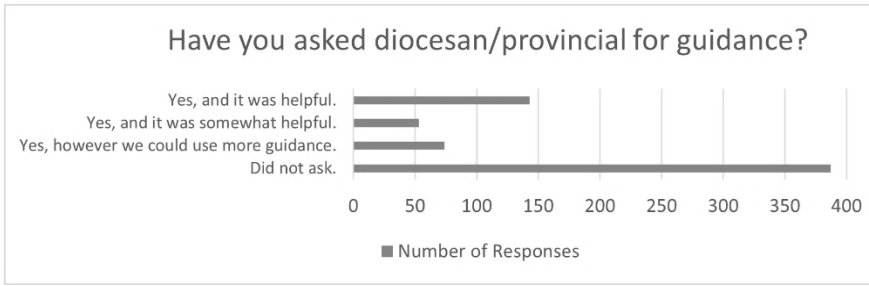
The Catholic Women’s League of Canada, under the theme of *Catholic and Living It!*, had much to celebrate in 2022 with the gradual return to pre-pandemic activity. Parish councils took re-opening at their own pace as their members felt comfortable. Twenty per cent of councils were re-opened fully by the end of the year; one-third were almost fully back to their regular activities; another quarter of councils were able to organize one-half of their former activities; 17% were cautiously doing one-quarter of what they had previously. Only 2% of councils had not restarted by year-end.

Councils were asked what excited them the most about the changes to the executive structure and the future of the League. Councils shared they were excited to implement the changes to the governance structure, especially the reduction of officers and standing committees positions. They cited being able to fill positions, defining better the chairpersons’ roles, engaging members in subcommittees to work on a task-by-task basis, providing for more member participation, reducing bureaucracy, increasing collaboration among chairpersons, streamlining activities and reporting requirements, simplifying agendas, focusing on goals and core values, and eliminating overlap and duplication of effort. The emphasis on leadership would also hopefully assist rural, small councils with recruiting. Some councils expressed being cautious but optimistic about the change in structure. They didn’t feel “Excited” but anxious about how the changes would impact their councils. Some stated they would not implement the change until their next election in 2024. Some noted that they felt reducing the positions would create a greater burden on fewer people if the workloads weren’t adjusted. And some, regretfully, noted that a lack of volunteers and participation could not be overcome by a change in structure.

When asked how councils were preparing for the changes to the executive structure, they cited prayer, realigning executives in time for elections, discussions, teaching, sharing and information sessions, hosting workshops, meeting and teaching sessions with

regional and diocesan and provincial teams, reading all communications that are received on the change, updating the policy and procedure manual, visiting the website for information, forming subcommittees to assist the chairpersons, revising agendas, providing guidelines to members, studying how current activities will fit into the new structure, prepare and provide handouts, and prepare new job descriptions. Some councils expressed a desire for more guidance, and some mentioned taking it “one step at a time.”

A question was posed to gauge the amount and quality of assistance provided to parish councils to navigate to the new structure, with the results as follows:



Parish councils shared their traditional activities as contributions to living out the national theme, *Catholic and Living It!*, revealing the all-encompassing nature of the chosen theme. The most mentioned activity fell under the core value of faith and involved prayer, particularly using the prayer card supplied for all members at council meetings. Spirituality and deepening of faith were the second and third most mentioned activities, whether by attending spiritual retreats, reciting the rosary, or ensuring that one-third of council time was spent in prayer and reflection. More examples are listed in the Spiritual Development section of this report.

The second pillar, service, was also a natural fit with the national theme. The most noted activity was service to the membership by reaching out, particularly to shut-ins. This activity is described in this report’s Organization and Christian Family Life sections. Donating to worthy causes—the fifth most popular action in support of the theme—is mentioned under the Secretary-Treasurer section and many of the standing committees. Finally, performing corporal

works of mercy, such as volunteering at food banks and hospices, was included in the list of theme activities.

The final pillar, social justice, was mentioned sparingly and often in reference to service activities, suggesting that more could be done to strengthen the definition and understanding of social justice as being actions that address the root cause of inequality and marginalization in society. Archbishop Desmond Tutu defined it best when he stated, “There comes a point where we need to stop just pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and find out why they’re falling in.”

The final question posed to councils related to how parish spiritual advisors were involved. Cited were attending meetings and special events, providing words of encouragement, promoting the League at masses, offering advice, celebrating mass, contributing to newsletters, and informing councils how they may assist the parish.

Over the course of the last year, the national spiritual advisor prepared articles for *The Canadian League* magazine; and attended executive meetings in February and October in Winnipeg, the resolutions committee meeting in July in Winnipeg and the national convention in Kelowna in August. In addition to attending these in-person meetings, His Excellency participated in several online meetings throughout the year as he was able.

Parish council secretaries reported that more than 60% of them read out the minutes of previous meetings, while the others felt the best practice was to circulate minutes in advance of the meeting. Almost 90% of secretaries were responsible for keeping the membership informed of special events, and 79% reported sending a quarterly report of parish council activities to all members. Some provided reports monthly and some semi-annually.

There was no shortage of communication with members in most councils. Secretaries used a variety of means, including providing hand-delivered newsletters; sending emails, particularly during COVID pandemic shut-downs; reading land acknowledgements; using telephone trees; maintaining websites and/or Facebook pages; sending cards for various occasions; publishing information in

parish bulletins; and publishing annual calendars. It was noted how vital the secretary was in assisting a president with her duties. However, concern was expressed about the duties of the communications standing committee being transferred to the secretary and suggestions this might make the position overwhelming for volunteers.

Catholic Missions In Canada was the largest permanent national voluntary fund, followed by Development and Peace—Caritas Canada, Catholic Near East Welfare Association and Coady International Institute. Two temporary national voluntary funds also received donations in 2022, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, which ended on August 17, 2022, and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) Palliative Care Kit, scheduled to end on August 31, 2023. The average and maximum donation to each fund was:

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
Catholic Missions In Canada	\$92.64	\$3,500
Catholic Near East Welfare Association	57.18	1,774
CCCB Palliative Care Kit	9.39	200
Coady International Institute	31.07	310
Development and Peace	74.84	4,070
Euthanasia Prevention Coalition	26.89	400

Total contributions to all charitable organizations for the 657 parish councils that reported were \$1,473,958, or \$2,243 per parish council. The total donations figure was truly remarkable, given that councils were just resuming activity. Many councils expressed sorrow as they were unable to resume their fundraising activities and, therefore, could not meet their charitable commitments, but they did look forward to 2023 with hope.

Fulfilling the role of treasurer was found to be rewarding. Bookkeeping experience and organizational skills were mentioned as being key to doing the role efficiently. Best practices included using the online membership system, maintaining Excel spreadsheets or simple accounting packages, having the books examined annually, setting up the ability to receive e-transfers from members, identifying and mentoring potential successors, and

preparing and seeking approval for annual budgets. Requests for support from other levels included having a spreadsheet template available for download and/or recommendations for bookkeeping software.

At the national level, the long-awaited vote to increase the national per capita fee from \$13.00 to \$25.00 was held in councils at all levels, resulting in a tightly held majority of members agreeing with the increase. The popular vote of members was 50.8% in favour and 49.2% opposed. Seventy-four per cent of parish councils conducted and registered a vote, with 428 in favour and 406 opposed. Eighteen of 34 diocesan councils voted in favour, while seven of 11 provincial councils voted in favour. Every metric at every level indicated a majority approval, from membership to parish to diocese to province to nation.

The national treasury of The Catholic Women's League of Canada was in a stable position on December 31, 2022, despite the \$200,000 draw on investments that was required to fund operations for the year, a key reason why the per capita fee increase was requested. Financial forecasts had indicated that an increase would be necessary to sustain existing levels of programming.

Revenue generated for the year totalled \$1,062,908, with 77% of all revenue sources coming from the national per capita fee allocation. All other revenue items—product sales, convention fees, parish council insurance, etc.—are charged on a cost recovery basis, providing no income for programming or administrative needs.

Total expenditures for the year totalled \$1,444,694. Twenty-seven per cent of expenditures were incurred to cover wages and benefits, compared to the association standard for wages and benefits of 40%. These wages cover the processing of membership and orders, per capita fees for multiple levels, event and meeting planning, social media management, magazine production and other communications such as parish mailings and communiqués, board and committee support, and personal assistance for national officers. Approximately 80% of the work assigned to staff is to assist national officers with their duties.

League development comprised 18% of all expenditures, with \$255,731 used for strategic planning initiatives. Having made a \$1 million commitment to rolling out the plan, \$729,286 of the committed money has been used to the end of December 2022. The strategic plan will be completed by mid-2024.

The convention expenses of \$162,527 were offset by registration of \$68,100, leaving a shortfall of \$94,427. Registration was about one-half of what was expected when the invitation was extended to hold the convention in Kelowna and was primarily due to the uncertainty of the pandemic, which caused hesitation among the members.

One digital and two print issues of the magazine used up 19% of the per capita fees received for a total expense of \$160,408. Had all issues been in print, the magazine would have used 28% of the national treasury's budget for the year. While unpopular with the membership, the decision was taken in an effort to trim expenses.

The national executive incurred expenses of \$125,685 to support two in-person board meetings, attendance at three conferences, two in-person subcommittee meetings, meeting software costs and subscriptions for national officers, as well as the travel costs incurred for the national president or her designate to attend provincial and diocesan conventions.

The audited annual financial statements prepared by Scarrow & Donald are printed in Appendix A.

The national office requires two types of resources—human resources and physical resources to operate at the national level. The staff complement was increased by the board-requested addition of a part-time digital media assistant, bringing the staff complement to five full-time, one part-time, two casual and one contract employees. Staff is authorized by the board to provide the following services to members:

- Directing inquiries through League channels
- Mailing correspondence and memos
- Planning conventions and meetings
- Processing daily and monthly financial transactions

- Processing membership and contact record maintenance
- Providing secretarial support to national officers and subcommittees
- Publishing magazines and resource material
- Selling League supplies
- Updating social media

The physical resources changed little in 2022. One replacement laptop and two docking stations were purchased. Additionally, Microsoft SQL server, a relational database management software, was purchased to operate the database on a new cloud provider. A new cloud provider was necessary as the previous server was exposing the League's member database to bot attacks. The office also leases survey software, team software, a postage meter, a photocopier/printer and an email tracing system.

Past presidents at all levels are eager to assist when called upon. In 2022, parish council past presidents assisted with procedures, protocols, funeral receptions, honour guards, historical inquiries, chairing meetings, mass planning, publicity, agenda preparation, membership maintenance, instructed voting, fundraising, elections, installation of officers, parliamentary procedure, minutes transcription, event planning and logistics, service pin lists, mentoring members, archival preparations, succession planning, strategic planning explanations, local school visits, budget and financial report preparation, photograph album maintenance, executive officer training, telephone calls to members, disbanding of councils, member recruitment, and social justice activities. It was clear that a past president, when a council is fortunate enough to have one, plays a vital role in advising, mentoring and filling in where gaps exist.

Council archives were stored in filing cabinets, banker's boxes, Rubbermaid totes, cupboards, closets, fire-proof vaults, computer hard drives and Google drives, located in church basements, libraries, offices, kitchens, rectories, attics, sacristies and halls as well as in executive members' homes, at local historical society



archival centres, seniors' clubs, local non-profit resource centres and diocesan chancery offices.

Materials retained for archives included minutes, motion books, treasurers' reports, photographs, pamphlets, telephone committee lists, deceased member lists, financial statements, membership lists, agendas, lists of award and bursary recipients, lists of pin recipients, books of life, event reports, important correspondence, obituaries, lottery licenses, newspaper articles mentioning the council, cards, certificates, newsletters, election results, personal stories of elder members, bank statements, survey results, instructed vote forms, cancelled cheques, invoices and magazines. A total of 206 parish councils confirmed they kept a history book, seven of which had provided a copy to national office.

With regard to assisting with governance of the council, 275 parish council past presidents were provided an opportunity to present information on the *Constitution & Bylaws* at meetings. Forty-six per cent of parish councils maintained a policy and procedure manual to assist with consistent application of important procedures. Thirty-eight per cent of parish councils did not keep a separate manual, but one-third of them would develop one if they received assistance.

At the national level, the most important activity undertaken was the instructed vote to amend the *Constitution & Bylaws*. Five years in the making, from the inception of a strategic plan to the adoption of the strategies to the creation of a working group to study and make recommendations to change the League's structure, the vote was finally put to the membership. Eight separate votes were taken:

- To use the term “annual meeting of members” instead of “convention”
- To change the patroness from Our Lady of Good Counsel to Our Lady of Guadalupe
- To eliminate the offices of president-elect, one vice-president, one secretary, and all but three standing committee chairpersons
- To redefine the duties of officers based on the foregoing
- To define the new standing committees

- To allow virtual meetings in case of government-declared emergencies
- To strengthen the wording regarding terms of office
- To strengthen the wording regarding the results of the first ballot in an election

At the national convention in Kelowna, seven of the eight proposed amendments were adopted, except for the proposed change to the patroness. Six of the eight proposed amendments were adopted unanimously, indicating the proposals were well-researched and well-received. Following the instructed vote, work began on updating and providing resources to assist members and councils with the transition to the new structure, which would take effect on January 1, 2023.

Councils were asked to share how they support women and men discerning their vocations. Mentioned were: prayers and rosaries for vocations and for priests; donations to national and international seminaries, seminarians, campus ministries, youth evangelization ministries and societies that promote vocations; appreciation gifts and dinners for men and women religious; celebrating milestones of men and women religious; spiritual bouquets; fundraising dinners; receptions for and congratulatory messages to newly-ordained priests; guests speakers who share their spiritual journey while discerning their vocation; gifting League membership fees for women religious; parish chalice and travelling crucifix programs; and airing videos that promote vocations at meetings.

Councils were invited to share how they assisted members in their communal and personal prayer life. Two-thirds of those reporting noted using a variety of prayer styles that would resonate with members. About 40% of councils held retreats and days of reflection, organized spiritual programs, or led spiritual reflections. Seventy-two per cent of councils shared information from Catholic sources to members to assist them in their growth in the Catholic faith, with one-third of councils noting they shared information on websites, courses, programs, workshops and guest speakers. Eight per cent of councils reported reading various Vatican II documents.

Assisting members with understanding the role of women in the church was mentioned by 20% of councils.

In February, members were encouraged to participate by voicing their dreams, ideas and concerns in preparation for the Synod of Bishops in 2023. “Under the theme For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission, the pope has called the church to practice synodality, that is listening to—and hearing—one another in all facets of church life” (*National Catholic Reporter*). The process was launched worldwide on October 17, 2021 and continued into 2022.

In March, the CCCB’s Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle, a coalition of Catholic partners to strengthen relationships and partnerships with Indigenous peoples, asked for the League’s cooperation to assist in engaging the Catholic faithful in Canada in the Indigenous delegation journeying to Rome for a papal visit. Members were invited to join in solidarity with the delegation by praying and lighting a candle as part of a sacred fire on the first day of the visit (March 28<sup>th</sup>).

Also in March, Pope Francis consecrated Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Members were encouraged to join in prayer by praying the Annunciation Novena.

The League celebrated its National Faith Day on September 17<sup>th</sup>, an opportunity for members to explore what they believe and how they lived their faith. The League also recognized September 21<sup>st</sup> as the organization’s National Day of Prayer for Christians in the Holy Land. October 1<sup>st</sup> was designated the League’s National Day of Prayer for Canadian Home Missions.

In October, guidance for engaging spiritual advisors was released to parish councils. The guidance was created to assist spiritual advisors in understanding their role. Included in the guidance was a background document that described the challenges from both the perspective of spiritual advisors and councils and provided ideas to help overcome them. There were also two PowerPoint presentations that could be presented at larger clergy gatherings.

Most parish councils conduct an annual membership drive. In fact, almost 90% included this annual activity in their annual report. Those who did not mentioned one of two reasons—some believed a membership drive is a continual process of reaching out, i.e., it is not a one-time event and some mentioned difficulty organizing membership drives since the pandemic. Membership drive methods included membership pamphlets, posters, display tables, speaking at masses, including a member drive component during fundraising events and messages in newsletters.

Members were called to inform them of the membership due date. Draws were offered at Christmas dinners to those members who paid their membership dues before or at the dinner. Members stood at entrances to the church before and after mass, held membership brunches at the end of November, placed membership forms at church entrances, and invited members online, in person, and through the parish bulletin. One council mentioned preparing membership renewal envelopes that contained a prayer or spiritual inspiration and a letter from the president recapping the year and why it was important to remain a member.

Councils were invited to share what information sessions they provided for members. Forty-four per cent of councils answered the question. Most referenced that the information provided to membership, typically information received by another level, was mentioned during the regular meetings instead of having separate information sessions. Members were encouraged to attend information sessions organized regionally.

Parish-driven information sessions topics included: the history and purpose of the League; League structure and function; new member orientations; proposed legislation; policy and procedure revisions; changes to the League's structure; executive orientation; Welcome Program; resolutions; health and wellbeing; Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation; partnerships with Indigenous persons; land acknowledgements; foodbanks and thrift stores; mental health; the environment; and rationale for national per capita increase. One council mentioned holding mini workshops following general meetings.

Do you invite your counterpart at the next level of the League to provide information and League development?



Councils were asked what resources they were looking for or needed. Broken down by the new structure, councils shared the following:

President	List of League achievements, speakers bank, on-demand speaker sessions
Vice-President	Membership recruitment and retention, member engagement ideas, list of key resources available, orientation programs, outcome of the strategic plan, executive training, tutorials on technical matters such as how to use projectors or navigate software, free membership drive material, leadership development, updated <i>Catch the Fire!</i> session, material in other languages
Secretary	Promotional brochures and posters, modern marketing, professionally written articles, national and provincial website navigation tutorials, advertising material
Treasurer	Fundraising ideas
Past President	Information on new positions and structure, print copies of the <i>Constitution &amp; Bylaws</i>
Faith	Meeting prayers, spiritual development, information on the changing role of women in the church
Service	Community involvement suggestions
Social Justice	List of successful resolutions

Membership recruitment resource material and ideas was by far the biggest need parish councils identified. Many councils mentioned that the resources were readily available on the national website, but some noted what was not available was the time and volunteers to

use and implement them. A council mentioned the existing resources available were too labour-intensive. Multiple councils found the volume of resources already available overwhelming, especially for small councils.

Nationally, an *ad hoc* committee was struck to examine and make recommendations to tighten the criteria to qualify for life membership. The recommendations were accepted by the board and implemented in the fall. Much time was spent as a liaison to the implementation committee, attending working group meetings and promoting the new resource material.

Parish councils were asked what actions they took to support marriage and families. Councils responded with presenting gifts (especially crucifixes) at baptisms, first communions, confirmations, marriages and anniversaries; offering prayers; assisting with sacramental preparation, marriage preparation courses, Marriage Encounter and Retrouvaille; preparing and serving anniversary meals; hosting events such as family barbecues and picnics, coffee after masses, take-out dinners, Shrove Tuesday meals and movie nights; organizing funeral luncheons and arranging masses for grieving families; studying *Amoris Laetitia*; sharing family histories and values; discussing the annulment process; mailing anniversary and mass cards; sharing information from the CCCB's Office for Life and Family, 10<sup>th</sup> World Meeting of Families, and United Nations International Family Day; offering financial and volunteer assistance to families in need such as those with family suffering from illness, new to Canada or who found themselves homeless; holding a draw on a "family basket" filled with games, etc. for a family night; and organizing mother and tot events. Councils adopted a "family comes first" philosophy so no member would feel guilty for missing League meetings. Some councils left this work to existing parish ministries where the ministry was strong.

In support of the League's pro-life stance, parish councils continued with their traditional activities such as participating in March for Life, Life Chain and similar events, and baby bottle drives;

belonging to and supporting local pro-life organizations, Rachel's Vineyard and Euthanasia Prevention Coalition; praying during the 40 Days for Life campaign; hosting baby and mother showers; donating funds and volunteer hours to local pregnancy and mother and child resource centres; writing letters and sending postcards on life issues to federal and provincial government representatives objecting to medical assistance in dying; organizing spiritual adoptions of the pre-born child; viewing documentaries such as *Unplanned*, *The Matter of Life* and "The New Reality" episode on "How poverty, not pain, is driving some disabled Canadians towards medically assisted death"; arranging speakers on pro-life topics; and arranging prayer services and rosaries for life.

Notable activities in the youth ministry include involving school-aged children in a loneliness project; supporting students on a mission trip; hosting poetry and essay contests; donating media devices to a catechism program; assisting with fundraising for World Youth Day; teaching youth to sew pillowcases for children with cancer; offering Catholic Witness Awards; and organizing baseballs games—youth versus priests.

For all other ministries—disabled, seniors, widowed, separated and divorced—many activities were similar regardless of the personal situation of the individual receiving the ministered service. These activities included home visits, making personal telephone calls, sending cards, bringing communion, knitting and gifting prayer shawls, providing meals, providing transportation to appointments and other events, organizing social events, helping with home and yard work, going Christmas carolling, preparing and delivering gift baskets, and hosting coffee parties.

Support for vocations, while not as much of a focus for many councils, still generated much activity, including prayers, mass intentions and spiritual bouquets; contributing to seminarian funds; adopting seminarians; participating in World Day of Prayer for Vocations; giving gifts to priests and religious; supporting a travelling chalice program for future vocations; sending anniversary and birthday cards; and attending ordinations.

The national chairperson of Christian family life encouraged councils to participate in World Day of Prayer for Vocations (May 8<sup>th</sup>) and to continue “to focus on protecting the sanctity of life by working on and praying to change the minds and hearts of women contemplating abortion as a solution to their problems, rather than accepting members’ support for them and their children. Members should also be encouraged to contact their member of parliament and ask them to protect the sanctity of life by passing into law a ban on abortion.”

In her winter 2022 article, she appealed to members to “encounter someone they already know, members might be ready to meet a new person and continue their journey by making a stranger into a neighbour. They could gather up their courage and perhaps, together with some of their League sisters, go farther afield and find people who are obviously in need. By meeting them, listening to their stories and then providing what they need, members will show they are *Catholic and Living It!*” tying the theme into the selfless acts of service undertaken in ministry to others. She followed up in the spring issue with an article on members caring for themselves before they give selflessly to caring for others.

The community life standing committee at the national level focused on four initiatives/events in 2022, including the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, the Food Bank Project, human trafficking, and settlement of Ukrainian refugees in light of the war between Russia and Ukraine.

The national Food Bank Project was launched in 2021 and continued until June 30, 2022. Officially, councils reported collecting 38,557 pounds of food and donating \$43,319 to food banks. Twenty per cent of parish councils mentioned the project as being an initiative they undertook in 2022; however, just as many mentioned that collecting donations for food banks is a part of their regular operations every year, a testament to councils’ dedication to serving those in the community living with food scarcity. Most councils agreed that undertaking service projects such as food banks helped to build community among the members.



On February 24, 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine, causing a mass exodus of Ukrainians looking to resettle temporarily. The federal government responded by opening a new immigration stream for those fleeing the war. League members leapt to action assisting Ukraine with its war efforts and Ukrainian refugees with donations funnelled through the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, Canadian Red Cross, Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, Development and Peace, Ukrainian Catholic Church and Ukrainian Canadian Congress; gifting of clothes, furniture, household items, books and food; hosting fundraisers; English language training; making and wearing yellow and blue ribbons in a show of solidarity; prayers for peace; offering employment and employment search assistance; providing temporary shelter; and making quilts. A council joined a “meal train” where every day dinner was provided by a different family to newly settled refugees.

On May 28, 2022, the national council hosted a webinar on human trafficking with guest speaker Joy Smith. In 2004, Ms. Smith became a member of parliament (MP) and made Canadian history as the first sitting MP to amend the *Criminal Code* twice, strengthening sentencing for traffickers and expanding Canadian laws to reach internationally. One hundred and forty-one members attended the seminar to learn more about how prevalent human trafficking is in Canada, why people are trafficked, what to look for if someone is being trafficked, and how to help them seek help.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (September 30<sup>th</sup>), established by the federal government, was heavily promoted in the standing committee. The day’s purpose was to allow “all Canadians to commemorate the history and legacy of the residential school system.” Approximately one-third of parish councils reported organizing an event. Initiatives included: praying the rosary, arranging prayer services and attending mass; wearing orange shirts to raise awareness about the residential school system’s impact; participating in organized walks, marches, pow wows and flag raising events; arranging for guest speakers and educational forums on the topic; discussing the 94 calls to action outlined in the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada;

attending ceremonies on reserve; donating to, attending and/or viewing the broadcast of the papal visit; placing orange ribbons outside the church; reciting territorial acknowledgements before events and meetings; supporting local Indigenous artists and displaying their works; hosting or attending candlelight vigils for missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls; attending the 4 Seasons of Reconciliation course developed in partnership with First Nations University of Canada; participating in the blanket exercise; and providing orange hearts to parishioners to attach to their shirts or purses.

Other topics raised for member awareness during the year included Development and Peace’s Share Lent campaign, the Indigenous Reconciliation Fund established by the CCCB, Resolution 2022.01 Enact Federal Legislation to Reduce Food Loss and Waste, Canada’s *Poverty Reduction Act*, and the impact of domestic violence in Canada.

The education and health standing committee has a diverse set of responsibilities, including providing leadership in Catholic education, literacy and continuing education, scholarships and bursaries, wellness and sickness/disease, environment and genetics. The national standing committee gave priority to the topics of:

Responsibility	Topic(s)
Catholic education and catechesis	Catholic education week
Scholarships and bursaries	Coady International Institute, National Bursary Fund
Wellness and sickness/disease	Blood donations: Canadian Blood Services ID number Mental health: Bell Let’s Talk Day Palliative care: <i>Horizons of Hope: A toolkit for Catholic Parishes on Palliative Care</i> (CCCB), National Hospice Palliative Care Week Wellness: National Catholic Health Care Week
Environment	Earth Day, <i>Laudato Si’</i> Week

The first responsibility promoted by the national chairperson, Catholic education and catechesis, was well embraced by parish councils supported in their area with the following activities: teaching the rosary in local schools, assisting in sacramental preparation, having representation on local Catholic school boards, coordinating and teaching catechism and religious education classes, making donations to school libraries and other school programs, donating toward a bus to bring children to mass, providing school-aged children with awards for exemplary Christian attributes and behaviours, participating in Catholic school board elections, participating in prayer buddy programs, praying for Catholic education, donating gifts to Catholic school teachers, organizing bible studies, celebrating Catholic Education Day and Catholic Education Week, being involved in Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education, assisting in the classrooms and at special school events, gifting Catholic books and colouring books to children in the parish, promoting catechetical websites, and hosting various contests for children.

With regard to scholarships and bursaries, approximately one-half of parish councils offer and administer their own bursary, scholarship and/or award programs. Another 45% did not directly administer their own program but did donate to various other scholarship and bursary programs such as the National Bursary Fund, Coady International Institute, Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation, or one of the many provincial or diocesan-run scholarship or bursary programs. Only four per cent of councils were not involved in scholarships and bursaries in some manner, evidence of the importance that parish councils place on assisting youth in the various stages of their education and formation.

Events planned and organized by the national chairperson garnered the following uptake from councils. Events are listed in order of interest to parish councils.

Event	Participated	Did Not Participate	Unaware of Event
12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care	54 %	39 %	8 %
Palliative Care Webinar	27 %	58 %	16 %
Canadian Blood Services Partnership	24 %	76 %	-
Mental Health Postcard Campaign	9 %	67 %	24 %
Palliative Care Postcard Campaign	22 %	61 %	17%
Earth Day (April 22 <sup>nd</sup> )	13 %	88 %	-
World Water Day (March 22 <sup>nd</sup> )	9 %	91 %	-
Earth Action Initiative (September)	4 %	97 %	-

Parish councils were probed further to determine their involvement in activities related to the environment, the last sub-topic of responsibility under education and health. In addition to those noted in the above tables, councils reported promoting recycling, planting trees, using compostable plates and utensils and refillable mugs, promoting digital communications in the council, carpooling to meetings and events and/or hosting virtual meetings, reducing automobile usage by walking whenever possible, participating in city-wide, park and local roadside cleanups, holding bottle drives, collecting rainwater for garden beds, encouraging composting, reusing League service pins, planting vegetable gardens, encouraging the delay of lawn mowing until June to protect the honeybees, and promoting the use of non-toxic household cleaning products.

The national chairperson of communications was interested in knowing more about how members and councils communicate within the League and so invited councils to respond to a series of operational questions, presented in tables formatted below.

**Method of Communication:** Digital means, especially email, were most used by councils for their ease and timeliness. Nevertheless, most councils did not forget that emails do not reach all members, so telephone calls, bulletin announcements and meetings were counted on to pass important messages along to all. Interestingly, one-quarter of all councils did not report using emails as their primary method of communication, instead relying on the traditional methods. Non-email digital means, i.e., website and social media, were used in 15% of parish councils. These methods indicate to councils at other levels what means of communication they should consider when sharing information.

<b>Top 10 Methods of Council Communication</b>		
<b>Method of Communication</b>	<b>Councils Using the Method</b>	<b>Prevalence</b>
Email	499	76%
Telephone call	235	36%
Parish bulletin	223	34%
Meetings	147	22%
Parish and CWL websites	55	8%
Postal mail	54	8%
Personal interaction/word of mouth	43	7%
Facebook page	42	6%
Parish bulletin boards	34	5%
Pulpit announcements	28	4%

**Social Media Usage:** Social media usage and social media awareness has been a large part of the national marketing campaigns, with almost all marketing efforts put into creating digital assets and promoting them through digital means, such as Facebook

and Instagram. In 2022, the national level launched a new website designed to draw in those with values similar to League members. Called catholicwomenunite.ca, the new website was designed to draw women to the League’s official website (cwl.ca) by offering a degree of engagement with those who would provide their email addresses.

With the marketing emphasis on digital campaigns, it was important to determine how many parish councils are comfortable with and use this technology.

Social Media for Promotion					
Facebook	Websites	Instagram	YouTube	Twitter	None
257	77	10	4	4	338
39%	12%	1%	-	-	51%

While most councils do not promote the League on social media, many use Facebook and websites to share their events and activities. A majority of these councils have taken a parish-based integrated approach, i.e., placing notices on the website and Facebook pages administered by their parish that contain the events of all ministries rather than creating and maintaining their own.

**National Website Use:** The national chairperson inquired how many parish councils used the national website and for what purposes. The information obtained would be used in the redesign of the national website, with an anticipated launch date of spring 2023. Approximately 80% of respondents advised that the national website was being used as a resource for several reasons.

Councils Seeking	Prevalence
General updates and information	35%
Resource material	22%
National office supply orders	14%
National officer communiqués	13%
Downloadable manuals and guidebooks	12%
Prayer services and resources	11%
Forms	7%

Online membership administration	6%
Spotlights on councils	4%
Training materials	4%

In other aspects of communications, 31% of councils reported preparing and circulating their own newsletters, 53% reported being aware of League resolutions related to inappropriate Internet use, and 44% reported having distributed “Pornography Hurts” postcards in the past.

At the national level, surveys were undertaken to ask members their opinion on *The Canadian League* and the national website. It is through a member consultation process that changes are made and implemented. This ensures that members’ opinions are included in the decisions that are made.

The spring issue of *The Canadian League* magazine was circulated in digital format only to reduce strain on the national treasury while the League awaited the results of the proposed per capita fee increase. Once the fee increase was approved in August by the majority of members across the country, it became financially feasible to once again produce all issues of the magazine in hard copy for members who preferred this mode of delivery.

Also in the spring, the board agreed to add another staff position to the staff complement, that of a digital media assistant. As the League’s presence in social media grows, so too does the amount of time required to keep all social media channels updated with current and timely information.

In 2022, 5% of parish councils had a chairperson of resolutions to manage the resolutions portfolio, and another 16% of parish councils combined resolutions and legislation together, finding that the two portfolios were sufficiently intertwined that one person could manage them.

When asked what the biggest challenge was that prevented a council from having resolutions, the responses were many. The top five are listed in the following table.

## Top 5 Reasons for Vacancy in Position

Reason	Prevalence
No Chairperson	35%
Not Interested	28%
Finding a Topic	8%
Lack of/Small Membership	6%
Lack of Time	5%

It is a two-fold job to manage resolutions; there is the development of a resolution and the follow-up actions once resolutions are adopted. In terms of developing a resolution, those parish councils that considered doing so found national communiqués, provincial and diocesan workshops, and the *Resolutions Guide* the most helpful in their work.

As follow-up on adopted resolutions, parish councils identified the following resolutions as having been topics they willingly and passionately advocated for and acted upon:

- 2013.01 Building Relationships and Partnerships with Canada’s Indigenous Peoples
- 2015.03 Banning the Use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides
- 2016.04: Amend the *Canada Health Act* to Identify Palliative Care as an Insured Health Service
- 2017.01 Full Implementation of the Supreme Court Decision in *R. v. Gladue* for Indigenous Offenders
- 2017.04: Protection from Coercion of Conscience for Healthcare Professionals
- 2018.03: Legislate Designation of Hospice/Palliative Care Services in Facilities to Exclude Medical Assistance in Dying
- 2019.01 Canada to Honour its Commitment to the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child*
- 2019.02 Canadian Support for the United Nations *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons*
- 2022.01: Enact Federal Legislation to Reduce Food Loss and Waste



The main actions taken in their advocacy efforts were to inform members and to write letters (10% of councils). Five per cent of councils held discussions on the topics at meetings.

At the national level, one resolution was adopted at the annual national convention— Resolution 2022.01 Enact Federal Legislation to Reduce Food Loss and Waste. Other topics the national resolutions committee considered were child labour in mining mica, including palliative care facilities and ambulance services in the *Canada Health Act*, the termination of pregnancy through violence, and developing a national strategy to reduce loneliness.

The national chairperson of legislation asked councils to describe their level of knowledge and awareness of issues discussed by federal, provincial and municipal levels of government. In all instances, 76% of parish councils described having some knowledge. One-fifth of parish councils acknowledged they were very aware of local issues, while about 10% of parish councils described not being aware of the issues at any government level.

Parish councils were also asked about their knowledge of position papers on the national website, federal private member’s *Bill C-230 An Act to amend the Criminal Code (intimidation of health care professionals)* and federal *Bill C-7 An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying)*. Bill C-230 was eventually defeated on second reading in the House of Commons on October 5, 2022, and Bill C-7 received royal assent on March 17, 2021.

Topic	Very Aware
<i>Bill C-7 An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying)</i>	55%
<i>Bill C-230 An Act to amend the Criminal Code (intimidation of health care professionals)</i>	27%
Local issues	21%
Federal issues	13%
Provincial issues	13%
League position papers	7%

Other bills studied, monitored or acted upon included:

- *C-3 An Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Canada Labour Code*
- *C-4 An Act to amend the Criminal Code (conversion therapy)*
- *C-5 An Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*
- *C-8 Economic and Fiscal Update Implementation Act, 2021*
- *C-11 Online Streaming Act*
- *C-12 Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act*
- *C-14 An Act to amend the Criminal Code and to make related amendments to other Acts (medical assistance in dying)*
- *C-21 An Act to amend certain Acts and to make certain consequential amendments (firearms)*
- *C-36 Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act*
- *C-207 An Act to amend the Canadian Bill of Rights (right to housing)*
- *C-214 An Act to amend the Canadian Navigable Waters Act (lakes and rivers in British Columbia)*
- *C-217 National Freshwater Strategy Act*
- *C-228 Pension Protection Act*
- *C-233 An Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Judges Act (violence against an intimate partner)*
- *C-243 An Act respecting the elimination of the use of forced labour and child labour in supply chains*
- *C-245 An Act to amend the Canada Infrastructure Bank Act*
- *C-246 Constitution Act, 2022 (representation of Quebec)*
- *C-252 Child Health Protection Act*
- *C-262 Corporate Responsibility to Protect Human Rights Act*
- *C-265 National Perinatal Mental Health Strategy Act*
- *C-268 Protection of Freedom of Conscience Act*

- *C-270 Stopping Internet Sexual Exploitation Act*
- *C-281 International Human Rights Act*
- *C-291 An Act to amend the Criminal Code and to make consequential amendments to other Acts (child sexual abuse and exploitation material)*
- *C-295 An Act to amend the Criminal Code (neglect of vulnerable adults)*
- *S-8 An Act to amend the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, to make consequential amendments to other Acts and to amend the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations*
- *S-210 Protecting Young Persons from Exposure to Pornography Act*
- *S-211 Fighting Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains Act*
- *S-219 National Ribbon Skirt Day Act*
- *S-233 National Framework for a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income Act*
- *S-248 An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying)*

While only one in eight parish councils professed to be involved in the legislative aspects of social justice, a tremendous number of bills were monitored and acted upon, indicating the passion of the League’s social justice-focused councils across the country.

Much focus was placed on the role of position papers within the League, their use and purpose. A combined effort of the national chairpersons of resolutions and legislation was made to review the existing position papers to determine relevancy, update those still relevant, and develop new position papers on topics important to the League. This process began in 2022 and would culminate with a new set of position papers in 2023.

The continuation of resolutions into the new League structure was a concern for both national resolutions and legislation chairpersons. Parish councils were asked to describe how they would keep resolutions and legislation as an important part of their council.

Most councils noted this question was not applicable to them as they didn't see resolutions or legislation as integral to their activities. For those that did, they noted they would rely on information and advice from other League levels (15%) and the new chairperson of social justice (8%). Another 18% of parish councils shared that they were unsure of the transition but would be open to having discussions to determine their best course of action.

## **Reports of Provincial Level**

### **Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council**

The almost 8,000 paid members in the 160 councils in the five dioceses of Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council began the year looking forward to returning to normalcy. They eagerly sought to welcome members to in-person winter, regional, and executive meetings, and conventions to celebrate *Catholic and Living It!* and with it the opportunity to build relationships and implement the changes outlined in the national strategic plan. We were elated to finally be able to host a well-attended provincial convention in early June in Lac La Biche. Provincial and diocesan executives had worked hard to maintain communication with their perspective levels to help members remain positive and eager to reignite their councils. Gradually Zoom meetings were replaced by in-person meetings as members looked for ways to reconnect and re-energize their councils. Members of Alberta Mackenzie, guided by faith and hopeful optimism in the inspired vision of the strategic plan, focused on relationships, renewal and implementation of changes.

Councils are excited about the **League structure changes** and appreciate being able to focus on the three committees of faith, service and social justice. They feel filling positions especially in smaller councils will be more manageable with the deletion of redundant positions. They are using the resources provided by national to implement the new structuring. Councils believe the new structure will be more attractive to new members. Many councils have delivered the *Welcome Program* with success. Parish councils have been working on identifying their unique charisms that bring light and life to everything they do.

The National Theme: *Catholic and Living It!* has been embraced by councils and they use the themed prayer cards at gatherings, meetings, and events. The theme has inspired councils to place a greater focus on outreach with one another, community organizations and local Catholic schools. It impacted their spiritual program and widened their vision of faith by connecting their spiritual words to actions. Councils were more willing to try something new and some councils noted that the theme has led to members becoming more involved in visible ministries. All dioceses commented that our faith clearly unites us in fellowship and drives our desire to work hard through service and to make a difference through social justice. Members reflected on being proud to be Catholic and being authentic witnesses of faith, treating each other with respect and warmth, and giving voice to new ideas for a more vibrant CWL full of action and purpose.

With respect to **spiritual advisor support and engagement**, many parish councils reported feeling supported and are promoted in the parish by their spiritual advisor which members very much appreciate as is their priest's willingness to listen and at times serve as a counselor sometimes to assist with conflict. Increasingly priests do not have time to attend CWL gatherings and events due to busy schedules that prevent them from getting more directly involved. Some councils indicated that they have not had a consistent priest and hopefully will have the blessing of their support soon.

**Streamlined annual survey format** was well received by most councils. Most thought the survey was best completed as a group. They liked that it was collaborative but thought it took a lot of time to compile the information to complete the survey and were concerned that it failed to capture a lot of the work being done in councils.

**Additional comments:** Some presidents noted how the increase in per capita fees has affected their councils. For some councils, the increase in per capita fees continues to cause discontent. Some councils had "*angel*" initiatives where one member anonymously helps cover the cost of another member's membership, other councils rely on fundraising help cover the difference. Because the

pandemic curtailed almost all council fundraising, some councils indicated they are not able to pay for members who are not able to afford to pay the fee increase. However, councils were hopeful that with the return to fundraising again, this issue might be resolved over the coming year.

- Councils would like the national board to be financially wise and accountable
- National should assign a person to trouble-shoot or assist with the annual survey
- Has the strategic plan paid off? We are not seeing the number of members increase overall in relation to the amount of money that has been spent.
- *We are getting to be less of a grassroots organization and more like a business or corporation.*
- Mackenzie Fort Smith mentioned that the \$10,000.00 donated by ABMK was presented to help those in Hay River as well as the K'atl'odeeche First Nation where the need is the greatest aft the floods. The Hay River Council was most grateful for the donation.
- Edmonton Diocesan Council was grateful for the spirit of generosity that was demonstrated by CWL members who looked after handing out all the Papal Visit Volunteer Accreditation Packages for Alberta.

ABMK representatives met with two provincial cabinet ministers to discuss various areas of concern and our commitment to bring a moral compass (not just the bottom line) to government decision making which included:

- Growing need for an **independent seniors advocate** reporting to the legislative assembly (not just health: housing, income support, transportation, loneliness, senior abuse, end-of-life issues etc.)
- **Need for Good Palliative Care:** a recent study indicates that only 12 per cent of Albertans wanting and needing palliative care are receiving it. Canada is becoming known as the worst

global example of the legalization of euthanasia & MaiD for mental health reasons including depression.

- **Our belief in the sanctity of life from conception to natural death.** Support for the March for Life on Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>
- **Our opposition to pornography.** Since our meeting the Canadian Senate passed Bill S-210 which marks the most significant progress in Canadian history for legislation designed to prevent children from accessing pornographic content online. All CWL members should be proud of the national postcard campaign we have continued for many years...we can congratulate ourselves.
- **Resolution 2022.01 Enact Federal Legislation to Reduce Food Loss and Waste:** which was brought forward by the Diocese of Calgary. Both ministers were very interested in what we had to say and saw provincial implications as well.
- **Reaffirmation of our support for publicly funded Catholic education.**

Provincial officers continued to post communiqués keeping the membership informed on such topics as pro-life issues, pornography, mental health, House of Commons and senators' bills and the importance of Indigenous relationships. The links for communiqués from their national counterparts helped the membership to engage in national initiatives that included webinars, prayer services, letter writing, supporting Development and Peace, Catholic Missions In Canada and CNEWA. Members were encouraged to send Mandatory Age Verification and Pornography Hurt cards to their MP's as well as write to their MPs on conscientious rights of medical professionals, and the need for good palliative and hospice care.

Every Wednesday evening members from across Alberta and the NWT joined the *Alberta Mackenzie Prays the Rosary*. A virtual **Lenten Retreat** was led by Sister Susan Scott that attracted 180 CWL members; some from every province.

On November 13, 2022 Edmonton Diocesan Council hosted a celebration of service at St. Joachim Parish, the site of the very first

League meeting in Canada to give thanks to the pioneering women who, 110 years ago, began the League journey.

We were proud to introduce a new ABMK website to meet our communications needs (cwlabmk.ca) Please check us out...

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated the installation of the new Sacred Heart Catholic Church of the First Peoples which was an exciting development encouraged by the visit of Pope Francis last summer.

In conclusion, the work of the Catholic Women's League in Alberta and the Northwest Territories continued to flourish under effective leadership at all executive levels. These women contributed and made a significant difference not only to the League but to their local communities, their province, Canada and beyond. As strong women of faith, voices of advocacy and grateful for the blessings received from God, they shared their blessings with others. They again felt the joy of personal touch (hugs), laughter and tears knowing that the Holy Spirit was with them and they prevailed through the challenges of COVID. Albert Einstein once said *There are two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.*

As Catholic women we are profoundly grateful for our deep calling to care as we nurture relationships, laugh with one another and cry with one another as we live out our *Mission: The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.*

## **B.C. & Yukon Provincial Council**

The national theme is well received and has been a major focus during all activities. Parish council members overwhelmingly felt that everything they do reflects the national theme—*Catholic and Living It!*

A common topic among all diocesan and parish councils in 2022 has been moving from almost 100% virtual meetings to in-person meetings, however, some councils continue to have hybrid and



online meetings. Members are mentioning that they feel a recovery has begun towards getting us back to normal or the “new normal.”

Over the past year, members and executives have shown great patience and resiliency to conquer most challenges thus demonstrating the great love for the League.

Many of the councils have struggled to fill their executive ranks leaving the members who have come forward serving in several positions; typically with most of the load falling on the shoulders of the president. This has led to many appointments in order to maintain council structure. It is hopeful that some new executive members will assist to fill all positions to reinforce our sisterhood.

Most councils have either implemented or are preparing for the change of focus to faith, service and social justice. They feel that this may streamline the League structure which will be helpful. Some are leaving this to the 2024 incoming executive to finalize.

Increasing the membership continues to be a focus for all councils and some are reporting that they have managed to add several younger members to rejuvenate councils.

Our president-elect initiated a provincial competition to recruit new members and in one diocese 110 new members were signed up. Retention of all members of the League is of the utmost importance.

Information for councils is readily available in many formats, communiqués, *The Canadian League* magazine, websites, seminars, webinars or directly from provincial and national levels. However, not all councils are using these resources that are available nor those that are being passed on to them from diocesan, provincial and national levels.

Comments have been put forward that the streamlined annual reports are easier to use, however, it has been reported that they seem to be too focused on national office.

Several resolutions were forwarded to national resolution’s committee; however, they were not accepted.

The support by the spiritual advisors has been good, but varies depending on location and how available they are to attend meetings and functions especially in the larger dioceses.

Some of the workshops and talks included: Charting a Course for Our Journey Together, Lenten Reflections, Walking Together—Embracing our Future, Discerning a Call to Service, Great Women of the Bible, Orange Shirt Day Movement, Anti-Human Trafficking, Find the Joy, and information on Development and Peace.

A major challenge is how to assess specific needs of each council and how to tailor actions of change which would lead to more successful councils. Another is the ability to retain members and make meetings and gatherings more interesting.

One of the biggest highlights of the year was in August of 2022, as our province held the annual national convention in Kelowna, British Columbia. The Kamloops and the Nelson dioceses co-hosted the event, with many members from throughout the province helping out. This was such a great endeavour considering all meetings with the exception of one were held virtually. The convention allowed us to be together and was a great success.

One comment that I believe is important for us to remember—“conventions are the best means of encouraging members, offering training and building the sisterhood.”

I thank everyone for their support as I journeyed on my path leading the province of BC & Yukon as provincial president for the past two years. May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide the members of this province with all their endeavours.

## **Manitoba Provincial Council**

2022 was a year of emergence as everyone learned to live in harmony with the virus and all of the changes that have been inflicted upon meetings and how they are conducted. Early in the year councils struggled to complete the instructed votes by any means possible! There were meetings in person, meetings by Zoom, and every sort of hybrid in between. Some councils activated their

telephone chains to be certain that every member had a say in the decision.

It is thanks to the trials of Covid that councils have learned Zoom meetings are very useful tools for geographically challenged areas. Some of the councils have actually had the opportunity to meet more frequently than they did before.

There are still members who are averse to online surveys, especially those who have some sort of technological challenges, rather it be connectivity or lack of computer skill.

Membership continues to decline and several councils have disbanded.

Day of Celebration in February included presentations on Domestic Violence Towards Women and Issues Faced by New Canadians. The afternoon consisted of a townhall session themed Breaking the Barriers of Apathy. This daylong event was held entirely by Zoom and broken up nicely to combat the long sitting period! It was received very positively by the members.

Members in Manitoba took part in the 100,000 flags for the unborn at St. Boniface Cathedral and the Walk for Life. There was an honour guard for the Chrism Mass held at St. Boniface Cathedral. Ladies are resuming their work with Meals on Wheels. Councils have started to use the newsletter template provided on the national website.

The annual meetings of members (AMM) for the dioceses were a mixture of in person and via Zoom. The provincial AMM was held entirely in person, and was well received and everyone was excited to get those hugs and visits in with their sisters!

There was an Indigenous Day presentation on September 30 and there was also a presentation about the new executive format and how it would work within councils. This presentation was developed by the ladies from St. Boniface Diocese and shared among many councils.

The fall brought the Day of Reflection with a *Catholic and Living It!* theme and the Winnipeg Diocesan Fall Meeting which featured a speaker on immigration and a workshop from among the strategic planning resources.

Manitoba was also devastated by the loss of the Provincial President-Elect Con Marks. Her sudden death brought a big stall to the provincial council which will be several years in recovery.

## **Military Ordinariate Provincial Council**

Members of the Military Ordinariate (MO) Provincial Council persevered through another challenging year in 2022. Councils reported inspiring efforts to be *Catholic and Living It!* and expressed hope for the future of the League despite the continued impact of a global pandemic, the changes to the organization from the strategic plan, and the challenges faced by the greater military community.

### **Base Council Activities**

By the numbers, membership across our 13 base councils fell from 250 to 239. Chapel congregations were not back to pre-COVID capacity, and neither were the CWL calendars, making recruiting a challenge. Councils still reported a commendable sum of donations approaching \$12,000 for the year.

Some councils struggled to stay active and reported concern for the future. More than one chapel experienced cancelled masses and a lack of spiritual advisor. That they were able to keep their members informed and to hold on speaks to their dedication.

Several councils, in reflecting on the future of the League, reported being most excited about the potential for growth—the potential for new members as congregations return to in-person worship; the increased visibility and opportunity to recruit as councils return to in-person activities and as they reach out wider into the base community. Councils reported excitement about the flexibility, efficiency and streamlining offered by the new executive structure.

Councils lived the national theme of *Catholic and Living It!* in both tangible and intangible ways. Some prayed the rosary regularly as a

group, while some helped local families in need. Some studied the saints, some made an effort to learn more about truth and reconciliation, while others offered a bursary for high school graduates and managed collections and volunteers for the food bank. All councils have members living the theme through regular ministry at mass, and many participate in ecumenical endeavours with the Protestant Chapel Guild or the Women's Inter-church Council of Canada.

One common focus across the MO this year was prayer, fundraising and support for Ukraine. Many in the military community have a direct connection to Ukraine through family and friends, or with the Ukrainian military through experience on deployment or work exchanges. These connections made the war feel closer to home—especially when beloved MO Ukrainian chaplains deployed to Poland. Efforts to help included a sunflower paint night fundraiser held virtually for members across the MO to support Bishop McCaig's special collection, individual fundraising efforts by members and councils, and collections of clothes and furniture, with potlucks and welcome events for refugee families.

### **Provincial Team Focus**

The provincial team's early switch to three standing committees proved to be challenging, as there was a substantial amount of information shared with fewer officers to action it. Team members focused on providing opportunities for connection and support to base councils, whose presidents were invited to be more involved as members of the provincial executive by attending additional virtual meetings. Lenten and Advent prayer initiatives with online rosaries were offered. Mentorship was provided to help support councils with their instructed voting and elections. The MO newsletter, *Maryline*, was published, along with many informative and inspiring posts in the MO's private Facebook group.

The MO's 54<sup>th</sup> annual provincial convention took place at the Galilee Centre in Arnprior, Ontario. Gathering together in person after so long was a true blessing, and attendees enjoyed connecting with each other under the theme *Sowing Love Through Sisterhood*. This event was the first convention planned entirely by the

provincial team rather than by a base host council, and although it was a challenging workload on top of regular duties, it was a success under the leadership of Past President Tawnya Stringer. Efforts to include a virtual component were well spent as it allowed councils to participate who could not travel, and also provided back-up when a cancelled flight forced guest speaker Elizabeth Tomlin to present virtually.

MO members are quite comfortable with technology, and the provincial team offered many opportunities throughout 2022 to connect and learn. Virtual gatherings were held for the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel and for CWL's National Day of Faith. A Development Day webinar, an Executive Orientation, and a workshop on discernment were highlights of the training offered. A virtual Christmas party was planned for fun and sisterhood.

### **Provincial President's Efforts**

It was an honour to represent the MO at the 102<sup>nd</sup> annual national convention in Kelowna, British Columbia, at the Worldwide Forum for the US Military Council of Catholic Women in Tampa, Florida, and at in-person meetings of the national board in Toronto and Winnipeg. Additionally, I served on the Unity Outreach project development committee. I was fortunate to be able to attend the Eucharistic celebration and banquet dinner for the Canadian Canon Law Society convention that took place in Ottawa—an event that was supported by our provincial council through volunteers for registration and banquet decorations.

The spirit of sisterhood across the Military Ordinariate Provincial Council remains strong, even after another challenging year. Members can be proud of the support they offered to each other, the service they provided to their communities, and the dedication they showed to the League in 2022.

### **New Brunswick Provincial Council**

27 of 36 parish council presidents have answered the questions in the 2022 annual survey.

Most councils are slow in returning to pre-pandemic activity. Slow and steady.

**What excites you about the upcoming changes to the League’s structure and future of the League?**

The general consensus reply is we will need fewer chairpersons and do not need a lot of ladies to fill the positions; time to re-focus and streamline the structure built on the strengths of previous committees. To quote a council—“Always up for change to better the important of structure and benefits to the League.” Councils are looking forward to workshops to educate members on the new structure. The consistency of correspondence being sent to the president and secretary to keep the council executive and members informed will prove to be an asset.

Faith and service are foremost as well—to promote growth, recruit new members, join with other councils who are struggling. But “the streamlined structure will focus on events and projects on our core values of faith, service and social justice are exciting going forward,” to quote a remark. On the other hand, some councils are questioning the changes as they feel personal and grassroots connections are being lost. A lot of our members are elderly, young women are not interested in joining us and members did not renew because of the increase in dues. Limited internet in parts of the province is a disadvantage.

**How are you preparing for these changes?**

As councils were just beginning to meet again at reporting time, continued discussion among members, reading communiqués and the League magazine plus using the website information were means of preparing for changes. Most important is the open communication among members and the preparation of spiritual programs.

**Have you asked provincial council for guidance to address the new structure, and if so, how helpful was the guidance provided?**

12 councils did not ask. 9 councils asked and found it helpful. 4 councils answered they could use more guidance. 2 councils asked and found it somewhat helpful. This is a total of the 27 councils.

**How is your council working with the theme *Catholic and Living It!*?**

Generally speaking, councils have embraced the national theme. Councils have been trying to be good examples and encourage the theme in community; promoting it at meetings and gatherings; and reflecting on it. Members live the theme in their daily lives—donating, helping, visiting shut-ins, breakfast programs.

A few councils were fortunate to have “beautiful spiritual works” such as retreat days, reflections, memorial services, recitation of the rosary. Members are lectors, Eucharistic ministers, ministers of hospitality, choir members, sacristans and form honour guards at member funerals. Letters were sent to federal and provincial lawmakers with their stand on MAiD, abortion, human trafficking and nuclear arms. Councils participated in the Gratitude Project, World Day of Prayer; sponsor a child in a third world country and welcome immigrants.

**How has your spiritual advisor shown support for the League?**

Spiritual advisors attend meetings when their schedule allows. It seems the replies were varied with the idea that spiritual advisors do the best they can considering the duties within their parish. They are supportive and encouraging and are available for guidance.

**Do you read your monthly minutes at each meeting?**

24 councils said yes; 3 said no.

**Do you keep your membership up to date with special events?**

23 councils said yes; 4 said no.

**Do you prepare and send to members a quarterly report of all activities of the council?**

21 councils said no; 6 said yes.



## Remarks from President June

2022 was a year to regroup and somewhat get back to normal. Some councils were able to hold regular meetings while others waited until the beginning of 2023.

Councils were able to hold retreats, reflection days, meetings to celebrate anniversaries and give out awards.

Most councils attended the workshop “My CWL 2022 Changing With The Times” and were well pleased with the presentation. Madonna Clark and Leslie Carr were instrumental in preparing this workshop and travelled around the province for various presentations. We thank them for sharing their time and talents with us.

We now look forward to initiating the new structure under the core values—faith, service and social justice. It’s new to all of us so we will work and learn together.

Congratulations to those councils celebrating anniversaries in 2023.

90 years	St. Vincent de Paul, Oromocto	May 27
	St. Gertrude, Woodstock	August
	Holy Rosary, Minto	September
65 years	Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Miramichi	October
	St. Patrick’s, Miramichi	October
5 years	St. Croix, St. Stephen	November

## Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial Council

As I clue up my two-year term as the provincial president of the Catholic Women's League in Newfoundland and Labrador—I wish I knew then what I know now—is a phrase that comes to my mind. I wish I had been more knowledgeable, I wish I had been more vocal but I have grown in the Catholic Women's League, I have matured and have grown as a Catholic woman and for that I will be forever grateful. I have met some of the most beautiful women this world

has to offer from Sharon Geiger in Salmon Arm British Columbia to the beautiful Joline Belliveau in Overton, Nova Scotia and all my other beautiful sisters in the League. I pray that the Catholic Women's League and being Catholic will keep us connected for years to come.

I am very happy to report we have had a complete turn around with our online reporting for 2022. For the year 2021 we had zero results however for 2022 we had 5 councils complete online reports and 3 councils did written reports, so that's a 66% increase over last year. There were some changes with the reporting this year that made things a little easier, officers didn't have to do reports, members could get together and do the report together and help each other out – so this was very welcome. Presidents were reminded very often of the timeline for the reporting and they were encouraged to do their best to complete the reports. According to what you have reported you are continuing to do what makes our League so special:

- Supporting the homeless
- Fighting for the unborn and respecting the person at all stages of life
- Supporting the marginalized and the less fortunate
- Assisting in our churches
- In our food banks
- Preparing meals for the homeless
- Donating to special causes/Hurricane Fiona

I urge all members to continue doing what you do, you don't need to change anything. We are still fighting the same old fight, no new members, we are all getting old, councils are disbanding, but for those that are still here, we will continue to be active members for as long as we can. Our work is so valuable and rewarding and so very much appreciated at all levels.

As this report is being completed, I am very sad to say that we have lost another council. This brings the total number of active councils in Newfoundland and Labrador to 12. Also, we now have two vacant standing committees. Spiritual development and Christian family

life will remain vacant until our provincial election on May 27, 2023, at which time we will be having our provincial convention.

On a happier note, we do have some councils that are getting new members, we have had several membership drives and the results have been promising. The overall membership results for this province cannot be about the quantity, yes we are losing councils, we are not getting members, however it also has to be about the quality—the quality of work we do. We write letters to our elected government officials to voice our concerns about important issues that affect us such as medical assistance in dying, medical assistance in dying for the mentally ill, abortion, palliative care, etc., we donate to special projects, we prepare meals for our less fortunate, all of that is so valuable, we continue to provide information to our parish communities where we play an active and visible part, we are involved in parish liturgies, committee's, bereavement groups, and the list goes on. We are Catholic women on a mission!! We will keep doing those things, we have to continue to be visible in our communities, in our churches—because what we do is “For God and Canada.”

## **Nova Scotia Provincial Council**

As I begin writing this annual report, I look back on the year 2022 with a sigh of relief as life has regained vibrancy, noise, activity. However, on to my activities last year, for the League.

In February I met with the two diocesan presidents, Janice MacDougall, Antigonish, and Sandra Kline, Halifax-Yarmouth, we discussed topics relevant to last year—disbanding of councils, funds for Montreal, finding a venue for our provincial convention. Then again in October, when Julie LeLievre became Antigonish president, Julie, myself and Sandra met.

The two final governance sessions were held on January 18, 2022 and the last one on February 15, 2022. The sessions were an excellent review on several relevant topics: duties of the board, strategic plan, exercises to make the participants think. The board meets twice a year, I attended both executive meetings one in

February 2022, Toronto, Ontario and in October 2022, Winnipeg, Manitoba. Topics: life membership criteria, guest speaker: Donna Dunn, strategic plan, Unity Outreach program, position papers, connecting with our spiritual advisors, disbandment policy, executive and provincial president roundtables. While in Winnipeg we visited our national office—my very first visit. What an awesome national office! One hundred plus years of CWL history! Arrangements were made last October for Shari Guinta to join the Nova Scotia provincial executive for the Unity Outreach presentation.

After both the February and October national executive meetings the provincial executive got together. In 2022 the March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting was at Point Pleasant Lodge. In person meeting, three of the executive were online. Topics discussed: disbandment, (Nova Scotia as of March 5<sup>th</sup>—eight councils disbanded in the last year), disbursement of funds collected to assist members wishing to attend the 2020 convention in Montreal, need of a permanent venue for the provincial convention?, online membership upgrade, Nova Scotia dental care resolution is under consideration federally, so the provincial council will wait and see what happens at the Nova Scotia Provincial government level. We were blessed with the presence of Archbishop Dunn at lunchtime. (Our executive meeting in November was online.)

In May of 2022 Spiritual Advisor, Father Patrick O’Neill was replaced. Bishop Kirkpatrick replaced him with Father Conrad Edwards, Pastor, Our Lady of Fatima in Sydney River. I attended the Antigonish diocesan convention on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 bringing greetings from the province. It was my first convention since the Covid outbreak and so refreshing to see members with no computers. The guest speaker was Bishop Kirkpatrick, he spoke on the Synod held in October of 2022. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend the Halifax-Yarmouth diocesan convention as it was held on the same day as the Antigonish Diocese.

Early in the month of May, four of the executive members met with Father Craig Cameron to discuss resurrecting the CWL council at St. Mary’s Basilica, Halifax. It was a very encouraging meeting—

and in the later part of the month, Cathy Targett was able to find the old charter and meetings will be in the fall. This was a successful meeting, as Father Craig was so positive and encouraging.

The provincial convention was by way of Zoom on June 11, 2022 as we were not able to secure a venue. Our guest speaker, CWL Life Member Joan Bona, Antigonish Diocese, expanded on our theme *Catholic and Living It!* There were no glitches thanks to Glenda Carson and Liz Doyle. The CWL members in Nova Scotia sent a very strong message during Covid - they prefer conventions with members present in a room - and do not take very well to online meetings at all. Message has been noted.

Fran Lucas, our president of the Catholic Women's League, started the project to wear yellow and blue ribbons for Ukraine, which members attending the national convention in Kelowna, August 2022 would wear. The ribbons were sewn by the provinces. Each province was assigned to sew 100 ribbons. Nova Scotia did its share and sewed 100 ribbons, 50 from each diocese. The ribbons were sewn in record time. A great big thank you to the councils in Halifax-Yarmouth Diocese and in Antigonish Diocese for their zeal in sewing the ribbons.

I attended the national convention, Kelowna, British Columbia as the Nova Scotia provincial president, Friday, August 12, 2022 - Thursday, August 18th, 2022. Every morning (and even sometimes in the evening) I would find a quiet space, and post a video on Facebook reiterating what had taken place during the day at the convention.

After returning from the convention in Kelowna, I joined the online course "Four Seasons of Reconciliation" sponsored by the Royal Bank. The course is extremely well done and shows the plight of many of the Indigenous men, women and children living in Canada, also focusing on bright and intelligent Indigenous men and women making a positive difference. Were you aware the United Nations has singled out Canada for its horrible treatment of our Indigenous people? It is certainly a big black eye for Canada.

Provincial presidents' meetings with Fran, national president were held in September and in November. We did not meet in October due to the national executive/board meeting in Toronto. The executive/board met with Kim Scammell, Executive Director on September 6, 2022, and the topic was board, different strategies, a way to lead us into the Unity Outreach plan.

In October 2022 I met with Archbishop Brian Dunn, to discuss the concerns of the provincial council. Also on the same day, Glenda Carson, Provincial Past President and I met, to begin organizing the 2026 CWL national convention, which is to take place in Halifax.

On November 2, 2022, an online Nova Scotia Provincial Council executive meeting was held. The new business the provincial executive discussed was the provincial website, annual reports, national (Halifax 2026) and provincial convention for 2023.

My final remarks are ones of concern for the League and its future. In 2022 the councils in Nova Scotia were still pondering the raise in the national per capita fee.

And as in many other provinces, we saw councils disband and members not renew. At the February 2022 board meeting, some of the presidents in attendance, discussed this with Donna Dunn, the consultant hired by the CWL to guide us through the 5-year strategic plan. Her advice to us was "Let the members who wish to leave do so. Let them go." I was at first taken aback by her words; her words still are with me. Personally I would rather a happy thriving League than one full of negative undercurrents. 2022 was year 4 of the strategic plan and all the new programs, changes in policy, changes in our structure will start to take root and develop. It is both an exhilarating time as well as a time of apprehension as we journey forward, wait and watch if the Catholic Women's League will survive in Nova Scotia. Our survival depends on all of us.

A summary of the Nova Scotia provincial officers' report 2022

### **Glenda Carson, Past President**

Glenda reports a significant increase in reports submitted. Past presidents offered guidance and support, consulted on historical

information, clarification on policy and procedure questions, general meeting procedures. However, still some of the past presidents were not called upon which speaks to the need to mentor presidents and members to be aware, past presidents are very valuable resources.

Archival material is generally stored in a church. CWL members save annual reports, Book of Life, scrap books. Archiving the valuable and rich history of the League is a focus of both the provincial and diocesan levels of the League, past presidents. A common problem being not all councils keep a history book, and upon disbandment are not able to forward their past history to the national office.

Most past presidents did assist their councils with the ‘instructed vote’. One in five past presidents were knowledgeable on the instructed votes sent out from national in 2022. The majority of the parish councils were all in possession of a policy and procedures manual. The councils who had not developed a parish council policy and procedures manual were in the process of doing so. Past presidents quite often turn to the online resources available on the CWL website.

Past presidents are involved in many other responsibilities, - filling a vacant position on the executive, chairing nominations and election committees, ensuring members are kept informed of League news, fundraising, promoting the League. Past presidents are involved in implementing the changes in CWL structure developed in the past five years.

### **Sandra O’Connell, Secretary**

Sandra reports an increase in the councils submitting reports from last year (32 out of 55 active councils.)

Minutes are circulated electronically before the meeting with hard copies available, distributed at the meeting. The copies circulated electronically also reaches members unable to attend meetings in person. Some councils still read the minutes at their monthly meetings.

As the three pillars of faith, service and social justice begin to replace the former standing committee and standing committee chairpersons, communications becomes part of the secretarial responsibilities. The Antigonish Diocesan Council is now using the new structure of faith, service and social justice. Forms of communicating to the councils: emails, parish bulletins, Facebook, newsletters, telephone. Some councils do not use social media. Main source of gathering information was the national website. Several parish councils circulate a newsletter.

Sandra suggested councils set up a motion book. It is very time saving if there are any questions regarding passed motions, as the information is there at your fingertips.

### **Cathy Farrow, Treasurer**

32 councils submitted a CWL parish council annual report. Many councils, due to Covid are not involved in many fundraisers.

Councils track revenue and expenses by using bank statements, deposit books, ledger/columnar book, receipt books, computer programs, Excel.

Focus of the 2022 annual report was communication particularly the increase in the per capita fee at the national level. Another focus, the importance of the position of treasurer.

Amounts paid to the National Voluntary Fund for 2022 was \$3,413.00

Other donations made by the CWL parish councils amounted to \$21,292.00

A thank you to all the parish councils who submitted reports was expressed by all three officers. All three, past president, secretary and the treasurer noticed a significant increase in councils submitting reports.



## Ontario Provincial Council

### Inform the Membership of the League's Position on Current Issues, Priorities and New Programs

The following national priorities were introduced, discussed and acted upon:

- Communiqués received from national officers were forwarded to their provincial counterparts. Members were encouraged to support suggestions, implement programs and offer their services for working groups.
- Councils were informed about the Unity Outreach project and many looked forward to implementing it.
- Many councils participated in 12-Hours-of-Prayer for Palliative Care.

The following provincial priorities were introduced, discussed and acted upon:

- Continued to focus on the theme *Loneliness* by encouraging outreach through phone calls and visits, the development of a resolution on the topic, sharing information about the causes and effects of loneliness with government officials.
- Following the installation of the newly elected executive, the theme *Go Make a Difference!* was introduced.
- Provincial officers and diocesan presidents developed webinars, projects and initiatives to make a noticeable difference in society by providing service to the less fortunate, increasing the awareness of social justice issues and increasing the faith of members.
- Awareness of Indigenous issues was developed by wearing orange on National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, virtually praying reconciliation rosaries on that day and on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe as well as sharing information through directives and in the *ON-Line Newsletter*.

## **Foster Open Communication**

- Attended an in-person meeting with the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO), informed them about the work being done by the League provincially and resolutions topics being studied.
- Communications from the Ontario Provincial Council were fostered through:
  - The *ON-Line Newsletter*, the website and Facebook page.
  - Oral and written reports at executive meetings.
  - Directives from provincial officers to counterparts.
  - In-person and virtual meetings for the whole executive but also virtual meetings between the provincial executive and their diocesan counterparts.

## **Preside at All Meetings of the Council**

- The provincial convention was held in-person for the first time in several years, however the pre-convention and administrative committee meetings were virtual.
- Executive and administrative committee meetings were held both in-person and virtually.

## **Be a Signing Officer for All Official Documents**

- Together with the treasurer and secretary, reviewed claim forms and signed cheques.
- Together with the resolutions chair, sent letters requesting visits with the Ontario premier and other government officials.

## **Initiate Policy, in Consultation with the Officers**

- Provincial officers and diocesan presidents developed webinars, projects and initiatives to make a noticeable difference in society by providing service to the less

fortunate, increasing the awareness of social justice issues and increasing the faith of members.

- Provincial manuals were reviewed and updated, as required.
- Directives from provincial officers were shared via email with diocesan counterparts and other executive members and posted on the provincial website.

### **Be an Advisory Member of Committees**

- Chaired the administrative committee.
- Was a member, *ex officio*, of Policy and Guidelines Review, Resolutions Review, Social Justice, Bishop Pappin Award, Truth and Reconciliation and Government Visitation committees.

### **Be the Official Spokesperson for the Council**

- Represented the provincial council on the national board.
- Made a presentation to the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO) with President-elect Colleen Martin.
- Sent certificates to councils and members celebrating milestone events.

### **Appoint Committees**

The following committees were in place:

- Administrative Committee
- Policy, Guidelines and Convention Guide Review Committee
- Resolutions Committees, including review, reading, archiving and government visitation
- Minutes Review Committee
- Bishop Bernard F. Pappin Bursary Committee
- Social Justice Award Committee
- Truth and Reconciliation Committee
- Annual Report Book Committee
- Convention Committee
- Nominations and Elections Committee

All committee appointments were vetted by the president.

## **President's Activity Report**

- Attended all provincial and national meetings, as required, and gave written and oral reports
- Together with the administrative assistant sent letters of congratulations, sympathy and information.
- Wrote monthly “letters” and other articles for the *ON-Line Newsletter*, as well as directives and memos when required.
- Participated in webinars hosted by national officers, provincial officers and other groups.
- Initiated monthly virtual meetings with diocesan presidents.
- Made presentations to diocesan and parish councils whenever invited to do so
- Assisted with the preparations for upcoming and future provincial conventions.

## **Recommendations**

- Encourage the open communication of ideas between levels to foster the education of members and to develop leadership for the future.
- Offer regularly scheduled leadership courses to educate members who accept new executive positions.
- Ensure that mentorship is offered to members accepting executive positions.

## **Prince Edward Island Provincial Council**

Prince Edward Island Council had 17 out of 30 councils complete the 2022 online presidents annual report. Most councils felt this was definitely an easier way to complete their annual report but regretted the fact that they were not able to document all their contributions at the grassroots level. Of course, this was meant to be simplified for those not comfortable with the computer but realized they didn't have enough space to recognize the important work of those CWL members who are very busy at the parish and community level and

LOVE what they are doing. Many of our members state they are happiest when ministering in person for then they are truly *Catholic and Living It!*

In the early months of 2022, we were again under restrictions because of the Omicron/COVID virus and so we decided to substitute our usual four February Area Meetings with one online workshop from 10am-12noon for everyone. It was entitled “Catholic and Living it” and our National President, Fran Lucas was able to join us from Alberta. Our PEI presenters were our Provincial Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Brian MacDougall plus a sharing on “What the CWL means to our parish” by St. Francis of Assisi Parish Pastor Fr. Doug MacDonald and CWL Life Member Elaine Black. We were also able to break into discussion groups and record for anyone not able to attend. This was a new experience for PEI.

I have documented some of the many activities members were involved with this past year, such as the World Day of Prayer in person and online, praying with Pope Francis for the “Conversion of Russia”, masses, personal prayers and online prayer for Ukraine, ribbons were made for Ukraine to show our support and taken to the Kelowna convention; money and supplies raised for Ukrainian refugees, 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care, sending get well and sympathy cards, praying for and visiting the sick; remembering our veterans on Remembrance Day and laying wreaths; food bank and clothing donations; Christmas Basket donations to the home bound and needy families; Calls to Action for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission were read at parish meetings; mass was celebrated for the Crowning of Mary and Our Lady of Good Counsel; gifts and receptions for first communion and confirmation students; donations to shelters for women, children and men; honour guards and funeral receptions; craft and bake sales, lottery baskets as well as catering to raise funds for CWL donations to Development & Peace, Catholic Women’s Leadership Program plus the many programs supported by CWL; recognition of CWL members by presentation of pins for years of service; a knitting & quilting group to encourage socialization; working with parish youth groups; donations to the annual PEI Catholic Girl’s Bursary; members

participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Day for Truth and Reconciliation by wearing orange and attending ceremonies; many councils or parish groups with CWL members took part in the synodal process and submitted their reports; many members were able to participate in the Papal visit via TV or online; voluntary donations were made to the Indigenous Reconciliation Campaign Fund, submissions to our annual Christmas newsletter and PEI CWL Website. Most CWL members are involved in their parishes as lectors, Eucharistic ministers, catechists, sacristan, ushers, pastoral council members, music ministry, choir, RCIA and marriage preparation courses, prayer groups/book study groups, prayer line and other church work etc. I mention all these activities but there are many more, but space is limited. The most important thing is that our grassroots members find their work rewarding and *Catholic and Living It!*

Much work went into our 100<sup>th</sup> CWL anniversary provincial convention on May 6 & 7, 2022. COVID restrictions had been lifted earlier in the week and so we were blessed with approximately 150 members in attendance and honored to have wonderful guest speakers such as Lieutenant Governor Antoinette Perry who gave words of recognition and encouragement for the work of the CWL on PEI. Julie Pellissier-Lush, PEI Poet Laureate, captivated attendees with her stories about her Indigenous culture and of healing over seven generations. CWL Life Member Elaine Black, took us back in history when two Island women were instrumental in forming the Catholic Women's League as a national organization. We were delighted to have our National President, Fran Lucas, join us for the entire convention and share more on our new theme *Catholic and Living It!* as well as reviewing the new program on "Misconceptions". A beautiful CWL quilted wall hanging (made by 2 CWL members) was displayed at the convention to be circulated to all parish councils in celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Three members attended the 102<sup>nd</sup> annual national convention in beautiful Kelowna, British Columbia. It was so wonderful to be able to meet again in person and be part of an outstanding national convention. Our next annual event, the pilgrimage in honor of the Jesuit Martyrs (the secondary patron saints for Canada) and Rosary

for Pro-Life intentions on September 24<sup>th</sup> had to be cancelled due to Hurricane Fiona. In spite of power outages and serious damage from wind and fallen trees, CWL members were able to gather for our two fall workshops in October. During the workshops we reviewed the results of the amendments passed at the national convention, which included the increase in the per capita fee, discussed the “Faith, Service, and Social Justice” document on reducing the 8 committees to 3 and how this would be going into effect across Canada over the next two years and would begin as soon as January for PEI councils at their upcoming elections. At our fall workshop we reviewed information on how to develop a policy and procedure manual for each of our parish councils. We also enjoyed two informative Indigenous speakers Julie Pelletier-Lush and Sr. Shelly Grant CND on their personal life experiences while educating us on the importance of learning more about our Indigenous people and the 94 Calls to Action. Another speaker shared on her joyful experience as director of the Island Pregnancy Centre on PEI and the work being currently accomplished at their centres in Charlottetown and Summerside and with new plans to open a home for mothers and babies at their Summerside site. Our new Provincial Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Danny Wilson, was installed at mass during our October 15<sup>th</sup> fall workshop. He suggested we use the encyclical letter, *The Gospel of Life* by St. John Paul II for our reflections over the next year or so. A PowerPoint presentation to demonstrate the new annual report and to assist anyone with questions on completing the annual report was presented by our President-elect, Karen Rossiter. We also congratulated Karen on her successful completion of the Catholic Women’s Leadership Program in May 2022.

Other accomplishments during the year were the completion of six subsidies provided by provincial council each year to councils completing a workshop, event or retreat on the present theme which was *Catholic and Living It!* We also provide a Catholic Girl’s Bursary for 12 successful applicants annually. This year we were surprised and grateful to receive a monetary donation from Our Lady of Snows CWL Council in Ontario which was given to the Red Cross Fiona Fund and the PEI Food Bank. This shows the generosity and caring that the CWL can provide for people in need across

Canada. Our resolutions committee continues to follow up on new information for their lyme disease resolution.

The provincial council was updated on the national Unity Outreach project in November and were looking forward to implementing this program during the winter and spring months following their initial meeting (online) with national council executive member Glenda Carson planned for January 2023.

In closing, I see PEI looking forward to the new changes being planned and to continuing the spirit of the CWL which is our mission statement “The Catholic Women’s League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service”.

## **Quebec Provincial Council**

**INTRODUCTION:** 2022 was a year that began slowly and gradually picked up momentum. A few councils began to meet in person in the late spring lead by two diocesan annual meetings of members and the 74<sup>th</sup> Quebec Provincial Convention. Activities resumed at a more normal pace in the fall even though attendance at in-person events remained low because reluctance to gather by many because of the lingering pandemic. COVID created a great disconnect between members and councils at all levels. Membership dropped dramatically; two councils disbanded and a third gave notice. Two other councils were considering disbanding but have reconsidered for now. In 2022, Quebec had 638 members and 15 councils of which 14 completed the 2022 parish annual survey.

**STARTING UP AND NEW INITIATIVES:** The first initiative undertaken by the new Quebec provincial executive was to reach out to every parish council to forge and strengthen ties. A virtual meeting was held between all the diocesan and parish presidents in Quebec and the provincial president immediately following the provincial convention in June. Council strengths, concerns, and requests of the provincial council were identified. From this meeting the two most common requests of the provincial council were a need for help with recruitment and member motivation and help with



understanding the implications of the structure changes resulting from the instructed votes of 2022. A workshop on recruitment and a presentation on the changes in the League were prepared over the summer. The provincial executive attended a training day in October during which two workshops were given, one on How to deliver a Workshop & Present Yourself and another on The Joys of Leadership. The Workshop Recruitment (and member motivation) and the presentation Changes 2022 explaining the impacts of the decisions made at the 2022 national convention on parish councils were piloted. Executive members paired up and began visiting parish councils other than their own, to deliver the Recruitment workshop and the Changes 2022 presentation. Because of timing only a few councils could be visited before the end of the year, but the feedback was very positive, and most councils were booked for their winter meetings.

The second major initiative undertaken by the new Quebec Provincial Council executive was to improve direct communication with members. This began in August immediately following the 2022 August national convention when an information letter called Newsflashes & Links: Vital Information to Know & Share!!! was sent to every parish for distribution. This document summarized all the important decisions made during the 102<sup>nd</sup> annual national convention in Kelowna. In the fall, we published the first two issues of a new newsletter called *THE QUEBEC CWL JOURNEY*. The newsletter comes out every two months with the aim of reducing emails by consolidating information. The newsletter content is created to keep every member in Quebec up to date and informed of all new initiative, projects, plans, events, and more from national, provincial, and diocesan councils as well as sharing parish council news. The first issues introduced the members of the Quebec provincial executive and had articles submitted by the executive to summarize national communiqués, provided dates of events, listed links to information on the national website, and so much more. Parish councils sent in news and pictures of their activities too. We are building ties across the province and have streamlined our communication. The feedback from members has been very positive.

**PRESIDENTS IN QUEBEC SPEAK:** Councils continued to meet whether virtually, hybrid, or in person. Small gatherings took place to hold the instructed votes, to hold annual meetings of members, to hold elections, to host a Bagels and Beatitudes breakfast, a Workshop for Women of Peace, prayers and Rosary and Stations of the Cross recitations, presentation of service pins and awards, to celebrate councils' 95<sup>th</sup>, 70<sup>th</sup>, and 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, for World Day of Prayer, for 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care, for National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous People, a retreat Fan into Flame the Gift that is Yours, a morning of reflection during the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, and general meetings. More spiritual advisors in Quebec are participating more often in their council's activities. *Catholic and Living It!* is alive and well in Quebec despite COVID.

Although membership dropped throughout the province, some councils did recruit new members through personal invitation, by hosting events in their parishes, and using some of the ideas from the provincial Recruitment Workshop. Reaching out to women in the parish after the worries of COVID diminished, started again in the fall. Councils are trying to be more visible in their parishes. Communication has been the lifeline for members. Birthday and Christmas cards were truly valued during this time of isolation. Training took place to help members participate in virtual meetings. Newsletters were distributed and invitations sent mostly through email or Facebook and Messenger and telephone calls. Parish bulletins and diocesan newsletters were used to inform the community about council activities. Consultation of the national website has increased. Commemorative plaques were installed in communities to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CWL.

Members continued to be active in their parishes as leader, readers, eucharistic ministers, educators, choir members, and fund raisers. Work in our communities continues with support to local women's shelters, homeless shelters, the local YMCA, and food banks; Christmas baskets; graduation bursaries and post-secondary scholarships; school supplies were purchased and local food programs supported for children in need; knitting of blanket and hats

for local neonatal intensive care unit; and wreaths laid at cenotaphs for Remembrance Day. Most councils found ways to support Ukrainians displaced because of the war by collecting clothing and making monetary donations. Development and Peace—Caritas Canada continues to be supported. One council wrote directly to the Holy Father impressing upon him the importance of coming to Canada and they received a personal response galvanizing them into action. Inspired, they and their sister council in the Quebec City area were actively involved in the papal visit in July 2022.

Members continue to follow the legislative developments on assisted suicide, writing letters and supporting the Coalition Against Assisted Suicide. The national resolution on food waste was studied and councils donated left over food to local shelters. Members continue to focus on environmental issues and reducing waste, recycling, and reusing.

Councils expressed a need for training on all the new information available from national regarding the new structure, the new committees, and the new resources from the strategic planning working groups.

Despite COVID and difficulty in gathering, 2022 saw councils still taking care of their members, their parishes, their communities, and people in difficulty around the world. Quebec CWL councils and their members continue to share their gifts through their good works showing they are truly *Catholic and Living It!*

**QUEBEC PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE:** Such an amazing team! The Quebec provincial executive met several times before the end of the year to team-build, to set strategies, to launch new initiatives, and to address national, diocesan, and parish concerns. Every member participated in ensuring information from national communiqués was included in the *Quebec CWL Journey* newsletter. We are re-building our connections with members across the province by reaching out to every parish and by visiting parishes other than our own, getting to know women from across the province. The approach, for now, is the provincial executive going out to the parishes to be known, to listen, to train, to offer

suggestions, and to support our councils. Cooperation and helping each other was wonderful to witness. We have several members of the executive who have participated in national *ad hoc* committees and strategic planning working groups. We are blessed with two Indigenous members on our executive who share important insights. Indigenous activity initiatives are being promoted. Our spiritual advisor is ever present and ready to help us on our journey.

Members of the executive all expressed how valuable the virtual meetings with their sisters from the other provincial councils and the national chairperson in the same positions were and hope these will continue. The new communication system of sending all information through the secretary and president has been in use on the provincial council for years and now has been promoted and adopted by the diocesan and parish councils. This has made communication more efficient, less frequent, and easier to track. The executive is also more hopeful after seeing the high rate of participation in the 2022 annual parish survey. The feeling is councils are still active and interested.

The Quebec provincial executive has a mission to remind councils and their members of how amazing they are and how valued each member is. The 2022 parish annual survey demonstrates how active and invested our Quebec sisters are in their councils and the League. We need to keep reminding them and rekindle their sense of joy, fulfillment, sisterhood, and belonging.

**FUTURE:** The national Unity Outreach program will be one focus for 2023. Policy and procedure manuals need to be written or updated in every council to reflect the changes resulting from the strategic plan. Mentoring needs to become central to leadership development. Familiarizing members with the new resources available because of the strategic plan thereby creating familiarity and more frequent use of the national website will be essential. Training on the new structure and duties will be central as councils begin to put into place the new structure.

**CONCLUSION:** In Quebec membership continues to be a concern yet councils have shown they want to rebuild and they continue to

do good works. Connections and strengthening of ties between members and other levels of the League is essential. Reaffirming the value of belonging to a national organization with a voice in government is core to motivating women to renew their membership and recruiting others to join a council. Keeping our councils alive and vibrant with a sense of the importance of the League will be the key to keeping our councils going.

We remain women who work together using our strengths, gifts, and charisms to face our challenges. The gifts our members share with each other and our communities are too numerous to count and we rejoice in them. With God's love, strength from the Holy Spirit, and the intercession of our patroness Our Lady of Good Counsel, we continue our journey of renewal and rebuilding and pray for success in all our efforts as we continue to demonstrate we are *Catholic and Living It!*

## **Saskatchewan Provincial Council**

After two years of pandemic turbulence, 2022 was welcomed as a renewal year as councils again began meeting in person. To compile as much information as I could for my report, reports from the diocesan presidents supplemented the parish responses to the online survey which were only completed by one half of the councils in the province. While many councils were still taking time to regroup, others were resuming their work with full force.

The changes to the executive structure have been met with great enthusiasm and workshops and diocesan meetings have provided guidance in moving to the three standing committee format. This will be an ongoing initiative of the provincial and diocesan executives to provide guidance and training on working with the new structures and making members aware of the resources available to assist them. There are still challenges at all levels to fill executive positions and failure of members to take on leadership roles have proved to be a tipping point for some councils in deciding to disband. Councils have been encouraged to do what ever works for them to keep their councils active for their membership. Mentorship is key to building future leaders and we should always

be looking for the potential in each of our members to take on a leadership role. New members are recruited through parish bulletins, announcements, membership brunches, and personal invitations. While new members have been recruited, more were lost through non-renewal and deaths leaving us with over 500 fewer members than in the previous year. “How do we recruit new members?” is something all councils would like assistance with. Attendance at social events brought out more members and non-members so in addition to growing our faith, serving others, and addressing the need for social justice in our society, we have to remember that girls still want to have fun!

Communicating to members through parish bulletins, emails, and phone calls allowed councils to stay connected. Almost a third of the councils use newsletters to keep their councils informed. As we still have members who do not use computers, it is difficult to share many of the resources that are available online. Use of the national and provincial websites, social media, virtual meetings, and webinars are becoming more commonly used as more members become technology connected.

The theme *Catholic and Living It!* was embraced and members responded by doing just that on a daily basis by praying and creating spiritual programs and retreats, participating in parish ministries, providing care within the parish by serving funeral lunches, and to the greater community by volunteering at centres that feed the hungry and assist those marginalized in our society. Financial support for charities continued and surpassed the amounts reported in previous years. One diocese focused on supporting a local shelter for victims of human trafficking through the IWIN project, supplying backpacks containing personal care items.

Our provincial spiritual advisor has reached out to the spiritual advisors in the parishes and many councils have reported they are well supported by their spiritual advisors. They are our most important tool that we can use in promoting the League.

Families, youth, and the sanctity of life are being supported through prayers, providing communion to shut ins, coffee parties for the

elderly, nursing home visits, prayer shawls for the sick, donations and membership in pro-life groups, support of pregnancy crisis centres, financial support to youth groups, bursaries, and sacramental preparation gifts.

The topic of palliative care was most responded to by our parish councils as half of the councils participated in some way in 12 hours of Prayer for Palliative Care,  $\frac{3}{4}$  sent post cards during the campaign and a third attended the webinar provided on May 7, 2022. We will consider this interest as very positive as quality, accessible and affordable palliative care is our response to the growing trend of accessing medical assistance in dying (MAiD).

Councils are responding to a challenge to provide members with events or learning opportunities to further understanding and participation in “walking together” towards truth and reconciliation with our Indigenous sisters and brothers. The Caritas Blanket Exercise, prayer services and other events put on by other than CWL councils were also attended by our members. As we have many people of Ukrainian heritage in our province, our members were very generous in responding to financial support for humanitarian aid as well as supporting new arrivals in settling into homes with donations of household items.

Acting on resolutions has been mostly limited to the “Palliative Care” and Pornography Hurts” postcard campaigns with a few councils reporting letter writing to government officials as well. Resolutions and legislation chairpersons are more often than not left vacant; however, councils do recognize the need for education on these topics. While parish councils understand the importance of resolutions and legislation, work is needed to keep the resolution and legislation information process an active part of the parish council activity. This will be a challenge to national, provincial, and diocesan councils to ensure these important areas are well supported though their communications and education opportunities presented now that they will fall under the broader standing committee of social justice.

Very few of the many new resources created by the strategic plan implementation committee have been utilized and many councils were not aware that they existed. Through promotion and utilization by provincial and diocesan executive members in workshops and meetings, these resources should be of great benefit to parish councils in the future.

Transition will be the focus for the next year. Prayer, outreach, listening, and training. Change is hard. It will call for sacrifices and hard work. But just as the butterfly emerges gloriously from its cocoon, so will the League of the future, through it's hard work, become a more focused and engaging organization. All with God's help!

# **CATHOLIC and LIVING IT!**



# **Appendix A: Audited Financial Statements**

**THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2022**

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

**To the Members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada:**

### *Opinion*

We have audited the financial statements of The Catholic Women's League of Canada (the League), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2022, and the statement of revenues and expenditures, statement of changes in net assets and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the League as at December 31, 2022, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

### *Basis for Opinion*

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the League in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### *Other Matter*

Our examination did not extend to the budget which has been provided as additional information and therefore we do not express an opinion concerning the budget.

*Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements* Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the League's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the League or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the League's financial reporting process.

### *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements*

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the League's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the League's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the League to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.\*

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and

significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

*Scarrow & Donald LLP*

Chartered Professional Accountants  
March 4, 2023  
Winnipeg, Canada

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SCARROW & DONALD, CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS, LLP

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For this communication, together with the work done to prepare this communication and for opinions we have formed, if any, we accept and assume responsibility only to the addressee of this communication, as specified in our letter of engagement.

**THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

**December 31**  
**2022      2021**

**ASSETS**

**Current assets:**

Cash	\$ 177,243	209,790
Accounts receivable	21,697	10,671
Inventory	94,636	114,466
Prepaid expenses	<u>58,107</u>	<u>57,031</u>
	351,683	391,958

**Capital assets (Note 3)**

19,535      19,055

**Investments (Note 4)**

2,121,867      2,347,282

**\$ 2,493,085      2,758,295**

**LIABILITIES**

**Current liabilities:**

Accounts payable and accruals	\$ 140,860	\$ 134,078
Deferred revenue	266,189	130,479
National voluntary funds (Note 5)	<u>27,797</u>	<u>31,390</u>
	<u>434,846</u>	<u>295,947</u>

**NET ASSETS**

**Internally restricted to fund bursaries**

190,446      188,192

**Investment in capital assets**

19,535      19,055

**Unrestricted net assets**

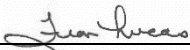
1,848,258      2,255,101

2,058,239      2,462,348

**\$ 2,493,085      2,758,295**

**Commitments (Note 9)**

**APPROVED BY THE BOARD**



\_\_\_\_\_  
**National President**



\_\_\_\_\_  
**National Secretary-Treasurer**

**THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA**  
**STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES**

	Year ended December 31		
	2022	2022	2021
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
<b>Revenues:</b>			
Per capita fees	\$ 823,272	\$ 871,300	\$ 857,194
Product sales	115,299	145,400	61,242
Convention registration fees	68,100	157,800	-
Parish council insurance	31,565	33,600	29,725
Magazine subscriptions	3,816	3,700	4,032
Life memberships	-	-	1,800
Bursary donations	4,038	6,500	13,485
Miscellaneous	16,818	-	6,480
	<u>1,062,908</u>	<u>1,218,300</u>	<u>973,958</u>
<b>Expenditures (Schedule B):</b>			
Convention	162,527	157,800	16,624
Insurance	31,593	37,400	38,107
International relations	6,052	6,100	2,836
League development	268,995	388,000	234,264
Magazine	160,408	170,600	146,909
National executive	125,685	113,200	32,930
Office building	77,060	86,500	83,298
Office equipment	54,735	45,900	47,157
Operating costs	86,273	70,000	90,061
Product sales	75,344	97,900	38,911
Staff	396,022	375,700	370,526
	<u>1,444,694</u>	<u>1,549,100</u>	<u>1,101,623</u>
<b>Difference between revenues and expenditures from operations</b>	(381,786)	(330,800)	(127,665)
<b>Investment income (loss) (Schedule A)</b>	<u>(22,323)</u>	<u>102,700</u>	<u>251,647</u>
<b>Difference between revenues and expenditures</b>	<u>\$ (404,109)</u>	<u>\$ (228,100)</u>	<u>\$ 123,982</u>

**THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA**  
**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS**

Year ended December 31

	<u>Internally Restricted to Fund Bursaries</u>	<u>Invested in Capital Assets</u>	<u>Unrestricted Net Assets</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<b>Balance, beginning of year</b>	\$ 188,192	\$ 19,055	2,255,101	\$ 2,462,348	\$ 2,338,366
<b>Difference between revenues and expenditures</b>	-	-	(404,109)	(404,109)	123,982
<b>Amortization</b>	-	(5,746)	5,746	-	-
<b>Bursaries awarded</b>	(7,900)	-	7,900	-	-
<b>Bursary donations</b>	4,038	-	(4,038)	-	-
<b>Interest allocation</b>	6,116	-	(6,116)	-	-
<b>Purchase of capital assets</b>	-	6,226	(6,226)	-	-
<b>Balance, end of year</b>	\$ 190,446	\$ 19,535	1,848,258	\$ 2,058,239	\$ 2,462,348



**THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**

	Year ended December 31	
	2022	2021
<b>Cash flows from:</b>		
Operating activities-		
Difference between revenues and expenditures	\$ (404,109)	\$ 123,982
Items not affecting cash-		
Amortization	5,746	6,281
Loss on disposal of capital assets	-	627
Gain on disposal of investments	(45,802)	(110,321)
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	137,750	(105,964)
	(306,415)	(85,395)
Net changes in non-cash working capital affecting operations (Note 7)	150,220	67,718
	(156,195)	(17,677)
Financing activities-		
Change in national voluntary funds	(3,593)	2,103
Investing activities-		
Purchase of capital assets	(6,226)	(8,622)
Change in investments	133,467	(249,585)
	127,241	(258,207)
<b>Change in cash</b>	(32,547)	(273,781)
<b>Cash, beginning of year</b>	209,790	483,571
<b>Cash, end of year</b>	\$ 177,243	209,790

# THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

### 1. Purpose of the League:

The Catholic Women's League of Canada, founded in 1920, is a non-profit organization federally incorporated on December 12, 1923. The Mission Statement is "The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service." For Canadian income tax purposes, the League is qualified as a not-for-profit organization, which is exempt from income tax under the Income Tax Act (Canada).

### 2. Significant accounting policies:

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. An assumption underlying the preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations is that the entity will continue for the foreseeable future and will be able to realize its assets and discharge liabilities in the normal course of operations.

The financial statements include the following significant accounting policies:

#### a) Critical accounting estimates and judgements-

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reported period.

## 2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

### a) Critical accounting estimates and judgements-

Accounting estimates are included in financial statements to approximate the effect of past business transactions or events, or to approximate the present status of an asset or liability. It is possible that changes in future economic conditions could require changes in the recognized amounts for accounting estimates. These estimates are reviewed periodically, and, as adjustments become necessary, they are reported in the period in which they became known.

Significant areas of estimation by management include the impairment of non-financial assets, the useful lives of capital assets and the fair value of financial instruments.

Management bases their judgments, estimates and assumptions on factors they believe to be reasonable in the circumstances, but which may be inherently uncertain and unpredictable.

### b) Inventory-

Inventory consisting of goods available for sale is valued at the lower of cost, on a first-in, first-out basis, and net realizable value. The cost of inventories comprises the purchase price, non-recoverable taxes, transport and handling costs directly attributable to the acquisition of inventories, net of any discounts or other rebates.

### c) Capital assets-

Capital assets are recorded at cost and amortized over their estimated useful lives, except for contributed assets which are recorded at fair market value at the time of the contribution plus all costs directly attributable to the acquisition. This requires estimation of the useful life of the asset and residual value. When a capital asset is impaired, the excess of its net carrying amount over the asset's fair value or replacement cost is recognized as an expense.

## 2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

### c) Capital assets-

As is true for all accounting estimates, it is possible that changes in future conditions could require changes in the recognized amounts for accounting estimates.

Capital assets are amortized on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the asset as follows:

Computer equipment      20%

Furniture and fixtures      10%

Leasehold improvements      straight line over life of the lease

### d) Revenue recognition-

Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Investment income includes interest, realized and unrealized investment gains and losses. Interest revenue is recognized on a time proportion basis. Other investment income is recognized as received. Unrealized gains and losses on financial assets measured at fair value are included in the statement of revenue and expenditures in the year that they are incurred.

### e) Internally restricted to fund bursaries-

The national bursary fund was established by the national executive with the interest earned on the fund to be used for bursaries. These internally restricted amounts are not available for other purposes without approval of the board of directors.

## 2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

### f) National voluntary funds-

Contributions are received by the League designated by the donor to these national funds. Monies are forwarded annually to the appropriate organization.

### g) Donated materials and services-

Donated materials and services are recorded at fair market value. Volunteer time is not recognized in the financial statements because of the difficulty of determining fair value.

### h) Financial instruments-

Financial instruments are measured at fair value on initial recognition adjusted by, in the case of a financial instrument that will not be measured subsequently at fair value, financing fees and transaction costs that are directly attributable to its origination, acquisition, issuance or assumption. Transaction costs related to financial instruments that will be measured subsequently at fair value are recognized in net income for the period incurred.

In subsequent periods, investments in equity instruments that are quoted in an active market and certain derivative contracts are measured at fair value without any adjustment for transaction costs that may incur on sale or other disposal. The League may elect to measure any financial instrument at fair value when the asset or liability is first recognized or for equity instruments previously measured at fair value when the equity instrument ceases to be quoted in an active market. Other investments in equity instruments are measured at cost less any reduction for impairments. All other financial instruments are measured at amortized cost.

## 2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

### h) Financial instruments-

Amortized cost is the amount at which the financial instrument is measured at initial recognition less principal repayments, plus or minus the cumulative of any difference between that initial amount and the maturity amount, and minus any reduction for impairment.

The League measures cash, accounts receivable and accounts payable and accruals at amortized cost. Investments are measured at fair value.

The League assesses impairment of all its financial assets, except those measured at fair value. Management considers whether there has been a breach in contract, such as a default or delinquency in interest of principal payments in determining whether objective evidence of impairment exists. Impairment is included in current earnings.

## 3. Capital assets:

	December 31			
	2022		2021	
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Cost	Accumulated Amortization
Computer equipment	\$ 130,010	\$ 110,793	\$ 123,784	\$ 105,246
Furniture and fixtures	46,934	46,616	46,934	46,417
Leasehold improvements	<u>92,368</u>	<u>92,368</u>	<u>92,368</u>	92,368
	\$ <u>269,312</u>	\$ <u>249,777</u>	\$ <u>263,086</u>	\$ <u>244,031</u>
Net book value	\$ <u>19,535</u>		\$ <u>19,055</u>	

#### 4. Investments:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Fixed income investments	\$ 701,841	\$ 790,803
Portfolio Canadian equity investments	<u>1,420,026</u>	<u>1,556,479</u>
	<u>\$ 2,121,867</u>	<u>\$ 2,347,282</u>

Fixed income investments bear interest at 3.23% - 4.00% (2021 - 3.05% - 3.25%) with maturities from June 2023 through July 2024 (2021 - June 2022 through January 2024).

#### 5. National voluntary funds:

	<u>Balance beginning of year</u>	<u>Contributions received</u>	<u>Interest earned</u>	<u>Contributions forwarded</u>	<u>Balance end of year</u>
Catholic Missions In Canada	\$ 9,463	\$ 19,677	\$ 326	\$ (21,136)	\$ 8,330
Coady International	6,450	12,214	209	(13,051)	5,822
CCCB Palliative Care Kit	552	3,133	33	(2,130)	1,588
Euthanasia Prevention Coalition	4,128	5,302	-	(9,180)	250
Development and Peace	5,560	14,744	205	(13,123)	7,386
Catholic Near East Welfare Association	<u>5,237</u>	<u>9,671</u>	<u>193</u>	<u>(10,680)</u>	<u>4,421</u>
	<u>\$ 31,390</u>	<u>\$ 64,741</u>	<u>\$ 966</u>	<u>\$ (69,300)</u>	<u>\$ 27,797</u>

#### 6. Strategic planning:

The League engages in strategic planning. The costs include the costs of personnel and other expenses that are directly related to strategic planning. Salaries, wages and benefit expenses of \$60,314 (2021 - \$51,167) have been allocated to league development strategic planning based on estimated time spent.

## 7. Cash flow statement:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Net changes in non-cash working capital affecting operations-		
Accounts receivable	\$ (11,026)	\$ 2,839
Inventory	19,830	23,702
Prepaid expenses	(1,076)	(17,349)
Accounts payable and accruals	6,782	46,678
Government remittances	-	(56)
Deferred revenue	<u>135,710</u>	<u>11,904</u>
	<u>\$ 150,220</u>	<u>\$ 67,718</u>

During the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021 the League did not pay any interest and was not subject to income taxes. Cash receipts of interest and dividends included in net income for the year ended December 31, 2022 was \$87,696 (2021 - \$53,450).

## 8. Risk Management:

Management's risk management policies are typically performed as a part of the overall management of the League's operations. Management is aware of risks related to these objectives through direct personal involvement with employees and outside parties. In the normal course of its activity, the League is exposed to a number of risks that can affect its operating performance. Management's close involvement in operations helps identify risks and variations from expectations. The League has not designated transactions as hedging transactions to manage risk. As a part of the overall operation of the League, management considers the avoidance of undue concentrations of risk. These risks include, and the actions taken to manage them are as follows:



## **8. Risk Management (continued):**

### **Liquidity risk-**

Liquidity risk is the risk that the League cannot meet its financial obligations associated with financial liabilities in full. The League's main sources of liquidity are its operations and investment. The funds are primarily used to finance working capital and capital expenditure requirements and are adequate to meet the League's financial obligations associated with financial liabilities.

### **Interest rate risk-**

Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in market interest rates may have an effect on the cash flows associated with some financial assets and liabilities, known as interest rate cash flow risk, or on the fair value of other financial assets or liabilities, known as interest rate price risk. Fixed income investments with fixed interest rates minimize cash flow risk.

### **Credit risk-**

Credit risk arises from the possibility that debtors may be unable to fulfill their commitments. For a financial asset, this is typically the gross carrying amount, net of any amounts offset and any impairment losses. The League has credit policies to address credit risk on accounts receivable, which may include the analysis of the financial position of the debtor and review of credit limits. The League also may review credit history before establishing credit and reviews credit performance. An allowance for doubtful accounts or other impairment provisions are established based upon factors surrounding credit risk, historical trends and other information. Allowance for doubtful accounts has been recorded as at December 31, 2022 of \$nil (2021 - \$nil).

### **Other price risk-**

Other price risk is the risk that changes in market prices, including commodity or equity prices, will have an effect on future cash flows associates with financial instruments. The cash flows associated with the Leagues' investments are affected by investment performance.

## 9. Commitments:

The League has committed to office and equipment leases with expiration dates ranging from 2023 through 2025. The following is a schedule of minimum payments required under the leases:

2023	\$ 45,473
2024	42,400
2025	24,733

## 10. Government assistance:

The League applied for the Back to Work in Manitoba Wage Subsidy Program and Manitoba Summer Student Recovery Jobs Program relating to salaries paid during the years ended December 31, 2021. Miscellaneous revenue includes \$5,921 related to these subsidies.

### THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA Schedule A SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENT INCOME (LOSS)

#### Year ended December 31

	2022 Actual	2021 Actual
Investment income:	\$ 20,810	\$ 17,580
Interest	45,802	110,321
Realized gain on disposal of investments	<u>66,886</u>	<u>35,870</u>
Dividends	133,498	163,771
Investment council fees	(18,071)	(18,088)
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	<u>(137,750)</u>	<u>105,964</u>
	\$ <u>(22,323)</u>	\$ <u>251,647</u>

**THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA**

**Schedule B**

**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES**

**Year ended December 31**

	<b><u>2022</u></b>	<b><u>2022</u></b>	<b><u>2021</u></b>
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Convention:</b>			
Annual Convention	\$ 162,527	\$ 517,800	\$ 16,624
<b>Insurance:</b>			
Parish Liability	26,678	32,000	32,969
National directors and liability	4,915	5,400	5,138
	<u>31,593</u>	<u>37,400</u>	<u>38,107</u>
<b>International Relations:</b>			
Conferences	5,184	5,000	1,985
Membership fees	868	1,100	851
	<u>6,052</u>	<u>6,100</u>	<u>2,836</u>
<b>League Development:</b>			
Advertising	1,500	2,700	2,700
Bursaries	7,900	12,400	5,500
Development fund	1,865	42,000	-
Promotion	1,159	30,900	33,653
Provincial council grants	-	20,000	-
Strategic planning	255,731	280,000	186,630
Training webinars	840	-	5,781
	<u>268,995</u>	<u>388,000</u>	<u>234,264</u>
<b>Magazine:</b>			
Design	17,203	17,000	15,940
Mailing	9,759	9,500	6,852
Postage	87,532	104,700	100,399
Printing	45,914	39,400	23,718
	<u>160,408</u>	<u>170,600</u>	<u>146,909</u>
<b>National Executive:</b>			
Conferences	3,053	11,000	-
Mid-year executive meetings	88,214	68,800	27,636
National committee meetings	9,044	15,000	117
Strategic planning	8,630	8,000	-
Standing committees	8,905	1,600	4,434
President and spiritual advisor	5,586	7,000	59
Subscriptions	2,253	1,800	684
	<u>125,685</u>	<u>113,200</u>	<u>32,930</u>
<b>Office Building:</b>			
Janitorial	5,736	6,400	6,108
Rent, taxes and common area	65,016	72,400	69,301
Repairs and maintenance	1,252	2,800	3,799
Utilities	5,056	4,900	4,090
	<u>77,060</u>	<u>86,500</u>	<u>83,298</u>
<b>Sub-total</b>	<u>832,320</u>	<u>959,600</u>	<u>554,968</u>

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

Schedule B

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES

Year ended December 31

	2022 Actual	2022 Budget	2021 Actual
<b>Sub-total from previous page</b>	\$ 832,320	\$ 959,600	\$ 554,968
<b>Office Equipment:</b>			
Amortization	5,746	5,600	6,281
Disposal of capital assets	-	-	627
Equipment leases	42,402	33,800	34,033
Equipment maintenance	6,587	6,500	6,216
	<u>54,735</u>	<u>45,900</u>	<u>47,157</u>
<b>Operating Costs:</b>			
Archives	2,285	300	-
Bank charges	2,755	3,100	2,861
Computer support	30,875	12,700	46,111
Courier	110	400	85
Printing	5,740	14,600	8,199
Postage	11,892	11,600	8,182
Professional fees	13,575	9,100	9,393
Supplies	13,290	13,000	9,126
Telecommunications	5,751	5,200	6,104
	<u>86,273</u>	<u>70,000</u>	<u>90,061</u>
<b>Product Sales:</b>			
Cost of sales	61,152	78,800	29,070
Credit card fees	6,091	7,300	4,165
Inventory obsolescence	718	-	1,807
Shipping supplies	319	700	382
Parcel postage	7,064	11,100	3,487
	<u>75,344</u>	<u>97,900</u>	<u>38,911</u>
<b>Staff:</b>			
Employee benefits	20,125	20,400	19,109
Group benefits	7,018	4,500	6,223
Recruitment	741	2,600	197
Retirement plan	14,889	16,800	14,439
Salaries (Note 6)	347,114	326,400	327,955
Staff development	6,135	5,000	2,603
	<u>396,022</u>	<u>375,700</u>	<u>370,526</u>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	\$ <u>1,444,694</u>	\$ <u>1,549,100</u>	\$ <u>1,101,623</u>

## Appendix B: Membership Statistics

### Membership Statistics for the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Provincial Council	Jan. 1, 2022	New	Reinstated	Didn't Renew	Paid Members	Deceased	Dec. 31, 2022
Alberta Mackenzie	7,972	269	234	792	7,683	129	7,554
B.C. & Yukon	7,308	384	367	535	7,524	107	7,417
Manitoba	1,841	24	40	221	1,684	32	1,652
Military Ordinariate	246	8	3	18	239	4	235
New Brunswick	1,461	24	26	75	1,436	46	1,390
Newfoundland and Labrador	410	-	3	69	344	5	339
Nova Scotia	2,943	21	28	261	2,731	63	2,668
Ontario	33,856	852	1,294	3,448	32,554	650	31,904
Prince Edward Island	1,581	21	18	139	1,481	31	1,450
Quebec	709	12	17	100	638	14	624
Saskatchewan	5,245	86	68	546	4,853	86	4,767
<b>Total</b>	<b>63,572</b>	<b>1,701</b>	<b>2,098</b>	<b>6,204</b>	<b>61,167</b>	<b>1,167</b>	<b>60,000</b>

## Council Statistics for the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Provincial Council	Diocesan Councils	Parish Councils						
		Jan. 1, 2022	New	Reactivated	Amalgamated	Unpaid	Disbanded	Dec. 31, 2022
Alberta Mackenzie	5	141	-	3	-	3	3	138
B.C. & Yukon	6	123	-	3	-	1	1	124
Manitoba	3	46	-	-	-	-	1	45
Military Ordinariate	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	13
New Brunswick	-	37	-	-	-	-	-	37
Newfoundland and Labrador	-	16	-	-	-	-	2	14
Nova Scotia	2	60	-	2	1	-	6	57
Ontario	13	510	2	8	-	13	8	499
Prince Edward Island	-	32	-	-	-	-	2	30
Quebec	2	18	-	-	-	1	2	15
Saskatchewan	3	128	-	1	-	3	4	122
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>1,124</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1,094</b>

## Appendix C: National Bursary Fund

The League gratefully acknowledges the following donations designated to enhance the National Bursary Fund:

• Annunciation, Prince George	50.00
• Annunciation, Thunder Bay	100.00
• Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Ottawa	50.00
• Carol Lynn St. James Fascia, St. Constant	50.00
• Christ the King, Courtney	100.00
• Christ the King, Kitimat	50.00
• Corpus Christi, Vancouver	40.00
• Evelyn Rigby, Powell River	50.00
• Good Shepherd, Brossard	50.00
• Holy Family, Medicine Hat	40.00
• Holy Family, Schelt	40.00
• Holy Family, St. Albert	100.00
• Holy Spirit, Saskatoon	100.00
• Holy Trinity, Calgary	100.00
• Immaculate Conception, Delta	35.00
• In memory of Beverly Libitz Fontaine, Winnipeg	75.00
• Notre Dame de Lorette, Lorette	50.00
• Notre Dame, Dawson Creek	60.00
• Notre Dame, North Battleford	30.00
• Our Lady of Annunciation, Doaktown	50.00
• Our Lady of Good Counsel, St. Jean Longueuil	50.00
• Our Lady of Good Counsel, Surrey	50.00
• Our Lady of Lourdes, Kingston	50.00
• Our Lady of Mercy, Vancouver	25.00
• Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Labrador City	50.00
• Our Lady of the Assumption, Stratford	50.00
• Our Lady of the Lake, Blind Bay	5.00
• Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Ottawa	50.00
• Queen of the Most Holy, Kingston	25.00
• Sacred Heart, Kimberley	50.00
• Sacred Heart, Terrace	50.00
• Saint John XXIII, Dartmouth	100.00
• St. Aidan, Scarborough	50.00

• St. Andrew, Vancouver	50.00
• St. Ann, Penticton	50.00
• St. Anne, Nelson	25.00
• St. Anthony, Drumheller	100.00
• St. Columba, Souris	25.00
• St. Edward, Lake Country	100.00
• St. Francis de Sales, Smith Falls	100.00
• St. George, St. Catharines/Ridgeway	150.00
• St. John the Evangelist, Whitby	50.00
• St. John Vianney, Barrie	33.00
• St. Joseph the Worker, Prince George	50.00
• St. Joseph, Kingston	40.00
• St. Jude, 100 Mile House	50.00
• St. Jude, Vancouver	50.00
• St. Leo the Great, Brooklin	50.00
• St. Louis, Louisdale	20.00
• St. Martin of Tours, Terrace Bay	50.00
• St. Mary, East Bay	10.00
• St. Matthew, Rocky Mountain House	50.00
• St. Michael the Archangel, Kingston	50.00
• St. Michael, Leduc	75.00
• St. Mother Teresa of Kolkata, Halifax	20.00
• St. Padre Pio, Woodbridge	100.00
• St. Patrick, Calgary	100.00
• St. Patrick, Napanee	50.00
• St. Patrick, Vancouver	50.00
• St. Paul, Summerside	200.00
• St. Peter, Calgary	100.00
• St. Peter, Ingonish Beach	50.00
• St. Peter, Winnipeg	25.00
• St. Rita, Nelson	50.00
• St. Thomas More, Dartmouth	10.00
• St. Vincent de Paul, Yarmouth	20.00
• Star of the Sea, White Rock	100.00
• Stella Maris, Saint John	10.00
• Victoria Rajotte, Edmonton	150.00



## Acknowledgements

For their generosity and support, the National Annual Meeting of Members Planning Committee expresses sincere gratitude to the following:

Cathedral Church Choir  
CIBC, Fredericton  
City of Saint John  
Connie Firlotte  
Del Worden & Debbie  
Harrity  
Diocese of Saint John  
Dobbelsteyn Signs Ltd.  
Envision Saint John  
Ganong Chocolatier  
Ghislaine Wheaton  
Glen Savoie, MLA  
Hilton Saint John  
Holy Redeemer Church  
Janet McCallum,  
Ricola Canada  
John K. F. Irving  
Knights of Columbus,  
Council 6595  
Knights of Columbus,  
Council 6766

Knights of Columbus,  
Fourth Degree  
Lawtons Drugs,  
West Saint John  
Most Rev. Christian  
Riesbeck, cc (Saint John)  
Msgr. Brian Henneberry  
New Brunswick  
CWL Parish Councils  
Pianist, Suzanne O’Leary  
Piper, Sandy MacKay  
Rainbow Printing, Sussex  
Rev. David Fulton  
Rev. Ralph McRae  
Rocmaura Nursing Home  
Saint John Trade &  
Convention Centre  
Sisters of Charity of the  
Immaculate Conception  
Sr. Mary Beth McCurdy, scic  
Trevor Holder, MLA

The committee acknowledges the dedication of members who volunteered their time and talents to welcome members from across Canada to Saint John.

# NOTES



The Saskatoon Diocesan Council  
invites League members from across Canada  
to attend the  
104<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention  
of The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
August 11–14, 2024  
in  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

