

## **Quebec Provincial President Alice Noble**

Mme. President,

Bonjour! Good afternoon!

Quebec is rebuilding. During my first year as Quebec provincial president, my goal was to try to reach every member in Quebec and to help councils rebuild.

Since January 2023, all Quebec diocesan and all but two parish councils have been visited by me and at least one other member of the Quebec Provincial Council executive. During our time together, a workshop on “Recruitment and Member Motivation” and a presentation on the impact of all the recent changes arising out of the strategic plan, with an emphasis on the instructed votes from the 102<sup>nd</sup> national convention, were delivered; this in response to the needs expressed by Quebec presidents last summer. This time of gathering offered a time to get to know each other and to exchange further concerns and suggestions. The response was overwhelmingly positive, and many councils put into action suggestions made.

One parish council disbanded this year despite repeated efforts at trying to contact them and requests to visit the council. However, on a positive note, after I visited them, two other councils voted not to disband yet and have requested more support. The new structure should help. We also saw the disbanding of one of our last two remaining diocesan councils as it was no longer viable after trying to function for several years with only two-member parish councils and insufficient per capita fees to cover insurance costs.

The launch of the Quebec provincial newsletter, *The Quebec CWL Journey*, has been very successful. The newsletter has grown in scope this year because more councils are participating. Content includes introductions to Quebec provincial officers and chairpersons and to diocesan and parish presidents. Executive members summarize and provide links to communiqués highlighting special projects and events. Council presidents send in pictures and articles about their council and their special activities. Again, members have expressed they feel more informed and connected to all levels of the League and to each other.

Our 75<sup>th</sup> Quebec Provincial Council convention was held in Quebec City this year, where the first Quebec provincial president was elected. The event began with a smudging guided by our own Métis Quebec provincial secretary. In attendance was Cardinal Lacroix, Archbishop of Quebec and Primate of Canada, who presented a papal medal created by the Vatican from Pope Francis’ visit to Quebec last summer in recognition of our efforts towards truth and reconciliation. We also heard from a young immigrant from the Philippines who shared his thoughts on the role of youth in our church and its youth. The business meeting was filled with reports, and we heard two guest speakers. Dr. Labrecque shared, through stories, the importance and strength of moments in our lives that grow our faith—if we are willing to hear and witness. First Nations person Rebekah Goertzen shared a very moving and important presentation on the effects of residential schools on First Nations and Métis and the continued generational trauma that has resulted. Short information sessions were also given by members of Aid for Churches in Need and Catholic Near East Welfare Association. The meeting was followed by mass at St. Patrick’s, during which deceased members

from 2022 were remembered, and the Quebec provincial executive was reaffirmed in their positions.

Our Quebec provincial spiritual advisor has prepared a workshop we will be presenting to all spiritual advisors in Quebec that we hope they, in turn, will deliver to their councils. The Quebec Provincial Council participated in the national Unity Outreach program and members are ready to deliver it to all other levels this fall.

Last but not least, another personal mission of mine has been to try to find ways to respond to *Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Final Report*. Our first public provincial council initiatives took place at this year's Quebec provincial convention, with a smudging ceremony and the guest speaker, and I plan to continue, in consultation with CWL First Nations and Métis members in Quebec, to find ways to continue this journey.

Quebec is rebuilding and the process is ongoing. Direct communication and personal contact between the Quebec Provincial Council and parish councils have been appreciated and have built new enthusiasm for the League after a period of slumber that created apathy and a lack of motivation in many. Connection, communication and information have been the key. The next year will see continued efforts at building our sisterhood, streamlining the flow of information, and increasing awareness of CWL council activities in each parish.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel, the Holy Spirit, and God continue to bless our League. We ask you for your prayers for our success and attempts to keep the CWL alive and well in Quebec.

This concludes my report. ✚