



**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council
"For God and Canada"**

**Minutes of the 68th Annual Provincial Convention
Saturday, June 6, 2015
Explorer Hotel, Yellowknife, NWT
Theme: "One Heart, One Voice, One Mission"**

1. Welcome

Provincial President Dorothy Johansen welcomed everyone to the convention. Dorothy commented that yesterday, our gathering day, was a full day with Dr. Taravat Ostavar speaking on Current Mental Health Issues, and then Barb Dowding, our National President enlightening us on the theme One Heart, One Voice, One Mission. She expressed thanks to the convention committee chaired by Gerda Hazenberg for a job well done.

2. Call to Order

Provincial President Dorothy Johansen called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

3. Memorial Service for Deceased Members:

The Memorial Service for Deceased Members was led by Father Andrew, June Fuller, and the Diocesan Presidents. As this service was placed on the agenda at this time, it served as the official Opening Spiritual. After the closing hymn, June Fuller led delegates in the recitation of the League Prayer.

4. Opening Remarks

Sheila Ryan-Hachey and Gerda Hazenberg, Convention Co- Chairpersons, provided the necessary housekeeping comments. Members were reminded to fill out the Evaluation Forms as the convention progresses, and drop them off in the box provided at the registration table before they left. First Time convention attendees were recognized. The Convention Planning Committee were recognized and thanked.

5. Call to Convention

Provincial Secretary Suzanne Sherry read the Call to Convention.

6. Roll Call

Provincial Secretary Suzanne Sherry took the roll call of Voting and Accredited Delegates.

Provincial Officers:

Dorothy Johansen (LM) – President
Cathy Bouchard (LM) – President-Elect / Organization
June Fuller – Vice President / Spiritual Development
Suzanne Sherry – Secretary
Yvette Foster – Treasurer
Shirley Hazen (LM) – Christian Family Life

Gladys Brown – Community Life
Judy Look – Education and Health
Gloria Lundberg (LM) – Communications
Ruth Boden – Resolutions
Annamaria Matsui – Legislation

Diocesan Voting Delegates:

Calgary – Sharon Malec
Edmonton – Mary Hunt
Grouard-McLennan – Irene Brassard
Mackenzie-Fort Smith-Sheila Ryan-Hachey
St. Paul – Kathryn Bourque

Diocesan Accredited Delegates:

Calgary – Janet MacPhee, Kathleen Winter
Edmonton – Cheryl Boom, Mary Malloy
Grouard-McLennan – Christine Becher
Mackenzie-Fort Smith – Theresa Hickey
St. Paul – Annette deBoer, Lola Alsmo

Parish Accredited Delegates:

Calgary Diocese:

Brooks – St. Mary
Calgary – Corpus Christi
Calgary – St. Bonaventure
Calgary – St. Mark
Calgary – St. Peter
Calgary – St. Thomas More

Grouard-McLennan Archdiocese:

Grande Prairie – St. Joseph
McLennan – St. John the Baptist
Peace River – Our Lady of Peace
Whitelaw – St. Theresa

St. Paul Diocese:

Cold Lake – St. Dominic
Pickardville – St. Benoit
Whitecourt – St. Joseph

Honorary Life Members:

Ardis Beaudry
Marie Cameron

Life Members:

Mary Heinzlmeir
Doreen Lecky
Fran Lucas
Connie McBride
Barb McDonald
Donna Prevost
Mary-Lou Veeken
Mary Anne Warren
Becky Kallal (parliamentarian)

Edmonton Archdiocese:

Camrose – St. Francis Xavier
Edson – Sacred Heart
Edmonton – St. Agnes
Edmonton – St. Anthony
Edmonton – St. Charles
Edmonton – St. Dominic Savio
Edmonton – St. Theresa
Edmonton – St. Thomas More
Red Deer – Sacred Heart
St. Albert – Holy Family
Sherwood Pk. – Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Mackenzie-Fort Smith Diocese:

Fort Smith – St. Joseph's Cathedral
Hay River – Assumption of Our Lady
Yellowknife – St. Patrick

7. Introductions

Dorothy introduced the Provincial Executive, and extended a special welcome to our Spiritual Advisor Father Andrew Bogdanowicz. Dorothy also introduced Life Member Mary-Lou Veeken who is our Webmaster. Cathy Bouchard announced that Mary Heinzlmeir has accepted to be the Life Member liaison for the next two years. Cathy also introduced the members of religious life, i.e. the sisters and priests in attendance to recognize and honour the Year of Consecrated Life, as declared by Pope Francis.

8. Credentials Report

Registration Committee Chair Joan Langevin gave the following Credentials Report:
(copy on file)

Voting:	
Voting Delegates (Diocesan Presidents)	5
Accredited:	
Provincial Accredited Delegates	11
Diocesan Accredited Delegates	8
Parish Accredited Delegates	27
Life Members	8
Honorary Life Members	2
Total Accredited	56
TOTAL Voting & Accredited Delegates	61

MOTION 2015-10: Moved by Ruth Boden, Provincial Officer, that the Credentials Report be accepted. Seconded by Sharon Malec, Calgary Diocesan Council. Carried.

9. Adoption of Standing Rules

The convention Standing Rules were read by Provincial Secretary Suzanne Sherry.

MOTION 2015-11: Moved by Yvette Foster, Provincial Officer, that the Standing Rules be accepted as read. Seconded by Doreen Lecky, Pickardville. Carried.

10. Acceptance of Agenda

MOTION 2015-12: Moved by Cathy Bouchard, Provincial Officer, to accept the agenda for the 68th Annual Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Convention as amended. Seconded by Annamaria Matsui, Provincial Officer. Carried.

11. Spiritual Advisor's Message – Rev. Andrew Bogdanowicz

Fr. Andrew offered the following message: he promised to continue to pray for us and reminded us that the Year of Divine Mercy, designated by Pope Francis to begin on December 8th, was important as it should make us all focus on forgiveness. He encouraged us all to be kinder to each other, reminding all to keep mercy at the forefront of their minds and hearts.

12. Acceptance of Minutes of 67th Annual Convention

After corrections were noted, President Dorothy Johansen declared the Minutes of the 67th Annual Provincial Convention approved as amended.

13. Convention Correspondence (list from January to June 2015 on file)

14. Recognition of members attending their first Provincial Convention

First time attendees were asked to stand. They were recognized with applause and a small gift. Dorothy thanked them for attending, noting that their next convention opportunity this year was the National Convention being held in Vancouver, British Columbia on August 16 to 19, 2015.

15. Report of Pre-Convention Executive Meeting, June 5, 2015

Suzanne Sherry gave a summary of the Pre-Convention Meeting. The officers reported on activities since January. Officers gave brief highlights of their oral reports. Several business motions were addressed and approved. Final details for the Convention were prepared and/or discussed.

16. Provincial President's Report – Dorothy Johansen (Annual Report Book)

Dorothy asked Cathy Bouchard, President-Elect, to assume the Chair. She explained that as this meeting is considered to be an Annual General Meeting, she would read her report exactly as presented in the Annual Report Book, which can be found on pages 10, 11, 12.

17. Secretary's Report – Suzanne Sherry (copy on file)

Secretary's duties are focused on maintaining files in the most efficient and up-to-date manner. In the technology driven world in which we live, it becomes evident that secretaries rely heavily on computer access, literacy and competent computer file management.

Although files may be saved electronically, there still needs to be an accurate paper trail which tells the story of our League. Secretaries must remember to provide and file a hard copy of minutes, as they tell the true story and maintain a clear picture of our League activities. Minutes are intended to record what was done at meetings, not what was said.

It is recommended that the following records be kept in print copy:

- All motions signed by both the mover & seconder and numbered sequentially as they occur
- Committee reports as presented, and attached to minutes for future reference
- Always keep a print copy of the approved minutes, duly signed by both secretary and president
- Keep the print records in binders labelled with the dates covered

Secretaries should request reports ahead of time to facilitate inputting the minutes, thereby enabling her to actively participate at meetings. Reminders of meetings and upcoming events should be sent to the membership. Allowing 2 weeks notice often helps to get positive responses from the members to participate and assist in council events. Remember to get the assistance from your phoning committee as not all members have email! Keep in mind that those reading email messages do not hear your voice, see your body language and feel your need; therefore, the use of gentle and kind words is important to convey what may sometimes be an urgent message. Harsh and abrupt words have no place in email messages! Let us all work together with ***One Heart, One Voice, One Mission!***

18. Treasurer's Report – Yvette Foster (copy on file)

- Yvette brought attention to Net Income, which is negative. There were more expenses for President's travel, as Dorothy and Cathy attended most of the Diocesan Conventions. There were increased disbursements from the Education Fund. Higher costs were incurred for Postage and Photocopying, and expenses for National Convention last year were higher because of the distance travelled and because it was attended by 2 Accredited Delegates and Father Andrew.
- There was an increase in the Per Capita Income of \$2,272 more than last year, which is reflected by an increase of members.
- President Dorothy J. then called for a motion to accept the Review of Financial Statements.

MOTION 2015-13: Moved by Yvette Foster, Provincial Officer, to accept the Review of the Financial Report of the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council for 2014, as prepared by Accountant Roxanne MacDonald. Seconded by Betsy Fletcher, St. Paul Diocesan Council. Carried.

19. Mass Collection

Options for the disbursement of the Mass Collection were taken. Two suggestions were made. The assembly chose the Youth Rally in the North scheduled for August, called *Spirit Alive*.

20. Standing Committee Reports

20.1 Spiritual Development – June Fuller (copy on file)

- The new CWL National theme “One Heart, One Voice, One Mission” has been incorporated into the spiritual programs that the Spiritual Development Chairs have prepared for their councils.
- Spiritual growth among members is always present with councils hosting an array of prayer, having bible studies and Adoration hour. The theme prayer for *One Heart, One Voice, One Mission* is online and more will be posted as they are received at national office. Members are encouraged to submit prayers/or services that they would like to share.
- As 2015 has been named the Year of Consecrated Life, we need to keep both our Priests and our Religious Sisters in our daily prayers. Members are encouraged to especially remember our consecrated and professed religious women by offering a personal note of thanks or appreciation for all that they have done for us. There is a wonderful 3-minute video on YouTube entitled “Wake Up the World, the Year of Consecrated Life” that many would enjoy viewing.
- During this year, perhaps members could learn about topics such as the difference/qualities of contemplative vs. apostolic religious life, canonical vs. lay associations or if you have religious orders living in your community, perhaps take time to visit them or invite them to a special event. Another link worthy of sharing is globalsistersreport.org, which has lots of information about the diversity of ministries that women religious around the world are doing.
- In 2014, there were 196 deceased members in the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council. Please ensure that when a member passes away, their information is forwarded to National as soon as possible to ensure that their name will be included in our “Book of Life.”
- Much appreciation goes to the councils that submitted names and resumes of members for the Elsie Yanik Award. This year we received 4 submissions. Congratulations to this year’s winner, Alice Mullink, of St. Theresa in Whitelaw (Grouard-McLennan), who will be presented with the Award at the banquet.
- Much appreciation goes to the many councils for the support that they have given to Catholic Missions In Canada and to CNEWA, the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, which is the Pope’s special agency for the Middle East. Both of these organizations provide much needed support, prayers and financial assistance to those less fortunate.
- Spiritual Development Chairs are encouraged to continue nurturing and providing the ladies of the CWL with spiritual programs to enhance their meetings and special events.

20.2 Organization – Cathy Bouchard (copy on file)

Annual Reports

- Annual Reports allow us to capture a unique view of the dedication, enthusiasm and love of the League that is displayed by our members throughout the diocese.
- In no way are Annual Reports an attempt to “check up” on councils or to police the work that they are doing. Rather, they are a window into the soul of each council – giving a clear view of the issues that concern them, locally, nationally and around the world.
- Parish Councils are truly the grassroots of this great organization.
- Reporting your activities would seem to be a relatively simple matter. However, knowing where to report which activities is often confusing.
- The officers appreciate the work each council is doing. As a provincial body we will continue to be looking at how we can assist you in providing information about what you do without making that task so challenging for you. During the summer, could you think of comments that you may have to share with your Diocesan President, President-Elect or Provincial Officer so that we know what your thoughts are on this matter.

Life Membership

- Have maintained the email contact with the 35 Life Members in Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council. Most Life Members have email. There are only 4 without email. We were fortunate to gain another exceptional Life Member; Honorary Life Member Vivian Bosch moved to Medicine Hat this past year. I was fortunate to have been added to the ranks of Life Member in our province this past year. Mary Heinzlmeir has agreed to take on the duties of Life Member Liaison.

League Resource Material

- The National Council continues to work on developing new materials to assist us. The latest update is to the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*. A digital, current and searchable version of the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* is available on the League website.
- The original Table of Contents covers material to page 201 but there are only 103 pages. When a page is missing, the previous page reports the next page number. You are not missing pages.
- Other changes to the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*:
 - o Members are restricted from serving in the same position more than once, except as stipulated in the C&B Part XVI Section 2(b)
 - o The secretary provides the elections register in an election year, not every year.
 - o The national treasury pays for the premiums for parish council liability insurance and outlines the current policy on diocesan and provincial insurance.
- National has created a new pamphlet for Spiritual Advisors this year.
- The S’mores package is available online so that individual councils may use portions of it without having a Catch the Fire! presentation.

Membership

- When we give out the Fr. Walter Krewski Membership Awards, other councils ask what the secret is, what did their council do? A handout called Membership Ideas has been prepared.
- Members remind us that the many resources from the national office can assist our work. Bring the resources with you when you are going out to your meetings or to the Regional or Zone meetings.

- Our best and latest source from the National Council to increase membership is the Catch the Fire! Workshop.
- Check what other diocesan, provincial and parish councils have on their websites. Use their materials if it will help and remember to credit them.
- Please continue to share your ideas with each other – this is how we can grow.
- Recognizing our members for their contribution to the life of the CWL council is always appreciated! This recognition can renew people’s passion for the League. We encourage councils to recognize their members with the Bellelle Guerin Award, or a Maple Leaf Service Pin. Recognition is one way to keep the members refreshed and enthusiastic about remaining in the League. Some dioceses also have their own award within their diocese to recognize members.

Council Anniversaries

- This year we have a certificate for each council in the province who have reached a significant milestone – 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50 and 60 years.
- One of the most obvious things to do is to pray for success and membership and to work for success and membership. In our own personal prayer, pray for our Sisters and the League.

Walter Krewski Membership Awards

- The awards for greatest increase in total number and greatest percentage increase are based on the year-end results provided by National Office. The Diocesan Treasurer forwards this information to the Organization Chairperson.
- We encourage all councils to submit their information, using a mail-in form or by email, for the members brand-new to CWL, for the Father Walter Krewski Award next year. Please submit this information while you are doing your Annual Reports.
- 36 parishes increased membership (new and previous members) in the last year.
- Greatest number of new members – 12 members – two councils tied for this: St. Michael Council, Bow Island and Assumption of Our Lady Council, Hay River
- Greatest percentage increase in membership – 61% – St. Bernadette Council, Calgary.
- Greatest increase in Membership for Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council – 30 members – St. Peter Council, Calgary (notice this council won a Fr. Walter Krewski award last year for greatest number of new members at 22).

20.3 Christian Family Life – Shirley Hazen (copy on file)

Sisters of Life

- In a phone conversation earlier this month, the Toronto convent of the Sisters of Life representative stated that at the present time there are no immediate plans to bring their program to Alberta. There has been no follow-up on the workshop held in Edmonton in October, 2014.

40 Days for Life

- This is a community based campaign that draws attention to the evil of abortion through the use of a three-point program
 - Prayer and fasting
 - Prayer vigil
 - Community outreach.

Euthanasia

- With the recent Supreme Court of Canada ruling on assisted suicide, it is important that we stay in contact with our MPs to make them aware of our concerns. We also need to remain aware of the progress of any legislation about this. Please continue to write/e-mail, call, and/or visit your MP.

Seniors' Advocate Initiative

- Now that the election is over and we know who our MLAs are, please follow through on this initiative at your parishes. This is not only an Education and Health issue but, as stated in the petition, those are not the only areas of concern for seniors. As seniors' issues come under Christian Family Life, please get your parish chairperson involved in this. I'm sure you will hear more information on this in reports later today.

There was one resolution under this committee: (original Resolution & Brief on file)

2015.01 ESTABLISH NATIONAL STANDARDS & INTER-PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL PROTOCOLS FOR CHILD WELFARE INTERVENTIONS

- Whereas,** Canada has no national standards and interprovincial protocols for children subject to child welfare interventions; and
- Whereas,** families and children already involved in the child welfare system, when moving from one province or territory to another, often fall through the cracks; therefore be it,
- Resolved,** That the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, in 68th annual provincial convention assembled, through the national council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, urge the federal government, in consultation with provincial and territorial governments, to establish national standards and interprovincial protocols for children subject to child welfare interventions; and be it further
- Resolved,** That this resolution be forwarded to the national council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada for consideration at its 95th annual national convention.

MOTION 2015 –14: Moved by Sharon Malec, Calgary Diocesan Council, that the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council adopt resolution 2015.01 “Establish National Standards & Inter-Provincial/Territorial Protocols for Child Welfare Interventions”. Seconded by Janet MacPhee, Calgary Diocesan Council. Carried as amended.

20.4 Community Life – Gladys Brown (copy on file)

Development and Peace (D & P)

- Development and Peace is the official international development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada and the Canadian member of Caritas Internationalis.
- Emergency funding is organized by its Caritas partners working in Nepal. D & P is working in collaboration with Caritas Nepal. Through strong partnership networks along with volunteer outreach, Caritas members, including D & P, are able to deliver immediate response to victims of the earthquake.
- D & P shares the concerns of the Church in relation to climate change. Climate change is the single greatest threat to people in poverty. Over consumption and political inaction on global warming are fueling extreme weather events causing long term damage to the environment and adversely affecting the livelihoods of poor communities in the Global South. In September, D & P is inviting Canadians to reduce our consumption and to make sustainable choices in our lives.

Human Trafficking

- An article in the *Edmonton Journal* entitled “Healing begins with a little heart,” stated “It wasn’t the lotion, lip balm, or shampoo that made her cry, those small things that most take for granted. It was a small heart stitched in a corner of the cloth bag.” “This means somebody loves me”, the sex-trade worker told a lady when she got the bag a few years ago. The heart stitching has since become a trademark of the handmade cloth bags, now made by a church community in St. Albert. The organization has been involved with Metis Child and Family Services, the agency which helps sex-trade workers get off the street and into a new life. This church has found its way helping sex-trade workers, victims of homicide and families of missing and murdered indigenous people.
- Another article, focused on aboriginal people and a conference was entitled “The Walrus Talks Aboriginal City,” and it was presented by Enterprise Edmonton. Edmonton has the second largest urban aboriginal population across Canada. The organizers mentioned that people are more willing to share, learn and listen since the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s visit. Ginger Gosnell-Meyers, an aboriginal planner for the City of Vancouver, emphasized that when people think about the urban aboriginal community, they think about the negative outcomes that aboriginal people face because of the history of residential schools. She also mentioned that the aboriginal people have changed. They are learning about themselves and are in the process of growing stronger and taking charge of growing in their community.
- On May 16th, 2015, Mary Hunt, Edmonton Diocesan CWL President, and I attended an event entitled the *Spero Gala*. This event was sponsored by ACT Alberta, which protects victims and prevents human trafficking. Spero means HOPE. Human trafficking is one of the greatest human rights challenges of the century, both in North America and around the world. Spero Gala was conceived from a sense of compassion and a desire for action. When compassion and action meet, hope results. Several poems read about human trafficking were very meaningful. A musician/song writer, sang songs also related to human trafficking. Prayer was also mentioned in the songs and poems. Scott McKeen, City Councillor for the City of Edmonton, spoke about putting an end to sex trafficking and working more closely with the City of Edmonton police department and the RCMP.
- Sisters of the League, it is time to meet our sisters wherever they are, and be open, welcoming and hospitable. Every woman must feel accepted, valued, affirmed and empowered to reach their full potential. Women hunger for these attributes and they can best be acquired in the secure and nurturing atmosphere of the parish councils.

There was one resolution under this committee: (original Resolution & Brief on file)

2015.02 A JUST SETTLEMENT FOR THE LUBICON LAKE NATION

- Whereas,** The inland-dwelling Lubicon Lake Nation was omitted from the Treaty 8 process whereby the Government of Canada's negotiating party, in its 1899 travels, met only with those First Nations who lived along rivers and trade routes; and
- Whereas,** In 1940 the Lubicon Lake Nation and the Government of Canada began adhesion negotiations under Treaty 8 that have yet to reach a successful conclusion; and
- Whereas,** A new Negotiation Framework was announced by the Government of Canada in December 2014; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, in 68th annual provincial convention assembled, through the national council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, urge the federal government to use the Negotiation Framework to achieve a just settlement with the Lubicon Lake Nation; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be forwarded to the national council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada for consideration at its 95th annual national convention.

MOTION 2015-15: Moved by Irene Brassard, Grouard-McLennan Diocesan Council, that the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council adopt Resolution 2015.02 “A Just Settlement for the Lubicon Lake Nation.” Seconded by Lorraine Grzanich, St. Joseph Council, Grande Prairie. Carried as amended.

20.5 Education and Health – Judy Look (copy on file)

- What an exciting two years working with women who focus on issues and who try their best to effect change through their work for the League.
- The report on the energies, dedication and successes of this committee composed of the Diocesan Education and Health Chairs and myself is found on page 30, 31 & 32 in the Annual Report Book.
- Three extraordinary activities to draw your attention to in the annual report are:
 1. The work of one council in the Diocese of St. Paul, which is working to set up a Catholic school
 2. A council in the Archdiocese of Edmonton who lobbied successfully to get an automatic defibrillator for their church.
 3. A Poster/Essay Contest in Archdiocese of Edmonton Catholic schools to the CWL National theme and who had 1532 entries. This is how we effect change in our communities and keep the CWL alive and well
- 8 communiqués have been posted to the website. They included information received from the National Chair of Education and Health.
- Two conferences were attended on your behalf: one Education related, the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association (ACSTA) Symposium in 2014 held in Edmonton; and one Health related, the Hope Decoded Workshop held in Banff in the spring of 2015.
- The Hope Decoded Conference was a one-day workshop dealing with giving hope to communities. One focus of National CWL is to develop relationships with our First Nations women. At that workshop, a contact was made that would give insight on how this would be possible. The result of that meeting suggested the reality of relationships is one of trust and cannot be developed overnight. It cannot come from a directive or resolution. If CWL is going to be successful in this endeavour, it will need to engage in meaningful conversations as equals and will require one-on-one encounters. It is only through these conversations that mutual respect will be achieved and through this respect possibly a relationship.
- Much energy has been spent on the Provincial CWL Seniors' Advocate Initiative. At this time, councils should have reported their petition signatures to their diocesan presidents, who in turn would have forwarded them to provincial. As the new government is settling in, many petitions will not have been delivered but hopefully by the end of June, all MLAs will have been visited. Once that has taken place, a meeting with the new premier will be set up encouraging her to take under consideration the need for an independent seniors' advocate.

- You are encouraged to read the annual reports in the annual report book, tear the book apart, make copies for the respective chairs in your parish councils so we can all learn from the work others do.
- As Christians we are called to relationships within community and we are all responsible for the education and health of all those who are part of our community. It is with ***One Heart One Voice One Mission*** that we effect change.

20.6 Communications – Gloria Lundberg (copy on file)

Social Media:

- It's the most vexing digital-age question: The question one should ask: "Should I share this?"
- There is no way to interact on most websites and apps without surrendering some basic personal information, and on some sites, users end up sharing a lot more. Wherever possible:
 - Avoid sharing personal information.
 - Use the tightest privacy settings.
 - Use multiple passwords.
- If you have not already done so, please take the time to read the article on "Social Media" submitted by national communications chair, Fran Lucas, in the spring issue of *The Canadian League*. A few copies of this article have been placed at the Communications display table.

Media for evangelization, evaluation and promotion of good content:

- World Communications Day was celebrated on June 1st. The theme this year is "Communicating the Family: A Privileged Place of Encounter with the Gift of Love". In his message Pope Francis states "*The greatest challenge facing us today is to learn once more how to talk to one another, not simply how to generate and consume information.*" Copies of the Message of Pope Francis for the 49th World Communications Day are available at the Communications display.

Ongoing:

- Ads were placed in the *Western Catholic Reporter*, and you are encouraged to use and read this publication, along with your local media.

Additional Information:

- Reminder to visit the online Forum – a good place to share CWL opinions.
- Get '***Be League***' and '***The Canadian League***' directly in your inbox. If you wish to subscribe to *Be League* or *The Canadian League*, please enter your e-mail address in the subscription box on the bottom of the CWL National homepage (right side). You will receive *Be League* on the 15th of each month and *The Canadian League* three times per year.
- Video testimonials – have been forwarded. National needs permission forms from those on the video.

20.7 Legislation – Annamaria Matsui (copy on file)

- The political situation in Alberta has been quite a whirl of activity in the past 2 years with a succession of leaders and elections. After 44 years of PC (Progressive Conservative) government, Albertans have voted for a new government, the NDP (New Democratic Party) under the leadership of Rachel Notley. It is hoped that this newly elected government body will be able to stabilize our political climate over the

next 4 years. We urge all our members to continue to be vocal on matters that affect all of us to their MLA, the Premier, as well as the Opposition parties.

- The push for Euthanasia at the Federal level, in the form of two bills on Assisted Suicide, continues to be the topic. It is important that we are diligent in writing our MPs, Prime Minister, and Opposition parties to voice our “NO” vote on Euthanasia and our continued vote FOR the sanctity of life. We have and continue to be a voice of reason for all Canadians.
- Great news! The flavoured tobacco ban was passed and will take effect on September 1st of this year. More great news, the government has finally seen fit to remove the GST on menstrual products.
- In 2015 this committee has submitted:
 - Annual Report for 2014 (pages 37 & 38 of the Annual Report booklet)
 - Communiqué May 2015
 - The Legislation communiqué posted May 2015 has the list of the 12 appointed ministers, as well as a short bio.

20.8 Resolutions – Ruth Boden (copy on file)

****Ruth will send the correct report for the 2014 year, and have it posted on the provincial website www.cwl.ab.ca, as the incorrect report was printed in the annual report booklet.***

- Two resolutions were presented and debated at the Convention today. It is through the dedication of ladies such as these, that the work of the CWL is accomplished.
- These 2 resolutions will be sent on to the National Resolutions Committee for review and possibly for presentation at the 95th Annual National Convention of the Catholic Women’s League in August, 2015.
- A provincial resolutions committee was struck after the fall executive meeting to review Resolution 2014.03 Revoke Passports of Convicted Canadian Pedophiles, which was rejected by the National Resolutions Committee in 2014, based on the premise that the resolution might be an infringement on the rights of the individual. There was also concern that we could appear to be unfairly targeting a specific group.
- The provincial committee reviewed all information regarding the resolution and consulted with a lawyer, who advised that proceeding against pedophiles could be considered discriminatory and that often innocent individuals’ names ended up on the Sex Offenders Registry and they experienced a great deal of difficulty to get it off.
- Hence, the committee then changed its focus to one of pedophilia as a disorder, recognizing no cure, and suggesting that the passport could be revoked until such time as they were declared cured.
- The committee’s research found that pedophilia is indeed a disorder, but many do not act on their urges, and some are in treatment. Additionally, information from the RCMP report advised that most sex offenders are not pedophiles.
- The committee then moved their focus to convicted sex offenders with the belief that pedophiles would be included in this group. A review of the Sex Offender Information Registration Act determined that travelling was not identified, and consideration was given to asking the federal government to revoke the passports of Canadian convicted sex offenders until such time as their name was removed from the Sex Offenders Registry. Given the comments received from the lawyer, this still seemed to be unfair discrimination.
- The committee then looked at the proposed amendment to Bill C-26 “*Tougher Penalties for Child Predators Act*,” which includes an amendment to the *Sex Offenders*

Information Registries Act, to increase the reporting obligations of sex offenders to travel outside Canada and allows sharing of that information between police responsible for National Sex Offenders Registry and the Canada Border Services Agency.

- The committee recommended that no further action be taken.
- In her address in the spring issue of *The Canadian League*, Jacqueline Nogier, the National Chairperson of Resolutions explains that writing the resolution and adopting it is only the first phase. We should continue to speak with our federal, provincial and municipal representatives to ensure that they know and understand our position is on these issues, and to ask them what their positions are on these topics.
- Remember that even if a resolution that is near and dear to your heart doesn't get to the level you would like it to reach, the fact that the issue was brought up at your parish council or diocesan council and was discussed is a tremendous way to get an issue out in the open.
- Please continue to do the good works that were reported in the Convention Booklet. Keep writing letters and taking action on those issues that are important to you and to the League.

21. Diocesan Presidents' Reports

21.1 Calgary – Sharon Malec (copy on file)

- Greetings to Sisters in the League from the Calgary Diocese. The diocese extends from the US border to Airdrie and from the BC border to the Saskatchewan border. There are 5 regions, 52 councils with 3931 members.
- The 93rd Annual Calgary Diocesan Convention of the Catholic Women's League was held in Calgary at St. Luke's Church, May 1 to 3.
- At the Pre-convention Meeting on Friday, the speakers were Dr. Linda Dudar and Dr. Trent Davis from St. Mary's University in Calgary. Dr. Linda Dudar and Dr. Trent Davis presented talks on the theme 'One Heart, One Voice, One Mission'. Linda led members through a presentation about St. Mary's University and what they offer for Education Students. Along with students and a retired teacher, she presented the assembly with a special gift. A Song! It was all about the theme. Dr. Davis talked about 'Our Mission' and how it relates to Catholicism.
- Bishop Henry was the Friday afternoon speaker. He spoke about Pope Francis' program on Divine Mercy that begins December 8, 2015. He gave many examples of Divine Mercy. He closed with the phrase "One Heart, One Voice, One Mission; Divine Mercy. Make it happen"!
- The convention meeting began Saturday morning with the Deceased Members Service. Then the business of the day commenced.
- The resolution that was brought forth to the convention floor by St. Bonaventure, Calgary was passed, "*Establish National Standards and Interprovincial Protocols with Respect to Child Welfare Interventions.*"
- An Invitation to host the 2019 National CWL Convention in Calgary, Alberta was extended to Bishop McGratton, National Spiritual Advisor, by Bishop Henry. It was accepted. Judy Montes of St. Luke, Calgary has accepted the position of Convention Chair. She will be contacting ladies to act as co-chair and other chair positions.
- The new theme of One Heart, One Voice, One Mission has been received with great enthusiasm. Thus far, a song, a bookmark and a quilt pattern have been created.
- The Fall Meeting will be held in Lethbridge on September 28. The plan is to adopt the revised *Policies and Procedures* of the Calgary Diocesan CWL at that meeting. The

document was revised in order to align it with *Constitution & Bylaws* and *National Manual of Policy & Procedure*. The task was completed under the guidance of Gloria Lundberg, Joan Baudais, Gabriele Kalincak, Janice Blair, Carol Schlachter and Aurore McCleary.

- With new officers for the Diocesan Council, it is anticipated that new ideas and challenges will be met with great enthusiasm over the next two years.

21.2 Edmonton – Mary Hunt (copy on file)

- Edmonton Diocesan Council is happy to report the addition of a new Council from the parish of Corpus Christi, which will be opening the doors to their new church in October of this year. The diocese is now composed of 68 councils with 4546 members.
- The Midwinter meeting was held at Holy Trinity Parish in Spruce Grove on January 31st. Despite poor weather, there was an excellent turn-out. There were two very interesting and compelling presentations from Archbishop Richard Smith, who has agreed to join in at our Diocesan Convention in 2016, and Eileen Papulkas from the Youth Empowerment Services Society, who provided some background, clinical information and insights into the programs YESS delivers.
- We copied a promising idea from League sisters in the Calgary Diocese and have introduced the Parish Buddies initiative in the Archdiocese with the intent of becoming better connected to councils. The plan is to “grow” this initiative in the coming two years.
- The 93rd Annual Edmonton Diocesan Convention was held in Edson on April 17-19 and was hosted by the councils in Zone 1: Edson, Hinton, Grande Cache and Jasper. Our convention theme was “Joyfully Serving with One Heart One Voice One Mission”. Guest speaker, Bob McKeon, the Coordinator of the Archdiocesan office of Social Justice, spoke about the “Joy of the Gospel” from a Social Justice perspective. Gayle McKenzie-Findlay, from the Metis Nation of Alberta spoke about “Celebrating the Strengths and Achievements of Aboriginal Women”. Author, Lecturer and Diocesan Officer Catherine Mardon spoke on the topic of “Maintaining Joyfulness during Life Trials”. Husband and wife duo, Paul and Carol Quist spoke about “Fostering Joy and Generosity at Home”.
- The Doreen Melton Scholarship was presented to Bob Lee studying in his first year of theology at Newman College.
- Election of officers was held and there is a full slate of faith-filled officers.
- The 20th Annual Poster /Essay/Poem contest theme this year was based on the national theme “One Heart, One Voice, One Mission.” Over 1100 entries were received from 28 schools. Awards were presented at the post-convention meeting. This contest encourages students and teachers to focus on their faith. More information and the winning entries are posted on the Edmonton website at www.edmontoncwl.org
- Councils continue to achieve wonderful things: Setting the goal of a \$10,000.00 donation to the Wild West Canadian Youth Conference being held in Red Deer in October of this year, and have exceeded the goal having raised over \$12,000.00. St. Vincent de Paul Society used the \$10,000.00 donated to them towards the purchase of a cube van they use for pick-ups and deliveries and have acknowledged the CWL donation by displaying our name and logo on the van.
- Diocesan officers volunteered at the Faith, Fitness & Fun Run Walk on May 23rd which is a fundraiser for Newman Theological College and St. Joseph Seminary.
- Had active participation in the national project involving video tapings of testimonials from current members that will be used on the national website and to create a

comprehensive DVD that can be used in parish council recruitment activities.

- Councils are actively supporting the CWL Leadership Foundation (Sisters of Service) through the promotion and purchase of tickets to a Brunch being held on Saturday, June 20th in Edmonton.
- The Resolutions and Legislation Standing Committee Chair is working on a resolution pertaining to the RU 486 Abortion Pill being introduced to Canada and would welcome input from CWL sisters from throughout the province.
- During the next two years the Diocesan Council hopes to build on the theme of joy and how it is to be found in abundance when you belong to the League. Another focus will be to find ways to attract younger members to the League and keep them!

21.3 Grouard-McLennan – Irene Brassard (copy on file)

- On February 21, 2015 we had our Diocesan Spiritual Workshop in High Level. Our guest speaker was Lucille Partington who spoke on encounters with Jesus. Questions asked were: When did we meet Jesus – where – who introduced us to Jesus; then we filled out a map of our life and relationship with Jesus.
- March 21, 2015 – We held our Diocesan executive/pre-convention meeting in Fairview.
- April 25, 2015 – Grouard-McLennan Diocesan Convention was held in Fairview where we discussed the following:
 - Keeping our Book of Life updated
 - Archdiocese Faith Rally to be held in Grouard Aug. 28,29,30, 2015 – CWL to spearhead
 - Mental Health – make ourselves more knowledgeable and aware of this issue
 - Euthanasia/physician assisted suicide awareness – postcard against
 - October 17, 2015 – Sexsmith – Fall Workshop to be on Mental Health
 - Proposed resolution presented by Lauri Friesen:
“Be it resolved that the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan Catholic Women’s League urges the government of Canada to commit to a just settlement for the Lubicon Cree First Nation land claim”.
Explained, discussed, passed and sent to Provincial.
 - Election results were as follows: President, Irene Brassard; Secretary, Mary Antonio; Treasurer, Dianne Rondeau; Standing Committee Chairs, Donna Prevost, Dorothy Cowell, Lauri Friesen, Lucille Partington, Lynne Oe, and Monica Bisley.
 - Membership Statistics: 537 members, 2 priests, 19 councils
- The plan is to liaise between Parish-Diocesan-Provincial as best as is possible. The favoured direction leans towards the issues of Euthanasia Prevention and Palliative Care.

21.4 Mackenzie-Fort Smith – Sheila Ryan-Hachey (copy on file)

- The Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith consists of 3 active CWL councils: Assumption of Our Lady, Hay River with a membership of 54, St. Joseph, Fort Smith has 13 members, and St. Patrick, Yellowknife with 45 members. The total membership is 112 and there is a continued focus to enlist and welcome new members and offer leadership opportunities for all CWL sisters.
- Geographically, the 3 councils cover a large land space and the distance between towns presents travel challenges. Those challenges include lack of public transport

- and expensive air flights. Currently researching inexpensive options for conducting the fall teleconference and will explore skype and google hangout.
- Similar to all other dioceses, the 3 councils have long serving members who participate in all ministries at the parish level. Councils struggle to fill executive positions and rarely fill all standing committees. Hay River accepted a "Two by Two" approach this year and have two co-Presidents - Shirley Gutierrez and Shirley Bruckshwaiger and two members are sharing standing committees. This approach is working well for Hay River and the members are comfortable in sharing the role. For the first time in many years, the majority of positions are filled. Fort Smith and Yellowknife continue to carry on all League functions with their available people.
 - In 2014, the 50th Anniversary of the Diocesan CWL was celebrated and this year, 2015, the 50th anniversary of the Hay River Council will also be celebrated. These councils were formed by courageous women of faith, and members are the beneficiaries of their strength, conviction and leadership. Efforts are to continue to grow the councils and contribute to the success and joy that was passed on to us.
 - At the Diocesan level, only the Vice President position remains vacant. For the first time in many years, all the standing committees have a chairperson. The executive is enthusiastic about the next two years and look forward to working with our Provincial and National League sisters. We will all learn more about ourselves, our League and our place within it.
 - Upcoming events include:
 - Year-end potlucks
 - fundraising events to meet local needs
 - the creation of a task force to research homelessness in communities and make suggestions on how CWL can offer assistance
 - groundwork is in progress to determine the best way to show support for missing and murdered indigenous women
 - a retreat is being planned for October and will take place at Trappers Lake Spirituality Center
 - Grads and Dads will be celebrated in June
 - Mini-workshops on "The Father's Love" and "Life in the Spirit" are taking place in Fort Smith.
 - The many gifts of members are appreciated in every way and differences are celebrated as all live and thrive with ***One Heart, One Voice and One Mission***.

21.5 St. Paul – Kathryn Bourque (copy on file)

****Kathryn will send the correct report for the 2014 year, and have it posted on the provincial website www.cwl.ab.ca, as the incorrect report was printed in the annual report booklet.***

- There are 19 councils with a total of 590 members for the year of 2014.
- The mid-winter meeting was held in Athabasca, where the new theme was introduced.
- The annual convention was held in Whitecourt this year on April 17th and 18th. It was a great honor to have both the National and Provincial presidents in attendance for the full convention. National president Barb Dowding presented the new theme, *One Heart, One Voice, One Mission*. All now have a much better vision of the direction to take in the upcoming 2 years. Provincial president Dorothy Johansen followed up with a workshop on "Servant Leadership." Also, information was shared about the newly formed Catholic Women's League Leadership Foundation. The Dorothy Roberts Award recipient for 2014 was Jeanette Laforce, who has served on the

Diocesan council for many years, most recently having completed two terms as treasurer.

- This was an election year. There were not enough members letting their name stand for a position on the diocesan council to warrant having a true election. Unfortunately, despite the wonderful talks on Leadership, the council is still without three standing committee chairs. There is confidence however, that these positions will be filled over the summer, with a lot of prayer and some gentle persuasion from the Holy Spirit. Please keep this diocesan council in your prayers.
- In 2016, 60 years as a diocesan council will be celebrated. When thinking of what the vision or direction will be for the 2-year term, it seems that membership and leadership are the most important. Aside from promoting and facilitating Catch the Fire and S'mores workshops, there will be challenges for members to increase membership by 60 in commemoration of this auspicious event. Part of celebrating 60 years will include hosting the provincial convention in the St. Paul Diocese. There will be more details to follow when the official invitation is brought to you.
- This thought, about increasing membership by 60 in honor of 60 years, led to grander thinking. It will be the 100th anniversary of the Catholic Women's League being organized nationally coming up in 2020. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could get our membership back up to 100,000 women strong by that time. There's some food for thought!
- A Catch the Fire Workshop was held last weekend in Westlock, where there were 14 members attending from 4 surrounding councils.

22. Registration Report – Joan Langevin (copy on file)

Honorary Life Members	2
Life Members	8
National Officer	1
Provincial Officers	11
Diocesan Officers	13
Parish Council Accredited Delegates	27
CWL Members	46
Hierarchy	1
Provincial Spiritual Advisor	1
Diocesan Spiritual Advisors	0
Parish Spiritual Advisors	3
Guests	1
Total	114

23. NEW BUSINESS:

23.1 Invitation to Provincial Convention 2016

Kathryn Bourque extended an invitation for the next Provincial Convention, to take place June 3-5, 2016 in Westlock in the St. Paul Diocese.

23.2 Invitation to National Convention 2015

Dorothy Johansen invited all members to attend the 93rd Annual National Convention in Vancouver August 9-12, 2015.

23.3 Elections

Dorothy introduced Gloria Lundberg as the appointed Elections Secretary, to record the election.

Connie McBride, Elections Chair, came forward to explain the elections process. Connie, Rose Goudreau, Mary-Lou Veecken and Fr. Andrew Bogdanowicz formed the Elections Committee. Connie reported that Cathy had confirmed her willingness to accept the presidency. Dorothy Johansen automatically becomes past president.

Past President –Dorothy Johansen

President – Cathy Bouchard

MOTION 2015-16: There being only one candidate, it was moved by Kathryn Bourque, St. Paul Diocesan Council, that June Fuller be declared elected as President-Elect. Seconded by Sheila Ryan-Hachey, Mackenzie-Fort Smith Diocesan Council. Carried.

President-Elect – June Fuller

Nominees for Vice-President: Gladys Brown, Judy Look, Annamaria Matsui
After ballots counted:

Vice-President – Judy Look (elected)

MOTION 2015-17: There being only one candidate, it was moved by Sharon Malec, Calgary Diocesan Council that Ruth Boden be declared elected as Secretary. Seconded by Mary Hunt, Edmonton Diocesan Council. Carried.

Secretary – Ruth Boden

MOTION 2015-18: There being only one candidate, it was moved by Irene Brassard, Grouard-McLennan Diocesan Council, that Yvette Foster be declared elected as Treasurer. Seconded by Sheila Ryan-Hachey, Mackenzie-Fort Smith Diocesan Council. Carried.

Treasurer – Yvette Foster

Nominees for Standing Committee Chairpersons: Gladys Brown, Annette deBoer,
Gwen Elliot, Betsy Fletcher, Joan Langevin, Carol Schlachter, Suzanne Sherry, Linda VandenBerg.

After ballots counted:

Standing Committee Chairpersons (Elected) –

Gladys Brown	Annette deBoer
Betsy Fletcher	Joan Langevin
Carol Schlachter	Linda VandenBerg

24. Closing Remarks

Dorothy thanked all the members of the convention committee led by Sheila Ryan-Hachey and Gerda Hazenberg for the wonderful convention they had coordinated.

Thanks were also expressed to all who had traveled from across the province and territories to attend the convention.

Our thanks to Becky Kallal for being our Parliamentarian.

25. Closing Prayer

June Fuller led the closing prayer as written in the Spiritual Program.

26. Adjournment

There being no further business, President Dorothy Johansen declared the 68th annual provincial convention adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

27. Retiring of the Flags: The flags were retired to close the meeting.

Prepared by: _____
Suzanne Sherry, Secretary

Approved: _____
Dorothy Johansen, President

Date: _____

Date: _____