

## COMMUNITY LIFE



**March 2, 2015**  
**Communique #02**

### **One Heart, One Voice, One Mission**

What is the “Community Life” Standing Committee all about? The chairperson shall deal with the dignity and rights of persons, social and economic justice, immigration, refugees and citizenship, Canadian Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP) and developing countries.

#### **Development and Peace**

This year the theme for DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE is **“SOW MUCH LOVE TO GIVE.”** DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE works in partnership with local organizations in the Global South to create greater justice in the world and to act in solidarity with the most vulnerable. In our own country of Canada, we raise awareness on the root causes of poverty and injustice in the developing world and mobilize Canadians to act for social change. With our contribution to DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE we respond to humanitarian crises, providing emergency relief and supporting reconstruction efforts so that communities can rebuild and become more resilient to future disasters. DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE works in countries all over the world and a few just to name are: Colombia, Cambodia, Afghanistan, Haiti, Madagascar, and the Philippines. DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE values the Catholic Women’s League support and with this support we all make a difference and we are all part of one human family.

#### **Keep the Promise**

The “Keep the Promise” campaign <[www.keepthepromise.ca](http://www.keepthepromise.ca)> is a program that started in January 2014 and will continue to December 2015. It is a campaign to re-ignite the commitment of Canadians and the federal government to end child poverty. This campaign is to educate children in poverty and enlist their ideas to help eliminate child poverty in Canada. Children come to school hungry; therefore, their minds are not on their studies but instead worrying about receiving nutritious food. There are several programs in the Province of Alberta that assist with hot breakfasts and lunches for the children.

#### **Homelessness**

In the City of Edmonton, a young man by the name of Miles Kohan, who is vice-president of Sterling Homes, is a guy who wants to make a difference. When he was a younger man and just starting out, he was working in an aggressive sales career, found himself sleeping in his car and using a garage for shelter. He approached the Edmonton Community Foundation to see what he could do and through this organization he has made an impact on homelessness. On behalf of

Sterling Homes, they have raised over \$250,000 and Kohan's fund has supported Jasper Place Health and Wellness Centre, a comprehensive service agency. The power of endowment means the gifts will continue to help others in the future.

### **Human Trafficking in Canada**

As of January 2015, the Human Trafficking National Coordination Centre is aware of 264 cases since 2004 where human trafficking specific charges were laid. Of the total, 249 are domestic human trafficking cases and 15 are international human trafficking cases. The majority of the domestic human trafficking cases are for sexual exploitation, whereas the international human trafficking cases are primarily for forced labour. Of the 264 human trafficking cases, 85 have been completed through the courts with human trafficking specific and/or related convictions (i.e. procuring, living off the avails of prostitution, forcible confinement, keeping a common bawdy house, etc.).

We are very pleased to announce the opening of "Magdalene House" <magdalenehouse.ca> in the City of Red Deer under the direction and commitment of David B. Congratulations David!!!

### **Resolution 2011.02 Children of Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women**

is in the news again. An article by Stephen Maher of the National Post, published in the *Edmonton Journal* (Feb. 28/15 page A11) states that the federal government, which needs to lead the national response to the urgent and terrible problem facing aboriginals, is unenthusiastic.

This article reports on the meeting held February 27, 2015 where Aboriginal leaders sat down with provincial representatives and federal ministers of Aboriginal Affairs (Bernard Valcourt) and Status of Women (Kellie Leitch). At the meeting, relatives of missing and murdered aboriginal women spoke. The meeting created a framework for action and agreed to meet again next year. National Chief Perry Bellegarde remarked that a "huge socioeconomic gap exists between indigenous peoples and non-indigenous peoples." He went on to explain that the United Nations human development index rates Canada as the sixth-best place to live in the world; but noted that applying the same index to indigenous people puts them at 63<sup>rd</sup> place, and it is that gap that has a correspondingly high social cost.

Maher goes on to say that the federal government will not create a national inquiry into missing and murdered aboriginal women because of the cost and potentially negative media attention on the government and its lack of action. Please encourage your counterpart to write letters to the prime minister, minister of justice and members of parliament urging the federal government to implement nationwide support programs and services for children of missing and murdered aboriginal women. We, as The Catholic Women's League of Canada, must voice our opinions in order for action to take place.

Prayers and Blessings

*Gladys B.*

ABMK CWL COUNCIL

COMMUNITY LIFE STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON