

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council

COMMUNITY LIFE STANDING COMMITTEE

Communique #7 (April 14, 2016)

We have been reminded that members are called upon by Pope Francis to continue taking action by doing good works in this Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. Hopefully councils have accessed the new brochure from national outlining the new sub-theme *Palliative and Hospice Care*. We are looking for a good response from councils/individuals who have acted on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Collages made up of submissions will be displayed at the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Convention at Westlock in June.

Human Trafficking

A notice was sent out about the Human Trafficking presentation for Sunday, April 17. This is at the FCJ Centre in Calgary. It is understandable that there may be limitations for those living outside of Calgary to attend. However, Calgary members may be interested since we all continue to work on the Human Trafficking resolution passed at the CWL national level.

News from our National Community Life Chair, Doreen G.

Human Trafficking

Pope Francis announced there is a new app that informs us if the clothing we are purchasing complies with worker's rights. Each one of us can make an effort to help the victims of human trafficking by using this app. As Pope Francis stated "many of these modern slaves are people who make clothes." The app analyzes more than 3,000 brands of clothing, footwear, and accessories, and reveals if the companies protect worker's rights and if they have been accused of employing children. It also provides information on factories and whether they care for the environment. Australian malls are being categorized, but creators hope the idea spreads. Go online to goodonyou.org.au and sign up to receive information when the app will be available in North America.

There is a short anti-trafficking video called *I am Miriam*. Google *I am Miriam* (against-humanity.org/watch)

Truth and Reconciliation Commission

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has released two documents to help us move forward with recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The following website www.cccb.ca/site/eng/media-room/statements-a-letters/4446-catholic-responses-to-truth-and-reconciliation-commission has more information.

Resolution 2014.01 - Restoration of Health Care for Refugee Claimants

The federal government has announced they will restore all refugee health care benefits to pre-2012 levels by April 1. It has said that refugees from any country of origin will be covered once again and, in addition, both the federal ministers of

immigration and health announced that starting April 1, 2017, additional coverage will be offered to refugees before their departure for Canada.

Resolution 2013.01 Building Relationships and Partnerships with Canada's Indigenous Peoples

As 50% of indigenous peoples live off-reserve, members may be interested in volunteering at friendship centres funded by the federal government. The centres assist with wellness and outreach for those with addictions or in the sex trade.

Resolution 2011.02 Children of Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women

Members have an excellent opportunity to reach out and assist First Nations peoples, especially now that the federal government has called for an inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women. 50% of First Nations children do not live with their parents. Contact a friendship centre in your area and see if there is some way your council can take on a project of helping the children who may have lost their mother.

Reporting from Calgary Development & Peace

The Calgary Council of Development & Peace has scheduled their AGM for Saturday, April 23 at the Pastoral Centre, 10 am – 2 pm. Potluck Lunch.

Their 40th Anniversary Mass and Celebration is set for Thursday, May 19 at St. Mary's Cathedral, 7:00 pm – Bishop Henry, Celebrant.

Edmonton D & P – Regional Assembly in Grande Prairie, May 6-8, 2016.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the provincial convention and viewing all your wonderful works of mercy submissions.

Until then, may Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to inspire and guide you in your work for God and Canada.

Carol S.