



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Convention

Westlock, Alberta

June 3 – 4, 2016

COMMUNITY LIFE REPORT

Madam President:

SYRIAN REFUGEES

The Syrian Refugee crisis has been of prime importance during these past few months. We have fielded numerous emails from our National Community Life Chair, Doreen Gowans, as well as important information from Development & Peace in this regard. Sponsorship webinars were made available and some of you may have participated. Placement of refugee individuals and families continues to be an on-going project. In attempt to gather numbers of refugee individuals and/or families sponsored and supported by the five dioceses of AB/Mackenzie, the record is as follows:

St. Paul Diocese - 3 families

Edmonton (Archdiocese) - 243 individuals

MacKenzie/Fort Smith - 0

Grouard McLennan - 0

Calgary - 74 families & 72 singles

*18 parishes plus 5 private groups sponsored in Calgary, High River, Medicine Hat & Cochrane

*Calgary 3rd largest city to receive Syrians next to Montreal & Toronto

TRUTH & RECONCILIATION

Announced through the provincial website was the information on how to obtain copies of the two documents released by the CCCB to help us going forward with Truth and Reconciliation. If you are interested in copies of these documents please provide me with your name and contact information.

More recently, you may have read or heard about the controversy regarding the Catholic obligations under the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. The 50 Catholic entities who are party to the 2006 Indian Residential Schools Settlement were being accused of sidestepping their obligations because of a shortfall in a fundraising campaign.

From an article written in the *Western Catholic Reporter* (May 16, 2016), we quote Archbishop Gerard Pettipas, Chair of the board of 50 Catholic entities, as follows: "the Catholic entities group involved in the 2006 Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement met all their requirements under the pact. As for the moral obligation of reconciliation, the Church is still there in remote Aboriginal communities doing all that it can. I think reconciliation is about relationship. It's about being able to meet one another." Archbishop Pettipas said "we have a whole lot of reconciliation to do yet. Because things are still

happening. Canadians have to be concerned about this as a Canadian problem.”

Please read the article to get the full story. (A copy of the article was made available at the convention. Should readers be interested contact the *Western Catholic Reporter* for a copy or the Provincial Community Life Chair.)

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

WUCWO WORKING GROUPS FOR THE FAMILY has compiled a comprehensive document on the practice of modern day slavery. Member organizations were sent a questionnaire and asked to provide information concerning this practice and the work to end it in our country. A copy of the results may be obtained by contacting the Provincial Community Life Chair. Further to the issue of Human Trafficking, ACT (Action Coalition against Trafficking) Alberta works to prevent trafficking and protecting victims. In April there was an excellent presentation by ACT in Calgary at the FCJ Centre. Human trafficking is a huge problem continually developing in front of our very eyes. There must be more education about the myths vs. realities in regard to this crime. ACT will give a presentation at the Calgary Diocesan Fall meeting in Okotoks on September 24, 2016. The Catholic Women’s League has a human trafficking resolution that was adopted by the national CWL council. Are you continuing to work on the member action plans?

DEVELOPMENT & PEACE

Are you a member? Has the Catholic Women’s League met the challenge issued to raise the 1% program funds by \$10,000.00? We were unable to obtain that information for this convention. Hopefully it will be announced at the national convention. The 1% program is on-going and we need to continue to educate and donate to this cause. Updates on the Nepal Earthquake (one year ago), the recent devastating earthquake in Ecuador, and Latin American organizations who are hoping for stronger accountability of Canadian mining overseas are available by accessing www.devp.org. D & P pamphlets are available on request.

EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY

Pope Francis declared the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy from December 8, 2015 through December 16, 2016. The Pope has asked the faithful to concentrate on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. What have you done?

This committee in conjunction with the provincial spiritual development committee presented a provincial initiative to all AB/Mackenzie councils. The request was to take photos and journal all your works of mercy, concentrating on spiritual which tends to be more challenging than the corporal.

Submissions were to be sent to the diocesan community life chairs who in turn were asked to make a collage of the submissions to be displayed at the provincial convention.

If you or your council did not submit your good works – it’s too late for this project but not too late for your own! December 16 may be the end of the declaration of the Jubilee of Mercy but certainly not the end of Works of Mercy – both Corporal and Spiritual.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol S.