

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

COMMUNICATIONS

February 2018

Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call



TO:	Diocesan Chairpersons of Communications
CC:	Provincial Executive (for information)
CC:	National Chairperson of Communications (for information)
CC:	Webmaster (for information)
FROM:	Annette deBoer, ABMK Provincial Chairperson of Communications

As members of the Catholic Women's League we are all called to take action on a number of causes. We are asked to sign petitions, to send postcards, to spread the word and encourage others to also take action. One of the ways that we take action is by sending letters to our government officials.

It is generally agreed that a personal letter is one of the most effective ways for a citizen to let the government (or another organization) know about our concerns and/or how we would like the government to proceed with an action. The National website **Personal Letter Writing Guide** (<https://www.cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Personal-Letter-Writing-Guide.pdf>) gives us an outline of the **why** to write, **when** to write, **what** to write, the all-important **how** to write, and last, but not least – **who** to write to!

We write because it is said to be effective, because it is a way to support League resolutions, influence politics, show care and concern. And – guess what – we can also write to show our support and say thank you for the good things that are being done!

We write when something makes us “sit up and take notice”, in either a good way or more frequently, in a rush of concern for an action that threatens our Christian values and beliefs.

The hardest part of expressing our concern is to compose the nuts and bolts. Sometimes we are given a suggested script, which we can adjust to reflect our own words. This can be helpful if we know we want to say something but are not sure how to. In these cases, someone has already done the “research” for us and put together the facts and concerns in a cohesive way. However, expressing your own opinions and feelings on the issue is important. Be sure to include what action you are asking for, and word it in such a way that it requires an answer.

When writing on an issue, try to word your letter in a positive way, with constructive suggestions to resolve or take action on the concern you are sharing. If you are writing on a CWL resolution, use the “Whereas” clauses to accurately state a reason. The letter does not have to be long, just use your own words and let the reader know that you care.

One important side note for our letter writing - it is very important to remember that, **while we are CWL members, when we write our letters we are writing for ourselves personally, NOT as a representative of the CWL.** The only CWL members who are authorized to write as representatives of the Catholic Women's League itself are the Presidents, and then only for the council that they represent. So for instance, the Parish president may write a letter on behalf of, and as a representative of, her local council. The Diocesan President may write as a rep of the Diocesan CWL, the Provincial President as a representative of the provincial members, etc.

Right now the Alberta Mackenzie council is asking all members to send the Over 18 postcards to the government in support of National CWL Resolution **2017.02 Mandatory Age Verification Mechanisms for Adult Pornographic Websites** (as outlined in the last Communications

communique). You will note that there is space included on the postcard for you to write your own message before you send it. Please take advantage of the space and let your thoughts and opinions be heard. April has traditionally been the month for Alberta to send a deluge of Pornography Hurts postcards to the government. This year, let us “rain” Over 18 postcards on Parliament Hill!

In today’s world, the saying is even truer – “If you don’t stand for something, you will fall for anything”. Let’s continue to stand up for what is right and just, and not be afraid to let our opinions count.