

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

COMMUNICATIONS - May 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

Happy, happy spring! Welcome sunshine and warmer weather at last!

By the time this is sent out the CWL members in the province will have attended their respective Diocesan Conventions and be looking forward to the Provincial Convention fast approaching on June 1-2, 2018 in Okotoks. Don't forget to register soon; we want to see as many members as possible for the sharing of business and pleasure. The convention registration package is available on the Provincial website www.cwl.ab.ca, click on the Conventions tab at the top. Bring a friend – or two!

Members should consider wearing their CWL name tag to other events as well. I recently had the opportunity to chat with a long-time member of the CWL, who told me that she wears her CWL name pin to all the various events she attends, not only the CWL ones. Listening to her tell of the conversations with people whom she has had the opportunity to introduce to the CWL when they asked her what her name tag was for, I could not help but think what a good idea that was! Not only did she receive an instant introduction by proudly showing what her name was, but she also had a conversation starter and an opportunity to share her pride in the League.

A short time ago, an email came through my inbox with the subject line *“Why Christians Should Be Careful About Completely Boycotting Hollywood”*. The email was from an organization called Movieguide and the article made a good point. <https://www.movieguide.org/news-articles/why-christians-should-be-careful-about-boycotting-hollywood.html>

Turns out Movieguide is a “Family Guide to Movies and Entertainment”. *Quote: “MOVIEGUIDE® reviews all movies from a Christian perspective and how movies affect children at different stages of cognitive development. We analyze movies using over 150 different criteria that cover the dramatic elements, the literary, the worldview, and the theological...and much more.”*

If you would like to check it out for your family, use the link: <https://www.movieguide.org/>

Over 18 Postcard Campaign: In our continuing effort to stop pornography, the CWL Diocesan Councils in Alberta are working on arranging showings of the Over 18 Documentary and providing post cards for letting our government know that we would like to see Mandatory Age Verification Mechanisms for Adult Pornographic Websites. Postcards can be purchased by contacting Sr. Susan Scott at abmkprovcomlife@gmail.com or phone 780-968-5543.

Attached to this communique is a copy an information sheet put together by the Calgary Diocesan Resolutions Chairperson. Thank you to the Calgary Diocesan CWL for sharing this resource with us. This information, or something like it should be distributed with the Over 18 postcards to inform member and the general public about what the CWL is trying to accomplish through the distribution of the postcard and urging all persons to send the postcard or their own personal letter to the government. The pdf is set up to print double sided and then be cut in two for handing out.



The Catholic Women's League of Canada
CALGARY DIOCESAN COUNCIL

PORNOGRAPHY HURTS

POSTCARD CAMPAIGN

Protect our children!

Speak up for stringent online pornography controls!

League members have historically voiced their concerns about pornography with national resolutions dating back to 1921! Before debuting its "Pornography Hurts" campaign in 2013, the League participated in "WRAP" (White Ribbon Against Pornography) - a crusade inspired by a Catholic woman in the USA in 1987. Our goal is to defend human dignity and impede sexual exploitation by raising awareness of pornography's addiction, victims and destructive effects on children, marriages and families.

In 2017, members across Canada adopted the resolution, "**Mandatory Age Verification Mechanisms for Adult Pornographic Websites.**" It urges the federal government to enact legislation making it a criminal offence to publish online porn without mandatory age verification controls (e.g., driver's license, credit card). Currently, anyone with access to a computer, tablet or cell phone has "unrestricted" access to porn websites - including children.

Members and non-members alike are urged to speak up by lobbying the federal government for tougher legislation on the escalating multi-billion dollar porn industry. Join the CWL in mailing postage-free postcards to the Prime Minister, Minister of Justice and your elected MP. Include your name, return address, statement on porn's harmful impact and/or a question inviting a response. Please choose from the statement and question examples below, or create your own.



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STATEMENTS:

1. Degrading images on porn websites can induce sexual assault, violence and bullying.
2. It's absurd that an 8-year old can click an "18+" button to access porn websites.
3. It's absurd that porn magazine sales are limited to 18+, yet websites are unregulated.
4. It's alarming that any child with a computer or cell phone can access online porn.
5. Gambling sites must verify that users are "18+" as should harmful porn sites.
6. Marijuana is regulated to protect minors, as should harmful porn websites.
7. Porn breeds a culture of rape and abuse that often targets women and children.
8. Porn is abusive and degrading for voiceless victims of human trafficking.
9. Porn fuels the global sex trade, inciting demand for human trafficking.
10. Porn victims are scarred for life, as their images circulate forever.
11. Porn victims' sense of humiliation and worthlessness escalates with age.
12. Sexual education shouldn't encompass violent and degrading porn websites.
13. Smoking, gambling and alcohol are regulated, as should addictive porn.
14. The United Kingdom has shown that age verification for porn websites is doable.
15. Viewing porn can lead to damaging behaviors and sexual relationships.

QUESTIONS:

1. As our elected leader, how will you protect children from unrestricted online access?
2. Can Canadians count on you to protect children from unrestricted online access?
3. What action is the government taking to protect children from unrestricted online access?



Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister

Hon. Jody Raybould-Wilson
Minister of Justice

Hon. Jane Doe
MP – (Constituency)

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