



The Catholic Women's League of Canada



Alberta Mackenzie Provincial

Council

“For God and Canada”

Minutes of the 69th Annual Provincial Convention

Saturday, June 4, 2016

Memorial Hall, Westlock, AB

Theme: “One Heart, One Voice, One Mission”

1. Welcome

Provincial President Cathy Bouchard welcomed everyone to the convention. Cathy commented on Friday's events, specifically on the enjoyment of the group regarding Fr Stefano Penna talk on the Encyclical “Amoris Laetitia” The Joy of Love. She spoke about the Annual Reports workshop and encourage the membership to look at the work we do on the reports as an opportunity for positive reinforcement. Later in the afternoon there was a resolutions dialogue to help prepare the membership for the two resolutions that will be presented for consideration and voting. Cathy talked about the introduction of the “hugs” cards in honour of the Extraordinary Year of Mercy consisting of an exchange of “hugs cards” throughout the weekend, the wonderful Eucharistic Celebration with Bishop Paul Terrio and the Official Opening Ceremonies Friday evening followed by a wine and cheese social provided by the Knights of Columbus. Cathy spoke about the discussion on Relief for Ft. McMurray fire victims.

2. Meeting Called to Order

Provincial President Cathy Bouchard called the meeting to order at approximately 9:15 a.m.

3. Morning Spiritual & League Prayer

The Memorial Service for Deceased Members was led by Father Andrew Bogdanowicz, Judy Look, Spiritual Development Chair, and the Diocesan Presidents.

As this service was placed on the agenda at this time, it served as the official Opening Spiritual. After the closing hymn, Judy Look led us all in the recitation of the League Prayer.

4. Opening Remarks

Cathy thanked the Convention Committee chaired by Kathryn Bourque and introduced Caren Muller President of St. Mary of Assumption Parish Council and hosting parish. Caren welcomed everyone to Convention and provided some housekeeping information for the convenience and comfort of the membership.

5. Call to Convention

Provincial Secretary Ruth Boden read the Call to Convention.

6. Roll Call

Provincial Secretary Ruth Boden called the roll for Provincial Officers, Honorary Life Members, Life Members, Voting Delegates, Diocesan Accredited Delegates and Parish Accredited Delegates.

Provincial Officers:

- Cathy Bouchard – President (LM)
- June Fuller – President-Elect / Organization
- Judy Look – Vice President / Spiritual Development
- Dorothy Johansen – Past President (LM)
- Ruth Boden - Secretary
- Yvette Foster – Treasurer
- Gladys Brown – Christian Family Life
- Carol Schlachter - Community Life
- Linda VandenBerg – Education and Health
- Annette deBoer – Communications
- Betsy Fletcher - Legislation
- Joan Langevin – Resolutions

Honorary Life Members

- Ardis Beaudry
- Marie Cameron
- Agnes Bedard

Life Members

- Natalie Carley
- Doreen Lecky
- Lucille Partington
- Connie McBride
- Mary Heinzlmeir
- Fran Lucas
- Shirley Hazen
- Gloria Lundberg

Life Members

- Mary-Ann Warren
- Rose-Marie McCarthy
- Becky Kallal
- Lynne Persson
- Mary-Lou Veeken
- Donna Prevost
- Vi Lake
- Sheila Houle

Diocesan Voting Delegates

- Calgary
- Edmonton
- Grouard – McLennan
- Mackenzie-Fort Smith
- St Paul

- Sharon Malec
- Mary Hunt
- Irene Brassard
- Sheila Ryan-Hachey
- Kathryn Bourque

Diocesan Accredited Delegates

- Janet MacPhee
- Mary Bouz
- Cheryl Boom
- Mary Molloy
- Mary Antonio
- Diann Rondeau
- Julia Flumerfelt

- Calgary
- Calgary
- Edmonton
- Edmonton
- Grouard-McLennan
- Grouard-McLennan
- Mackenzie-Fort Smith

Parish Council Accredited Delegates

Calgary Diocese:

- Calgary - St. Albert the Great

Edmonton Diocese:

- Camrose - St. Francis Xavier

Calgary - St. Bonaventure
 Calgary - St. Cecilia's
 Calgary - St. Mark
 Calgary - St. Peter's

Calgary - St. Thomas More

Grouard -McLennan Diocese

Fairview - St. Thomas More
 Peace River - Our Lady of Peace

Mackenzie – Fort Smith Diocese

None attended

St. Paul Diocese

Athabasca - St. Gabriel's
 Thorhild - St. Anne
 Clyde - St. Patrick's
 Cold Lake - St. Dominic
 Lac La Biche - St. Catherine's
 Legal - St. Emile
 Pickardville - St. Benoit
 Westlock - St. Mary's
 Whitecourt - St. Joseph's

Devon - St. Maria Goretti
 Edmonton- Good Shepherd
 Edmonton - St. Alphonsus
 Edmonton - St. Charles
Edmonton Diocese (cont...)
 Edmonton - St. John Bosco
 Edmonton - St. Theresa
 Ft. Saskatchewan - Our Lady of the Angels
 Onoway - St. Rose of Lima
 Sherwood Park - Our Lady of Perpetual
 Help
 Spruce Grove - Holy Trinity
 Grande Cache - Holy Cross
 Edmonton - St. Matthews
 Edmonton - St. Dominic Savio
 Edmonton - St. Edmonds
 Edmonton - St. Thomas More

7. Introductions

Cathy Bouchard introduced the Provincial Executive and extended a special welcome to our esteemed Spiritual Advisor Father Andrew Bogdanowicz. Cathy thanked Mary Heizlmeier, Provincial Life Member Liaison, whose term is complete at the end of this Convention, and Mary-Lou Veeken, our webmaster. Connie McBride was introduced and Cathy spoke about her role as Parliamentarian for the meeting and described some of the duties Connie has carried out to prepare for the meeting.

Cathy also introduced the members of religious life who were in attendance.

June Fuller introduced the Honorary Life Members and spoke about their good works for the league. She also introduced the Life Members She also noted that the Kallal sisters, Becky Kallal and Kathryn Bourque, will be providing lunch for the gathering today. A notable incident is that Lynn Persson celebrated her 50th Wedding anniversary today and she has taken the time to be with us.

8. Credentials Report

Cathy outlined the credential report and explained various roles of the voting and accredited delegates. Registration Committee Chair Beatrice Hawryluk gave the following Credentials Report (copy on file)

Voting

Voting Delegates, (5) Diocesan Presidents

5

Accredited:

Provincial Accredited Delegates	12
Diocesan Accredited Delegates	9
Parish Accredited Delegates	33
Life Members	16
Honorary Life Members	3
Total Accredited	73

TOTAL Voting & Accredited Delegates 78

MOTION 2016 - 11 MOVED by Sharon Malec, that the Credential Report be accepted. Seconded by Sheila Ryan- Hachey. **CARRIED.**

9. Adoption of Standing Rules read by Dorothy Johansen, Past President.

MOTION 2016 - 12 MOVED by Mary Hunt that the Standing Rules be accepted as read. Seconded by Linda Vandenberg. **CARRIED.**

10. Acceptance of Agenda

Amendments will be:

#12 will be changed to Correspondence

Spiritual Advisor's Message will go to #16

All items will have moved down to accommodate the addition at #12

MOTION 2016 - 13 MOVED by Angie Cook to accept the agenda for the 69th Annual Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Convention as previously amended. **SECONDED** by Jan Myhre. **CARRIED.**

11. Approval of Minutes of the 68th Annual Convention

MOTION 2016 – 14 MOVED by Mary Malloy, to accept the Minutes of 68th Annual Convention as corrected. Seconded by Irene Brassard. **CARRIED.**

There being no further corrections, Provincial President Cathy Bouchard declared the Minutes of the 68th Annual Provincial Convention approved as amended.

12. Correspondence

Joan Baudais, Life Member sent her apologies.

14. Recognition of members attending their first Provincial Convention

First time attendees were asked to stand. They were recognized with applause and a small gift. Cathy thanked them for attending.

15. Report of Pre-Convention Executive Meeting June 5, 2015 (copy of minutes on file)

Ruth Boden gave a summary of the Pre-Convention Meeting. The officers reported on activities since January. Officers gave brief highlights of their oral reports. Several

business motions were addressed and approved. Final details for the Convention were prepared and/or discussed.

16. Spiritual Advisor's Message

Rev. Andrew Bogdanowicz encouraged members to continue to do their good works. He suggested we use humble means; sacrifices, pain, tears and give them up to God for the spiritual good of the Church, and for Canada. Father asked us to allow God to produce graces through us and in us. As this is the "Divine Year of Mercy" Father offered an invitation to go through the Holy Doors in each Diocese where we can pray for deceased members and for others to receive special graces. This is a special year; we are encouraged to travel to the various Holy doors to receive the graces as special pilgrims. Father travelled to St. Peter's Basilica and walked through the Holy doors. Be open to God's Mercy in our hearts and share with others. Today is the Feast of Immaculate Heart of Mary, may you find in her heart joy strength and peace.

17. Provincial President's Report – Cathy Bouchard (Annual Report Book)

Cathy asked June Fuller, President –Elect to assume the Chair. She explained that as this meeting is considered to be an Annual General Meeting, she would read her report exactly as presented in the Annual Report Book.

18. Secretary's Report – Ruth Boden (copy on file)

The activities of the Secretary have been focused on preparation for the 69th Annual Convention and ensuring the minutes for the mid-winter meeting held in Leduc, AB in January are sent out to the Executive for review; ensuring the Motion Book is updated with the most recently approved Motions; updating the Provincial, Diocesan and Life Member Rosters.

The Executive was contacted to ensure the reports for this meeting are distributed to the other members of the Executive and to be ready for inclusion into the minutes of this meeting.

Queries regarding the Convention via email were responded to in a somewhat timely fashion.

19. Treasurer's Report – Yvette Foster (copy on file)

Yvette drew the member's attention to the Nickels for the North to assure the membership that the funds have been disbursed subsequent to the annual report.

Convention costs were higher due to the long distance and high cost of conducting the convention in Yellowknife, NT. CART costs, facility costs and extra travel costs were the three areas that were over budget.

Other costs due to the larger Executive Council (all chairs are filled this term) and representation from a further disbursed area related to travel.

Questions from the floor regarding the Treasurer's Report:

- The Treasurer has moved and her new address will be disbursed
- Per Capita fee increased – review convention costs and travel
- Dorothy Johansen assisted in answering some of the questions; - expenses indicate that we have a full slate of officers. We cover the 5 Diocesan presidents' travel expenses in the hopes that this will assist/encourage Diocesan councils to

send representatives to National convention. Expenses also indicate that it is important to continue to bring Diocesan President Elects in the 2nd year of their term to provincial meetings to assist in their training. The actual deficit this year of approximately \$3,000 indicate that costs are increasing and revenues are remaining the same.

Cathy Bouchard shared that the process for the increase in per capita has begun, and the membership will continue to have a voice throughout the process.

MOTION 2016 - 15 MOVED by Yvette Foster THAT the Statement of Financial Position of the Catholic Women's League, Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council as at December 31, 2015, compiled by the examiner, Roxanne MacDonald CPA, CGA, be accepted as printed and distributed in the Annual Report Book. Seconded by Gladys Brown. CARRIED.

MOTION 2016 - 16 MOVED by Yvette Foster THAT Roxanne MacDonald CPA, CGA be appointed the reviewer for 2016. Seconded by June Fuller. CARRIED

Fort McMurray Relief Fund

MOTION 2016 – 17 MOVED by Joanna Sehn, St. Catherine's, Lac La Biche, AB THAT the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council of the Catholic Women's League support those in need in Fort McMurray and area as a result of the wildfires by urging CWL councils and members to donate money in the coming year, ending June 1, 2017. The money will be directed to the Catholic Diocese of St. Paul earmarked "Fort McMurray Relief Fund" with memo "St. John the Baptist Catholic Women's League Council" to be distributed by the diocese, who will track CWL donations and report to the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council. Seconded by Bernice Montpetit, St. Emile, Legal AB. DEFEATED

MOTION 2016 – 18 MOVED by Mary-Lou Veecken, Life Member THAT Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council of CWL support those in need in Fort McMurray and area as a result of the wildfires there by setting up a voluntary fund into which CWL councils and members can donate until June 1, 2017 to be reviewed at the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Convention in June 2017. These monies are to be recorded by the provincial treasurer and then immediately direct to the Catholic Diocese of St Paul for distribution through Fort McMurray Relief Fund project. Seconded by Yvette Foster. CARRIED

Madam President introduced a member of the press, Glen Argan from Western Catholic Reporter. Permission was granted to the member to publish the results of the discussion

Kathryn Bourque, St. Paul Diocesan President reported that she will be travelling to Fort McMurray in the near future to provide support and assistance to the CWL there.

Agnes Bedard, Honorary Life Member asked if we could consider having the larger screen available for long motions.

20. Mass Collection

Options for the disbursement of the Mass Collection were taken. Two suggestions were made. Catholic Missions in Canada was chosen by a large majority in a show of hands.

21. Past President's Report

Dorothy has provided at her display information about what to keep for archives gleaned from League Sources, you may need just one of the handouts, so take the one that appeals to you the most. When you think about archives the simple thing to remember is keep items that your council created, or are written in the news about your council or members of your council. Please list in a correspondence log items received from other sources, and when your term has finished, these can be discarded, rather than giving dated material to the next person to deal with. Any items from outside sources, such as invitations to events or activities, can be discarded as soon as the event has passed.

Also at the archives display is a selection of archives and albums from Conventions in the past. Enjoy the memories.

Dorothy has spent the last few months on the Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation Steering Committee for the upcoming foundation fundraising campaign. The goal of the campaign is to raise a further \$1.5 million dollars to ensure the perpetual operation of the foundation into the future. It continues to be a most interesting endeavor to work with a professional fundraising company. This month, Dorothy will also be working on cultivating ties with a few possible supporters in our communities, as well as assisting with the recruitment of the campaign cabinet. You will hear more about this in the future as the campaign progresses.

Lastly, you may remember Velma's Dream, a set of projects with the Catholic Near East Welfare Association. Velma's Dream is supporting Christian families in the Holy Land. The Catholic Women's League (C.W.L.) of Canada and CNEWA are still working together to bring more of Velma's Dream to life. Two more projects are being supported. The Infant Welfare Centre in Jerusalem provides critical support to at-risk teenagers for them to stay in school. The Shepherd's Field Hospital in Beit Sahour provides health care to the poorest mothers and babies, near Bethlehem where Jesus was born. There are brochures available at Dorothy's display describing the projects in more detail. There will also be a pilgrimage to the Holy Land from November 10-16, 2016 to see the works in action.

Proposed Amendment to the Constitution & Bylaws Suggested change to the Constitution and Bylaws 2013

Currently the Constitution and Bylaws 2013 reads:

PART III: Crest, Corporate Seal and Flag Section 1: Crest

The crest, as designed and adopted in 1922, shall be the cross, symbolic of faith, surmounting 10 maple leaves, symbolic of the provinces of Canada, with the words "THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA FOR GOD AND CANADA" enclosed in an unbroken circle, symbolic of constant service to God and Canada. The colors of the crest shall be blue, chosen for Our Lady, and the papal colors, white and gold.

Suggested Amendment:

PART III: Crest, Corporate Seal and Flag

Section 1: Crest

The crest, as designed and adopted in 1922 and amended in 2017, shall be the cross, symbolic of faith, surmounting 14 maple leaves, symbolic of the 11 provincial councils in the league and 3 territories of Canada, with the words “THE CATHOLIC WOMEN’S LEAGUE OF CANADA FOR GOD AND CANADA” enclosed in an unbroken circle, symbolic of constant service to God and Canada. The colours of the crest shall be blue, chosen for Our Lady, the papal colours, white and gold.

MOTION 2016 - 19 MOVED by Dorothy Johansen THAT the proposed amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws 2013 be forwarded to the National Council for consideration. Seconded by Mary Hunt, Edmonton Diocesan President. CARRIED

64 Members in favor which is above 2/3 of the voting delegates which number 78 for the Convention.

22. Standing Committee Reports

a. Spiritual Development – Judy Look (copy on file)

- Brought the focus of Pope Francis for the Church who challenges us to a new way of thinking through his apostolic exhortation The Joy of the Gospel, his encyclical Laudato Si and his proclamation of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy.
- The National theme of One Heart, One Voice and One Mission expands on this thinking
- 148 ladies were entered into the Book of Life
- 16 councils throughout the province organized Vigils for Palliative Care.
- Relationships with our God, or neighbor and our environment are key to this new thinking.
- The focus for the upcoming year is living the sacraments as they are the face of mercy.

After the lunch break and reconvening spiritual Patricia Gyulay of Catholic Missions in Canada spoke to the membership about the activities of the Catholic Missions in Canada.

b. Organization – June Fuller (copy on file)

- Membership in ABMK for 2016 was 9671 members
- 59 councils saw an increase in membership
- Suggest giving new members a ‘Welcome Kit’
- Retain current members by keeping them informed and involved in a project
- Follow up with lapsed members with personal contact
- Annual Report forms updated and important that members submit reports to keep all levels of the League informed about issues affecting our society
- Recognize members by nominating them for the Elsie Yanik award, deadline is Dec 31st of each year
- Hilja Jones and Elsie Yanik Award recipient in 2010 passed away in February, 2016
- Ella Ell former ABMK Provincial President passed away in December 2015

- June Fuller received a Life membership at the Edmonton Diocesan convention
- National has made changes to the process of applying for Life Membership that came into effect March 2016
- Encourage councils to seek funding from the National Development Fund to provide members with workshops to enhance their knowledge of the League

Fr. Walter Krewski Awards

June Fuller announced the winner of the Fr. Walter Krewski Awards which recognized the Parish Councils who recruited the largest numbers of new members

There are 3 awards;

- 1) The largest # of new recruits – Our Lady of the Angels in Fort Saskatchewan
19 new members
- 2) The largest increase in membership within their Council – Parkland Holy Trinity, Spruce Grove
32 new members
- 3) The greatest % increase in membership – St. Alphonsus, Edmonton
34.8% increase

c. Christian Family Life – Gladys Brown (copy on file)

- Vocations are “a gift of God” and they are born in communities of faith. Prayers for vocations should be encouraged by family members, religious, priests and parishioners. Just recently, the Edmonton Diocesan CWL Convention had Fr. Marc Cramer, Director of Vocations for the Archdiocese of Edmonton speak to the assembly about the importance of supporting seminarians by way of prayer and financial assistance. The cost to support a seminarian for one year at St. Joseph’s Seminary is \$36,000.00
- Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide has been a topic of Canadians right across Canada. **Euthanasia** is the act of deliberately ending a person’s life to relieve suffering. **Assisted suicide** is assisting or encouraging a person to kill themselves.
- The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has submitted a brief to the House of Commons standing committee on Justice and Human Rights, which is currently considering Bill C-14 (“Medical Assistance in Dying”).
- No one should lose their job for refusing to do something they believe is wrong. Bill C-14 does not provide conscience protection for medical or nurse practitioners.
- The Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute is introducing a series entitled “Catholic Bioethics Moments” a series of brief videos with theologians Dr. Moira McQueen and Dr. Bridget Campion explaining Church teachings about mainstream issues in bioethics. The inaugural series will consist of topics such as “End –of-Life-Care”, “Death”, “Foregoing Treatment”, “Euthanasia & Physician-Assisted Suicide” and “The Principle of Double Effect.” Videos will be available at www.ccbiutoronton.ca or Catholic Bioethics Moments YouTube Channel.

d. Community Life – Carol Schlachter (copy on file)

- Syrian Refugees – Placement of refugee individuals and families continues to be an ongoing project. Numbers of refugee individuals and/or families sponsored and supported by the individual five dioceses of Alberta Mackenzie recorded to date for this convention report are as follows; St. Paul Diocese – 3 families; Calgary – 74 families and 72 singles;

Edmonton (Archdiocese) – 243 individuals.

- Truth and Reconciliation – Two documents released by the CCCB to help us going forward with Truth and Reconciliation. Recent controversy regarding the Catholic obligations under the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement and comments from Archbishop Gerard Pettipas.
 - Human Trafficking – Available upon request, copies of the results of a comprehensive document on the practice of modern day slavery compiled by WUCWO Working Group for the Family. Information available about ACT (Action Coalition against Trafficking) Alberta and the need for education regarding the myths vs. realities of human trafficking. A call to follow up on the Human Trafficking resolution passed at the National Council convention.
 - Development & Peace – Carol spoke about the need to respond to the 1% program and referenced the D & P newsletter which refers to follow up on the Nepal earthquake; the earthquake in Ecuador and Latin American organizations calling for stronger accountability of Canadian mining overseas.
 - Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy – View the collages on the submissions of councils' corporal and spiritual works of mercy as a result of the joint initiative from the provincial community life and spiritual development committees. December 16th ends the declaration of the Jubilee of Mercy but not the end of Works of Mercy.
- e. **Education and Health – Linda VandenBerg** (copy on file)
- This committee chair continues to share emails and information to the diocesan education/health committee chairs such as:
- Invitation to provincial convention and/or to send on concerns and questions
 - Questions regarding the Lyme Disease Conference in Ottawa this past month
 - Call to Action on Bill C-44 (the new government bill to allow for physician assisted suicide)
 - Prayer request for support of our provincial CWL delegation meeting with the Minister of Health, April 12, 2016
 - Communication from The Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton, “Every Life Matters”
 - Updates regarding Seniors Initiative
 - Communiques from Nancy Simms, our National education/health committee chair.
- Palliative and Hospice Care Brochure and Pledge Card
 - The theme chosen for the jubilee year is One Heart, One Voice, One Mission: Palliative and Hospice Care, which focuses on outward expressions of mercy towards our brothers and sisters as they reach the end of their lives. Pope Francis calls us to be the visible face of Christ in the world.
 - The formation of palliative and hospice care teams in all communities across Canada is something for which the League will continue to strive.
 - You can support palliative and hospice care across Canada through the spiritual and corporal acts of mercy, personal encounter and prayer.
 - You will find some of these communications in the education/health display.

- 12 Hours of prayer for Palliative Care, May 4, 2016 – please include what you have done in your Education and Health reports for this year.
- Two resolution were brought forward under the Education and Health Standing Committee:

2016.01 Support for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Victims

Whereas, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) may develop in an individual experiencing or viewing a terrifying and/or shocking ordeal that involves harm or threat of physical harm, and not only impacts the individual, but also those who are personally related to the one suffering with PTSD, such as a spouse, children and others, as they attempt to support their loved one; and

Whereas, PTSD is now recognized as a serious mental health condition that affects many Canadians, including, but not limited to, members and veterans of the military, first responders, paramedics, firefighters, police officers, correctional officers, health care workers, accident victims residential school survivors, refugees and others requiring the need for understanding, compassion, physical and financial support; and

Whereas, When left untreated PTSD has led to suicides, stress-related incidents, verbal and physical abuse, addictions, marriage failures, and family crises; therefore, be it

Resolved, That Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council, in 69th annual convention assembled, through the National Council of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada, urge the federal government in collaboration with the provincial and territorial governments, to take action on identified issues surrounding the serious mental health nature of PTSD by providing physical and financial assistance through treatment programs, and/or disability payments; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be forwarded to the National Council of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada for consideration at its 96th annual convention

MOTION 2016 – 19 MOVED by Mary Hunt, President Edmonton Diocesan Council THAT RESOLUTION 2016 – 01 Support for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Victims Be adopted. Seconded by Connie Asp, President, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Edmonton. CARRIED

2016.02 Reducing the Impact of Disposable Hygiene Products

Whereas, Many households and institutions use some form of disposable hygiene products, such as diapers, sanitary napkins, tampons, panty liners, and incontinence products; and

Whereas, Disposal of these hygiene products can lead to landfill, environmental, and health issues; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council, in 69th annual convention assembled, through the National Council of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada, urge companies that manufacture these products to invest in

research and bring new, safe, healthy, and affordable biodegradable products to the market place; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council, in 69th annual convention assembled, through the National Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, encourage League members to be proactive in purchasing and using alternative hygiene products, to lower our impact on the environment; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be forwarded to the National Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada for consideration at its 96th annual convention.

MOTION 2016 – 20 MOVED by Mary Hunt, President Edmonton Diocesan Council THAT RESOLUTION 2016 – 02 Reducing the Impact of Disposal of Feminine Hygiene Products be adopted. Seconded by Evelyn Suter, Holy Cross Council, Grande Cache. CARRIED

f. Communications – Annette deBoer (copy on file)

- Everyone is encouraged to read the reports in the Annual Convention book; this is our way of communicating with each other about our accomplishments during the past year.
- A great number of our councils do not have Communication chairpersons; therefore, the task of making sure members are kept informed ends up falling on the President. Keep in mind those who do not utilize technology and share paper copies where needed. Make sure to keep a print copy of council newsletters for your archives.
- 50th World Communications Day was May 8. Pope Francis' message theme is Communication and Mercy: A Fruitful Encounter and he tells us "What we say and how we say it, our every word and gesture, ought to express God's compassion, tenderness and forgiveness for all." and "It is not technology which determines whether or not communication is authentic, but rather the human heart and our capacity to use wisely the means at our disposal. Members are encouraged to read his message.
- We have seen a fantastic array of newsletters from councils from one page to 20! Good work. For good catholic news and information subscribe to the Western Catholic Reporter, take home the Carillon if it is available in your parish; check out the CWL websites at all levels.
- Print some "Pornography Hurts" and "Let's Stop the Tragedy of Teen Suicide" postcards and get everyone you can to send them to the government. Card templates and printing instructions are available on the National website or contact the Communications chair.
- Sign up to receive the Be League and The Canadian League in your inbox; add CWL to your Facebook friends. Kudos to everyone for sending their council photos and stories for the May edition of the Be League – great job! Please send in your information on any service pins you give to members, so they can be included in an upcoming issue. Remember, you can send in tidbits on your council at any time; let's have Alberta council activities in the Be League every month!
- One additional note on clarity in our communications, specifically within the CWL. When sending an email or other communication to any level of the League, please make sure that you include the name your town, your Diocese and Province as appropriate. You can

appreciate that there may be a number of councils with the same name. Take St Joseph CWL - there is more than one St Joseph in some of our larger cities, let alone across the diocese, province or country. Imagine the confusion.

Annette introduced Glen Argan, Editor, Western Catholic Reporter. Glen Argan spoke on the role of the Western Catholic Reporter in our province. There has been a good relationship between the CWL and WCR over the past 30 years.

g. Resolutions – Joan Langevin (copy on file) need the electronic version

h. Legislation – Betsy Fletcher (copy on file)

Spiritual Chair Judy Look, Provincial President Cathy Bouchard and Legislation Standing Committee Chair Betsy Fletcher met with the Minister of Health Sarah Hoffman and Minister for Seniors and Housing, Lori Sigurdson and staff. We discussed the Independent Seniors' Advocate Initiative, as well as Physician Assisted Dying.

Assistant Deputy Minister John Cabral advised us to update our numbers regarding the resolution about Single Seniors Dental and Optical Benefits. The numbers we used in 2014 when the resolution was passed at convention are outdated. The new income level for 100% coverage is \$26,400. As the income increases, benefits decrease.

Bill C-14 An Act to amend the Criminal Code and to make related amendments to other Acts (medical aid in dying) has passed in the House of Commons and now goes to the Senate for debate. The deadline of June 06, 2016 to have this Bill in place is unlikely to be met.

EMERGENT MOTION FROM THE FLOOR

MOTION 2016 - 21 MOVED by Mary Molloy, Edmonton Diocesan Council THAT the Alberta Mackenzie Council of the Catholic Women's league of Canada in 69th Annual convention assembled write to the Premier of Alberta, the Premier of Northwest Territories and the Prime Minister of Canada and associated Health Ministers and opposition critics to urge their governments to develop and promote a palliative care and hospice strategy that provides access to qualify, comprehensive and integrated palliative care and hospice services regardless of where one resides and available to all. Seconded by Mary Hunt, Edmonton Diocesan Council. CARRIED.

22. Diocesan Presidents' Reports

Calgary – Sharon Malec (copy on file)

- The Doors were opened and we were literally cast out into the deep but paddled hard to join our companions on the journey. How simple it became to love one another as women of peace and hope when were all centered on faith and justice. In the most recent past together as sisters in the League, we have seen the lord and are forging ahead with ONE Heart, ONE Voice, ONE Mission.
- Great news and events from Calgary! We have a new council. Ascension Council from

Calgary. We have celebrated the 90th anniversary of St Francis de Sales, High River, 60th anniversary of Our Lady of the Assumption, Lethbridge, and 50th anniversary of St Luke's, Calgary.

- Our convention was an amazing success. We had wonderful speakers, Teresa Hanlon, Deacon Michael Pollard & Chris Smeaton. We contributed \$3000 to the CWL Chair for Catholic Studies at St Mary's University bringing our donations to almost 1.5 million dollars. We are in the process of investigating the Pennies for the Poor Project. We hope to find a new project that will be named in honour of Ella Ell that will help the poorest of the poor. We have had our faith challenged by the provincial government and the federal government with the Guidelines for Best Practices: Creating Learning Environments that Respect Diverse Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities and Gender Expressions.” and the bill that deals with Euthanasia & Assisted Suicide.
- Our council has been represented at the 125th anniversary of the ACW of the Anglican Diocese of Alberta and Rupert's Land, the UCW of the Alberta Presbytery, and the Bishop's Dinner. We made our presence known.
- The 2017 convention for the diocese will be in Calgary in May. Alice Dietrich and Annamaria Matsui will be the co-chairs for this event.
- The 2019 National Committee has many plans such as fund raisers of Pin Ribbons, Journals and the Snowflake Gala in Calgary. The venue and churches have been booked.
- Sharon concluded her report by listing all of the places she has travelled to within her diocese.

Edmonton – Mary Hunt (copy on file)

- I am delighted to bring greetings from the 4653 members of the Edmonton Diocesan Council to our sisters throughout Alberta Mackenzie. We begin by assuring our Sisters in the St. Paul Diocese of our continuing concern, compassion, care, prayers and support as they continue to meet the challenges in returning to their homes and rebuilding their communities.
- Our new Corpus Christi council are now gathering and worshipping in their beautiful new Church. We are happy to report the re-opening of the St. Stephen's Lacombe Council but must with sadness report the closing due to an aging membership of our St. Gregory Council in Holden.
- **Five main Priorities for 2015-2017 for Edmonton Diocesan Council** were identified through evaluations received: 1. Develop a recruitment strategy to increase membership. 2. Provide support to Parish Councils. 3. Spiritual Development of Members 4. Support women and families in need (ie. First Nation, Metis and Inuit, refugees, post-abortion, homeless and abused) 5. Look for ways to modernize CWL governance at the Diocesan, Provincial and National levels.
- Our new and ever changing **Edmonton Diocesan Website** is an excellent resource and user friendly with an extensive photo gallery. We invite you to check it out.
- Our councils listened to the **call for social action** and used their collective voice to share the concerns of the day. They attended sessions on Physician Assisted Dying and Euthanasia. Many completed the online survey and pursued a letter writing campaign. Members wrote letters to the Education Minister regarding Catholic education and the proposed Guidelines to Education for Edmonton Catholic schools.

- Our councils actively supported the Alberta/Mackenzie Provincial Independent Seniors' Advocate Initiative by providing information, collecting signatures and by writing to & visiting their MLAs.
- Our Midwinter meeting was held at St. Albert Church in St. Albert on January 31st. We had an excellent turnout of 187 members and those who came were treated to three very interesting and compelling presentations about our meeting theme "***Centering our Journey in the Year of Mercy***" by representatives from the Marion Centre, the Mosaic Centre and the Archdiocesan Refugee Program.
- The 94th Annual Edmonton Diocesan Convention was held at Holy Family in St. Albert from April 24-26 and superbly hosted by councils in Zone 2. Our convention theme was "***With One Heart One Voice One Mission Be the Face of Mercy***". Our six speakers included Archbishop Richard Smith and Archbishop Sylvain Lavoie. They addressed Mercy Through our Indigenous Sisters, Mercy Through Palliative & Hospice Care and Mercy through the Works of the CWL. We were very pleased to have 261 register for the Convention with over 60 first time convention attendees and many of them were women in their 30's & 40's. Three resolutions and one Proposed Amendment to the National Constitution & By-Laws were passed and forwarded for consideration at this convention.
- Archbishop Richard Smith asked to preside over the Opening Mass which included 16 priests from throughout the Archdiocese. At our Closing Banquet we paid tribute to the St. Gregory Council, presented Provincial Organization Chair June Fuller with her well-deserved Life Membership and were treated to an excellent power point presentation which included over 100 photos sent to us by our 68 councils sharing "joyful" occasions during the past year.
- The annual Doreen Melton Scholarship was presented to Seminarian Tin Tran. The 20th Annual Poster /Essay/Poem contest theme this year was based on Pope Francis's encyclical "Laudato Si" and inspired over 1100 entries from schools throughout the archdiocese. We believe that by sponsoring this contest, we are encouraging students and teachers to focus on their faith and what it means to them.
- Edmonton Diocesan Council continues to support **The Faith, Fitness & Fun Run/Walk in support of Newman Theological College and St. Joseph's Seminary** through the purchase, preparation and serving of hotdogs to participants in this important annual fundraising event held in late May of each year.
- We look forward to our Fall Meeting which will be held at St. Stephen's in Olds on October 3rd. We invite you to look at our *Community Life Collage* for more ways that our Diocese has committed itself in service For God and Canada.

Grouard-McLennan – Irene Brassard (copy on file)

- 2016 started with a 10 week retreat to Consoling the Heart of Jesus. We completed our retreat in time for the Divine Mercy Sunday, the greatest feast day of Easter.
- January being a cold month, the parishes in our diocese are involved in fellowship and attempting to make money for numerous projects needed in running a parish pot- luck
- suppers, pancake breakfast, fashion shows.

- After the January Provincial Executive meeting, letters to Honorable David Eggen were written by the Diocese, Parish and individuals to address the “Guidelines for Best Practices: Creating Learning Environment That Respect Diverse Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities and Gender Expression.”
- In February, one of the diocesan members spoke in Spirit River, from the pulpit, about reviving the CWL. This was well received therefore we await results.
- On Feb. 11 Arnold Vierson, our Federal MP met with Fairview CWL members about concerns with euthanasia and physician assisted suicide laws being looked at in Canada. The RCIA program and Archdiocese Pastoral Council see the CWL involved.
- Feb. 20 our Spiritual workshop, was held in McLennan to enhance our involvement in The Holy Year of Mercy. Fr. Albert Sterzer started our journey with introducing the reason for the Holy Doors, Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy with human examples and spent time on how to obtain Plenary Indulgences.
- March 1, 2016 We invited the Provincial CWL president to our Diocesan CWL Convention to be held April 22, 2017 in Bezanson. She has replied with a yes.
- Between March 3rd-5th the World Day of Prayer was either hosted or we partook in these Parish celebration.
- High Prairie spearheaded a retreat on the 12th followed by them hosting the CWL diocesan executive and pre-convention meeting on the 19th.
- March 22, in McLennan our Diocesan HOLY DOORS were blessed at the start of the Chrism Mass by Archbishop Pettipas.
- April sees the CWL involved in the sacraments of Baptisms, Reconciliation and 1st communions. Each Parish has its own rhythm and rituals.
- April 16th was the Grouard-McLennan diocese convention held in Peace River and 40 members represented 12 councils. Our theme was” Divine Mercy”. Our guest speaker was Dorothy Cowell, a member/ teacher who recommended Pope Francis’ book “The Name of God is Mercy”. She expanded on how Mercy looks - a smile, open handed, comfort, non-judgmental, arms stretched, and suffering with Jesus. The Convention is truly an opportunity to make new friends and keep the old (some are silver and the other gold.)
- April 26 is always a warm day with Our Lady of Good Counsel in our diocese. Many celebrate with Mass, Rosary, Supper and individual prayer.
- May 4th was the 12 hours for palliative care which our members took seriously. We rose to the challenge to promote human dignity at the end stages of life.
- May 6th Grande Prairie hosted a retreat on Care for the Common Good. We must be vigilant and stay active on climate change.
- May 7th Peace River hosted the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
- May 11th our collage of our Diocese was completed for all to see.
- Our next get together will be the diocesan executive meeting in Peace River Oct. 1st @ 10am Grimshaw expects us Oct. 22, 2016 for the Education workshop starting @ 10am.

Mackenzie-Fort Smith – Sheila Ryan-Hachey (copy on file)

- We are honored to be included in all the events offered at the Provincial Level. The mid-winter meeting in January was an informative session and the material given out was shared with your northern sisters.
- Our three councils held reflection sessions during lent with a focus on the Holy Year of Mercy by Pope Francis. In Hay River, an average of 8 women attended each session and indicated they reflected on the word in a deeper way than ever before.

- Yellowknife hosted the 52nd annual Diocesan convention in April. We were pleased to have Bishop Mark address our group. Our guest speaker was Dr. Amy Hendricks and she presented a thought provoking session on Euthanasia and Assisted Dying.
- We honored Jeanne LeGuerrier from Fort Smith. Jeanne has been our Spiritual Advisor for the last 18 years. Typically, the advisor is a Priest and Jeanne was appointed by Bishop Croteau in a time when no priest was available. Our only Life Member, Barb MacDonald, was acknowledged and gratitude given for her continued involvement at the parish and diocesan level.
- There were action items from our previous convention and discussion on how to move forward with initiatives. Homelessness, missing and murdered aboriginal women, inclusion of our aboriginal sisters, recruitment of new members, filling executive positions, all of these topics are ongoing for our diocese. We struggle with movement of members, (i.e. our diocesan president-elect) moved from the jurisdiction and at the parish level, there is a reluctance to be involved at the executive level.
- At the Convention there was an expression of frustration about the lack of support we offer our aboriginal sisters and it is a call for action at our diocesan level. An initial sharing meeting is set for late July and will take place with a small number of women who with open hearts and open minds will come together in prayer and discussion. From this, we hope to understand what changes are required for the executive to be a representative face of the members we serve. We pray that our theme of one heart, one voice and one mission will lead us to a new place where all will know they belong.
- The Rosary for Peace continues on Tuesdays.
- On May 4, CWL members prayed for 12 hours for palliative care. As a call from Pope Francis to be the face of mercy, one council brought snacks to a family who had a loved one in palliative care. The response from the family was a heartfelt expression of gratitude and love.
- “Pornography Hurts” campaign took place in April. The postcards provided by Annette were distributed at the parish level and sent to our government. Members received letters from government officials in response to the Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide campaign.
- Syrian Refugee sponsorship- One individual CWL member is supporting a family in YK.
- National convention – 4 members have registered.
- A retreat is planned for October (21-23) to be facilitated by Sister Maggie Beaudette. Please remember Sister Maggie who is in Ontario to celebrate her 50th Jubilee on June 2nd
- The 53rd annual convention will be April 28-30, 2017 hosted by Hay River.
- The Mackenzie Fort Smith Diocese is active with a membership of 99. With God’s help, we will continue to grow and be welcoming to new members.

St. Paul – Kathryn Bourque (copy on file)

- Special greetings to you all from the Diocese of St. Paul. It is indeed a privilege to be hosting you here in Westlock, my home council. We continue to have 19 councils with a total of 590 members for 2015.
- Our Mid-winter meeting was held in Plamondon this year and there was a great turnout. Thirteen councils were represented and three more sent their reports for a total of 16/19 councils being heard from. This is a record for the winter meeting. At this meeting we learned that our treasurer had stepped down due to illness. The books were taken over by president-elect, Celine Berlinguette.
- Athabasca council received us for our 60th annual convention. Although there was not as great of representation at this event, only eight councils, those present, 54 members, thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the Athabasca team outdid themselves. Present at the meeting was a member of the charter diocesan council, Theresa Kallal. We had wonderful speakers that tied in well with the theme of “One Voice, One Heart, One Mission – Palliative & Hospice Care”. Kelly Lynn Spafford gave us an excellent presentation on how to recognize elder abuse and what we can do about it. Dr. Ted Fenske spoke on “Euthanasia – Behind the Curtain”. Both of these presentations were well received by the membership. The Dorothy Roberts award recipient this year was a very deserving, Kelly Lynn Spafford. In the true spirit of the award, Kelly Lynn stepped forward to take minutes for the whole convention when our secretary was unable to attend. Although we still have some vacancies in our executive, the position of treasurer has been filled!! Rita Fertig will bring her book keeping experience and love of the League to us. We continue to pray for the vacant standing committees to have someone sitting in their chairs soon, but in the meantime have had our diocese’s two provincial executive members, Annette deBoer and Betsy Fletcher, fill in the gaps for communications and legislation respectively.
- It was a goal of the diocesan council to increase membership by 60 in this year in honor of our 60th anniversary. Unfortunately, several councils have lost their senior members, and our numbers have gone in the wrong direction.
- The fires in Ft. McMurray have impacted many, including our sisters in St. John the Baptist council. I have been in touch with president Anne Sanders by e-mail, assuring her of our prayers and indeed the prayers of the whole provincial membership. I will continue to try to reach out to her, to best determine how we can help as a diocesan council and as a provincial council as well.
- Our goals for the coming year will continue to be increasing membership and mentoring new members to take on leadership roles. A trip is planned to our two Fort’s (Chip and McMurray) in the coming months. It is hoped that all of the councils will have a visit in the coming year. Sometimes hearing the same old message from someone different can spark a new interest.
- Finally, most of our efforts have concentrated on hosting you all here in Westlock. It is indeed a big undertaking that requires a real team effort. Many members have come forward to help out, some who are brand new to CWL, others who often sit in the

background and those who are always available. It has been a real learning experience for everyone. I believe it has pulled our team together and that if your council needs a boost, you should consider hosting a convention. The provincial executive has been available to guide us the whole way. We hope and pray that the week-end will be meaningful for all present.

23. **Registration Report – Beatrice Hawryluk** (copy on file)

A report on the number of members who attended the convention.

Honorary Life Members	3
Life Members	16
National Executive	-
Provincial Executive	12
Diocesan Executive	5
Parish Council Accredited Delegates	
CWL Members	71
Hierarchy	-
Provincial Spiritual Advisor	1
Diocesan Spiritual Advisors	2
(I don't have a breakdown of parish/diocesan)	
Parish Spiritual Advisors	8
Guests	1
Total	160

24. **NEW BUSINESS**

Invitation to Provincial Convention 2017

Mary Hunt extended the invitation to the 70th Provincial Convention 2017
Mary Hunt and Cheryl Boom co-chairs. June 2 – 3rd, 2017

Invitation to National Convention 2016

A reminder that the National Convention is in Halifax, Nova Scotia in August

25. **Closing Remarks**

Cathy Bouchard thanked the convention committee and those who helped to make the convention a success. Cathy thanked the Life and Honorary Life members. Mary-Ann Warren donated the One Heart, One Voice, One Mission banner.
Thanked Connie McBride for her support as parliamentarian.
Mass at 5:30 reaffirmation of officers.

26. **Closing Prayer**

Judy Look led the closing prayer as written in the Spiritual Program.

27. Adjournment

There being no further business, President Cathy Bouchard declared the 69th annual provincial convention adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

28. Retiring of the Flags

The flags were retired to close the meeting.

Prepared by:

Approved by:

Ruth Boden, Secretary

Cathy Bouchard, President

Date: _____

Date: _____

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