

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council
Education and Health Standing Committee

Oral Report

June 2015

“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. “

What an exciting two years... working with women who focus on issues and try their best to effect change through their work for the League.

The energies, dedication and successes of this committee, comprising the Diocesan Education and Health Chairs – Elaine B., Calgary; Annette P., Edmonton; Catherine M., Edmonton; Monica B., Grouard-McLennan; Johanna S., St .Paul; Barb M., Mackenzie-Fort Smith – is found on page 31,32, 33 in the Annual Report book. Three extraordinary activities that I would like to draw your attention to in our annual report are: *the work of one council in the diocese of St. Paul who is working to set up a Catholic school; a council in the diocese of Edmonton who lobbied successfully to get a automatic defibrillator for their church; and again from the diocese of Edmonton, a Poster/Essay Contest in their Catholic schools to develop the CWL National theme, which had 1532 entries. This is how we effect change in our communities and keep the CWL alive and well.*

Throughout the past 2 years, 8 communiques have been posted to the website. They included information received from the National Chair of Education and Health.

Two conferences were attended on your behalf ... one Education related: the ACSTA Symposium in 2014 held in Edmonton; and one Health related: the Hope Decoded workshop held in Banff in the spring of 2015.

The Hope Decoded conference was a one day workshop dealing with giving hope to communities. One focus of National CWL is to develop relationships with our First Nations women. At that workshop a contact was made who would give insight on how this would be possible. The result of that meeting suggested the reality of relationships is one of trust and cannot be developed overnight. It cannot come from a directive or resolution. If CWL is going to be successful in this endeavour, it will need to engage in meaningful conversations as equals and will require one-on-one encounters. It is only through these conversations that mutual respect will be achieved and through this respect possibly a relationship.

Much energy has been spent on the CWL Provincial Initiative. At this time, councils should have reported their petition signatures to their diocesan presidents who in turn would have forward them to provincial. As the new MLAs are settling in, the process for dropping off petitions has once more changed. A memo has been sent to the diocesan presidents explaining it. We are asking all councils to make copies of their petitions and send them to Judy L. Her address is on the memo, which will be circulated by the diocesan presidents.

I draw your attention to the Education and Health table where you will find one pamphlet on Understanding Goals of Care Designations. You are encouraged to copy the website address and get the information for your councils. You are encouraged to pick up pamphlets on organ donations and removing ticks.

Please read the annual reports found in the annual report book. Pull it apart, and make copies for the respective chairs on your parish councils.

As Christians we are called to relationships within community and we are all responsible for the education and health of all those who are part of our community. It is with One Heart, One Voice, and One Mission that we effect change.

This concludes my report.

Judy L.

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