

# The Catholic Women's League of Canada



ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Convention

June 7-9, 2019 Grande Prairie, Alberta

## Education and Health Committee Oral Report

Madam President,

The Education & Health Committee has strived to keep our members informed by providing communiqués with information regarding issues.

The need for continuing support of **Publicly Funded Catholic Education** was heightened in anticipation of a provincial election with the introduction of GrACE (Grateful Advocates for Publicly Funded Catholic Education) with all school districts establishing a committee of the various stakeholders in their jurisdictions comprised of superintendents, trustees and representatives from clergy, parents, the CWL and the K of C. I attended the meetings for the Edmonton School District and the Catholic School Trustees Convention and came away with a greater appreciation of our Catholic Education system and the vital role we play in protecting it. In my communiques, I provided suggestions as to how councils might best support our schools including one asking our Pastors to include at least once a month at Mass a prayer of the Faithful in support of Catholic Education & provided numerous examples as well as information about the Five Marks of Catholic School Identity which you will find on my display table.

**Physician Assisted Dying and Euthanasia are** not supported by the CWL as they are morally wrong. The Canadian Physicians for Life organization deserves our support in their battle for conscience rights and improved palliative care...there is more than one way to die with dignity. **The 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care** initiative continues to raise our voice in prayer for quality palliative care and promotes our strong belief in the sanctity of Life from conception to Natural Death as does our participation in the **Annual March for Life**.

**Mental Health & Lyme Disease** continue to be areas of concern for consideration and a list of resources are available for you on my display table.

**The Canadian Opioid Crisis must be addressed from a Christian perspective.** We can 1. Urge elected officials to give the overdose crisis the attention it deserves. 2. Call for more education around safe-prescribing practices. 3. Ask the federal government to tighten regulation of opioid manufacturing 4. Advocate for improved pain management training 5. Promote support services in parishes and support police in doing educational presentations in schools and communities, and 6. Contribute financially to organizations on the frontlines of this battle.

**The Environment** Our national theme asks us to look more closely at the ecological crises our global family faces and we are called to action. There is a wealth of Church teaching on environmental stewardship, yet few resources demonstrate how churches can reduce their impact on God's creation. ***Greening Your Church*** is a publication available on-line that shares with us the theology of creation care ministry and shows us practical ways to live in harmony with creation. World Water Day is held in March and World Environment Day is held in June and have grown to become annual global platforms for public outreach that is widely celebrated around the globe. Consider participating in some way.

This concludes my report; respectfully submitted

Mary Hunt, Chairperson

Education & Health Standing Committee

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council