



THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council

Provincial Organization Standing Committee Annual Report 2016

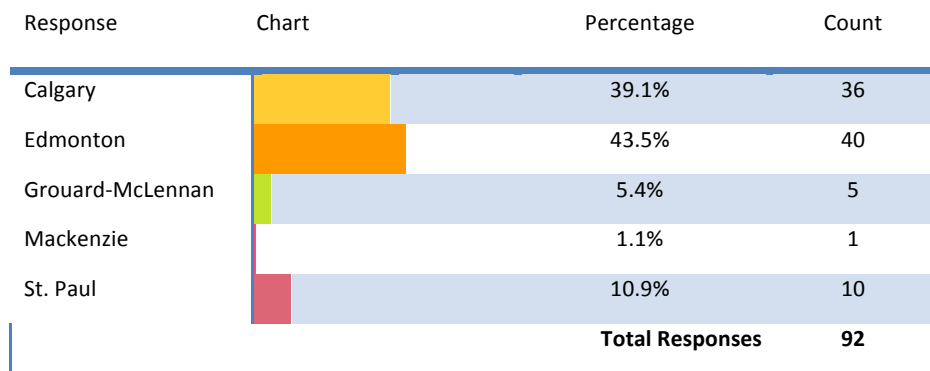
Diocesan Presidents-Elect

Calgary – Janet McPhee
 Edmonton – Cheryl Boom
 Grouard-McLennan – Mary Antonio/Donna Prevost
 Mackenzie-Fort Smith – Vacant
 St. Paul – Celine Berlinguette

5 Out of 5 Dioceses Reported

Calgary Diocesan Council:	3835 members in 55 councils
Edmonton Diocesan Council:	4645 members in 69 councils
Grouard-McLennan Diocesan Council:	527 members in 20 councils
Mackenzie-Fort Smith Diocesan Council:	103 members in 3 councils
St. Paul Diocesan Council:	580 members in 19 councils
Total:	9699 members (as of Dec 31st, 2016)

The year 2016 was the first year for councils to electronically submit their annual reports to National. The Diocesan Standing Committee chairs reported that they had still received hard copies of the annual reports from councils for various reasons. The graph below indicates the number and percentage of councils that submitted reports.



MEMBERSHIP:

The reports submitted to National asked about the demographics of your membership, how many members attended meetings as well as other functions of the CWL. It also indicated how many new members had joined and what the best method of recruiting members was for all councils. Again, these were the highest percentages for methods of recruiting:

- Personal invitation – 94.7%
- Advertising in church bulletins – 87.2%
- Promotional displays – 57.4%
- CWL Sunday – 52.1%
- Potluck dinners – 28.7%
- Spiritual Advisors support – 28.7%

Other methods, included gift memberships, envelopes in the parish collection boxes, ministry fairs, social media, newsletters and telephone trees and a new member wine and cheese social. Another council offered a draw for a free membership for members that had paid their dues prior to Dec 31st.

It was reported that approximately 527 members did not renew which was an average of 6 per council. For members with lapsed membership, the best method to invite them back was by personal contact at 57.4%. Emailing information and inviting ladies out for coffee to talk was also another source of recruitment. Members indicated that they continue to keep in touch with members who may no longer be able to participate, through phone calls, emails, home visits and by sending out cards.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:

According to the stats provided 35.1% of indicated that they participated in League Development days. However, 64.9% answer no to this question. The following is a list of events that members did attend:

- Catch the Fire workshop/Leadership workshops/S'Mores
- Diocesan/Provincial/National conventions
- Diocesan Retreat Days

94.4% indicated that they provide financial assistance to members wishing to attend conventions, retreats or workshops. 9.6% indicated that they do not provide financial assistance. It was reported that 100.0% of councils did not apply or receive funding for leadership development from another level of the League.

The majority of councils have the President, Past President, Secretary and Treasurer positions filled. Approximately 65% of councils do not have a President-Elect or Vice-President. The majority of councils have all the standing committees with the least filled, being Resolutions & Legislation. 95.7% of councils indicated that they welcome/encourage co-chairs or shared leadership. There are many resources available for members and most indicated that they use the C&B, National Manual of Policy and Procedures, Executive handbook, Leading the League, CWL Prays, Handbooks for all the Standing Committees, The Canadian League Magazine, Be League Newsletter, the 'Spotlight', Ceremonies Booklet and other on-line resources as well as Parliamentary procedure book. 44.7% indicated they purchased the Welcome Brochure as well as other promotional material from National.

AWARDS:

Councils celebrate the dedication, service and hard work of their members with the following:

- Bellelle Guerin Award – 1
- Maple Leaf Service Pin – 35
- New members ceremony – 50
- Presentation of awards – 35
- Presentation of certificates – 24
- Presentation of service pins – 77
- Reaffirmation ceremony – 20
- Others – 23 (this included awards specific to certain councils, flower, cards for various occasions, life membership, prayers for members and verbal appreciation)

SUCCESS STORIES & WHAT ATTRACTS WOMEN TO THE LEAGUE:

- Bible studies/Spiritual growth and development/prayer support (prayer chain)
- A wonderful President and executive that are brainstorming new ideas to bring life to the CWL
- Participation in providing funeral lunches and serving the needs of the parish
- Meeting other women that share the same interests as well as attending meetings to be informed and for the fellowship
- Social activities ie: Christmas party, CWL picnic, Mother's Day Tea, potluck suppers, barbecues, Fall suppers, Craft & Bake Sales, Quilting Projects
- Having guest speakers to that provide information on the various issues affecting our daily lives
- Making gift baskets for families attending baptism classes, gifts for confirmation children and feeding the poor and homeless
- Creating a list of activities that members can participate in outside of CWL functions ie: a movie night, wine & cheese get-togethers, bowling, midday tea parties, stretch and balance classes, attending a concert, board games, card socials, dinner/brunch after Sunday mass
- Through fundraising events, are then able to support the parish, missions, seminarians and other organizations such as the local food banks, Marian Centre, etc
- Lots of sharing, laughing and working together as a team and as Sisters in Christ
- Having a Catholic Girls League in their council and now having three generations of CWL members from the same family
- Friendship, socializing and helping the community
- The most desirable asset as a council are the women that mentor each other and work together
- The most valuable asset as a council is that we are a force for good in our parish and in our community and our country

I am always truly impressed when I read the reports that are submitted and I thank God for my wonderful Sisters in the League and for all the exceptional work that they do for God and Canada.

Respectfully submitted,

June Fuller

Alberta Mackenzie CWL President-elect