



The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council  
Community Life  
Communique # 8



*Inspired by the Spirit... Women Respond to God's Call*

**DATE:** October 11, 2018  
**TO:** Diocesan Chairpersons of Community Life  
**CC:** Provincial Executive (for information)  
**CC:** National Chairperson of Community Life (for information)  
**FROM:** Sr. Susan Scott, Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Chairperson of Community Life

Ladies, happy "International Day of the Girl Child"! On this important day, I am sending out some information that will help to frame this ongoing memorial. I urge you to consider marking it every year in your council with a special prayer, an action, a pledge of unending support. It seems that the Bishops plenary session has not resulted in any decision/update re. the investigation into D & P's partners. Good news from Malaysia as it has abolished the death penalty. Anticipating our 2019 -2021 theme, see the information from the National Environment & Climate Change Minister!

'Urgent actions' needed to address violence against Indigenous Women and Girls  
UN report April 27, 2018

The United Nations special rapporteur on violence against women had some strong words for Canada at the end of her 13-day visit, saying the country has "unfinished business that requires urgent actions."

"Indigenous women from First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities are overtly disadvantaged within their societies and in the larger national scheme," she wrote in her end of mission statement.

"Indigenous women face marginalization, exclusion and poverty because of institutional, systemic, multiple, intersecting forms of discrimination that has not been addressed adequately by the State."

In particular, she said Canada needs to address the root causes that lead to disproportionate levels of violence against Indigenous women and girls.

According to the interim report from the national inquiry, "simply being Indigenous and female is a risk."

The report details how Indigenous women are physically and sexually assaulted almost three times more often than non-Indigenous women in Canada. They are also experiencing domestic violence at higher rates and are roughly seven times more likely to be killed by a serial killer.

"It is not sufficient to work only on one issue," said Simonovic, adding that changes are needed across the board.

"What I'm seeing is only inquiry process ongoing, but other processes are not implemented or ongoing."

### Edmonton Vigil Honours Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women October 5<sup>th</sup>

More than 100 people filled a room in Edmonton's Boyle Street Plaza Thursday night for a vigil honouring missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

The 13th annual event was one of many Sisters in Spirit vigils that took place across the country.

"The vigil is important because it creates awareness and provides support for families whose relatives have gone missing or are murdered and are no longer with us," said co-organizer Freda Ballantyne. Families shared stories and ate bannock and stew together. Chanting and holding candles, they walked up and down 96th Street, from 103A Avenue to Okisikow (Angel) Way/101A Avenue. It was a night of sadness, grief and anger, but not without laughter and hope. Eight-year-old drummer Noah Green provided a playful performance and teenage activist Alexa Blyan drew a lot of applause for her inspirational essay about the power of Indigenous women working to reduce violence in their communities.

### Development & Peace

In the report filed by the President of the CCCB at their 2018 Plenary Assembly, the following information was included in connection to Development & Peace under the topic:

#### *Charity and International Development*

"The Church's mission of charity is at the heart of Catholic Social Doctrine.<sup>2</sup> This mission has been manifested by the Bishops of Canada through concern for the least of our sisters and brothers in our own country, and through international development assistance. Seventy-five years ago, our Conference was chiefly occupied by the social problems, both at home and abroad, brought about by the Second World War. In 1967, the Bishops of Canada established Development and Peace to assist the poor around the world. Last year, we celebrated that organization's 50th anniversary. In order to strengthen the organization's mission of charity in truth, the Conference has been working with Development and Peace throughout the past year in a thorough joint review of all the organization's overseas partners. This joint review is ongoing and its results will be provided to all Bishops once complete. In the meantime, we will have time later this week to discuss more broadly the importance of the work of international development and the mission of Development and Peace."

I gleaned this quote from the CCCB site but could not find any additional references to the presentation of the joint review.

### Ottawa aims to eliminate single-use plastics from federal operations: September 20<sup>th</sup>

Canada's environment and climate change minister has pledged to eliminate unnecessary single-use plastics within the federal government. As part of Ottawa's move toward zero plastic waste, McKenna said federal government operations will be reusing and recycling at least 75 per cent of all of its plastic garbage by 2030.

"We can't just be talking about what everyone else needs to do. We need to be taking action," McKenna said during a news conference.

The effort means Ottawa will aim to eliminate plastic straws, cups, cutlery, packaging and bottles from its operations. It also includes using government purchasing power to lead change, said McKenna.

"I'm putting on notice all of our caterers, all of our hotels, those who we procure products from, the buildings we use — we are going to be looking at your operations, and we will be working with amazing suppliers who are committed also to the zero plastic waste vision."

### Malaysia Will End Death Penalty for All Crimes October 11<sup>th</sup>

Malaysia's new government said it will abolish the death penalty for all crimes and halt all pending executions, a rare move against capital punishment in Asia that human rights groups hailed Thursday as a major advance.

More than 1,200 people are on death row in Malaysia, which mandates hanging as punishment for a wide range of crimes including murder, drug trafficking, treason, kidnapping and acts of terror.

Law Minister Liew Vui Keong announced Wednesday that the cabinet had agreed to abolish the death penalty and that amendments to laws with capital punishment were expected to be presented when parliament resumes Monday, local media reported.

