



The Catholic Women's League of Canada Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council



Community Life Oral Report Provincial Convention 2018 Okotoks, AB

Madame President:

Honourary Life Member Betty Anne Brown Davidson wrote: "Whether we like it or not, our names have been called. At our baptism, Jesus said to us, 'You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit.' . . . The fruit that we are called to bear is our responsibility to make a difference in the world. This is our time on earth to shine and to leave the world a better place by our passing through it."

I have found the preparation of this report to be singularly challenging as although there are few topics that this standing committee encompasses, each topic is so broad and so interconnected. We are called to be women who commit ourselves to making a difference in our world, or in the words of our Pope – "Our Common Home". God's Spirit is calling us to the life-long endurance that we will require to change the structures that continue to allow these affronts to God's love to exist within our societies.

Refugees: Nearly 25,000 people signed Conservative Michelle Rempel's e-petition pressing the Liberals to ensure that the updated citizenship guide will include a warning to newcomers about the illegal practice of female genital mutilation. Immigration Minister Ahmed Hussen called it an "abhorrent practice" that is against the law in Canada.

Continuing Support for Our Indigenous Sisters: BEYOND 94 is a new national, interactive website will now monitor the progress of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action. This site, provides up-to-date status reports, as well as extensive summaries explaining those status reports. As of March 2018, just 10 out of the 94 Calls to Action have been completed.

Women's' Rights: The *Women's Interchurch Council of Canada* released a new resource on their home page titled: **Restore: Ending Violence against Women**. Resources cover pretty much any topic you might want from taking action, to responding to survivors, to small group activities, video and printed resources and prayers.

In an ongoing attempt to reduce paper waste, I have tried to minimize the "stuff" at my display. The materials from "Level Ground" support a company in B.C. that buys their products (primarily coffee) DIRECTLY from farmers in many countries. My council has purchased all our coffee for our funeral lunches and social events from them for a number of years and are heartened to know who the families are that our purchases support.

Development & Peace: I strongly encourage you to download a copy of their 2017 Annual Report. It is a 26-page document that gives a quick, concise, yet broad insight into the work that they do and the partners they have around the world. Priorities for their mission include: securing land rights, ecological justice, grassroots peacebuilding, investing in youth as a path to peace, building the foundations for women's rights and recognizing workers rights.

I attended my first Western Regional Assembly & Retreat in early May with the theme "A Church Seeking Peace & Justice – Nothing is Impossible with God". I will send out a Communique with updated information around the uncertainty of some partners and their projects being funded.

This concludes my report.

Sr. Susan Scott CAF