



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



President Report
ABMK PROVINCIAL CONVENTION
June 8th, 2019

This past year had been a very active year and I would just like to share some highlights of some accomplishments and activities that occurred.

I represented the members of Alberta Mackenzie at the National convention in Winnipeg in August 2018. We had a strong presence at the convention, as members from Alberta Mackenzie helped promote and invite ladies from across Canada to attend the 2019 National Convention in Calgary. I flew to Winnipeg to attend the National Fall and Mid-winter Executive meetings.

The Provincial Executive met at the Star of the North Retreat house for our Fall Executive meeting in September and in January for the Midwinter meeting. At the January meeting, Carla Smiley, an Edmonton School Trustee joined us to share information on a working group called 'Grace' which stands for 'Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education'. We were pleased to have Archbishop Richard Smith join us once again for a one-hour Q&A. The dialogue helped answer many questions that we had and gave us an opportunity to inform the Archbishop about our activities in the League.

Many special anniversaries were celebrated, and I was able to attend the following:

- St. Theresa, Edmonton's 35 anniversary
- Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Sherwood Park's 60th anniversary
- St. Vital, Beaumont's 10 anniversary
- St. Rose of Lima, Onoway's 65 anniversary

I was invited and attended other events that included:

- Archbishop Joseph MacNeil Society Mass & Luncheon at St. Joseph Seminary
- Edmonton Diocesan Fall meeting held in Lacombe
- Annual Jazz Night fundraiser in support of Newman Theological College & St Joseph's Seminary.

- Initial planning meeting for the ABMK Provincial Convention held in Grande Prairie on October 19th. I was pleased that Judy Look was able to accompany me on this trip
- Fall Spiritual Day for the Grouard McLennan Diocese on October 20th
- A celebration at St. Albert parish, for the formation of the Holy Spirit Province of Canada which combined the Order of Friars Minor from Western and Eastern Canada
- A ‘Parliamentarian Workshop’ held on Oct 26th and 27th in Red Deer
- The Remembrance Day Service on November 11th at the Butterdome in Edmonton to lay a wreath on behalf of the members of ABMK in memory of deceased military
- Meetings with two Edmonton Catholic School Trustees from the group called ‘Grace’
- The Annual General Meeting of the Foundation of SJS & NTC
- March for Life Pasta supper and silent auction
- March for Life Mass and Rally on May 9th
- The Edmonton and St. Paul Diocesan conventions
- Funeral mass for Janet MacPhee, Calgary Past President’s mother Steva MacPhee, who was a long-standing member of the Catholic Women’s League
- Two CWL hosted fashion shows
- 2nd Annual meeting with the Alberta/NWT Archbishops and Bishops this past Monday in Calgary

Some initiatives that we promoted over the past year included:

- ‘Keeping Christ in Christmas’ by simply using religious stamps and cards at Christmas and sharing the true meaning of what Christmas stands for
- Over 18 Documentary in our fight against Pornography
- Designed and purchased 5 Pro-Life Banners with the words ‘All Life Matters’ which were given to each Diocese to be used at various CWL events. We were pleased that these banners were displayed at the recent ‘March for Life’ in Edmonton
- Promoting the new CWL National these “Care for Our Common Home” and our Provincial Executive chose to add the words ‘Make a Difference’. We encouraged our members to focus on water usage for year one, but also sent out other suggestions of how we can preserve our environment for future generations
- Workshops to inform members of the National “Planning Strategically”

We were pleased that two members from our province and territory received a

National bursary. Congratulations to Colleen Soetaert and Joanna Sehn. We want to congratulate four ladies from ABMK that were successful applicants for the 2019 Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation program. They were Belinda Halbach from Beaumont, Michelle Khatib from Red Deer, and Janet Lymer and Makrina Morozowski from Calgary.

On a sad note we lost one of our Life Members, Shirley Hazen on Boxing Day and I was honored to be part of the honor guard at her funeral mass.

I am pleased to let you know that Archbishop Richard Smith has appointed Father Andrew Bogdanowicz as our Spiritual Advisor for another 5-year term. We have been very blessed to have him fill this role.

In closing, I want to say what an honor it has been to be your Provincial President and I thank you for your support and friendship and I thank all of you for your dedication and service to the League.

This concludes my report

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ABMK Provincial President