

Catholic Women's League of Canada
Nova Scotia Provincial Council



72nd and 73rd Annual Meetings of Members
Report Book

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Dear faithful members of the Catholic Women's League,

As of June 2021, I will have completed my second year as your Provincial Spiritual Advisor. Since I was ordained in 2002, I have always made sure I was present to the CWL in all the parishes that I have served. It is a great honour to be asked to serve in this capacity as your Spiritual Advisor for a five-year term.

Working with the Provincial Executive has been a pleasing and an enjoyable time. The work gets done but there is lots of joy and fun within the group. Unfortunately, our diocesan, provincial and national gatherings are put on hold. In time we will all be together again.

We are certainly living in difficult times due to the Covid 19 pandemic. As human beings we are created to be in relationship and interact with each other. Now we must isolate ourselves and respect social distancing in order to combat the virus that has disrupted our communities and family life. On the other hand, there is a bright side. Families are spending more time with each other. Parents are playing board games with their children and people are spending more quality time with their family.

Thankfully, many people have received their first vaccine (and some their second). Our province is now opening up as we pass through the 5 Phase Plan. As I write this, we are in our second phase. I am sure that as you are now reading this, we are in phase 3 or 4. Groups are once again able to come together. In time we will be able to gather for larger in person conventions. I know that some people even as we progress in re-opening may still be anxious or nervous. That is certainly a normal human reaction. In time we will all be stronger in health and faith as time passes.

Jesus is a Good Shepherd who never leaves His sheep, especially in this time that we are living through. As people we have found new ways to keep in contact through social media. As an organization on the local, provincial, and national level women are bringing hope and the Good News to others. As a CWL member you should never underestimate the good you do in the Body of Christ, the Church.

I am looking forward to the time when we can gather again for Conventions and other CWL events. Looking forward we should be confident that our God will bless us with great graces as time goes forward. I am confident we will come out on the other side stronger in our relationships and most importantly our faith.

Blessings on every single member!

In Christ under the protection of Our Lady of Good Counsel,
Father

Patrick J. O'Neill
Provincial CWL Spiritual Advisor

July 2021

It is my pleasure and privilege to "virtually" welcome you to the 72nd and 73rd annual meeting of members. While it is wonderful to be able to move forward with the essential business of our organization, it is still a reminder of the challenges ahead with regard to recovery from the effect of the COVID 19 pandemic in our lives and within our organization. While we will have some beautiful prayer services at our meeting, it is sad that we will again miss the Eucharistic celebrations, presentations and personal commandry experienced during our usual convention weekends. But there is great hope promised for next year with the vaccination initiatives. So let's keep our prayers strong for our "new normal" where we will live and gather safely with COVID-19, which will undoubtedly be our steady companion as is influenza and the common cold.

All of our parish councils were significantly impacted by the gathering restrictions that our province needed to implement in response to the pandemic. While preparing my annual report, however, it was wonderful to read the amazing and creative ways of gathering and the wonderful service and charity that was carried out by so many of our councils and members. Please take some time to read the reports of our provincial council officers and diocesan presidents as they describe how our members rose in spirit and commitment in the midst of a pandemic. They are wonderful food for reflection, providing insight into what is so strong and beautiful about our organization and thoughts for future goals and activities for your councils.

In closing, I am sharing this most beautiful prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel found in our League Prayers. It is my prayer for all of you, my sisters in the League, as you continue on your journey for God and Canada.

Mary, Our Lady of Good Counsel: filled with the Holy Spirit, you were a faithful disciple of Jesus, your son.

Intercede with your son for us that we may be faithful to our baptism, fervent in prayer, and generous in the service we give to our sisters and brothers.

May the spirit of the living God, who graced you with the gift of counsel, lead us in the way of truth and love.

With the help of your prayers, may we come to rejoice forever with you and the great company of saints in the kingdom of heaven. Amen

God bless,

Glenda Carson.



**THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL COUNCIL**

TO: Diocesan Council Presidents

Nova Scotia Provincial Council Executive Officers

Nova Scotia Parish Council Presidents

Nova Scotia Honorary Life and Life Members

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Notice is hereby given that the
**73rd Nova Scotia Provincial Council Annual Meeting of Members of
the Catholic Women's League of Canada**

will be held on July 10th, 2021.

- Due to potential restrictions on gathering related to the COVID-19 pandemic in Nova Scotia, meeting attendance will be by videoconference as per guidelines received from the National office, as determined by Corporations Canada and in consultation with the League's corporate lawyer.

Preregistration to attend the meetings is required.

Online meeting information will be forwarded to registered attendees prior to the meeting on July 10th by the contact person listed on the registration form.

- Preliminary agendas are enclosed.

The day will include a business session for the 72nd Nova Scotia Provincial Council Annual Meeting of Members that was adjourned for lack of quorum on June 1, 2020. Only the business sessions will take place. There will be no traditional convention events such as Eucharistic Celebrations, ceremonies, speakers, or social events.

A registration form is enclosed. All registration fees have been waived.

Carol Ann LeBlanc Recording Secretary
Nova Scotia Provincial CWL Council

Catholic Women's League of Canada
Nova Scotia Provincial Council 72nd and 73rd Annual Meeting of Members (AMM)
July 10, 2021
Preliminary Agenda

Friday, July 9th

07:00 pm: **Pre-2020 AMM Provincial Executive Meeting**

Saturday July 10th

2020 Annual Meeting of Members

0930 Online Registration
1000 Opening prayer service.
1015 Call to order.

Notice of adjourned 2020 AMM
Credentials report
Adoption of standing rules
Approval of agenda
Ratification of decision for deferred 2020 provincial convention
Approval of previous convention business meeting minutes (2019)
Report of provincial council pre-2020 AMM executive meeting
Treasurer's report (2019)
Members' forum - open dialogue
Registration report
Adjournment
Closing prayer.service

11:30 ***Pre-2021 AMM Provincial Executive Meeting***

2021 Annual Meeting of Members

1:00 pm Online registration
1:15 pm Opening prayer
1:30 service.Call to
 order

- Notice of 2021 AMM
- Credentials report
- Adoption of standing rules
- Approval of agenda
- Correspondence
- Report of provincial executive pre-2021 AMM executive meeting business.
- Adoption of 2020 AMM minutes
- Treasurer's report
- Oral reports of provincial council executive and Spiritual Advisor.
- Other business
- Provincial executive council elections
- Adjournment
- Closing prayer service

Post -2021 AMM Provincial Executive Meeting

Standing Rules of Order of the 72nd and 73rd Annual Meetings of Members (AMM) for the Nova Scotia Provincial CWL Council

The Catholic Women ' s League of Canada follows current parliamentary procedure when conducting business meetings as described in "Roberts Rules of Order".

Both AMM sessions will be virtual for all attendees with the exception of a limited number of members gathered in person to provide administration support for the meeting.

Registration

1. Each person attending the Annual Meetings of Members (AMM) shall register on or before June 18, using the designated registration form.
2. All registrants attending the Annual Meetings of Members must sign in online during the designated timeframe for each AMM session.
3. Voting and accredited delegates who do not sign in online during the designated timeframe for the session will forfeit their voting privileges for the session. There are no proxy votes.
4. The registration chairperson shall provide a credentials report for the number of voting and accredited delegates at the beginning of the AMM session. When adopted, the credentials report shall be the official roll of voting members.
5. At the end of the AMM session, the registration chair shall present a registration report for all attendees for the session.

Motions

6. All motions for the AMM sessions shall be submitted in writing except:
 - a. to postpone the reading of the minutes
 - b. to suspend the order of business
 - c. to lay on the table
 - d. to postpone a discussion.
 - e. to call the previous question
 - f. for a vote of thanks
 - g. to nominate
7. Motions submitted in writing shall be forwarded by email in advance of the AMM session to the Nova Scotia provincial president at: ga.carson@bellaliant.net. The president will forward the motion by email to the provincial council recording secretary and committee chairperson or executive officer to whom the motion pertains.
8. The motion must clearly state its purpose, the formal wording to be considered, the name and delegate status of the mover and of the seconder.
9. A member may request that a question or motion be repeated or reread. This must be done through the chat function; they must not interrupt the speaker through use of their microphone.
10. A mover may reply to the discussion before the vote is taken. No member shall speak to the question or motion in the chat function or with their microphone after the chair has asked for the vote.

Voting

11. Voting shall take place electronically using the voting software provided for the session.
12. A voting member wishing her abstention to be recorded in the minutes shall request same by making the request in the chat function, before the vote is taken.

Debate

13. All attendees will mute their microphones and turn off their cameras when not speaking.
14. All attendees shall signal their intent to speak by using the chat function available through the videoconferencing software. Upon being recognized by the chair, they shall turn on their camera, unmute their microphone, and begin by stating their name, status, diocese and parish. Recognition of speakers by the chair will be in the order that names appear in the chat function and according to their voting status. Voting members shall be given priority to speak over non-voting members.
15. The mover of a motion, or her designate, may speak to open and close debate. No other member shall speak more than once on the same motion at the same AMM, or longer than three (3) minutes without permission of the assembly granted by a two-thirds vote without debate.

Miscellaneous

16. Registrants are asked to refrain from taking screen shots and/or electronic recordings of the meeting proceedings.
17. No appeals for support or collections of any kind shall be made unless a written request is presented in advance to the Nova Scotia provincial council president, clearly stating the purpose and identifying the persons making the request.

71st Annual Provincial Catholic Women's League Convention Minutes

June 8, 9, 2019

Holy Family Council, Amherst, Nova Scotia Theme: Care for Our Common Home

1. Opening Eucharistic celebration began with the procession of flags, celebrant Father Jim Richards with concelebrant Father Craig Christensen, accompanied by Deacon Howard Gotell.
2. After mass, the formal opening procession led by piper Rob Campbell accompanied by the 272 NS Highlanders Army cadets and executive members, the singing of O Canada.

Father Jim began with the League Prayer and Diane Yarymowich, President, Holy Family welcomed everyone and pronounced the Indigenous peoples' treaty.

Greetings were brought by Father Jim Richards, NS Provincial spiritual advisor; Father Craig Christensen, pastor host Council; Deacon Howard Gotell; National President Anne-Marie Gorman; member of Legislature Elizabeth Smith-McCrossen; Mayor David Kogan; Manson Gloade, chair pastoral council; Natasha Parent, Amherst Ministerial Assn; Rick d'Entremont, K of C Grand Knight.

President Glenda Carson thanked everyone for their greetings, their kind words, and their presence. As we come together in Faith and Spirit to Take Care of Our Common Home by working together with other groups, K of C, Indigenous People, we learn and grow and how she grew in Faith with Father Jim and Father Craig. The 71st NS Provincial Convention was officially opened.

3. Past president, *Peggy McNeil* introduced our guest speaker- Father Jim Richard developed the theme "Care for Our Common Home" - Following Pope Francis *Laudato Si'* the universe is expanding, it is God's creative work, Father Jim's spirituality and experiences brought out how We Care for the environment, how We Care for each other, create healthy villages and challenged us to eliminate every form of plastic. A Christian prayer in union with creation ended his presentation.

Peggy McNeil thanked Father Jim for his inspiring thoughts.

4. At 1:00 p.m. President Glenda Carson called our business sessions to order and welcomed our National president Ann Marie Gorman to the convention sessions.

Jessie Parkinson led us in the prayer service for World Water Day. May we allow the wisdom of water to well up within us and show us the way forward. Jessie asked members to pray for the two young ladies in Ghana.

Glenda Carson's introductory remarks asked how many members it was their first time at a convention. There were four. Service awards were acknowledged as well the Provincial executive, life members, National president Anne Marie Gorman. A minute of silence for deceased life members Aileen Twohig and Ann Bradbury was observed.

Moved by Sandra Kline and seconded by Coleen Burgess, to accept the convention standing rules of order as presented in the report booklet.

MOTION

CARRIED

5. National Strategic Plan presentation: National President, Anne Marie Gorman presented the road map for planning strategically.

- Investments
- Core purpose of belonging to CWL - envision purpose.
- Faith, social justice, service
- Marketing team

Quote - In her voyage across the ocean of the world, the Church is like a great ship being pounded by the waves of life's different stresses. Our duty is not to abandon ship but to keep her on her course. - Saint Boniface.

6. Introduction of Provincial Executive, parliamentarian Cecile Miller, Life and Honorary members, medal recipients 10-20 years, 20 to 40, 50 to 59, 60+, Bellelle Guerin, Maple Leaf.
7. Amendments to June 9 & 10, 2018 minutes were clarified to where the Treasurer's report were indicated in the minutes.
8. Secretary, Carol Ann Leblanc read correspondence. Call to Convention
Regrets to Convention, Joan Bona, Danielle McNeil Hessian, Archbishop Mancini
Secretary's report
- Many councils secretaries fill both positions of recording and corresponding Correspondence forwarded:
 - Card of congratulations to Archbishop Mancini on his 20th Anniversary of ordination
 - Call to Convention via Canada Post
9. Treasurer- Sandra O'Connell
- Province of Nova Scotia composed of 70 Parish Councils.
 - Financial statement - January 1 - December 31, 2018, circulated separately in booklet.
 - The 2018 accounting and banking records were reviewed by Cathy Farrow.
 - Annual Treasurer's report encouraged to be sent in time for year end - a very important report.
 - A treasurer's report should always be given at a meeting.
 - A breaking even budget has been prepared.

Reports

10. President's report- Glenda Carson

- We have been stretched to rise to new heights by the current need to continue to create a sustainable organization.
- New term required the appointment of new members. All provincial executives have stepped into their roles with energy and passion. The appointment process brought to light the many challenges faced by our organizational structure which the National strategic plan is focusing on.
- Membership statistics - our failure to retain members - we do recruit new members - what makes an active member? - positive relationships, feeling respected, feeling part.
- Struck a committee to review the current council structure.
- The work and actions of all CWL members influence the life and vitality of the church, our families, communities, our nation, and many countries.
- Message in book by Matthew Kelly "Rediscover Catholicism" - we need to constantly reignite our passion and bring our message of hope, charity, and love through the work we do to all those around us.

11. Halifax-Yarmouth Diocesan - Janet Terrio

- Inspired by the spirit - women respond to God's call retreat in November - retreat director Father Raymond Odumuko
- Glenda Carson & Danielle McNeil-Hessian presented the new strategic plan being implemented at the September general meeting.
- At the March meeting, Cathy Camp, one of the 12 Catholic Women's League Leadership Course spoke on how she found the program very motivational and inspiring.
- 8th annual convention was hosted by St. Clement's, St. John XXIII & St. Andrew, in Dartmouth, May 3, 4 & 5 - Theme - Care For Our Common Home
- Retaining and recruiting members a challenge

12. Antigonish Diocesan - Janice MacDougall

- To date 2064 paid members - 40 Councils
- Parish visits are very important.
- Fall conference one day.
- Kairos Blanket exercise offered to all CWL in Diocese - eye opening and challenging.
- Year end reports to be a work in progress.
- Spring Convention 2019 - Father Bill Burke developed the new theme.
- Appointments were required to fill positions, but a full slate was obtained.

13. Nova Scotia Provincial CWL past president- Peggy McNeil

Past presidents have an important role as mentors to the president and council members serving in a consultative manner

- Bringing knowledge of the Constitution & By-Laws
- Maintaining archives and history
- Election process and reviewing policy and procedures.

- Encouraged to take that next step to serve at the next levels.
- Keep informed of the strategic plan Reports were closed.

Honorary Life member, Dr. Irene Lefort spoke on the most exciting independent program for CWL members - "The Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation" - Empowering Catholic Women. CWL members were asked to find more about the program in the League Magazine and let Catholic Women know about it.

Cecile Miller, Maureen Campbell, and Peggy Lamey presented the Antigonish Diocesan Faith Formation Program - following the study of Pope Francis's Laudato Si', on Care for our Common Home - a one hour session entitled "The Earth, Our Sacred and Common Home with sub-theme 'Human Trafficking' was prepared. We were asked to present this session in our parishes to raise awareness of the scourge of human trafficking in our world. Helping others fight human trafficking is one way in which we can "care for our common home".

Saturday sessions closed with a reflection "We are People of the Resurrection" led by Jessie Parkinson. After Glenda Carson had spoken with members of Holy Family CWL Council, we agreed the collection in the amount of \$629.30 would be presented to the Holy Family St. Vincent de Paul Society. (It originally was to be for the Women's Shelter)

A formal banquet was held in the Church Hall.

Sunday, June 9, 2019

President, Glenda Carson opened the Sunday morning business sessions by welcoming and introducing Father Patrick O'Neil.

Father Patrick O'Neil gave a reflection on the Blessed Mother.

Credential report

	Saturday June 9	Sunday June 10
# of voting delegates	2	2
# of accredited delegates	45	44
Total # of delegates	47	46

Total registered 126

Total# of Councils represented 27.

On motion by Tania Long, seconded by Joanne Duffus, the credential report was accepted.

MOTION CARRIED

Secretary, Carol Ann LeBlanc took roll call.

Business resumes:

Spiritual Development- Jessie Parkinson

- Annual reports - apparent disconnect between the parish and other levels of the League is

currently not being addressed with reports.

- The Via Crucis and the Via Lucis
Via Crucis - Way of the Cross - Jesus death, passion, burial, resurrection
Via Lucius - Way of the Cross - reflects upon the final chapters of the four gospels -
Fourteen Stations of Light
- Prayer: The Reign of God in Our World

President-elect - Joline Belliveau

- Leadership - Five-year plan
- Challenged us with once a day for 10-15 minutes read an article in League Magazine, website, CWL manual, pray-write down one joy, one form of happiness you find in the League.

Life members - Pat Crossman

- 24 Life members in Nova Scotia
- 2 Honorary Life- Dr. Irene LeFort and Danielle McNeil-Hessian
- **Keep** life members connected and maintain dialogue with our National life member information.
- Councils look towards life members. Members have a strong history and are committed to support the League.

Christian Family Life - Linda Howell

- Communique # 4 from National asked to reach out to mothers who wish to have an abortion, read the current situation of MAID in Canada and watch video - calling for the need for palliative care in Canada.

Community Life - Catherine Gonsalves

- Complete the annual reports - reach out for assistance if necessary.
- Share Lent in support of Development & Peace was permitted by the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth & Antigonish. When submitting contributions to D & P specify in writing that donation is NOT to be forwarded to any of the 52 partners under investigation. A report from D & P dated June 4 from Dan Gillis, animator of Maritime Region on their current activities included campaign update partner and institutional review, and future campaign theme.
- Canada Summer Jobs Program 2019- attestation change indicates our voices make a difference.
- National inquiry into the missing indigenous women and girls came to a close with sweeping reforms to stop this alleged genocide * concerns were expressed by life member Joan Cunningham to watch how they use "genocide" - Bill C-262 - still pending in House of Commons. This Bill would give Indigenous people a "Veto" over resource development projects and create legal economic uncertainty. CWL focuses on Human Dignity and the rights of persons, and this includes refugees and the marginalized in our society.
- Economic and social inequalities growing in the world. Councils can make a difference by supporting various organizations, soup kitchens, Chalice, etc. Talk to your councils about the conservation of water, staying away from the use of plastic, read Pope Francis encyclical "Laudato Si" - Protect Mother Earth before it is too late.
- H.U.G.S. - Helping, Understanding, Giving Centenary Project Report all your good deeds.

Education & Health - Ann Myers for Rose Anne Hetherington

- Marian Hepditch-Littlepage Prize of \$500 was awarded to Sarah Moran
- Barriers to Accessibility - Provincial Government is developing accessibility standards in education and the built environment. Nova Scotia residents are being asked to provide input by an online survey.
- Nova Scotia Health Care - Critical Health care issues in Nova Scotia - The Health Care Redevelopment website provides information.
- After the Bell Program - Food Bank Canada's after the Bell program provides nutritious, healthy food for children in need during the summer months to supplement meals that children would normally receive at their schools during the school year.

Communications - Ann Myers

- Discontinuation of the 1-888 toll free #
- Plagiarism - the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own. Members MUST always identify the author.
- Pornography postcards - incorporates resolution 2017.02 - Mandatory Age Verification Mechanisms for adult
- Video on how communication can be a hindrance was presented.

Resolutions - Liz Doyle

- National Chairperson, Cathy Bouchard, requested each province share their resources around resolutions making resolution chairs supported and a valuable member on the team.
- Committee has been struck in the presentations of resolutions on the convention floor and updates to the resolution supplement to executive handbook. The matter in question is how to move issues of concern from parish to National level in an acceptable format.
Emphasize the role of the spiritual advisors - this is an issue for the League.
The "whereas clauses will NO longer be resented - they will be part of the brief.
Each parish council is being challenged to return home and begin brainstorming on issues they are concerned about.

Legislation - Mary ten Brinke

Our theme "Care for Our Common Home: Good Stewards of water, is a perfect time for members to raise self-awareness in taking steps to protect our environment and the world we live in. Can we make a difference? Yes! Become informed.

Current bills before Nova Scotia Legislature

- Bill 26: An Act to Establish a Mental Health Bill of Rights
- Bill 47: The Cancer Survivor Day Act
- Bill 61: An Act to Protect Children from Sexual Exploitation on the Internet
- Bill 106: The Coastal protection Act
- Bill 113: An Act to Reduce the Use of plastic bags.

- Bill 118: Free Well Water Testing
- Bill 133: Human Organ and Tissue Donation Act

Special committee report on Catholic Women's League Council status in the province of Nova Scotia

Report presented.

- Background to the committee formation
- Adhoc committee development
- Terms of reference
- Scope of the Committee
- Adhoc committee membership
- Basic principles and priorities for deliberation
- Statistics
- Challenges identified.
- Impact of Strategic Plan
- Visioning the possibilities
- Executive roles and responsibilities
- Recommendations

Continue with the current structure of a provincial council and two diocesan councils
Re-evaluate council function in five years.

Committee member's motion, seconded by Doreen Boudreau:

The Nova Scotia Catholic Women 's League Council structure continue as a provincial council and twodiocesan councils with a re-evaluation in five years.

MOTION CARRIED

(1 vote against)

New Business

- Convention 2010 in Montreal - Plans are being made and organized by Danielle McNeil-Hessian to organize travel.
- Retiring of the Flags

Closing celebration of the Eucharist - celebrant Father Craig Christensen, co-celebrant Father Jim Richards and Father Patrick O'Neil followed by the reaffirmation of the executive and installation of our new spiritualadvisor Father Patrick.

Lunch and Provincial CWL post-convention meeting.

President, Glenda Carson

Secretary, Carol Ann LeBlanc

Date

IN MEMORIUM

DOROTHY BROCKLEHURST

HONORARY LIFE MEMBER



A Tribute by Honorary Life Member Irene Lefort

On February 8, 2018, a bright light was extinguished with the passing of Honorary Life Member Dorothy Brocklehurst, long-time member of The Catholic Women's League of Canada.

A woman of exemplary faith and conviction, Dorothy lived that faith through many involvements in church and community. She was executive secretary for the Cape Breton, Nova Scotia branch of the Canadian Cancer Society, served as a member of the board of governors for Cape Breton University, board member of the Nova Scotia Social Assistance Board, and vice president of the Cape Breton Mental Health Association. At the invitation of the late Bishop Colin Campbell, Dorothy was inducted into the Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem as dame commander.

It was through her work in the League that we became friends, back in the 1970s. As a young parish council president, I attended my first ever provincial convention and came home appointed as provincial secretary to Dorothy who was elected provincial president. That was the beginning of a long friendship. Dorothy took her League responsibilities very seriously, was a good leader and an excellent team player. She valued the input and advice of those with whom she served, a practice that served her well over the years.

Dorothy rose through the ranks to become national president in 1980, and again, I had the privilege of being her secretary treasurer on the national council. She and I shared a room at many national conventions, joined by Lucille Cullen in later years. Working closely with Dorothy, one couldn't help but to be caught up in her enthusiasm and great love for the League and its members. She was extremely sociable and created a celebration wherever she went! She was the master of sing songs, and led them with gusto, using her own wonderful talent of song. She became known as "Dolly" for her timeless rendition of "Hello, Dolly". In later years she had limited vision but that never stopped her from attending diocesan, provincial and national conventions, socializing as she always did. To know Dorothy was to love her, and she was dearly loved by many League members, both young and old.

Family was important and Dorothy loved and was cherished by them. She will be deeply missed by her daughter Audrey, son Allan and grandson Peter. Her funeral in Sydney, Nova Scotia, was largely attended by clergy, friends, neighbours, and League members from across Nova Scotia. It was fitting to her memory that the song of farewell was a rendition of Vera Lynn's "We'll Meet Again".

To our dear friend, Dorothy, I can only repeat those lines knowing that she has met her Creator to whom she was so faithful all her life. Our hope is that "We'll meet again, don't know where, don't know when, but I know we'll meet again some sunny day."

Source: The Canadian League / Spring 2018. Used with permission.

Shirley MacDougall



Shirley (Boudreau) MacDougall was born and raised in Little Dover, Guysborough County. She married her husband, Dougall, and lived most of her adult life in Antigonish but her love for the sea and her extended family in Dover and Canso area always remained a cherished part of her life. Shirley was a member of St. Ninian Catholic

Women's League since 1962, when she was invited by a friend to attend a Council meeting. Her years of membership in the League were marked with enthusiasm and devotion to the works of the League.

She served on various committees and was President of St. Ninian Council for two terms, 1985-87 and 2013-15. She went on to become President of the Antigonish Diocesan Council (1995-97) and the Nova Scotia Provincial Council (2006-08). She also served on Provincial and National resolutions committees, where her flawless knowledge of resolutions, their preparation and presentation, resulted in those resolutions being accepted and passed at Provincial and National Conventions. Shirley presented many workshops for League members, both locally and at the Diocesan and Provincial levels, covering such topics as leadership, structure of the League, and resolutions.

Shirley was a woman of deep and abiding faith, as demonstrated in her church and community involvements. She was a Lector and Eucharistic Minister at St. Ninians parish and was instrumental in establishing the Women's Prayer Breakfast, where women of all faiths were invited to take part and share their faith stories. She also was involved in numerous local charities, chaired the Antigonish Housing Authority, the local Kidney Foundation, the Antigonish Liberal Association, and the Clan MacDougall organization.

When she saw a task that needed to be done, she readily took action, quietly and efficiently. A humble person, she never sought praise or accolades but just accepted that it was her duty to serve the League in any capacity that she could. It was this dedication and service to the Catholic Women's League that earned her the honor of being awarded a Life Membership in 2003.

Shirley was a devoted wife and mother who prized her children and grandchildren as her most precious possessions. She had many friends and time spent with them enriched her life and also theirs. Although she passed away in 2018, she will be long remembered by her "Sisters in the League" for her friendship and generosity of her time and talent to the Catholic Women's League of Canada.

Honorary Life
Members

Antigonish Diocese

Irene Lefort

Halifax-Yarmouth Diocese

Danielle McNeil-Hessian

Life Members

Antigonish Diocese

Donna Bates

Joan Bona

Julie LeLievre

Marilyn MacDonald

Claire MacDonnell

Doreen MacDonell

Cecil Miller

Peggy MacNeil

Debbie Samson

Toosje VandeSande

Halifax-Yarmouth Diocese

Joline Belliveau

Glenda Carson

Patricia Crossman

Joan Cunningham

Elizabeth Doyle

Theresa Duann

Anna Hawkins

Connie Lai-Fatt

Mary MacDonald

Anne McGray

Ann Myers

Marie O'Malley

Patricia O'Toole

Janice Peddle

Mary Sweeney

Nova Scotia Provincial Council President

Annual Report

2019

I am privileged to offer this annual report reflecting on the information submitted by our Nova Scotia councils. Our average parish reporting response was slightly less than 60 percent, with abroad variance across standing committees. This response rate is an increase from last year. As well, there was a positive change in the number of responses by standing committees among several of the reports submitted. This is a positive note indicating that parishes are attempting to fulfill the organizational roles and to report on those committees that remain without a chairperson in their council. The standing committees were most often lead by our more experienced senior members, although more members new to our organization have stepped forward into some leadership roles. Of great significance is the quality of the activities reported by our councils, reflecting that our members are indeed “women united in a common purpose” embracing our organizational core values of faith, service and social justice.

Our parish councils have generally embraced our National theme, “Care for Our common Home”, both in prayer and as a focus in presentations and activities. Members gathered in prayer and spiritual reflection during their monthly meetings. The rosary played a strong central part in their spiritual lives, being recited at meetings and gatherings within their councils, parishes and communities. Our deceased sisters continue to be respected and remembered through funeral honour guards, prayer services and Masses of Remembrance. The Feast of Our Lady of Good Council remains a special day, celebrated with Masses and social gatherings.

Attendance at ecumenical events was best represented by participation in the World Day of Prayer Services. Our members’ dedication to their faith and church is evident in their very active service in church ministry.

Councils used resources on websites and in communiques when developing services and programs to enhance the spiritual growth of their members. Lay formation programs are available to members in our province but more easily accessed by those in larger communities. Suggestions to allay this inequity across the province included the encouragement of members living in smaller, more rural areas to seek online programs and the formation of lending libraries, perhaps at the diocesan council level.

Members have also taken advantage of broader continuing education funding for both faith and secular based programs through bursaries and scholarships at all levels of the League. However, the number of applicants tends to be low, indicating a possible need to promote these opportunities better. Learning experiences were also provided by the parish councils through guest speakers and presentations. Genetics was an area that councils reported a desire to obtain a greater understanding, especially in relation to the current issues with bioethics. Our past presidents were identified as council role models and mentors. While engaged by some councils for some leadership and mentoring roles, our Honourary Life and Life Members remain an untapped resource in our province.

Our membership continues to decline annually. The small annual growth we experienced through the recruitment of new members and reinstatement of memberships was lost by attrition due to members not renewing their membership. In 2018 the provincial council appointed a special committee to reflect on disbanding the Diocesan councils in light of our membership attrition. Their report was presented at the 2019 provincial convention in which the committee members determined it was premature to remove the Diocesan councils. The financial concerns and leadership issues experienced in our province are not driven by the organizational structure. Rather, they are affected by membership decline related to retaining members and challenges with member engagement. It appeared important to address the core reasons for these challenges rather than eliminate potentially supportive council structures. There will be another planned review in five years.

Among the special committee recommendations was the need for leadership development at all council levels and flexibility in structure and events. This would aid member participation and assist parishes in meeting

organizational requirements, goals and values. There is great hope that changes brought through the national strategic planning will assist in meeting some of these needs. The provincial and diocesan councils did initial planning for more localized leadership workshops, including information on the National strategic plan.. Financial support for these leadership initiatives was budgeted and strategies to meet the needed human resources for the presentations were explored. To aid in building spirit the provincial council supported a fund- raising project that would assist members to attend the national convention in Montreal for our centennial year.

Many councils reported that less than half of their members were active in their councils.

Factors affecting this and some of the non-renewal of memberships were lack of interest, age and ill health. Parish council presidents were encouraged to ensure that their ill and infirm members were supported in their membership fees, even if they are unable to be active in events. Many of these members have long terms of service that require recognition when they reach a stage in life where they can no longer be an active participant in League functions. However, membership service is well recognized at the parish level through the awarding of service pins. Re-affirmation and new member ceremonies could perhaps be used more by parish councils to celebrate and respect those who are serving as leaders and those who have accepted the invitation to become a sister in the League.

The elimination of the 1-800 number by the national office did result in a positive change with members looking more to their diocesan and provincial executive officers for assistance in problem solving council needs. For example, information on budget preparation and information

on parish insurance renewal was offered through our provincial treasurer. In the past, parish councils would often reach out to the national office for some of this information. Members also looked to web sites, social media and email for information and to stay connected. The League Magazine and executive officer communiques remain the most popular resources for members to stay abreast of League information. While recognizing the importance of in-person connections, teleconferencing is being used more often for executive meetings in order to reduce time and cost for travel. Other conveniences for council administration, such as the online membership renewal, seems to require more promotion and support as only about fifty per cent of our parish councils are using this resource.

Human trafficking and pornography were two main focuses for our members from an educational perspective as well as bringing these concerns to the attention of their communities and politicians. Sanctity of life concerns and support for the faith development of our youth and families and vocations were a priority in our parish councils. Members participated in the community viewing of the movie "Unplanned" as well as activities such as Walks for Life, Vigils, Masses and 40 days for Life. Members continue to be strong advocates for better support for palliative care in our country. They participated in the "12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care" and engaged in learning events that enhanced their understanding of the experience and importance of palliative care.

Our members also continue to be actively engaged in community outreach and enhancement of the quality of life for those disadvantaged and those facing injustice. Some councils did focus on the concerns and struggles of our Indigenous People and how we, as Catholic women, are called to seek ways to build relationships and a common understanding. Participation in community celebrations of the National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21 by some members was a positive step to building relationships.

Members were also strong in their actions to relieve the suffering of others and assist in the building of strong futures for our children. They provided financial and material support and many hours of service as volunteers to the homeless, the hungry, the disabled and those suffering abuse. Support was also given to programs and services for youth and parent programs, skill training, and anti-poverty initiatives. Most councils provided bursaries and scholarships for the youth in their parishes and financially supported school meal programs and the purchase of school supplies for those in need. Seniors and those sick and house bound were provided with special celebrations, entertainment and teas as well as home and residence visiting that included bringing the Eucharist and praying the rosary. Members also volunteered to meet the needs for newcomers to Canada and assisted them to attain needed

skills for employment such as learning English. Our councils also provided generous financial support to organizations such as the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Catholic Missions in Canada, CNEWA, Chalice and Save a Family as well as secular organizations such as the Red Cross. Many members did support Development and Peace as individuals given the endorsement of the Share Lent and Fall Action Campaigns by our provincial bishops.

Our members took an active interest in governmental affairs and community action despite most councils not having a legislation chairperson. Members reflected on the variety of bills and resolutions identified by the committee chairpersons and those connected with the National theme. This included positive recognition for the Nova Scotia Plastic Bag Reduction Act, participation in the online survey related to the federal government changes to the Canadian euthanasia law and support for the Coalition for the Health Care and Conscience campaign to address concerns around this legislation.

While the number of reporting councils was low for the resolutions standing committee, there was an increase in the number of councils actually having a chairperson. This hopefully reflects rising interest in resolutions at the parish level, although this standing committee does present a leadership challenge for most councils. As many of the chairpersons were new to their role, there is a need to build knowledge and confidence in the resolutions process in our province. As well, it still appears important to facilitate a better overall engagement by our members in the importance of resolutions to our organization. Councils did act on existing League resolutions by following up on action plans, often through letter writing. Information on the changes being made to the resolutions process during 2019 was communicated to members at all levels. A workshop addressing the development needs for this standing committee was planned for the year, 2020.

In summary, while our councils continue to face some core challenges, their annual reports identify a strong, continued passion and dedication to the core purpose and mission of our organization. This, in turn, promises a good strength for building a positive future as we step forward into our next 100 years.

Glenda Carson

Nova Scotia Provincial Council President Annual Report 2020

This report reflects the annual reporting of 33 parish and 2 diocesan CWL councils in Nova Scotia. The mean response rate for the province for the parish reporting was 50%. One diocesan council saw increased reporting participation to 60% and while our other diocesan council experienced a decrease. Leadership is still largely comprised of more senior, experienced members but there has been a rise in the percentage of members who stepped up for the first time to a leadership role, including that of president. Service years for our leadership were also broad, ranging from less than 5 years to over 30 years. As with previous years, despite the lower response rate for the annual reports, the quality of the activities and overall work of the councils was impressive, even in the face of a pandemic.

The CWL, despite facing both chronic and new hurdles in 2020, overall remains a strong and vibrant presence in our province. Over sixty percent of our parish councils are now in our urban areas, reflecting the general trend of the Nova Scotia population movement from rural areas to larger communities and the city. Although improving, the ongoing lack of internet support in some areas of our province still presents a major issue for some of our rural councils.

The number of councils and members in 2020 continued to decline as it has in previous years. The main variable for our membership decline is still the attrition of members. Several councils have become part of newly developed parishes as a result of mergers, although this has not significantly contributed to the decline in the

number of parishes. Most councils who have found themselves part of a new parish have stayed with their own charters rather than form new or amalgamated councils. Rather, disbanding has been the major factor in reducing the number of parishes. This has been mainly due to the closing of churches; continual unmet leadership needs and declining active membership. Unfortunately for some of the disbanded councils, our diocesan presidents were not consulted at a point where they may have been able to assist with decision making and support for the transfer of members to other councils. While procedures are available in the national policy and procedure, most councils seemed unaware of the important steps to take when disbanding. The loss of members through disbanding and the potentially destabilizing effect of parish restructuring present a critical need for vigilance by our leadership at all council levels in our province. Many of the changes and support to councils from the national strategic plan implementation do address some issues we are facing. This brings optimism that our councils will remain viable and will look to League resources and mentors to assist them with helpful strategies in the future. And, on another, most positive note, there was success in bringing new members into some of our councils. One council welcomed six members. The new members range in age from their mid-forties to those in their fifties and sixties.

The pandemic resulted in a strict lockdown in the early spring. Restrictions on gathering and travelling within the province continued on and off throughout the year making in-person meetings difficult and for the majority of our councils, nonexistent. Our diocesan and provincial conventions were cancelled. Concerning misperceptions arose regarding League activities.

Some members came to believe that the CWL had effectively shut down all activity at all levels since in-person meetings were not being held and the national office in Winnipeg was forced to close on site at times.

Information from the national level and provincial and diocesan communiques helped to inform members of the ongoing administrative support, activities and opportunities that were available at all levels.

Presidents and committee chairpersons, as a whole, faced many leadership challenges during the past year. Parish presidents in particular have shared that they often felt overwhelmed, undertrained and inexperienced to take on the role of president, let alone be a leader during the time of a pandemic. It was a discouraging time for some. While positively embracing their role of representing their councils in their churches and communities, presidents had little or no opportunity to do so. Administrative expectations were often experienced as burdensome, especially when facing the need to balance new and increased life responsibilities related to family and employment during the pandemic. Many presidents were also forced to embrace new technology in order to fulfill their leadership role and to be a role model and mentor. Many members struggled with the changes they were facing in relation to the effect of the pandemic and transitions occurring within our organization. With the loss of traditional ways of being a council, access to their faith communities, and social gatherings, all presidents were challenged to look at new and creative ways to keep members embraced and engaged.

Despite the negative overtones of the past year's experiences, many of our members and leaders did positively rise to the challenges being faced with great spirit. Many "looked to what could be done not what couldn't be done" (Anonymous, 2020). There was concern about the isolation and loneliness experienced by many members, particularly our older members. Many council executives and members connected by phone and email, sent cards and did personal phone calls. Online meetings became the mainstay at all levels.

Correspondence and council business items were forwarded to members electronically and by paper for those without e-mail. Resources such as League manuals, websites and newsletters were used frequently to aid in doing council business. Strategic planning updates were circulated as well as being obtained through the League magazine and CWL websites. Many presidents expressed feeling supported by their past president, current and former executive members, life members, and personal mentors. While this was very reassuring to hear, leadership mentoring still requires support and development in our province.

The COVID restrictions and guidelines limited many of the traditional means of council fundraising and raised concerns about the ability for some of them to economically survive. This was especially true for some of our smaller parish councils. However, donations of over sixty-one thousand dollars were given to organizations. The other positive note was the ongoing support to members, high school, and university students by councils at all levels through bursaries and financial donations. All of this is positive news, given the worries of how COVID-19 could negatively affect charitable giving.

Separation did not quell the spiritual work of the League in our province. Members prayed hard and often for themselves, their sisters in the League and for all those suffering ill health, misfortune, and effects from the pandemic. They also took advantage of opportunities to participate in online liturgies, retreats, and prayer services and to stay informed about their faith through online postings. Mass cards, sympathy cards and prayers were offered to grieving members and families who were limited in their funeral services for loved ones due to lockdowns and gathering restrictions.

Our spiritual advisors were also noted to be a mainstay for councils with their active involvement and support. For example, in addition to reaching out to members during the tragic massacre in April, our provincial CWL council spiritual advisor, Fr. Patrick O'Neill, hosted a daily Rosary on his Facebook page for much of the year. He also celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel and the Feast of the Immaculate Conception with a special Mass for members and others within our province and beyond our borders. Virtual attendance was highly successful, reaching into the thousands of viewers for the live and recorded events.

Climate change is a concern for our members, resulting in participation in activities arising from our current theme, "Care for Our Common Home". Reducing waste impact on the environment, conserving water and planting trees to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the CWL were just a few ways they chose to help our environment. Information received on local and global climate events was circulated to members, helping them increase their climate change awareness.

Acting upon resolutions and legislative bills also was a challenge because of the dearth of meetings in the House of Commons and the Nova Scotia Legislature. Councils again needed to focus on effective ways of making members aware of situations that required attention on their part. Members participated in petitions relating to Bill C-7. Concerns regarding hospice and palliative care facilities being forced to include medically assisted dying were brought to the attention of members and action encouraged. Many councils participated in the 12 hours of Prayer for Palliative Care either by encouraging individual prayers or gathering online.

Health Care in the province is always a particular concern for our members. This was particularly highlighted this year because of the number of people who do not have a primary care professional in Nova Scotia and the threat presented by COVID-19. Special concern was also focused on Long Term Care facilities and the deaths of residents that occurred early in the pandemic. The mental health wellbeing of others became a special priority in light of the effect of the increased isolation and reduced access to supports and interventions experienced by many people.

The needs of our community members and partners were not forgotten. Councils continued their usual support in prayer and service, when possible, for those disadvantaged in our world. There was a special emphasis on determining ways to support the homeless, the disabled and seniors. Requirements to shelter in place became opportunities for members to knit and create items for others, including making masks and other protective clothing those without and for our health care workers. Councils also rose to provide financial and in-kind support for organizations supporting the poor and vulnerable, our indigenous people, the Pieta Bhavan project in Kerala, India and the children in the Diocese of Adigrat. Council members marked their concern about

human trafficking through participation in the International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking. Unfortunately, not many councils participated in the "Pornography Hurts" postcard campaign. This may have been due to the lack on in-person meetings and the restrictions on church activities.

Our members also joined their other sisters across Canada as the League celebrated the first National Day of Prayer for Christians in the Holyland. Remembrance Day looked quite different with no public services being held at the cenotaphs. However, members were strong in number in their support for the Poppy Campaign and provided wreaths on behalf of their councils. It was welcome news to many of our members when the League was again able to look to promote the 1% program for Development and Peace. Again, our CWL members deserve commendation for the caring and support shown to others at home, nationally and internationally at a time when they themselves were often facing financial hardships, loneliness and frustration.

I wish to express deep and sincere gratitude for the many prayers and messages of love and caring from our CWL sisters across Canada during our tragic massacre in April and the loss of military members last spring. All of these events greatly impacted many of our Nova Scotia families and members. The expressions of care and compassion were greatly appreciated. It is also important to acknowledge the spirit, willingness to engage and commitment of our CWL leaders at all levels. This truly helped to bring about so much good in the face of a unique year of challenges. However, while the amazing performance of many of our councils gives hope for a more certain and sustainable future, we must maintain a realistic concern for the fragility of membership sustainability and financial viability for some of our councils. Uncertainty will always be a part of our future, But there is no doubt that our members' strong faith, love and commitment to others and ability to persevere will help to steer a steady course in the face of any future ill winds.

Glenda Carson

**Nova Scotia Provincial Council
Secretary Annual Report
2019**

The Handbook for Secretaries is available and used. It is downloadable from National Office at www.cwl.ca under resource/manuals.

Secretarial duties included and was not limited to: assisting president with sending communiques; maintaining a list of the executive, Diocesan Councils, Parish Council presidents and Honorary Life and Life members with their contact information; recording minutes, attendance count, election register updated with chairperson, and preparing call to convention 2019. Secretaries are responsible to send occasion cards, anniversary cards, and sympathy cards.

Our Council used other methods of hosting meetings - a couple of conference call meetings were held and in person meetings and conventions were also scheduled. Conference call meetings were long but productive and allowed everyone to be in attendance, at minimal costs.

The business of Provincial secretary has been made easier by my predecessor. The CWL secretary binder contains, handbook and secretary duties, most executive list, all directories and reference information, minutes, agendas, convention booklets.

Thank you for the prayers, the smiles, the joy and friendship 2019 has brought.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to intercede as we continue to work for God & Canada.

Your sister in the League,
Carol Ann LeBlanc



**Nova Scotia Provincial Council Secretary
Annual report 2020**

A very unusual year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The biggest challenge faced by secretaries in 2020 was staying connected with League members. Various measures were taken to address this challenge. Some distributed Thinking of You cards, Christmas cards, and did personal phone calls, correspondence sent electronically and by paper to those without e-mail.

Other challenges presented by the pandemic was the inability to have regular meetings and conduct business. Councils were limited in their ability to address this. Inexperience or inability to meet via ZOOM.

Minutes were taken at meetings and secretaries maintained a list of their executive. Some of the councils have a motions book and a copy of the CWL Personal Letter Writing Guide from National Office. Several council secretaries are signing officers for their council.

ZOOM meetings were our means of holding meetings for Provincial. Some were long but very productive and made it much easier for me to take the minutes than on a teleconference call.

The secretary in one council enjoys the position; she has been a member for 81 years, highly active in CWL and always enjoyed them! A role model for all!

May Our Lady of Good Counsel bless us and guide us as we use our gifts and talents in the service to others.

Carol Ann LeBlanc



**Nova Scotia Provincial Council
Treasurer Report
2019**

Within the province of Nova Scotia there are 70 Parish Councils. For the year 2019, 38 annual reports were received. This represents approximately 55% response. There were three fewer reports submitted for the year 2019. The figures listed on the report form reflect the summary from these reports.

Donations received January 1- December 31, 2019

National Voluntary Funds	
Coady International Institute	\$ 900.00
Canadian Catholic Organization for Development & Peace	
Catholic Missions in Canada	\$1,460.00
Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (Until August 2020)	\$ 515.00
Catholic Near East Welfare Association	\$ 470.00
National Voluntary Fund Sub-Total	\$3,345.00
Standing Committees	
Spiritual Development	\$15,647.00
Organization	\$ 8,887.00
Christian Family Life	\$16,254.00
Community Life	\$25,885.00

Education & Health	\$20,072.00
Communications	\$ 2,011.00
Standing Committees Sub-Total	\$64756.00
Summary of Donations	
National Voluntary Funds Sub-Total	\$ 3,460.00
Standing Committees Sub-Total	\$88756.00
Parish Donations	\$77,175.00
Other Donations	\$ 170.00

Total Funds Reported 2019 \$ 169,446.00

All councils reported that their records were updated regularly, and that bank statements, cancelled cheques (for those councils that receive the cancelled cheques) and receipts are kept for a period of five years. Most councils require two signatures for all cheques issued, and it is standard that cheques not be issued without receipts. Most councils use ledgers to track their income and expenses. A few did use computer programs.

Over 55% of the treasurers that submitted their reports have held the Treasurer position more than once. Treasurers years of service ranged from less than five to over 25 years. The age of the members ranged from 25 to 85.

Most councils report having the records reviewed by an independent financial representative yearly. All councils prepare an annual report and present it at an annual or year-end meeting.

Some councils do prepare an annual budget and present it for consideration at a general meeting. Almost all councils reporting have a copy of the "Guidelines for Treasurers Manual" and refer to it. All councils reported having the position of Treasurer filled within their Parish Council.

All councils report that the common months for collecting dues were December, January and February in the Halifax/Yarmouth Diocese and November, December, January and February within the Antigonish Diocese. The dues were remitted to the National office in accordance with the collections.

Fund raising initiatives include: :bake sales, raffle and ticket draws, tea and sales, catering, auctions, Parish dinners, flea markets and rummage sales, Fashion shows, Concerts, Celtic Colours Concert

Provincially, we applied for funds to help defer the costs associated with a Diocesan/Provincial retreat and workshop that was to be held in September . Due to weather conditions, the retreat was not held, so the funds were not used.

An Ad-Hoc committee was formed to assess the structure of the League in Nova Scotia. In November of 2019, it was decided that funds would be made available to assist facilitators with the implementation plan education.

The Provincial Council has worked to cut some expenses. Our Winter Executive meeting is held by teleconference. This alleviates travel, meals, and accommodation expenses.

A fundraiser was held to assist members from Nova Scotia to attend the 2020 National Convention . A budget for 2020 was presented and approved at the Annual Convention held in June 2019.

Sandra O' Connell

Cathy Farrow, CPA,CMA
200 Churchill Drive
Sydney, N.S. B1S 0H5

June 15, 2020

Nova Scotia Provincial Council
Of the Catholic Women's League of Canada c/o Sandra O'Connell
18 Sheridan Drive Sydney, N.S. B1S 3K2

I have reviewed the 2019 accounting and banking records for the Nova Scotia Provincial CWL accounts and find that the banking and actual year-end account balance to represent a true and fair view of the financial results for the year 2019.

Sincerely,
Cathy Farrow, CPA., CMA

**Nova Scotia Provincial Council Annual Treasurer Report
2020**

For the year 2020, I received reports from 27 councils in time for the annual report. I would like to thank the Councils that submitted their reports. 2020 was a year of challenges and obstacles, however, with restrictions and guidelines being adhered to, members were able to help fellow members, parishioners, and neighbors.

Councils continue to have their records examined annually and report annually to the membership. Ledgers continue to be the most used method for keeping track of expenses and income. All councils reported that two signatures are required for all cheques, and that three signatures are on record at the bank. Over 50% of the councils that submitted reports noted that they prepare an annual budget that is presented to the membership. This year's reports noted that there were no standing committee expenses recorded. This was most likely due to the cancellation of general meetings.

The National Voluntary Funds donations were higher for 2020 as compared to 2019. The amount noted for 2019 was \$3,345.00. The 2020 donations that were reported was \$3,820.00. Thank you for your generous donations during a period of change. Parish Councils continue to support their Parishes through donations.

Sandra O'Connell

**Nova Scotia Provincial Council Treasurer Report
2020**

For the year 2020, 27 annual reports were received. There were fewer reports submitted in 2020, but with the COVID restrictions in place for most of the year, most Councils were most likely not active. The figures listed on the report form reflect the summary from these reports.

Donations received January 1-December 31, 2020

National Voluntary Funds	
Coady International Institute	\$ 640.00
National Bursary Fund	\$ 320.00
Catholic Missions in Canada	\$1,240.00
Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (Until August 2020)	\$ 420.00
Catholic Near East Welfare Association	\$1,200.00
National Voluntary Fund Sub-Total	3820.00
Standing Committees	
Spiritual Development	0
Organization	0
Christian Family Life	0
Community Life	0
Education & Health	0
Communications	0
Standing Committees Sub-Total	0
Summary of Donations	
National Voluntary Funds Sub-Total	\$ 3,345.00
Standing Committees Sub-Total	
Parish Donations	\$21,882.00
Other Donations	\$35,914.79

Total Funds Reported 2020 \$61,616.79

All councils reported that their records were updated regularly. Expense records and receipts are kept for a period of five years. Most councils require two signatures for all cheques issued, and it is standard that cheques not be issued without receipts. Most councils use ledgers to track their income and expenses. A few did use computer programs.

Most councils report having the records reviewed by an independent financial representative yearly. All councils prepare an annual report and present it at an annual or year-end meeting.

Some Councils reported that an annual budget is prepared each year to be presented by the membership.

2020 was a year of upheaval for many. The COVID restrictions and guidelines limited the amount of work done by the members of the Catholic Women's League in Nova Scotia. Even through these difficult times, provincially, our members were able to donate \$61,616.79! Thank you for your hard work and commitment to the League and our activities.

Sandra O'Connell

**Nova Scotia Provincial Council
Past President Annual Report
2019**

The past president annual report is a summary of 43% of the councils submitting an annual report for 2019. The decline in responses may be explained by their need for current presidents to remain in their position because no one is stepping forward. Technology in completing a report proved difficult for many of our members.

Over fifty percent of the members reporting have membership over twenty-five years. Several past presidents reported having previously served as past president for their council. The ongoing challenge remains for some councils as they struggle to fill executive positions.

They continue to attend executive, general and council meetings, spiritual and social events and are available when called upon for advice to support and encourage their council. Past presidents are mentoring, encouraging, sharing their experiences, supporting, and offering new ideas. They also promote and make reference to the Constitution and Bylaws and the National Manual of Policy and Procedure to help guide them in a decision.

All past presidents are responsible for the archives to keep and maintain their council's records and history in a safe and organized manner. They are aware that the archives are extremely important so that our accomplishments are available to share. Records are stored in the church or parish hall, a designated CWL room in file cabinets, photo albums, scrapbooks, memory sticks, banker boxes, DVD's and CD's and are reviewed as needed. Charters are well displayed in the church or parish hall. It is encouraging to see that many of our councils have their own Policy and procedure manual, updating it as needed.

Past Presidents are very engaged in council activities including fundraising, funerals, attending conventions, chairing the nominations and elections committee, filling in roles of vacant positions, organizing social events, promoting their council in the community, checking websites for information, preparing newsletters and facilitating workshops.

Support of the implementation of the Strategic Planning was received by 65% of the reporting councils. Past presidents attended conventions, received, listened and shared information and passed it along to their council members. They also provided updates as they became available. We need to continue to promote and provide valuable input into the future of the League.

Some past presidents reported their greatest challenge was that some presidents did not always follow policy and procedure. Getting members to take on an executive position, soliciting new members and completing the on-line survey were also listed as challenges.

Past presidents enjoyed getting together as past presidents in their council to organize council archives, photo albums, plan special events or parish celebrations for their members and parish community.

They are extremely busy and actively engaged as wonderful supporters and mentors not only in our councils but in their communities throughout our province.

Thank you to my two diocesan past presidents, Cleo Windsor and Liz Doyle and the past presidents for completing their reports.

This is my final report as past president on the provincial level. It has been an honor and privilege to have served on the Provincial Executive.

The Catholic Women's League is a truly remarkable organization. We bring faith and hope to so many through our wonderful work and I am so proud to continue to share it with God and my sisters in the League.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide us as we journey together For God and Canada.

Peggy MacNeil

Nova Scotia Provincial Council Past President Annual Report 2020

It has been quite a year! In these challenging times 35% of our councils were able to complete their annual report. Antigonish Diocesan Council completed 15 /39 reports; Halifax-Yarmouth Diocese reported 8/28 reports. A few councils reported having no past president, but many reported receiving continued support and encouragement from their past president throughout the year. Thank you to our two diocesan past presidents, Cleo, and Liz for supporting their parish council past presidents during the past year.

Parish council Archives are retained in storage for all councils in parish offices, CWL rooms and churches. Items include photo albums, scrapbooks , paper copies, information on USB sticks, CD or DVD. A few councils have completed a council history book .Most councils reported revising archives as required.

A few councils continue to refer to Resource Material as needed. All councils have a copy of the National Constitution and Bylaws and the National Manual of Policy and Procedure. There remain a few councils with no council policy and procedure. During the year, past presidents assisted the president in reviewing their policy and procedure for improvement and adaption to new procedures.

Some councils seek advice from their Spiritual Advisor, diocesan executive and rarely from the Life Members, provincial council, and national office. It is reported they never or rarely seek advice from the Bishop. Councils with Life Members occasionally ask them for advice. Less than fifty percent of councils support the implementation of the national strategic plan.

The past president also performs other duties as requested by the president. These include checking provincial and national websites, organizing events when possible, promoting the council, filling the role of a vacant position, and preparing newsletters.

They assist in making the president's role more enjoyable and fulfilling by doing their best to involve all members, designating tasks to members, being available for advice, questions, decision making and staying active.

Due to Covid 19 many council events had to be cancelled. Some events were adapted this year with social distancing such as CWL Masses, organizing fun activities for members, showers for homeless and bakeless bake sales all held while social distancing. Prayer blankets were blessed at Mass and distributed to the seriously ill in parish council communities. Some councils hold one small project or even a month to keep members involved.

There remain challenges for councils in filling standing committee positions. Membership is aging or feeling burnt out. Members expressed concern for change in some areas. It was difficult for some councils to keep in touch with their membership. They are happy to assist but not take a leadership role. Some members fill two positions. Covid 19 has affected all of us. May our faith give us strength and comfort at this time. Our Lady of Good Counsel protect us during this pandemic.

Peggy MacNeil

Nova Scotia Provincial Council
Spiritual Development Annual Report 2019

Despite the fact that the online reporting system has become more efficient and easier to use than ever before, the average response rate is only 45%. We are failing in our attempt to convince parish councils that it is important to report their challenges and successes if we are to address such issues as declining membership and disconnect among the various levels of our organization.

The reporting chairpersons indicated that there is a variance on how this position is filled: 77% in one diocese are elected, 35% in the other. Most chairpersons are in the 64-74 age group, and most have served in this position previously. Despite this, all reporting chairpersons were enthusiastic about what is happening in their councils and are actively studying and holding events in connection with our theme, "Care for Our common Home" .

More than half the reporting councils follow the practice of devoting 1/3 of meeting time to the spiritual aspect of membership. They organize a variety of liturgies and programs for their councils, have spiritual reflections and scripture reflections ready for meetings, honour their deceased members by participating in Prayer Services and Honour Guards, organize and attend seasonal events for members of their councils and parishioners, celebrate one day per month with continuous recitation of the Rosary in their churches, and support and hold World Day of Prayer Services . In summary, members of this committee are leaders in their parishes in adding to the spiritual life of parishioners.

Resources provided by the National Council on the website are regularly utilized by parish councils in developing their own liturgies and programs. In addition, resources recommended by the National Chairperson in her communiques are often sourced. The diocesan councils provide resources and hold retreats and spiritual growth events which enhance the spiritual development of members. Members enroll in lay formation programs, more so in the larger centres where they are more readily available. Councils in smaller, more remote areas should be encouraged to find programs which are online or seek out recorded programs which can be purchased, and the cost shared with neighboring councils. Diocesan councils may wish to establish lending libraries.

The Feast of Our Lady of Good Council is a special day in most councils, celebrated with special Masses, luncheons and other events .

Both Diocesan chairpersons reported that Spiritual Advisors attended meetings less than 50% of the time, with an unfortunate number reporting that their Spiritual Advisor never attends a meeting. In these circumstances the Council is missing out on two vital experiences: the ability to be uplifted and guided spiritually by the parish priest and a very real resource to market the League in the parish.

Councils that report a close relationship with their spiritual advisor appear to have a stronger commitment from their members.

The members of the CWL continue to be leaders in parish life. They chair parish committees, are active on parish councils, finance committees and liturgy committees. They direct or sing in the choirs, clean, decorate, serve in all of the ministries. In reviewing the diocesan reports, it is clear that most if not all parishes would cease to function effectively without the involvement of the women of the CWL. Good work ladies!

Spiritual Development chairpersons in the parishes report that their biggest challenges are resourcing new and interesting presentations and getting members to participate. All chairpersons at different levels should provide parish council chairpersons with the information and resources to assist in making the spiritual component of membership

interesting and rewarding to our members. A CWL meeting, more than any place other than Mass, should be a place where women have a chance to reflect upon their faith and enjoy a faith filled moment in an otherwise busy, noisy world. On a personal level, I am fortunate to belong to a council where clever, resourceful, committed women lead every meeting with a spiritual program which puts us in exactly the right frame of mind to deal efficiently with our business meeting and on to a cup of tea, a treat, and a good natter!

Most councils reported that the online survey format was easy to navigate. Some councils remain "technology challenged", and some reported that most of the questions did not address issues in their small councils suggesting that there be room for a survey designed by and for councils with fewer than, for example 20, members.

The women of the CWL in Nova Scotia are strong and united in their faith and commitment. They are the pillars upon which the church stands. Every day we are grateful to our Lady of Good Counsel for her love and guidance as we continue in our service to the people of God.

Jessie Parkinson

Nova Scotia Provincial Council Spiritual Development Annual Report- 2020

I sincerely thank all of the chairpersons of Spiritual Development in the Province for providing such wonderful leadership in their councils this past year. It has been a very difficult year in many ways, not the least of which was the inability to be together in person for meetings and prayer services. Unsurprisingly, the participation rate in filing annual reports was low: 8 in one diocese and 15 in the other for a cumulative total of less than 40%. The majority of chairpersons were elected to their positions.

Parish Councils did not meet in person after February due to the Covid 19 meeting restrictions, however many continued to stay connected through social media platforms. Father Patrick O'Neill, our Provincial Spiritual Advisor, hosted daily Rosary on his Facebook page for much of the year and celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel with a special Mass for members province wide. We cannot thank Father Patrick enough for his devotion to the League in our province during these challenging times , particularly in the beginning when we were all so concerned about living through a pandemic. He kept us connected in a very spiritual way.

Despite the difficulties, councils did what they could to study and promote the theme "Care for our Common Home" by reciting the theme prayer, donating to organizations promoting the theme , recycling and reusing products, planting bushes and trees , watching videos and making Facebook postings, reading articles and signing water pledge forms.

Councils organized and participated in online liturgies and prayer services and stayed connected by posting and sharing information on saints and spiritual teachings. Members were acutely aware of, and responded wholeheartedly to assuage, the isolation and loneliness experienced by many members, particularly older members. They called and emailed and sent cards to their sisters in the League like never before! More importantly they prayed for one another and for the whole world.

CWL members have always participated in lay ministries in their parishes and 2020, although more restricted, was no exception. Our women are leaders in their parish communities.

Parish councils are the heart of their parishes- donating to local charities, missions and other Catholic sponsored organizations across Canada.

When asked "What training would you recommend be provided for this position next year? Chairpersons responded with enthusiasm. Some suggestions were\;

- Workshops (1 to 2 hours) on the position by Diocesan or Provincial Council either online or in-person. Include members who might one day consider chairing.
- Training on how to prepare a spiritual reflection.
- Suggestions /lists on where to obtain ideas and resources.
- Facilitation of liturgies and ceremonies/ Best Practices These are wonderful suggestions for workshops and online training.

Both of my diocesan counterparts report that their members are more committed than ever in their faith and that they have adapted and found ways to pray together even in these challenging times. They are looking forward to spring and renewal - in their gardens and in the gardens of the Catholic Women 's League. They want to be together in their meeting rooms once again, to pray and to sing and to laugh and drink a cup of tea. In the meantime, they will continue the good work For God and for Canada to the best of their ability.

Jessie Parkinson

**Nova Scotia Provincial Council
President-elect/ Organization Annual Report
2019**

In Nova Scotia for the year 2019, 29 councils out of 70 (2018 statistics) submitted Organization annual reports. For the most part, this position was filled (90%), elected 62% and appointed 39%. It was a relief to see only approximately 1/3 of the members in this position had been in the league longer than 25 years, but very disappointing to note a little over half (58%) had been Organization Chair previously The ages of the submitting Organization chairpersons were: 77% of the chairpersons were between the ages of 55 and 74 years old, 16% between the ages of 35-54, 8% between the ages of 75-84, no chairpersons were under 18 and none over 85. The reporting councils had healthy numbers within their councils anywhere from 25 members to 161. Of the 29 reporting councils, most of the members fell into the age brackets of either 51-70 years of age, or over 70. From the reporting councils, 133 members were under the age of 50! (6%) and 8 associate members.

Less than half of the members attend meetings, even less participate in fundraising social events, and approximately half go to spiritual events. The membership in the reporting councils increased by 59, however, 40 members did not renew. 55% of the reporting councils had an increase in membership, 45% either stayed the same or decreased. Majority of reporting councils either use the personal touch to recruits members or make use of the bulletin or bulletin boards. Reasons for non-renewal - moved, lack of interest, age and ill health. Half of the non-renewed members were asked to come back by phone, other members not called at all. (other methods, e-mail and conversation).

Former members no longer able to participate are kept in touch, 71-75% are visited, sent cards, and telephoned; 29-46% are sent minutes of the meetings, give gifts, taken communion, 8-13% are kept in touch with parties, sent a newsletter, sent invitations, sending baking. Recognition of members: the majority of councils recognize members with pins, a presentation or otherwise. The new member ceremony is held a little over 40% of the time and reaffirmation ceremony only 21%. New members are engaged in conversation, welcoming at meetings and 66% of the

reporting councils present the member with a new member kit.

I was very interested in the question of diverse age groups and cultures. - The words that were repeated were: we welcome, we invite. It is very apparent to me that welcoming and inviting are ineffective in most CWL councils. I wonder if this question could somehow be rephrased - Are we a welcoming council to diverse age groups and cultures? How many diverse age groups and cultures does your council reflect?

Membership renewals are administered 55% online, 45% manually. 83% reminds members of membership renewal dues at the meetings or by telephone. 62% place a reminder in the church bulletin - and 55% by e-mails. (other methods, at Mass, envelopes, mail, and posted on a bulletin board).

Only 19% of the reporting councils had participated in League Development days offered in their area. Of the reporting councils, approximately 8% of the members attended diocesan conventions, 4% retreat days, 3% participated in leadership workshops, 5% participated in the Nova Scotia Provincial convention, .06% of members of the reporting councils participated in National convention.

62% of members from the reporting councils did not participate in the Strategic Planning provided at either the diocesan or provincial conventions. What was offered did not seem interesting. Member's input counts in setting annual goals in 42% of the councils. Of the 16 councils (55%) who answered yes to the question of members in their councils who played a role on the other levels of the league, 14 (88%) are on the diocesan level, 10 (63%) are on the provincial level and 1 (6%) regional level.

There was no training specific to leadership development offered in any of the reporting councils in 2019. Approximately 2/3's of the councils follow the 1/3 faith, 1/3 fun/ 1/3 fulfillment aspects. If not, why not? too much business, prefer hour long meetings, consider a Mass as the spiritual component. 69% of the reporting councils are familiar with the Foundation, 59% did not promote the application for leadership studies with the Foundation. On hand resources: 97% (28) Constitution and Bylaws; 93%.

(27) The Canadian league magazine; 90% (26) Executive Handbook and League prayers; 83% Ceremonies booklet and Guidelines for Treasures . National Manual of Policy and Procedures. (23) - 79%. Less than half the councils had the Leading the League manual. It was a relief to see that all councils had some of the resources on hand!

Of interest was the methods used to complete reports I noted only 48% of the reporting councils keep a monthly record of activities and 62% meet as a group. However, in the comment area, meeting as a group was frequently mentioned.

Reading over the comments on the Life Members, there is some Life Member involvement, however, not as much as I would like to see. I noted the comments from the members were very positive and very easy on the Life Members.

Of the 17% who found success in recruiting and maintaining members, the most successful story again involved the personal touch of inviting members to an activity other than the monthly meeting, such a going for coffee, birthday social. Women continue to attend meetings for fellowship, spiritual development, and support from one another, sisterhood, contribution and obligation to the Church.

Councils' most desirable asset - friendship, generosity, support from the members for one another, socializing. Special activities involved several different tea socials, Christmas and June get togethers, and fundraisers of every type also attract members. Christmas appears a very special time for activities.

Two main challenges: (1) no president-elect and (2) membership. I noted a great sense of responsibility in most of the comments, great concern in fulfilling the president-elect's role such as reading all the material and measuring up as a leader. I found it interesting to note seven of the comments from the members mentioned they were not the president-elect, or the council had no president-elect, however, all but three reporting councils had this position filled. I can only conclude that these members do not wish to go on as President. (An example of the hesitation CWL members seem to maintain if asked to accept a leadership role within the League.)

The comments on the issue of challenge submitting reports ranged from difficulty getting online, questions were too vague, too many questions, problem saving answers. However, four out of the twenty-nine reporting councils had no issues.

On a personal note, I wish to thank Julie LeLievre, Antigonish Diocese and Sandra Kline, Halifax- Yarmouth Diocese for their diocesan reports. The diocesan reports helped me immensely in writing my own report and checking it for accuracy.

Joline Belliveau

Nova Scotia Provincial Council President-elect /Organization Annual Report 2020

of Antigonish Councils reporting: 16/39

of Halifax- Yarmouth Councils reporting: 8/26 (25 plus 1 inactive)

Total number of reporting councils: 24/65

Organization Position:

Of the reporting councils - 83% (20) reported the position was filled - 17 % (4) vacant. The next question on appointment/elected - 50 % (10) appointed, 50 % (10) elected. 70% (14) had previously held the position, and 30% (6) had not. (I would be interested to find out the reasons why so many councils were not able to encourage women who had never held office to step forward. This issue has plagued the League for a long time.)

In Nova Scotia - 65% (13) councils are in urban area - 35% are in rural area (7) - none in remote areas.

Race, ethnicity place of birth, etc – Membership: For the most part, the origins of most of the member are either from Europe or other North American. a few member's origins are of African descent, or Asian, Caribbean or Latin, Central or South America, even less (or the equivalent) are of North American Indigenous descent. Nil members from Oceania. Interestingly enough a significant percentage of the members were from unknown origin.

Members on the executive: Half the executive members were other North American, again a significant number of the executive were of unknown origin, and some European. Few executive members were of Latin, Central or South American descent, Africa or Asia and no executive members were of Oceania, North American Indigenous or Caribbean descent. 80% (16) of the reporting councils feel the membership reflects the cultural diversity of the parish and general community. One of the diocese commented the members felt these questions were inappropriate. 1% of the membership was within the 16-24 age group. 55% (11) of the reporting councils felt this reflected the age diversity

within the parish.

Sadly, just the reverse is true in the next question: Is the age diversity reflected in your general community -65% (no) 45 % (yes). Very few young members a definite lack of interest in joining the League in the 16-24 age group.

Methods used to encourage a wide cross-section of members to reflect the cultural and age diversity of the community. 12 parish announcements; 9 websites; 6 social media; 4 bulletin boards; 3 parish schools lay ministries; 11 personal invitations; 6 guest speakers; 5 ecumenism and interfaith endeavors; 4 gift memberships; 1 other (due to COVID19 no membership Drive)

Comparing the top 5 methods of 2019 with 2020 - one can certainly see the effect the Pandemic has had on methods used for attracting members no potlucks and websites and social media this year are in the top five!

Participation:

Fundraising - 8 councils (41-60%); 6 councils (61-80%); 4 councils (81-100%); 2 councils (21-40%). The majority (14) of the reporting councils did participate fairly well - and effort was made to fundraise - however, only four councils fully participated in fundraising.

Meetings - 9 councils (21-40%) 5 councils - 41-60% 3 councils (1-20%); 2 councils - 61-80%; 1 council (81-100%). If we go by this scale, very low participation in meetings.(fear of the Covid-19 virus?)

Social events: 7 councils (61-80%); 41-60% 5 councils; 5 councils (21-40%); 3 councils - (81-100%)

Spiritual events 7 councils (61-80%); 6 councils (21-40%); 5 councils (41-60% 1 council (81-100%)
1 council (1-20%).

Social and spiritual events were participated in better than meetings and fundraising, which is so true in times of confusion and anxiety - we need both during this time, to be with God and to be with people.

Seven councils recruited members - one recruited six members! New members under the age of 40 - two councils recruited members in this age group.

Methods used to recruit members: (in 2019): Personal invitation was well ahead of the other top 5 recruiting methods 2019 - almost 2/3s of the reporting councils used this method; Potlucks; teas, three councils used these methods; Presentations as Masses three councils; advertising in bulletin/bulletin boards and display tables used by 3 councils (2 and 1).

Recognition of members: Service pins for the most part and cards/announcements, special events, small gifts.

Engaging new members: Two top answers were conversations (18) and welcoming at meetings (18). (Both 78%); Evenly divided: invitations and new member kit (13) (57%) Mentoring was about 30%; (7) other way of engaging members orientation session, member feedback, participation in sub-committee were all under 20%. Most parish councils (75%) renew memberships online.

Happy to see that 75% of the reporting councils are updated on the Implementation Committee. Members' input for setting annual goals - including members 55%. Half of the reporting councils had members on other levels of the league- mainly at the Diocesan level. Change embraced by your council (keeping members informed) – Majority of councils did not meet due to COVID-19 - a few councils were on social media.

Majority of the reporting councils were happy with the annual questionnaire for 2020. Life members still not used to their full potential. Sadly, as is evident from our Membership Statistics the majority of the reporting councils have no success stories to regain former members. Stories were shared: Prayer Breakfast, 12-hour palliative care on Zoom, helping others during hardships, paying memberships for seniors, funeral receptions, unfortunately quite a number (50%) the story was "closed" due to Covid-19. A few other stories: organized Masses, 70th Anniversary dinner.

Biggest challenge as president-elect: understanding the position, keeping members informed, finalizing a membership list, collection of dues, busy due to working full time.

Challenge in completing this survey: Out of 20 answers - 6 answers found the questionnaire very simple, user friendly, 3 councils were troubled by the questions on ethnicity/diversity 3 councils could not answer fully due to Covid-19, 3 were not comfortable with technology, 1 council was confused by the questions; another had issues with logging into the survey, 2 were not the president-elect, one was struck by the reality of her taking on the role as president next year.

It is very disappointing to see the low numbers of reporting councils. Possibly some councils did not submit annual reports due to lack of activity. To submit an annual report stating what activities or no activities is a better alternative than no report at all.

My own personal accomplishments:

Covid-19 challenged all of us to stay in touch with other fellow members of the League. I would check the National Website for updates on the Implementation Committee and was so disappointed when all our meetings - National/Provincial/Diocesan were all cancelled. But as we all know, it was the only option. The guest speakers, along with Ann Gorman and Fran Lucas were posted on the website for us to watch in August. It was wonderful and really gave me the push I needed to involve myself in League activities. So, last September I have been, along with the other Provincial President- elects, revising, revamping, and setting up power points teaching modules, Orientation modules, for the League's benefit. We met nearly every two weeks during the months of September/October and November. It was and continues to be an amazing learning curve. Met with the provincial executive last November - and posted two communiques on our Provincial website. As well as the August guest speakers, I "zoomed" pretty much anything the League had to offer - the Welcome Program Package Fireside Chat with our Honorary Life Members, Advent retreat, webinar on annual reports, and the webinar on how to fill out the annual report.

Respectfully submitted,

Joline Belliveau

Nova Scotia Provincial Council Life Member Liaison Annual Report

2020

Frequently, members of the League are remembered as Life Members. Yes, they are lifelong members of the Catholic Women's League, although not Life Members.

Life Members make a choice when they are asked if they will consider accepting the role that Life Membership entails. They must demonstrate their commitment to the League by reporting the efforts they made in workshops, executive positions, committee positions, etc. This decision is not taken lightly, and each new Life Member is aware

of their willingness to assist, support, and develop the League in Nova Scotia and Canada.

In Nova Scotia, less than 30 women have made that commitment . Hopefully, each parish council makes the membership aware that they are gifted with a Life Member in their group. Hopefully, each group gives their Life Member, their sister-in-the-League, their church partner, the opportunity to bring their strength, knowledge, love of the League to small group training, workshops, and activity sessions.

Life Members across Canada are kept up to date and informed by the National Life Member liaison who regularly shares family joys and sadness so that all members of this group are joined.

During this past year, my focus has been distracted from effectively completing my role as Nova Scotia Life Member liaison. I believe that with the new term, there will be a renewed stimulation and sense of a fresh, lively, evangelization in the League.

Pat Crossman

**Nova Scotia Provincial Council
Christian Family Life Report
2019**

This 2019 Christian Family Life Report reflects the information received from the Diocese of Antigonish and the Diocese of Halifax-Dartmouth. Reports were received from 15 councils in the Antigonish Diocese . The number in the Halifax-Yarmouth Diocese was not specified.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Some councils offer marriage preparation courses , encounter and engaged couple weekends. Several councils have liturgical celebrations for couples celebrating special anniversaries. Some parish councils gave support to families in need through St. Vincent de Paul Society.

SANCTITY OF LIFE

Members viewed the movie "Unplanned" based on the life experience of Abby Johnson, who worked for Planned Parenthood in the United States .

Councils reported their members participated in walks, vigils, masses and 40 days of life. Councils donated monies to organizations that advocate for Sanctity of Life . Letters were written to legislators stating members concerns for the Sanctity of Life . These concerns centered on the issues of abortion and euthanasia.

MINISTRY TO YOUTH

Councils continue their involvement with religious education programs being offered in their parishes . Members participate in Girl Guides, NET, Steubenville, summer camps and World Youth Day. Youth are encouraged to participate in parish ministries . Councils give gifts to those being confirmed or receiving First Holy Communion.

MINISTRY TO THE DISABLED AND SENIORS

Councils supported shelters and programs designed to assist the disabled and seniors. Members brought communion to house bound, visited or called, sent cards, gave gifts on special occasions. Councils provided transportation for

appointments and entertained at senior ' s homes on a regular basis.

WIDOWED, SEPERATED AND DIVORCED

Brochures "Annulments Today-Merciful and Just" were provided in the parish. Councils sent cards of condolences, arranged services and/or funeral lunch, provided prayers and support after death of a spouse. Widows were invited to attend CWL meetings and events .

MINISTRY TO VOCATIONS

Most councils participate in prayers for vocations . Some councils adopted or supported seminarians, hosted luncheons for priests and religious.

OTHER

The MAID (Medical Assistance in Dying) bill has been prominent during the latter part of 2019 and early 2020. We should continue our vigilance concerning this by checking lifecanada.org , Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (ccc.ca)

Thank you to Christian Family Life Chairs; Laurena Greencorn, Diocese of Antigonish and Dina Samson , Diocese of Halifax-Yarmouth for their reports enabling me to pass along this information.

Linda Howell

Nova Scotia Provincial Council Christian Family Life Report

2020

This 2020 Christian Family Life Report reflects the information received from the Diocese of Antigonish and the Diocese of Halifax-Yarmouth. Reports were received from 15 councils in the Antigonish Diocese and 7 councils in the Halifax- Yarmouth Diocese.

The average age of members in Nova Scotia is 65-80 years and most have been members for 25 + years. Most Christian Family Life chair positions were filled by appointment.

Prior to March 2020 when COVID-19 arrived all councils were very busy with their regular programs for family enrichment such as Marriage preparation courses, workshops, support for single parent families and celebrations of special marriage milestones.

Councils were encouraged to continue their letter writing to MP's voicing their opposition to the amendments to Bill C-7. Councils continued to pray for the protection of life at all stages.

Although limited to participant numbers, members continued to support Sunday School, Girl Guides and other youth programs. Gifts were given to parishes for presentation to those making First Communion and Confirmation.

Councils continued to support shelters and programs designed to assist the disabled and seniors. Cards and poinsettias

were sent to seniors during the Christmas season. Councils continued to make phone calls to seniors and disabled during the year to let them know they were not forgotten during this time of isolation.

Mass cards and sympathy cards are being sent to families on the loss of a loved one. We continue to pray for families who have experienced loss during 2020 and were unable to have a public service due to the number restriction.

Some councils participated in prayers for vocations. Some councils adopted or supported seminarians.

Thank you to Christian Family Life Chairs; Laurena Greencorn, Diocese of Antigonish and Dina Samson, Diocese of Halifax-Yarmouth for their reports enabling me to pass along this information.

May Our Lady of Good Council bless the Catholic Women's League and keep our members and families safe.

Linda Howell

Nova Scotia Provincial Council Community Life Annual Report 2019

It was great to see an increment in the receipt of annual reports from parish councils and also to note that most of them had chairpersons. The annual reports reflected engagement in the community life work in many areas.

Dignity and Rights of Persons

Most members understand the need to support the most vulnerable and marginalized in our society and hence they volunteer and provide financial support. Many councils are aware of the concerns and struggles of Indigenous women. However, a few councils have educated their members by holding workshops or inviting native women to be guest speakers at their workshops. Several councils have discussed Bill C-262 which is the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous women. The Antigonish Diocesan Council used the Kairos blanket exercise to help members explore the historical national relationship between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples in Canada. However, to overcome this lack of knowledge and/or contact with our native people, we need to be proactive and invite Indigenous representatives from the area for their views and perspective. Possibly, this can be done through a Diocesan Workshop.

Most councils made themselves cognizant with the laws pertaining to dealing with Human Trafficking and have shared this information with their council members. The article, "The Dignity and Rights of Persons: Human Trafficking in Canada" which was published in the Fall 2019 edition of the League Magazine was discussed at council monthly meetings. Some councils are interested in providing more information through a presentation with the R. C.M.P . Constable responsible for Human Trafficking.

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

The councils are aware of the needs for immigrants and refugees in their community and welcomed and supported these new members. A few councils showed support for immigrants by attending citizenship ceremonies and also assisting these new members to assimilate into the Canadian way of life. They are aware of the difference between temporary, foreign worker, immigrant and refugee.

Social and Economic Justice

All councils are strongly engaged in this area of community life. They provide financial and material support and volunteer hours at homeless and domestic abuse shelters, food banks, soup kitchen, clothing drive for adults and children, youth programs, employment and skill training, anti-poverty campaign, parent resource and drop in centers, visiting the sick, providing lunch and entertainment in nursing homes and in church halls, hosting tea for widows and widowers in parish community, etc. Some councils celebrated National Indigenous Peoples Day which is on June 21 by attending a powwow in their community. I think in order to learn more about the indigenous people in our country, let us not miss the opportunity to be a part of their June 21 celebrations. Let councils mark this date on their June agenda. Financial support was provided to assist indigenous people through the Catholic Missions in Canada who play a great role in their lives and community. Financial support is also provided for CNEWA projects but more councils need to be encouraged to come on board specially with National Council encouraging financial support for building/restoration of a well in Kerala, India through the Pieta Bhavan project. A low percentage of councils participated in seminars relating to Social and Economic Justice.

Nova Scotia Provincial Council Community Life Annual Report 2020

Care for our Common Home

This annual report reflects the annual report submissions for Halifax-I Yarmouth and Antigonish Diocesan councils. Even though the receipt of annual reports from parish councils was lower than those received in 2019, we appreciate the councils who took the time to prepare their reports in these very uncertain and stressful times. One challenge that parish councils may have is filling the community life role as well as other leadership roles. Nevertheless, the council reports provided significant engagement in the community prior to Covid. Most parish councils have now come to a standstill to meeting in person and limited to serving their parish and communities. Anyway, let us stay hopeful and grateful for the blessings we have and reflect on our lives and how we can improve it and stay engaged as we go forward.

Social and Economic Justice

Generally, there is a strong engagement in this aspect of Community Life by all councils . However, due to COVID-19, councils this year supported their communities with health and safety in mind.

Most councils were still able to support those in need. Prior to COVID, a few councils had shower for the homeless shelters, Transition House and Women' s Cent re. Some donated cash and gift cards to their local food banks, soup kitchens, St. Vincent de Paul, Share Christmas to name a few.

Wellness checks were made by members regularly via phone/emails etc and councils sent out get well and thinking of you cards to the sick and shut In CWL members. Many councils sent out Christmas cards to their shut ins. Majority of councils were active in supporting organizations caring for those in need by offering prayers, financial support and volunteering for school programs, clothing drives, affordable housing initiatives, employment and skills training, anti-poverty campaign, restorative justice programs, emergency shelters for homeless and those suffering domestic abuse.

Due to COVID-19, councils did not celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day. Orange Shirt Day, prison ministry and restorative justice programs were put on hold.

This year, promoting Catholic Near East Welfare Association was only supported by a low number of councils. World

Day of Peace was September 21 which councils did not celebrate together but offered individual prayers.

November 15 was declared as Day of the Poor by Pope Francis and was celebrated by many councils. Some members got involved in the parish activity in filling back packs with requested items which was donated to a foodbank. Many members donated Christmas gift items to the needy in their community through their church community. Many took the opportunity of knitting for the homeless.

Councils are generally active with seniors in their communities. However, due to Covid restrictions, they could not entertain nor provide them with treats. However, some members in the council provided masks for seniors. They also made aprons and masks for their healthcare workers. Financial support was given to organizations assisting indigenous people including Eskom and Catholic Missions in Canada.

Even though Councils were not meeting in person since March, assistance for organizations engaged in caring for the marginalized in their community was met financially and prayerfully. Covid-19 limited physical contacts but could not take away from members to seize opportunities to display the caring trait of the CWL.

Dignity and Rights:

Human Trafficking, a crime and growing curse across Canada which has devastating impact on some of Canada's most vulnerable people remains below the public radar. For years, the League has played an important role in bringing awareness about Human Trafficking as a growing crime across Canada.

Most councils are aware of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights - UDHR. Some councils have discussed Bill C-262 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.

They support those suffering from homelessness, incarcerated, poverty, human trafficking, bullying, domestic violence, and indigenous women. Efforts toward educating members with regards to Indigenous Women, and laws against Human Trafficking are encouraging, more of an emphasis needs to be put on an invitation to disseminate this knowledge to members. However, the topic of Bullying and Racism - two hot topics that affect a larger portion of the Canadian population today are sadly neglected.

Some councils observed February 8, 2020, as International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking. Councils reported they took part in the day with prayer, lighting candles, saying the Rosary, and sharing the news that the Nova Scotia Government announced it is combatting Human Trafficking with financial support for the next five years.

Developing Countries:

A low percentage of councils are aware of conditions of child labor in developing countries and the implications of trade laws and practices in the global economy. A majority have used their voices to encourage the well-being of people before profit margins, and to further encourage governments to facilitate these changes. Councils offered support to Operation Christmas, Chalice, Canadian Red Cross, Operation Eyesight International, Pennies for the Poor, Save a Family Plan and Sleeping Children Around the World.

The League celebrated the first National Day of Prayer for Christians in the Holyland on September 21. It was also offered for Beirut, Lebanon who suffered immensely from the great explosion that occurred there. Members prayed individually or in small groups as restrictions permitted.

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the League was able to support the Pieta Bhavan project in Kerala, India which provided safe drinking water with the replacement of the well roof.

Funding was also given to support the children in the Diocese of Adigrat, Ethiopia by providing lunches at school. Parish councils are encouraged to continue supporting projects in developing countries where the need is immense.

Immigration, Immigrants and Refugees:

Immigration is viewed as an important factor for maintenance of our population, its growth and labour needs. So, the Atlantic Immigration pilot program helps employers in Atlantic Canada to hire foreign skilled workers retain international graduates who want to stay on in Atlantic Canada after they graduate.

A considerable number of councils have a comprehensive understanding of the needs of Immigrants and Refugees living in their communities in terms of employment services, ESL courses, financial assistance for food, rent, customs, countries of origin and number of immigrants. While there appears to be a working knowledge of terms understood by the report participants [foreign worker, immigrant, refugee], there was a non-participant rate in actual Citizenship Ceremonies - again this being attributable to the unusual restrictions of Covid 19 during 2020.

Remembrance Services

Councils supported the Poppy Campaign but did not participate in Services at the Epitaph, There was a 50/50 support of Canadian troops by the wearing of Red on Fridays.

Canada Summer Jobs

The Federal government released the electronic application for those organizations who were applying for funding to support students during the summer months. The deadline was January 29.

Development and Peace

D&P Campaign 2019 -2020 is titled : "FOR OUR COMMON HOME" derived from pope Francis ' Encyclical Laudato Si '. Link to prayer For 'Our Common Home: [https:// www.devp.org/sites/ www.devp.org/ files/document s/ mate rials/ devpeace fall2019 prayercard en.pdf](https://www.devp.org/sites/www.devp.org/files/document s/mate rials/ devpeace fall2019 prayercard en.pdf). Diocesan community life chairperson recommended that we watch a documentary on Netflix called Kiss the Ground. It provides us with hope for the future for our earth' s environment .

Marie Rackley, National Chairperson reported in her Communique #16 that in late August our National President received a letter from Most Rev. Richard Gagnon, President of Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops informing that the League could reinstate its 1 % program for Canadian Catholic Organization for D&P (CCODP). Parish Councils can now collect and submit 1% of all revenue earned to the National Fund for CCODP.

It became more than evident that Covid-19 has put an extreme pressure on every facet of participation by the individual Councils. While indications are strong that Members' desire to be a contributor for the many avenues to assist in the hardships of society, their resources are limited - financially, geographically and age-related. Their love and caring for fellow members of their communities - both local and global - is to be commended and without a doubt, all are looking forward to the time when it is safe to have contact once again with each other, and to be working together for God and Canada.

Catherine Gonsalves

**Nova Scotia Provincial Council
Communications Annual Report
2019**

Communication is critical in our CWL activities since it affects all levels of the League ---National, Provincial, Diocesan and Parish and communication flows in both directions. This is evident in the reports received from the Diocesan chairs. Approximately twenty-eight (28) parish councils in Nova Scotia reported with many of its chairs having twenty (20) plus years in membership, though one report listed one chair with less than five (5) years. The League magazine has shown to be a primary tool for communication for CWL members, whether it is for educational or spiritual purposes as well as advocacy. The article 'Jesus the Best Communicator' [Winter 2019] was listed by both dioceses along with articles on human trafficking, 'The League of the Future' and oral reports from the 2019 National Convention. A suggestion was listed in a report to include more stories of members and councils which includes their challenges as well as their celebrations.

In promoting the League, a high percentage was given to supporting such faith-based programs such as Mass for Shut-Ins [Sydney, NS TV production], Vision TV, Salt and Light TV, both in viewing and supporting financially. Members were encouraged to visit CWL website (cwl.ca), Facebook and Twitter for news and information for their reports. Newsletters produced within parish councils was not common since it was found that they were expensive to print, and some members did not have email. On the other hand, email was popular tool to distribute meeting announcements and minutes to members while Canada Post was used for those without email. Other means to communicate to members include bulletin boards, church bulletins, telephone committees, and posters. Some councils invited the media to attend CWL events as well submitted material for publication. Some members took advantage of the home viewing of the National Convention speakers in Calgary.

Fifty percent (50%) of the reporting councils distributed the Pornography Hurts cards in their diocese in 2019. Closely connected to pornography is the responsible use of the Internet to protect our children and several resolutions were used to encourage members to educate themselves.

In this regard, Resolution 2002.11: Responsible Internet Use for Children was utilized to encourage members (63%) to educate themselves and their families on safe Internet use, though not many members encourage the federal government to take action to support research and develop tools for safe Internet use for children.

Other resolutions used predominantly to encourage members to become educated on internet safety and appropriate use of technology include Resolution 2017.02: Mandatory Age Verification Mechanisms for Adult Pornography and Resolution 2004.11: The Link Between Violent Graphic Imagery and Aggressive Behaviour and the Mechanics of Killing. Last June at the NS Provincial Convention, the Simon Sinek video on technology addiction was viewed resulting in members present asking for the link for a future showing in their councils.

In some cases, parish councils felt that information on Strategic Planning was not communicated adequately to their members, either shared from the National website (i.e. monthly updates) or the League Magazine. Only two councils have mentioned that they have viewed the Strategic Planning workshop entitled 'Guiding Principles' and most councils were not reciting the Renewal Prayer. On a more positive note, many councils in Nova Scotia have accessed the National website (cwl.ca) online for information and viewing publications such as the Executive Manual. In addition, most reporting councils were aware of the discontinuation of the 1 (888) number at the National Office.

This report would not be complete without expressing my appreciation and gratitude to both the Antigonish Diocesan chairperson, Helena Macleod and the Halifax-Yarmouth Diocesan Chairperson, Barbara Macdonald-Sullivan for their

commitment in forwarding communiques and messages from myself and the National Chairperson, Doreen Gowans.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel bless each of you to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ as good communicators in your daily activities.

Ann Myers

Nova Scotia Provincial Council Communications Annual Report 2020

What a year 2020 was! Little did any of us realize that our terms as executive chairpersons in our committees would extend into a third year. Though our situations change, the work of the League continues. Since many of the councils could not meet in person due to the limitations set by the provincial government, the submissions of annual reports from council chairs were reduced (Halifax-Yarmouth -seven (7) out of twenty- five (25) parish councils; Antigonish - twelve (12) out of thirty-nine (39) parish councils). Though the submissions were reduced, the content and innovation were amazing.

The League Magazine was the prime resource used by all members to keep informed and the President's reports were by far the most relevant column with mention of other articles including Protection of minors: a serious issue , Message from the Spiritual Advisor, and a Nova Scotian history of the League. Suggestions for future articles include how to engage young women to become members and human trafficking. There was support for Resolution 1978.03 by chairs to promote Catholic material to members, and Mass for Shut-Ins had tremendous support both in the aspect of evangelization and financially from members across the province.

The League-sponsored Our Lady of Good Counsel Mass on April 26, 2020, produced by Fr. Patrick O'Neill, NS Spiritual Advisor from Sydney was viewed by over 1000 viewers.

The National CWL website was widely utilized by members to keep informed in 2020 as well as social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram). Since one of the challenges for much of the membership are older women with little or very limited knowledge of computer applications, but church bulletins, bulletin boards, emails and the ever-present telephone committee stepped in to fill the void to inform members and to keep in touch.

Newsletters were increasing promoted and used to inform members and were distributed via email or regular mail. In addition, one chairperson was particularly resourceful to teach her executive and members how to use Zoom and Facebook and even create their own Facebook group - this council needs to be commended for their creativity and innovation!!

Regarding Resolution 2017.02 (Mandatory Verification Mechanisms for Adult Pornography), many of the parish councils encouraged members to become informed on internet safety and responsible technology use. Some councils made members aware of the lack of age verification controls on adult websites with several contacting their members of parliament, the justice minister and the prime minister to pursue legislation. Very few councils participated in the Pornography Hurts postcards campaign this year, but those who did, sent them in February and March. It was also noted that the videos (Over 18 and Red Light, Green Light) available from National website were not viewed by many members, no doubt due to the lack of meetings.

Sharing the message of the Strategic planning was mixed with the majority aware of the updates through the League

magazine and the website, but less shared through their councils. With no meetings last year due to the pandemic, it was difficult to share information though many councils connected through telephone calls, cards and emails. To share information in the province of Nova Scotia, the provincial CWL Council is implementing a new website and this process is now almost complete. Personally, it was privilege to be able to research and write a history of the Provincial CWL Council for the League magazine. As chair, I shared National communiques and emails from National Chairperson Doreen Gowans with the Diocesan chairs, Helena Macleod from Antigonish Diocesan Council and Barbara Macdonald-Sullivan from Halifax-Yarmouth Diocesan Council. Thank you, ladies in your efforts and commitment to distribute the information to your parish councils.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel bless each of you to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ as good communicators with wisdom and understanding of our present situation.

Ann Myers,

Nova Scotia Provincial Council Education and Health Annual Report 2019

This Annual Report summarizes the important and informative work carried out by Councils in the Education and Health Standing Committee in 2019. Thank you to the Councils and Chairs of the Education and Health Standing Committees who did great work in the many endeavors they undertook in this Standing Committee. Twenty-Seven Councils used the online reporting system to present the activities and initiatives undertaken by Councils. Information collected from the reports show that generally members in this standing committee are between 65-75, have been elected into the position and more than 50% were previous chairpersons of the Education and Health Standing Committee. There are new Chairpersons that have accepted the opportunity to use their gifts and talents to serve in this standing committee.

Catholic Education

Although there is no Catholic religious education teaching in the Nova Scotia school system, Councils are actively involved in many aspects of Catholic education. Members are involved in children and youth centered Catechesis to adult faith formation through various Bible studies and programs offered in their parishes or diocese. These activities include personal involvement with RCIA and Sacramental preparation in parishes by volunteering as catechists and assistants.

As a result of the quality of Catholic religion instruction in their communities, Chairpersons have inquired how they may be able to support these programs. Councils are working closely in communities with schools to support children and youth by providing school supplies, breakfast and lunch programs, supervision for recess and field trips.

Literacy and Continuing Education

Members have been very supportive of working and assisting others in their communities to improve their literacy and English language skills. Many have been involved with mentoring new immigrants and tutoring them as they learn to speak English and acquire new literacy skills.

Scholarships and Bursaries

Councils fund bursaries and scholarships to high school and mature students financially assisting them in furthering their education. Financial support and donations were provided by Councils to Coady International, the National

Bursary Fund, CCO and NET Ministries. The Marguerite Burns and Alice Eagan Hagen Bursaries are available annually to members. Catholic women can access these funds to further their education and faith formation however many members may not be aware and do not take advantage of this available financial support.

Wellness and Sickness/Disease

All Councils are actively involved in supporting many national health organizations such as Canadian Cancer Society, Heart and Stroke Foundation, Alzheimer Society of Canada, Arthritis Society, Multiple Sclerosis Society, Relay for Life, Kidney Foundation, Canadian Red Cross, Children's Wish Foundation, VON and local hospitals to name a few. Councils provide financial support as well members participate by providing volunteer services in their communities to these organizations.

Local organizations such as foodbanks, Salvation Army, ALS, Terry Fox Run, Hope Cottage are also supported by individual members and Councils. Members from one Council donated blood using the Partner ID in the Canadian Blood Services Partner Program. Many Councils held information sessions with guest speakers who spoke on a wide range of topics on all aspects of health and wellbeing including several from the previous organizations identified.

National Hospice Palliative Care Day was well represented by the Councils reporting. Palliative care and assisted dying are of serious concern for Council members. Councils participated in the "12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care" by arranging for events and prayer services in their Parishes. Councils welcomed and supported members who wanted to share their experience with Palliative care. Palliative care information was available and goodwill offerings were collected and given to local palliative care/hospice facilities.

Many Councils feel that Palliative Care/Hospice Care is a very important issue and want to ensure that the increased awareness and focus remains and is not diminished especially in light of the legislative changes of Bill C-7.

Members are worried about the state of Health Care in the province particularly in light of the number of people with no Family Doctor. The closure of Emergency rooms, hospitals and doctors leaving Nova Scotia are also very important issues. They are also concerned about the need for Long Term Care facilities. These areas are serious priorities for Council members.

Environment

Councils are very concerned about the many issues impacting the future of the environment. Members addressed these issues by recycling, the reuse of material goods and reducing the use of Styrofoam, paper, water, plastic water bottles and bags within their homes and communities.

The CWL Water Pledge Challenge Campaign was very successful with many members. Creative water pledges were submitted by over 2000 members on how to conserve water encouraging family members to get involved. Water quality and use were topics of interest for Councils as Resolutions 2004.07 Water Use in Canada and 2001.04 Water Quality in Canada were reviewed.

Climate change is a concern to all Councils who inform their members on aspects of what important events are scheduled to increase climate change awareness locally and globally. There was active participation by members in the United Nations Water Day, Earth Day and the Earth Action initiative.

Genetics

Councils reported that there was very little activity in this area in 2019. Several Councils rated their knowledge of advantages and disadvantages of technology to alter genes in light of Catholic teaching as good however more research and information is needed by Councils. Councils are not informed of the current issues with bioethics or have subscribed to the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute newsletter.

Other Comments

Councils are doing outstanding work in supporting the Education and Health Standing Committee in their parishes and communities. Members are knowledgeable and very supportive of the many important initiatives undertaken by this Standing Committee.

Councils are satisfied with the information they are receiving however more information in genetics might be useful to Councils.

RoseAnn Heatherington

Nova Scotia Provincial Council Education and Health Annual Report 2020

This Annual Report summarizes the important and informative work carried out by Councils in the Education and Health Standing Committee in 2020. Thank you to the Councils and Chairs of the Education and Health Standing Committees who worked determinedly in the many endeavors they undertook in this Standing Committee despite the challenges of COVID-19. Twenty-Two Councils used the online reporting system to present the activities and initiatives undertaken by Councils. Information collected from the reports show that generally members in this standing committee are from all age groups, approximately 40-50% have been elected into the position and more than 50% were previous chairpersons of the Education and Health Standing Committee.

Catholic Education

Although there is no Catholic religious education teaching in the Nova Scotia school system, Councils are actively involved in many aspects of Catholic education. Members are involved in children and youth centered Catechesis to adult faith formation through various Bible studies and programs offered in their parishes. As a result of the Catholic religion instruction in their faith communities, members have supported these programs. These activities include sacramental development with RCIA and Sacramental preparation in parishes by volunteering as catechists and assistants.

Councils have provided Crosses, Rosary beads and certificates to children receiving the Sacraments of First Communion, Reconciliation and Confirmation. Councils have also supported Steubenville Atlantic which is an annual high school youth conference.

Cathy Petrie was the recipient of the yearly Marian Hepditch-Littlepage Prize. This prize is given by the Nova Scotia Provincial Council to a female Catholic graduate at the Atlantic School of Theology who is chosen by the faculty for her dedication to her faith and involvement in parish activities.

Literacy and Continuing Education

Members have been very supportive of working and assisting others in their communities to improve their literacy and English language skills. Many have been involved with mentoring new immigrants and tutoring them as they learn to speak English and acquire new literacy skills. Unfortunately, with COVID-19, these programs have been cancelled with the onset of the pandemic restrictions, but members look forward to resuming these activities.

Scholarships and Bursaries

Councils fund bursaries and scholarships to high school and university students assisting them financially in furthering their education. Promotional support and financial donations were also provided by Councils to Coady International, the National Bursary Fund, CCO and NET Ministries. Councils have indicated that less than fifty percent have promoted the National Bursary Fund utilizing the newly developed brochure or had members make application to the Fund. The Marguerite Burns and Alice Eagan Hagen Bursaries are available annually to members. Catholic women can access these funds to further their education and faith formation however many members may not be aware and do not take advantage of this financial support. Further promotion is required to assist members in becoming knowledgeable that these resources are available.

Wellness and Sickness/Disease

Many Councils are actively involved in supporting national health organizations such as Canadian Cancer Society, Heart and Stroke Foundation, Alzheimer Society of Canada, Arthritis Society, Multiple Sclerosis Society, Relay for Life, Kidney Foundation, Canadian Red Cross, Children's Wish Foundation, VON and local hospitals to name a few. Members have taken action on resolutions related to Education and Health through letter writing to MLA and MP's. Sample letters were provided to assist with topics of interest.

Councils were encouraged to participate in National Hospice Palliative Care week. Although 47% of the Councils reporting in one Diocese participated, it is felt that many members participated in the 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care personally although it is not reported. Palliative care and assisted dying are of serious concern for Council members. Councils have donated to the new construction of Hospice/Palliative Care facilities.

Many Councils feel that Palliative Care/Hospice Care and assisted dying are very important issues. Members want to ensure that the increased awareness and focus remains and is not diminished especially in light of the proposed legislative changes of Bill C-7. Palliative Care postcards were not distributed in 2020.

Mental health is another area of concern for members. The Mental Health postcard was not well promoted overall in 2020. Further work needs to be done in this area through promotion of individual members especially during these days of COVID-19 restrictions.

Members continued to be worried about the state of Health Care in the province particularly in light of the number of people who still do not have a Family Doctor. COVID-19 has continued to highlight this and other very important issues surrounding Long Term Care facilities. These areas are serious priorities for Council members.

Members continue to maintain their personal health by following Canada's Food Guide and other available online resources.

Environment

Councils continue to participate in the "Care for Our Common Home". Members are very concerned about the many

issues impacting the future of the environment. Members addressed and participated in these issues by plastic reduction, waste cleanup, conserving water and energy. Councils kept the CWL Water Pledge Challenge alive through using less water by utilizing water from dehumidifiers and cooking for watering gardens and plants just to name a few everyday actions. Conserving water and planting trees to commemorate the 100th anniversary of CWL are just a few ways to provide a healthier environment.

Climate change is a concern to all Councils who inform their members on aspects of what important events are scheduled to increase climate change awareness locally and globally such as United Nations Water day, Earth Day and Earth action initiatives.

Genetics

Councils reported that there was very little activity in this area in 2020. Several Councils were aware of the advantages and disadvantages of technology to alter genes in light of Catholic teaching however more research and information is needed by Councils. Although several Councils are informed of the current issues, it was suggested that there be more information on various topics in the League magazine of this very important area. Some Councils follow C.O.L.F. and read the newsletters from the CCCB.

Other Comments

2020 was a difficult year. Councils have indicated that due to COVID-19, they did not meet or participate in many planned activities. Contact was made with members through email however many of our members are senior and do not have computers. Education and Health Chairpersons have affirmed their Council Chairs that even though not much contact was made with members due to COVID-19, members continue to do everything possible to make communities a better place to live for all.

Care for Our Common Home is an ongoing responsibility for all and is demonstrated daily by the commitment and love for God and Canada that all our members live by.

RoseAnn Heatherington

Nova Scotia Provincial Council Legislation Annual Report 2019

Challenges were found again this year with regards to the online annual reports. Statistics showed that the reports from the Antigonish Diocese have dropped 10% from 13/40 (33%) councils reporting in 2018 to 9/40 (23%) in 2019. The Halifax/Yarmouth Diocese remained at 9/33 (27%) councils reporting in both 2018 and 2019. Both Dioceses indicated that approximately 60% of these councils had no Legislation Chairperson. It is encouraging that councils completed the reports and the councils who, with no Legislation Chair, still carried on the work. All of the 9 councils in the Halifax/Yarmouth Diocese who reported, 100% of those in the Legislation Chair, have never held this position previous.

All councils indicated they are aware of who their elected representatives are at the municipal, provincial and federal levels and most receive mailings from these people. Antigonish Diocese rated their knowledge of issues being discussed by these government levels as being very well informed. Approximately 50% of reporting councils

indicated they accessed HANSARD. Unfortunately, with only 18/73 (25%) of councils reporting, this indicates that $\frac{3}{4}$ (75%) of our councils in Nova Scotia are not discussing or acting on federal, provincial or municipal issues. The online annual reports asked the councils' awareness of these specific Federal Bills: Bill C-57: An Act to Amend the Federal Sustainable Development Act, Bill C-75: An Act to Amend the Criminal Code, the Youth Criminal Justice Act and other acts and Bill C-418: Protection of Freedom of Conscience Act. Halifax/Yarmouth Councils indicated approximately 70% of them as having "some knowledge" of these 3 bills and 30% of Antigonish Councils had "some knowledge."

In the Antigonish Diocese, councils reported signing petitions for Bill S-206: Traditional Parenting and Bill C-21: which is a secular law now being applied in Quebec which prevents many government employees from wearing religious symbols. This is not a federal bill but is causing increased controversy and many are calling on the federal government to intervene. Halifax/Yarmouth Diocese acted upon Bill S-228: An Act to Amend the Food & Drug Act, Bill C-14: Medical Assistance in Dying, Bill C-243: An Act Respecting the Development of A National Maternity Assistance Program Strategy and Bill S-240: An Act to Amend the Criminal Code and the Immigration & Refugee Protection Act (trafficking in human organs).

Provincially, each Diocese monitored and/or acted upon different bills that were of interest to them.

While both Dioceses were interested in the Boat Harbor Act, the rest were varied from GST Rebates, Affordable Hearing Aids for seniors, pornography, health care, family doctor shortages and reduction in use of single use plastic bags.

Councils have indicated some of their biggest challenges as chairperson of Legislation is not being familiar with the legal and political terms used in the government websites. Many chairpersons were new to this standing committee and had trouble finding the information needed to keep members informed. Other challenges were: not having chairpersons and a lot of repetition within the committees. Members did feel hopeful that the new strategic plan will address this.

As legislation Chair, I tried to keep both Dioceses as up to date as possible on issues in the Government, especially those which impacted our theme "Care for Our Common Home." All communiques sent out by our National Legislation Chair, Betty Colaneri, were forwarded to both Dioceses and the two communiques I wrote were distributed as well. In my fall 2019 communique, I spoke about the HUGS Project, continuing to support Bill C-262 & Bill C-75. I also indicated the importance of receiving permission to use the organization name, CWL, when letter writing. Resolution 2019.02 was adopted at the 2019 National Convention and fell under the Legislation Committee, so action plans were included to support this. My 2nd communique zeroed in on 3 bills in the House of Commons: Bill 152, 153 & 108. Bill 152 addresses the Plastic Bag Reduction Act and I asked members to write a thank you note to Sobeys Grocery Stores to let them know we appreciate and applaud their ban on plastic bags in their stores. The other action I addressed was in regards to the online survey from the Federal Government regarding changes to the Canadian Euthanasia Law. Members were encouraged to send letters to the Justice Minister and to support a campaign by the Coalition for the Health Care and Conscience.

On their website, www.canadiansforconscience.ca, there is a link to tell your MP that you want them to vote to protect the vulnerable. Any letters sent via these links will automatically be sent to the Premier and Leaders of the Opposition.

These last 2 years have been a whirlwind. In my 25 years as a CWL member, I have never chaired legislation at any level or really become involved in it. I was intimidated by it. I have learned a lot in this position and I hope I was able

to pass some of this on to you, the members. The term had its challenges. Our numbers are decreased with regards to numbers of councils reporting and councils with no Legislation Chairs.

I would like to thank my Diocesan counterparts, Patty Dorian, and Jolene MacLellan, for your reports and doing a wonderful job of keeping your councils up to date on Legislation. I truly believe that with the strategic plan developing, we will again see more members and councils becoming involved and willing to come together and lead “it's members to holiness through service to the people of God.”

“Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies.”

Mother Teresa

Mary ten Brinke

Catholic Women's League of Canada Nova Scotia Provincial Council Legislation Annual Report 2020

Sisters in the League, the year 2020 has certainly been a challenge. With the appearance of COVID-19 and the State of Emergency being declared in Nova Scotia on March 16th, 2020, our world felt like it had come to a standstill. There was certainly some comfort listening to our Premier Stephen McNeil and Chief Medical Officer Dr Robert Strang give daily updates as well as our Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. For the Legislation Standing Committee it was certainly a challenge on several levels. The House of Commons met only as necessary, and the Nova Scotia Legislature was empty for 11 months. Even when these levels met, not all members were allowed to sit. Acting upon bills was a challenge and parishes needed to be creative in making members aware and encouraging them to act upon them.

I received annual reports from both dioceses. The Antigonish Diocese reported 11 out of 39 councils (28%) submitted reports. In these reports, they indicated that out of the 11 councils reporting, 5 did not have a legislation chairperson and 4 of those 5 were appointed. Halifax/Yarmouth Diocese received 5 reports from the 24 councils (21%). With 5 councils reporting, 4 positions were filled and 75% of those filled were appointed.

Both diocese noted that the councils indicated a high degree of awareness of their representatives at the Municipal, Provincial and National levels. Some councils were aware of how to contact these representatives and ways to access current legislative information. Councils were asked about the following bills:

Bill C-7: An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (Medical Assistance in Dying)

Bill C-13: COVID-19 Emergency Response Act

Bill C-14: COVID-19 Emergency Response Act No. 2

Bill C-15: Canada Emergency Student Benefit Act

Bill C-71: An Act to Amend Certain Acts and Regulations in Relation to Firearms

Councils reported a high level of awareness of Bill C-7 and participated in signing petitions relating to the Bill. Councils also suggested that summarizing main points of any new legislation would help to better understand it and therefore enable councils to better communicate this information to parish members.

Some of the challenges councils faced during the year 2020 were:

- Due to COVID-19, meetings were limited.

- Difficulty finding information on bills and researching the facts surrounding them.
- Finding members interested in becoming chairpersons.
- For older members, it is the lack of computer experience which discourages them from joining an executive.
- Difficulty completing annual reports.
- The pandemic itself resulted in the lack of activity at the parish level.

Upon reading these challenges that councils face, it is important for us within the League to reach out to our members and offer assistance to those who need it. Whether it be a shoulder to lean on or helping with computer needs. WE NEED EACH OTHER! No one stands alone. I believe that despite all the hardship that has come with this pandemic, I really feel that some good has come from it as well. We can learn to live with less. It has required us to slow down. Despite, in the beginning, we were unable to celebrate the Eucharist together, parishes came together and used modern technology to allow us to watch mass being celebrated. Whether it was on television with Mass For Shut Ins or on the computer watching daily mass. Where there is a will, there is a way.

I was sure upon writing my annual report for 2019 that it was my last one as my term was to be completed in 2020. Apparently, God felt otherwise. Despite the complications of the pandemic, work was still being done in Legislation. Bill C-7 certainly came to the forefront. I was happy to read that both Dioceses reported awareness and action on this bill. Since writing my annual report for 2019, I sent out 3 communiques from the provincial level and forwarded communications from National. Thank you to Patty Dorian, Halifax/Yarmouth Diocese, and Jolene MacLellan, Antigonish Diocese, for their work as Chairs of Legislation and the wonderful job in keeping parishes up to date on Legislation and their excellent annual reports. This year has been a challenge, but I truly feel “The best is yet to come” and with the strategic planning in place and continuing to evolve, we will start to grow again and lead “it's members to holiness through service to the people of God.”

Mary ten Brinke

Nova Scotia Provincial Council Resolutions Annual Report 2019

Surveys submitted to National Office from the Province of Nova Scotia was based on information received from 21 out of 68 CWL Parish Councils. While the numbers may seem disappointing, it is encouraging to note that 15 of the councils who have reported have a Resolutions Standing Chair. Of the councils reporting only 7 had previous experience in this chair, which indicates members are taking an interest in resolutions.

Most councils reported combining Resolutions and Legislation Standing Committees. Some councils have difficulty filling executive positions which means that some members are filling more than one position. Frequently, Resolution is a difficult chair to fill.

The challenges of this chair appear to be common for all councils in that they cannot find ideas to do a resolution and the research; promoting interest in resolutions; members complacent and not motivated to engage in activity, and last but not least the chair is overwhelming. This is a very important and necessary chair within our councils and mentoring is needed through workshops.

The age of the individuals involved ranged from 18 years to 84, and the number of years in the League ranged from less than 5 years to more than 25 years. Sharing of successes in this chair is very important. The following was shared – placing a moratorium on the licensing of VLT machines; receiving responses from government officials; follow-up and bringing information re: Bill C21 and in general learning more about the politics of our country.

We continue to encourage parish councils to contact all levels of government and they report knowing who their government representatives are at all levels. They indicate they write letters and send postcards in the hope and expectation of a reply.

Common action taken to support adopted resolutions were by writing letters to government officials, signing petitions and newsletters. Two councils reported having attended a resolutions dialogue session at national convention which they indicated the dialogue was well conducted. This is held prior to the actual convention and there were a few changes in 2019 on how resolutions would be presented. This is a learning experience for resolution chairs and many workshops are being held. Letters, e-mail and newsletters were written too provincial and/or federal members in support of resolutions that were adopted. As well petitions were signed and forwarded to federal and provincial members in support of adopted resolutions. Letter writing sessions were held to address the issue(s) locally. The Child Pornography petition and the Water Challenge Pledge forum were signed.

Conventions are a vital component of our organization, and it is encouraging to see that over 50% have attended a national convention as well as attending provincial and diocesan conventions. Further to this 100% rely on communiques where an abundance of material can be found. Councils indicated that communiques from all levels of the League are appreciated and used.

Issues of importance were abortion, assisted dying and Canada's commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Action on these issues were taken by some councils.

Councils in Nova Scotia continue to work hard ensuring that their voices are heard in Government.

Liz Doyle

Nova Scotia Provincial Council Resolutions Annual Report 2020

It has been a very different year for our sisters in the league with Covid-19 restrictions in place. We miss celebrating with our family and friends, but we have done an excellent job of following all the guidelines outlined by public health.

Survey Analysis

In the Province of Nova Scotia, we have 64 CWL parish councils. Due to the covid -19 restrictions or the parish council resolution chair vacant, we received 19 replies. In many cases the parish councils combine Resolutions and Legislation together.

Resolutions – Parish councils

This chair is usually filled by appointments and parish councils have advised that it is difficult to generate interest in resolutions. Ideas have been brought forward by chairs, but no one interested in forming a committee to work on idea.

No resolutions will be presented at the combination 2020 and 2021 National annual general meetings. They will be deferred to 2022.

Archived Resolutions

A list of all archived resolutions can be found at <https://cwl.ca/archived/>. Now that these resolutions are archived, a council at any level can write a new resolution on the topic. If the information is available, the provincial council that gifted the resolutions will be given the opportunity to update the information by writing a new resolution on the same topic. This will not preclude others from researching and writing a resolution on the topic. [National Resolution Chair Communique].

Resolution 2003.01 – Affordable Housing for low-income Canadians submitted by BC & Yukon Provincial Council.
Action: Encourage provincial and diocesan councils to urge provincial and municipal governments to further increase funding for adequate affordable housing.

This would be an excellent project for our parish councils in Nova Scotia as many cannot afford a proper housing. Have your parish councils write letters to the provincial government representative in your area encouraging them to increase funding for the low-income and homeless citizens.

Conclusion

The covid pandemic has not stopped many parish councils from coming together as they became accustomed to zoom along with email. Also, many parish councils have reached out by telephone to members who are alone and frightened. We will see the light at the end of the tunnel and return to our regular monthly meetings and socials if we continue to follow the public health directives.

Liz Doyle

Antigonish Diocesan Council President Annual Report 2019

of councils reporting: 27 of 40

Sincere thanks to the 27 Parish Presidents who completed the annual reports (67.5% participated) All 27 councils reported that they have a President chair.

Of these Presidents 20 held this position in the past, and 7 are new.

13 have been League members for over 25 years, and 5 are fairly new with 6 to 10 years of League membership. Age groups for these presidents are: 65-74 (15), 55-64 (6), 45-54 (3) and 75-84 (3)

The top 4 resources reported as being used for sources of information are: The League Magazine (24), Diocesan Newsletters (21), Parish Bulletins (21) and National Communiques (20).

Close to 90% of Parish Councils have acted on the League theme Care for Our Common Home ; that is awesome!! They reported holding meetings, covering materials under various standing committee chairs, newsletters and inviting guest speakers.

The top resources being used by Presidents to help preside over meetings are: Council P&P (19), Constitution & Bylaws (18), Roberts Rules of Order (16), Executive Handbook (14) and National P&P (11). Regarding Council P&P manuals, 14 do not have one specific to their council, and 4 expressed that assistance to create one would be welcomed (let Diocesan know, if you want help, there is no way for us to know which councils requested help). Some of the New Policies Developed that were mentioned in the survey were: Paying dues for members over 80, financial support for students to attend Steubenville Conference, donations to funerals, hospitals, local fundraisers, gifts for

departing Presidents and gifts to Spiritual Advisors along with updating meeting policies.

Almost all Presidents who participated in this survey have read the Executive Handbook to help them better understand the duties for all executive chairs. 80% of them felt that this document was a good help. Over 75% of council Presidents provide a summary of events to members about activities the council took part in.

25 of the 27 Presidents who participated in the survey reported they are a signing officer for cheques that are issued. The expenses to attend Diocesan & Provincial Conventions are covered by their council, for most Presidents. 3 reported that they are given financial support to attend National Conventions.

20 Parish Presidents said their Spiritual Advisor is invited to attend the monthly council meeting, 25 feel they are supported by their Spiritual Advisor, and 2 reported that they feel the Spiritual Advisor is too

busy, and not interested enough to attend. Presidents expressed that they feel very well supported by the Past President, current and former executive members, life members, and personal mentors.

All positions face challenges, for the President, it is especially difficult when all executive positions are not filled, recruiting and maintaining members (everyone's job in my opinion), addressing issues in a timely fashion, having enough time to get the work done, and getting new people to help with events and projects. Councils with aging members struggle to do what they used to do, and with changing the way they do things. It appears that the biggest challenges filling out the online 2019-year end survey were accessing the survey, getting the link to open and members not being familiar or comfortable with the use of computers, but they dug in and got it done, together!!

The top 4 current National priorities that were introduced & discussed were:

Theme Care for Our Common Home (23), Removing Summer Job Program Attestation (19), Rights of the Pre-Born (15) and Medical Assistance in Dying, Palliative/Hospice Care also (15)

Councils are VERY active and are WILLING to help whenever they can in their church, community, Diocese, Province, Country, and entire world. Many councils are participating in strategic planning surveys, some support expectant mothers, help Monastery Retreat Centre and Renewal Centers.

Councils strive to keep informed about Health Care Issues and work tirelessly to promote the League with membership drives. Most recognize members with service pins, acknowledging years of dedicated service and certificate of Merit presentations for outstanding leadership and special projects.

Most councils continue to discuss current and past resolutions, human trafficking, pornography and share ways to Care for Our Common Home. One council reported that they installed AEDs (defibrillators) in their church & hall. All councils hold fundraising events and support charity, hospital, parish and community fundraisers.

The most proud section of the survey was the best!! Presidents express they are supported, that members work very well together, and that the CWL is a force in the parish for change and improvements! Other words that stood out were family, friendship, community work, co-operation and always there to help, proud to be a member of such a hard-working group of dedicated women!

Final thoughts

WOW, do I ever feel proud to be part of such an amazing group of Presidents! I must admit, reviewing and summarizing the survey results was a lot of work, but work that was well worth it!! It is amazing how councils, big and small, young and old, work together, for God and Canada. We are all working on projects and events that are changing the lives of so many people!! Being a member of the Catholic Women's da has been life changing for me!!

Belonging to this organization is a Gift, one that should be shared and celebrated. I look forward to meeting, working/caring together, and sharing our love of the League, with each of you. Let us pray for courage, to face the future with confidence, and to be ready, willing and able to embrace the changes, that are needed, for the League to continue for the next 100 years!! Our Lady of Good Council ~ Pray For Us!

Janice MacDougall

Antigonish Diocesan Council President's Annual Report 2020

Annual Report: 2020 # of councils reporting: 23 of 39.

Sincere thanks to the 23 Parish Presidents who completed the annual reports (60 % participated) All of the 23 councils who participated in this survey reported that they have a president chair.

Thanks to each of you for saying yes, for your service & your dedication!! Of these:

- 13 presidents have held this position in the past.
- 10 are new to the role of president.
- 8 have been League members for over 25 years.
- 4 have 11-15 years of service in the League.
- 2 are 16-20 years members.
- 2 have 21-25 years of membership in the League.
- 1 president is very new to the League with 1-5 years of membership.

Age groups for the 23 presidents who participated are: 65-74 (10), 55-64 (7), 45-54 (4) and 75-84 (2)

The top resources reported as being used for sources of information are: National Communiques (18), Diocesan Newsletters (17), Provincial & Diocesan Websites (17), The Canadian League Magazine (17), National Website (16) and Parish Bulletins (13).

Close to 73% of Parish Councils have acted on the League theme "Care for Our Common Home"; which is excellent, especially considering the arrival of COVID-19 & the necessary health restrictions! They reported regular meetings were held in January, February and March, prior to gathering limitations and lockdowns taking effect. Fourteen of the 23 councils discussed or acted on the "exclusion of medically assisted dying in palliative care/hospice facilities. Six councils discussed and or acted on the rights of the unborn child, under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The top resources being used by Presidents to help preside over meetings are: Council P&P (13), Constitution & Bylaws (12), Executive Handbook (12), Roberts Rules of Order (10), and National P&P (7). One council reported that they depend on the experience of members and past presidents. Of the 23 councils who participated in the survey, only 5 do not have a parish policy & procedure manual. If your council would like assistance in preparing one, PLEASE reach out to the Diocesan Executive for help!

19 of the 23 presidents who participated in the survey reported they are a signing officer for cheques that are issued. The expenses to attend Diocesan & Provincial Conventions are covered by their council, for most Presidents. 18 of the

23 presidents provide the council membership with an annual summary of activities to the members by way of oral report, email and or newsletter.

Over half of the parish presidents said their Spiritual Advisor is invited, and attends the monthly council meeting, 21 of the 23 feel they are supported by their Spiritual Advisor. One parish is currently without a priest. Presidents expressed that they feel very well supported by the Past President, current and former executive members, life members, and personal mentors.

All positions face challenges, for the President, many cited issues with technology, trying to keep members interested, not having a full executive, feeling overwhelmed and undertrained, amount of paper work, meeting expectations and recruiting as the top challenges. COVID-19 certainly threw a wrench into the plans for 2020! Without regular meetings, church services, conventions and gatherings, parish presidents and their executive tried to be creative in thinking about ways to keep connected with members. They concentrated on what “could” be done instead of what “couldn’t” be done. Most presidents reported that completing the survey was easier than in previous years! A couple women struggle with members not being open to changing the way things have always been done, and unwilling to support change. Let’s pray that all members will support change, because change is good, and it is coming as the League strives to make changes at levels. Many councils prayed together but apart, phoned each other, wrote cards and dropped off notes of encouragement, offered help to others and reached out just to say hello!!

When asked if the national theme and or logo was helpful, 18 of the 23 presidents said yes, it gives the parish council a focus point. When asked if the national theme should be changed every two years, 90% of presidents responded favorably, with only 10% expressing it is not a good idea.

Now for the “most proud” and “best” section of this survey!!

Presidents are amazed at the togetherness, cooperation, dedication, support, encouragement and the number of projects that were able to be accomplished, despite COVID-19!! They reported that members continue to work very well together, that CWL is a gift to the parish and community, and they are really missing the members in their councils! Some were delighted that they were able to do some of the projects they always did or make changes and did something COVID friendly! CWL sisters are like family to many! As diocesan president, my heart is overflowing with JOY!

Final thoughts

Preparing this report, has been a blessing and an eye opener ~ together, but apart, our members continued to work for God and Canada, while respecting the restrictions required to keep our province and country safe! To say I am a very proud Diocesan President, is an understatement. Like last year, reviewing the many pages (17) was daunting, but informative. The cancellation of meetings, events and conventions at all levels was sad but necessary. It makes me think that CWL and life, as we knew it, will be a source of fond memories, as we move forward, aware that some of the changes we faced in 2020, will be our new normal. I look forward to continuing to “Care for Our Common Home” while “Caring For Each Other”.

The Diocese of Antigonish is blessed with each and every CWL member ~ Let’s continue to help build the League, by inviting all women, 16 and over, to “come care with us” ~ Our Lady of Good Council ~ Pray For Us!

Janice MacDougall

Halifax-Yarmouth Diocesan Council
President's Annual Report
2019

This report is compiled on the basis of the 18 Parish Council Presidents who completed the questionnaire. The level of reporting has remained steady as both 2018 and 2017 saw 18 reports. Although we would like to see more completed questionnaire, we appreciate the presidents who complete these reports as they provide a good picture of what councils can and do accomplish.

The Canadian League, containing information of interesting and important issues; national, provincial, and diocesan council websites and communiqués; and parish bulletins are sources of information for CWL members. Other sources used are local newspapers, Catholic organizations such as Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Organization for Life and Family as well as the Archdiocesan website. Online searches using Google are helpful, as are media such as magazines and tv. Most presidents have read the Executive Handbook and understand the duties of the executive officers; the Handbook has helped these presidents in overseeing the operations of the councils.

Depending on the area and circumstances, councils usually meet on a monthly basis but there are some exceptions. In various areas, it is difficult to have members meet together so. A variety of resources are used to make their meetings interesting and informative. Council presidents continue to look to the Constitution & Bylaws; the Executive Handbook; National and council Manuals of Policy and Procedure, ensuring they follow CWL policies. They also use Roberts Rules of Order and parliamentary procedures.

Most spiritual advisors support our councils and attend the regular meetings, although some are spiritual advisors in name only. Spiritual advisors meet with their councils monthly (8), less than monthly (7), annually (2), and never (1); spiritual advisors can serve a number of parishes, have duties outside the parish, need to travel long distances to meeting, and continuing the tradition of the spiritual advisor not attending meetings.

The majority of councils have discussed/acted upon the national priorities of Care for Our Common Home, excluding MAID from palliative care and hospice facilities, and removing Canada Summer Jobs program attestation. To a lesser extent, councils have at least discussed rights of the pre-born under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, establishing standards of testing and labelling for products deemed "flushable", and Canada's support for the Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Councils have arranged speakers for their members on these topics or used information given by the committee chair.

Council presidents sign many documents on behalf of their councils: banking documents, letters directed inside and outside the CWL, and petitions. The most important documents presidents sign are cheques.

Presidents represent their councils at Provincial and Diocesan meetings and conventions and at community events: Remembrance Day services, school ceremonies, community fundraisers; they "show the pin" at church and parish functions: special masses, anniversaries, sacramental events, conferences, World Day of Prayer, fundraising events and dinners, workshops, and retreats. Council presidents have also attended national conventions, pro-life events, and meetings with politicians. They speak on behalf of their members on issues that the CWL supports: Care for Our Common Home; palliative care and medical assistance in dying; a workshop on Kindness; World Day of Prayer; and to raise awareness of the CWL and to recruit new members with emphasis on service to our members and parish and fellowship amongst our members. The president also represents the Council in written correspondence; most use League letterhead and mostly do 4.

not refer to membership numbers in their letters. Occasionally, they do refer to membership number in their letters—sometimes council membership only; other times broader membership [nationally, provincially].

Councils offer different levels of subsidizing for attendance at conferences: fully subsidized 39%, half subsidized 17%; attendance at fundraising dinners and events: full subsidized 22%; attendance at workshops: fully subsidized 39%, half subsidized 6%; attendance at diocesan convention: fully subsidized 78%, half subsidized 6%; attendance at provincial convention: fully subsidized 61%, half subsidized 11%; attendance at national convention: fully subsidized 11%, half subsidized 6%.

Two-thirds of councils answering the survey had a council policy manual; some of these councils developed new policies this year concerning: (1) annual automatic donations to four charities, (2) donations and conventions, and (3) distribution of charity funds. The other third of the responding councils did not have such a manual; one-third of these councils thought it would not be helpful to have a policy manual. All the councils that did not have a manual thought they would not need assistance in developing a council policy manual.

More than half the presidents who answered the survey provided an annual summary of her council's activities to all members by oral report, by written report, by email, by newsletter, in parish bulletin.

Councils have several committees other than the regular standing committees: annual events such as teas and bazaars; scholarship or bursary; visitation; funeral lunches; fundraising; donations; catering; policy; and social events. The presidents continue to speak on behalf of their CWL councils on membership, conscience rights of healthcare professionals, palliative care, mental health, and social events.

The greatest assistance to new presidents is provided by the Immediate past president and former past presidents. The council's treasurer and secretary, and the current executive also provide great support to a new president, as do life members, provincial and diocesan presidents, and personal mentors.

The greatest challenges presidents faced as they transitioned into their role as president were: not having a full slate of officers; keeping members interested; recruiting; delegation; resistance to new ideas; member criticism; member conflict; amount of paperwork; meeting expectations; technology; tedious policies and procedures; the policy & procedures, constitution & bylaws being challenged by some members over and over; feeling overwhelmed; inexperience; feeling untrained; finding the time; trying to please everyone; public speaking; running meetings; lack of confidence.

The presidents who responded to the survey had been members of the CWL for: less than 5 years [1], more than 5 years less than 16 [6], more than 15 less than 25 [2]; nine were first time presidents and nine had previously held the position; the youngest presidents were over 45 but under 55 years of age [2], the oldest were over 75 but under 85 [3], the others were between 55 and 74 [12].

I was encouraged as I read the various comments from the parish presidents praising their councils for how well they all work together and share their responsibilities. They continue to work hard for God and the church; we have many talented and committed members within our CWL parish councils. Our successes outweigh our struggles.

This concludes my report.

Janet Terrio

Halifax-Yarmouth Diocesan Council President Annual Report 2020

“Amalgamated” parishes did not arrive in 2019/2020.

Of the 10 Presidents who submitted reports, two councils were formed in prior years when their parishes amalgamated and six belong to recently clustered parishes. The other two councils indicated that they were not part of an amalgamated/clustered parish.

A majority of the presidents have held this position previously and the years of active membership in the League ranged from under 5 to more than 20. The age range was also broad, the youngest at least 45 and the oldest at least 75.

National publications—communiqués, The Canadian League, website— are the primary source of information presidents pass onto their members. Provincial websites or newsletters, Diocesan websites or newsletters, and the parish bulletins are major sources, as well newspapers, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Organization for Life and Family, and Google searches.

Presidents reported that the national priorities of Care for Our Common Home and Excluding medical assistance in dying from palliative care/hospice facilities were widely shared. These topics were introduced at meetings, sometimes by the standing committee chair or a guest speaker.

Each council has a Spiritual Advisor; all presidents reported that their spiritual advisor supported the League and most met regularly with their council.

Most presidents continued to use the council’s policy and procedure manual and the Constitution & Bylaws to preside at meetings. Other resources used are Executive Handbook, Robert’s Rules of Order and Parliamentary Procedure, and National Manual of Policy and Procedure. As president they have signed, on behalf of their councils, letters directed within and outside the CWL, and petitions, as well as the expected banking documents and cheques.

The list of events at which presidents represent their council are many, encompassing church functions and sacramental events, special masses and World Day of Prayer, Diocesan and Provincial meetings and conventions, workshops and conferences and retreats, community events, and Remembrance Day services.

Most councils have a parish policy manual, although they were not revised this year. Those that do not have a policy manual agree that it would be helpful and indicated that their councils would need assistance in developing one. All presidents have read the Executive Handbook and use it in directing the operations of their council. Presidents use oral and written reports, email, and newsletters to provide an annual summary of the council’s activities to all members.

All councils have standing committees; most has other committees for annual teas/bazaars/fairs, to provide funeral lunches or scholarships/bursaries, to organize social events, fundraising, policy, catering, donations, visitations. Due to Covid-19, some presidents did not have the opportunity to speak on behalf of their councils this year and others had significantly less opportunity to speak on behalf of their councils.

Presidents faced many challenges when moving into this role. Many felt overwhelmed, undertrained, or inexperienced. Running meetings, recruiting, or meeting expectations were challenging for many presidents. Other challenges presidents faced were not having a full slate of officers, public speaking, technology, and/or delegation.

Many presidents felt challenged to keep members interested and to deal with the resistance to new ideas and with the expectation of pleasing everyone.

All presidents reported assistance when assuming the role from former and immediate past president, treasurer, secretary, current executive, life members, provincial and diocesan president. No president had a personal mentor.

Most presidents found the national theme/logo useful in focusing their council activities and were supportive of the practice of each new national president changing to a new theme.

Presidents listed the following as the things about which they are most proud of their councils:

- ✓ Faithful, dedicated women; many are volunteers (before covid-19) at local nursing home and foodbank.
- ✓ telecare group that keeps in touch via telephone with elders who are homebound.
- ✓ Support and dedication of our members; their generosity to council projects.
- ✓ Willingness to serve the greater community; Prayerfulness; Supportiveness among members for each other.
- ✓ Members have good input and thoughts, camaraderie of the members.
- ✓ Supportive, Knowledgeable, Generous.
- ✓ The extraordinary help I have for any request I make to my members; The amount they take on within the parish and the 110% effort they put into anything they are asked to do.
- ✓ Generosity of time, energy and kindness of members
- ✓ I am most proud of the council members who make themselves available whenever and for whatever they are needed. Due to the Covid Pandemic this year it has been challenging and difficult not being able to have our meetings, our fund raisers and attend retreats and conventions. Not being able to pro
- ✓ our community support, the members generosity, the members prayerfulness, the sisterhood of our council

Presidents reported their biggest challenges as president and how to address these challenges:

- Not having chairs for all standing committees.
- Increasing membership; we will keep inviting women of the parish to join, through the parish website and especially personally.
- Inexperience, continuing to learn within the role; mentorship from experienced members is important for support in the role.
- Concern that members may be in need, since due to COVID we unable to gather as a council and only a few members can do zoom, etc. as many members are older and do not have internet; I keep in touch once a week.
- Getting younger women in our parish interested in the CWL.
- Biggest challenge as president is to be informed on all aspects of the League. Best way to keep informed is through experience of members and also the available resources through website, communiques, and Canadian League magazine.
- Right now, due to Covid, keeping members engaged and of course recruitment I don't feel that recruiting young members is really possible-they are not interested-but any age recruitment is essential to our council's viability- sometimes older ladies have as much or more to offer our league!

This concludes my report.

Janet Terrio

Catholic Women's League of Canada
Nova Scotia Provincial Council
72nd and 73rd Annual Meeting of Members
July 10th, 2021 – Video conference Sessions.

Registration and Credential Report

Annual Meeting of Members	2020	2021
Number of Voting Delegates* (a)	_____	_____
Number of Accredited Delegates** (b)	_____	_____
Total number of Delegates (a + b)	_____	_____

Registration Report (to be completed to both Annual Meetings of Members)

National Executive	_____	_____
Diocesan Executive	_____	_____
Provincial Executive	_____	_____
Voting Delegates	_____	_____
Accredited Delegates	_____	_____
Honorary Life Members	_____	_____
Life Members	_____	_____
CWL Members	_____	_____
Bishops	_____	_____
Provincial Spiritual Advisor	_____	_____
Diocesan Spiritual Advisor	_____	_____
Parish Spiritual Advisor	_____	_____
Visiting Clergy	_____	_____
Guests	_____	_____
Total Registered	_____	_____
Total Number of Councils Represented	_____	_____