

Nova Scotia Provincial Convention

June 2017

Education & Health Oral Report

Since becoming a member of the CWL, I have had the opportunity to meet and learn from many hard working and dedicated women at all levels of this organization. Serving as Education and Health Chair for Nova Scotia Provincial has further opened my eyes to the very necessary work being done in these very important areas on behalf of all Canadians.

This report is reflective of a compilation of reports using the newly formatted online report process and reported by both the Antigonish and Halifax-Yarmouth Diocesan Education and Health Chairpersons.

Education

The 2017 Provincial Marion Hepditch-Littlepage prize was presented to Trudy Comeau, a graduate of The New Evangelization program at the Atlantic School of Theology (AST). The presentation was made by Life Member, Theresa Duann. A motion to raise the amount of this award from \$200.00 to \$500.00 was adopted at the 69th Provincial Convention held at St Vincent de Paul in Dartmouth June 2017.

The Halifax-Yarmouth Diocesan Alice Eagan Hagan scholarship in the amount of \$500.00 was presented to Cassandra Armsworthy, Treasurer for Immaculate Conception Truro Council.

Antigonish Diocesan presented two \$500.00 dollar scholarships; one to a student at St. Francis Xavier and the other, to a student at University of Cape Breton. Note: Unable to secure the names of the recipients before this report timeline).

Health

At the National level Education & Health Chair Fran Lucas, keeps us informed and suggests ways by which we can heighten our awareness around issues such as Hospice & Palliative Care, clearer and more defined food labelling to include the nutritional and percentage value content as well as the need to revise and date the Canada Food Guide on a regular basis that would reflect pertinent changes to this guiding principle as they become available.

Communique # 4 by National Chair Fran Lucas, stresses the need of awareness to ever-increasing childhood obesity levels in Canada that lead to heart disease, stroke,

diabetes, high blood pressure, depression and other serious health problems; she directs us to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada's very well researched report entitled **'The Kids are not Alright'**. The focus of which includes advertising and marketing to target young adults leading to an increased consumption of processed and ultra-processed foods, sugary drinks and other unhealthy items high in fat, sugar or salt. Provinces, councils, and members who may wish to promote further awareness can refer to the website [www.heartandstroke.ca/what-can-we-do/media-centre/report on health](http://www.heartandstroke.ca/what-can-we-do/media-centre/report-on-health).

With the passing of Bill C-14 (Legalizing of Medically Assisted Dying) in Canada, members are encouraged by the **Euthanasia Prevention Coalition**, to write in support of Bill C-268 a Private Member's Bill that would in effect, provide protection of freedom of conscience for physicians and clinicians; who, for reason of conscience or religious beliefs opposed the directive; to take part in, or refer patients requesting medically assisted dying, thereby being mandated to go against the oath they undertook "to do no harm".

At the parish, diocesan, and provincial levels; members have and continue to diligently prepared and adopted resolutions to promote and change the delivery of our health care system to include among others, more and earlier access to mental health professionals for young people and access to dental care for the underprivileged and senior populace.

"Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call"; I consider myself privileged to be counted among them.

This concludes my report,

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Mellish