

**72<sup>th</sup> Nova Scotia Provincial Convention**  
**Oral Report**  
**Communications Committee**  
**June 2019**

Reverend Clergy, Madam President, members of the League:

The annual report for 2018 is in the convention booklet.

It is difficult to believe that a year has passed since my acceptance of this Communications Committee and new responsibilities were learned especially in a working and practical knowledge of the website with a few errors. Thanks for the patience of the Diocesan chairpersons from Antigonish and Halifax-Yarmouth and this includes Earlene Landry from Antigonish Diocese, Janet Terrio who took over the reins of the committee for Halifax-Yarmouth until Barbara MacDonald-Sullivan was appointed. These ladies distributed the communiques from Doreen Gowans, National Communications Chair to their respective parish councils in a quick and efficient manner.

Some items in the Doreen Gowans' National communiques need to be emphasized and these are noted as follows:

- **Discontinuation of the 1-888 toll free number.** At the winter meeting of the national executive/board, it was decided that the 1-888 telephone will be discontinued, effective June 30, 2019. National office staff is informing members who call to follow the Communications Policy: Briefly, members should contact National via email for matters of administration (orders, membership, On the Spot). For others matters (policy, procedure, programs, actions, concerns), members should first communicate with the respective parish council executive member. If the matter needs to be taken to either diocesan, provincial or national level, then the parish, diocesan or provincial executive member will represent the concern to the next level. Although it may appear to be additional work, the opposite will happen. It will enable presidents to keep informed of information requested at the various levels and then take action to educate the members in a communique or host a workshop on the issue. In so doing, all members are kept informed on the various issues arising in the councils across Canada.
- [quoting from Doreen Gowans communique #4, March 19, 2019] **“Plagiarism** as defined in the Oxford English Dictionary is “the practice of taking someone else’s work or ideas and passing them off as one’s own”. In today’s world of technology, it is easy to use Google to find a quote and use it. However, members **MUST** always identify the author. This also holds true with the work of members and spiritual advisors. When quoting from other members we must identify it by stating ‘in Mrs. Smith’s communique’, or as stated ‘on the Vatican website’, then we are able to quote the information in our written or oral reports. When direct quotes are used in your written work and being sent to someone on another level of the League, copy the direct quote and include it as an attachment with your report, so others have the actual wording of the quote. For example, when I use quotes in my articles for the magazine, I include a copy of the quote when I send my article to national office, so they can verify the wording I’ve used is accurate. This is a time saver for the staff as they not only have to verify every quote in the articles, but also do selective testing of word groupings to show the selection is not a quote from another author.”

**Pornography Postcards** Last fall with her Communique # 2, National Communications Chair, Doreen Gowans announced a new postcard from the B.C. & Yukon Provincial Council which incorporates Resolution 2017.02 Mandatory Age Verification Mechanisms for Adult Pornographic Websites. The fulltext of the resolution can be located on the National websites under Resolutions

along with the postcard. Encourage members, friends and parishioner to send the postcards, no postage required, to the prime minister, members of parliament and the federal minister of justice requesting legislation be created to ensure websites verify the age of the users. If you include a question on the postcard as well as placing the post card in an envelope, the envelope is registered by the government department and they need to acknowledge it with a reply. In a quick google search, websites showing adult content will have to verify that UK visitors are over 18 or face being blocked in the UK, the British government announced today (April 17, 2019). The new mandatory age-checks for UK users will come into effect on July 15, later this year, making the UK the first country in the world where such age-checks will become mandatory.

In closing, I wish to show a quick video of how communication can be a hindrance with modern technology, mainly the smartphone. This video clip was forwarded to me by Doreen Gowans and



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May our Lady of Good Counsel bless each of us as we walk each day in the footsteps of her Son, Jesus.

Here ends my report,

Ann Myers

NS Communications Chair