



Nova Scotia Provincial Council
Catholic Women's League of Canada
Organization Communiqué #1
One Heart, One Voice, One Mission
(Together We Serve)

To: Diocesan Counterparts (*For distribution to all parish councils*)
From: Glenda Carson, Nova Scotia Provincial Organization Chairperson
Date: October 20, 2016
Copied: Provincial President, Peggy MacNeil and Executive (for information)
National Chairperson, Anne Gorman (for information)

My dear sisters in the League,

It is a true privilege to be able to serve as the provincial organization chair for the next two years. I will do my very best to keep you updated on information and to support you, as needed, in initiatives around leadership development.

Annual reports: The annual report process is changing for the 2016 reporting year. Instead of the traditional approach with Provincial councils distributing the report forms through the Diocesan councils to the parishes, the forms will come from the National Office to the parishes as part of their fall mail out. This will occur late October, early November. Once the forms are completed, the parish councils will send them back to the National office. The parish council information will be collated and forwarded to the Diocesan councils. The Diocesan chairs will then put together their annual reports with a copy going to their respective provincial committee chairs, as has been done in the past. The goal of the new process is to try to have a more streamlined process to gather the very important information found in the annual reports.

Membership leadership development: The 2016 membership year closed at the end of August and memberships are now being renewed for 2017. It is always important to work at recruiting new members. However, this time of membership renewal should also be a point of reflection on how well we are connecting with our current councils and members. It should be a time of taking stock: What is good about how we function as an organization that keeps members renewing their membership? On the other side of the spectrum, what are barriers that stop them from renewing or not fully participating as an active member?

Many times the barriers to retain some members are beyond our ability to resolve, such as health concerns. However, for others, a little rejuvenation in their relationship with the League may be what they need to stay connected and active within our councils. Learning new information and reflecting on what attracted a person to the CWL in the first place can help to revitalize or maintain their passion and interest. Resources, such as the S'Mores program are available for parish councils to use for membership development. Funding to help offset council and member costs for educational events is available through the National Development fund. The criteria and forms are available on the national cwl website: <http://cwl.ca/resources/>

Life Membership and Member Recognition. Congratulations to our newest life members in our province: Ann Myers, Joline Belliveau, Peggy MacNeil, Toosje Van de Sande and Shirley Campbell.

Changes to the Life Membership nomination and approval procedure have been made but the life membership criteria remain the same. For the new life membership nomination process, a notice of nomination must be forwarded to the National Office by September 15th. Completed nomination forms and life member nominee questionnaires are to be forwarded to the National office by December 15th. The forms and more information on the criteria and process are found on the National website at: <http://cwl.ca/resources/forms/>.

The dedication and active involvement of all our members in the League is significant to the success of the CWL. For members, who may not meet the criteria for Life Members, there are other meaningful and significant ways of honouring members for their dedication to the League, including the Maple Leaf Service Pin, the Bellelle Guerin Award and Pin, and Certificates of Merit. Many councils incorporate the presentation of service awards with a special gathering or as part of their council Christmas dinners and end of the year celebrations, giving a special feeling of recognition and celebration.