



Nova Scotia Provincial Council
Catholic Women's League of Canada
Education and Health Communique # 2
Care for Our Common Home

To: Earlene Landry, Antigonish Diocesan Education and Health Chairperson, Jeanette Lidstone, Halifax-Yarmouth Diocesan Education and Health Chairperson
(For distribution to all parish councils)

From: RoseAnn Hetherington, Nova Scotia Provincial Chairperson, Education and Health

Date: September 19, 2019

Copied: Provincial President, Glenda Carson and Executive (for information)
National Chairperson, Faith Anderson (for information)

Greetings to all after a beautiful summer and welcome as we prepare for an informative and interesting year ahead.

National Chairperson Faith Anderson has provided important and timely initiatives in her Communiques posted on the National CWL website. Some of the highlights are as follows:

The World Union of Catholic Organizations (WUWCO), has requested the League's support for their "Earth Action Initiative". Delegates adopted a resolution resulting in a Call to Action developed for a worldwide cleanup day on any Saturday in September. WUWCO has suggested circulating a poster among groups of all denominations and schools encouraging them to organize a cleanup project or event. The link is <https://cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Earth-Action-Initiative-Poster.pdf>. Parish Councils are invited to participate in this Call to Action by selecting one day to organize an event.

Global Climate Strike: Take action September 20-27, 2019

Swedish student Greta Thunberg began the "#FridaysforFuture" movement on August 2018. The first climate strike in solidarity with Greta happened in Canada on Friday, November 2, 2018. There were 98 strikes for Canada's national strike on Friday, May 3, 2019 and 104 events across Canada on the May 24th strike. Support and demands for climate change action are being called for around the world by youth and adults together during the week of September 20-27. Greta's passionate and committed call to action can be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/350.org/videos/427395381195077/>. Information can also be found on fridaysforfuture.ca.

Hundreds rally in Halifax to support the worldwide climate protests. See Chronicle Herald, Saturday September 21, page 6 or online, <https://chronicleherald.ca> for further information.

The Nova Scotia Government is developing new legislation to replace the goals of the current Environmental Goals and Sustainable Property Act (EGPSA) passed in 2007. Nova Scotia has no legislated climate and environmental goals past 2020. The legislation and regulations are based on the following five areas: cleaner energy, climate change Mitigation and adaptation, circular economy and leadership in sustainable prosperity. Nova Scotians are being asked to share their thoughts on the proposed changes. Please see novascotia.ca for further information on how we as Nova Scotians can participate and provide our input. See <https://novascotia.ca/sustainable-prosperity-act-consultation/>.

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

Pope Francis proclaimed September 1st an annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. Inspired by the encyclical “Laudato Si, the Global Catholic Climate Movement invites Catholics to celebrate the “Season of Creation” worldwide. The season begins September 1 and ends October 4th on the feast of St Francis of Assisi. Pope Francis’, “A Christian Prayer in Union with Creation” is available at <https://www.shcj.org/european/world-day-of-prayer-for-the-care-of-creation-is-sept-1/>. The Season of Creation Celebration Guide – 2019 Theme: Web of Life can be accessed at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YgVEfLPOmzWM3nwZP6QanznX19yZ8Ktw> <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YgVEfLPOmzWM3nwZP6QanznX19yZ8Ktw/view/view>.

A guide to “Laudato Si”, the Encyclical Letter written by Pope Francis, has been published by Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. This guide, On care for our common home: A dialogue guide for Laudato Si, provides a great resource to engage in the discussions Pope Francis is calling for.

Canadian Blood Services – Partners for Life

The League is a proud supporter of the Canadian Blood Services Partners for Life program. Donating blood saves lives! Councils can register under the Partners for Life program and donate a specific number of donations each year. There are 115 Partners in Atlantic Canada who have pledged 4,833 donations and have donated 2,959 units of blood so far, this year. Councils can register under the League’s unique partner ID (Cath011269). Encourage your Diocesan Council members and Parish Councils to sign to sign up as teams to add our pledged donations and units of blood donations to those in Atlantic Canada. See blood.ca/joinpartnersforlife.ca for further information.

National Bursary

Congratulations to Cathy Targett, Halifax who is a recipient of the 2019 National Bursary. The National Bursary fund is used to provide financial assistance to ten of the twelve applications pursuing studies, courses or diploma/degree programs related to adult faith formation, youth ministry, ministries in palliative care and shut ins. As a result of the donations (\$9,813.81) received, more members are being

supported. Please encourage councils to consider contributing to the bursary fund. Information and bursary applications are available from the national office or can be downloaded from cwl.ca.

Marian Hepditch-Littlepage Prize

The 2019 Marian Hepditch-Littlepage Prize of \$500.00 was awarded to Sarah Moran, a graduate student from AST. Sarah has exemplified extraordinary virtues and values during her time at AST, both in her academic work and in her home parish. Sarah's academic work has consistently been to a very high standard showing insight, creativity and academic rigor. While maintaining a high academic level, Sarah has also been a tremendous asset to her parish, not least in liturgical service as a Eucharistic Minister. For these reasons, Sarah was a worthy recipient of the 2019 Marian Hepditch-Littlepage Prize.

Coady Institute

The Coady Institute has partnered with the League since 1961. During the National Convention, Faith Anderson presented Kathleen Provost, Campaign Director, Advancement, StFX University with a cheque for \$23,991.44 designated to support global women leaders of Coady International Institute. Through the dedication and support of CWL National Council and parish councils across Canada, six women were bursary recipients in 2018. Information about each of these recipients can be found at <https://coady.stfx.ca/catholic-womens-league-of-canada-invests-in-global-leadership>.

Water Conservation

Promoting the conservation of water will continue to be a focus for the balance of 2019 for Education and Health. For those of us in Nova Scotia, despite a rainy spring, many of the cities, towns and communities were asked to conserve water due to the hot and dry summer. This is not the first time in recent years.

The Blue Communities Project is dedicated to three primary principles:

- access to clean, drinkable water is a basic human right
- municipal and community water will be held in public hands
- single use plastic water bottles will not be available in public spaces

The Blue Communities movement has been growing around the world with many cities becoming Blue Communities. Montreal being one of them. Maude Barlow, author of "Whose Water Is It, Anyway?" evaluates the growing threats to our water sources and the pressures facing the supply of water in a warming world. This book is an informative read into how to protect our water systems and develop a new water ethic. Maude Barlow will be at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic on September 26, 7:00 to 9:00pm for a discussion on Blue Communities, water protection and her book. See canadians.org for further information.

“Fresh drinking water is an issue of primary importance, since it is indispensable for human life and for supporting terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Sources of fresh water are necessary for health care, agriculture and industry. Water supplies used to be constant, but now in many places demand exceeds the sustainable supply, with dramatic consequences in the short and long term.” Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*, *Care of Our Common Home*, 28.

Mental Health

Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Veteran Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence announced funding from the Veteran and Family Well-Being Fund for the Canadian Women's Wellness Initiative and the Mental Health Foundation of Nova Scotia.

The Mental Health Foundation of Nova Scotia has received \$728,000 in funding over five years to support the “Landing Strong” program which is a three month intensive workshop helping veterans and first responders with mental illness overcome difficulties connecting with family and the community following trauma. See mentalhealthns.ca for further information.

Alzheimer's

Do you know what the ten warning signs of Alzheimer's are? Most think it is memory loss and are not aware of any other signs. Difficulty performing familiar tasks, language problems, disorientation, poor or decreased judgement, problems with abstract thinking, misplacing things, behavioural changes, personality changes and loss of initiative are also warning signs of dementia. There are many informative resources available on the Alzheimer Society of Nova Scotia website. Family Caregiver Education Series which supports families of persons newly diagnosed with dementia are taking place throughout the province from September to December. For a complete listing of sessions, please see <https://alzheimer.ca>ns>. If you are interested in bringing a speaker in to talk about dementia, caregiving, research or advocacy, email Alzheimer@asns.ca or call 1-800-611-6345.

May our Lady of Good Counsel shower her graces upon each of you, bless you and your families for the work you do for God and Canada.

RoseAnn Hetherington

Provincial Chairperson Education and Health