



CATHOLIC AND LIVING IT

Nova Scotia
Provincial
Council 74th
Annual
Meeting of
Members
June 10-11
2022

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**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Nova Scotia Provincial Council
Standing Rules of Order of the 74th Annual Meeting of Members (AMM)
June 11, 2022**

President's Message

May 14th, 2022

Dear Sisters in the League,

Welcome to the CWL Nova Scotia 74th Provincial Convention/AMM. It is so awesome to be able to write this message, whether you are in attendance in person or virtually. Again, this past year in many ways was a repetition of what we had experienced in 2000 and the CWL activities were limited by the restrictions due to the pandemic. However, the League and its many works still continues crisis or no crisis.

This year, again, taught us how resilient we can be and how when the challenge to change confronts us, we can adapt to any situation. It has been a year of digging in, of introspection, overcoming obstacles and of persistence. The need to "think outside the box," to discard what is not relevant and to hang on to the change which we thought would be a temporary solution.

I wish to thank each of you for your participation today. May this day be a positive experience, a sharing with each other, a day of celebrating the League and us.

A blessed and happy summer,

Joline Belliveau
President
NS CWL Provincial President

*"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples." — **Mother Teresa***

Agenda

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL COUNCIL 74th CONVENTION
&
ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS
SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2022**

AGENDA

- 8:00-9:00** **Registration**
- 9:00-9:15** Opening Prayer Service
- 9:15-10:30** **AMM Call to Order:** President: Joline Belliveau
Spiritual Advisor's remarks: Father Conrad Edwards
Notice of 74th Convention and AMM (Sandra O)
Credential Report Glenda Carson, Registration Chair
AMM Rules of Order Sandra O'Connell
Agenda
Adoption of Agenda
Adoption of Minutes from the 73rd AMM
Correspondence
Treasurer's Report: Cathy Farrow
- Reports:**
- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) Diocesan Presidents:
Halifax-Yarmouth: Sandra Kline
Antigonish: Julie LeLievre | 5) Christian Family Life: Cleo Windsor
6) Education & Health: Carol Ann LeBlanc
7) Legislation: Janet Terrio
8) Community Life: Cathy Targett |
|---|--|
- 10:30-10:45** **Break**
- 10:45 – 11:00** **AMM Business Resumes:**
- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 10) Organization: Jessie Parkinson
12) President: Joline Belliveau | 11) Past President: Glenda Carson |
|---|-----------------------------------|
- 11:00 -12:00** **Theme Development:** *Joan Bona - Catholic and Living It*
- 12:00-1:00** **Angelus and Lunch**
- 1:00-1:15** **Log in for afternoon session**
- 1:15-1:45** **Deceased Members Prayer Service**
- 1:45-2:45** **Business session resumes**
- Credential report Glenda Carson
National Per Capita Increase Instructed Vote: Past President, Glenda Carson
Amendments to the Constitution and By Laws Instructed Vote: Glenda Carson
National Convention in Kelowna
Implementation Committee Update
National Day of Prayer for Peace in Canada
National Convention 2023 - St. John, New Brunswick
Registration report
- 3:45** Adjournment

Call to Convention

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 and Life Members**

NOTICE OF CONVENTION and ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

**Notice is hereby given that the
74th Nova Scotia Provincial Council Convention and
Annual Meeting of Members
Of the Catholic Women's League of Canada
Theme: Catholic and Loving It**

Will be held on Saturday, June 11, 2022

Due to the continued threat of Covid within the province of Nova Scotia and the short time frame to prepare and host the Convention and Annual Meeting of Members (AMM) for 2022, it has been decided to hold the AMM via videoconference as per guidelines received from the National office in 2021, 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 June 11, 2022 by the contact person listed on the registration form.
- **Each accredited delegate will require a computer for voting. Only one vote per computer can be counted.**

A preliminary agenda is attached.

- The day will include the business session for the 74th Nova Scotia Provincial Council.
- A guest speaker has been invited for theme development
- A prayer service for deceased members for 2019, 2020, and 2021 will take place
- The instructed votes that were distributed in 2020 will be completed.

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

Standing Rules of Order

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Nova Scotia Provincial Council
Standing Rules of Order of the 74th Annual Meeting of Members (AMM)
June 11, 2022

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

Both the morning and afternoon sessions of the AMM will be virtual for all attendees.

Registration

1. Each person attending the Annual Meetings of Members (AMM) shall register on or before May 31st, 2022, using the designated registration form.
2. All registrants attending the Annual Meeting of Members must sign in online during the designated registration timeframe for each AMM morning and afternoon 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 morning and afternoon sessions. When adopted, the credentials report shall be the official roll of voting members.
5. At the end of the AMM, 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, if possible, to the Nova Scotia provincial president.
8. 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.
9. 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.

10. A member may request that a question or motion be repeated or reread. This must be done by turning on their camera indicating the desire to speak. They must not interrupt the speaker through use of their microphone.
11. 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.

Debate

12. All attendees, with the exception of the chairperson, will mute their microphones and turn off their cameras when not speaking.
13. All attendees shall signal their intent to speak by turning on their camera. Upon being recognized by the chairperson, they shall unmute their microphone, and begin by stating their name, status, diocese and parish. Recognition of speakers by the chair will be in the order they are seen on camera and according to their voting status.
14. 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.
16. A member may speak more than once on the same motion with permission of the chairperson and only after all those members who wish to speak the first time have spoken.
17. No one shall speak longer than three (3) minutes.

Voting

18. Voting shall take place electronically using the voting software provided for the session.
19. 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.

Miscellaneous

20. Registrants are asked to refrain from taking screen shots and/or electronic recordings of the meeting proceedings.
21. 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.

Minutes – 72nd AMM

**Catholic Women’s League of Canada
Nova Scotia Provincial Council 72nd (2020)
Annual meeting of Members (AMM)
July 10, 2021 – virtual – 10:00 a.m.**

Jessie Parkinson led us in the opening prayer at 10:00 a.m. with a Prayer for Healing and Litany for Healing. The reflection was the letter to the people of the diocese of Antigonish dated June 4th, 2021, for the Feast of Corpus Christi by Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick.

Glenda Carson, president called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and addressed housekeeping items before introducing the executive. Bishop Brian Joseph Dunn sent words of greetings (attached). Father Patrick O’Neill is looking forward to the light at the end of the tunnel and is impressed how CWL has overcome the many obstacles facing them.

Carol LeBlanc, secretary read the notice of meeting and minutes of adjourned June 2020 AMM.

Credential report

2 voting delegates

24 accredited delegates

Adoption of standing rules - included in report booklet. It was moved by Sandra O’Connell, seconded by RoseAnn Hetherington adoption of standing rules.

Approval of Agenda – it was moved by RoseAnn Hetherington, seconded by Mary ten Brink to approve the agenda.

Report of provincial president (2020) -

The pandemic made its appearance and all that was being planned came to a grinding halt. Working in collaboration with the national council, alternative plans had to be made. Permission to cancel the planned conventions at all levels, allowed to hold an in-person meeting attended by the president only.

In the fall motions for recommendations for changes in the constitution and bylaws, and consideration of a national per capita increase came forward. The deadline for the submission for the parish instructed votes were moved to March 2022.

Members in our province faced much tragedy in the spring, including a mass shooting in April and the loss of military members.

Zoom videoconferences became the new normal for our meetings, similar to our diocesan councils and many of our parish councils. Parish councils did their best to meet and reach out to their members and others in the community.

Ratification of decision for deferred 2020 provincial convention – it was moved by Carol LeBlanc, seconded by Joline Belliveau to ratify the decision to defer 2020 provincial convention.

Approval of previous convention business meeting minutes (2019) - The minutes were accepted as circulated and printed in the AMM report book.

Treasurer's report (2019) – Sandra O'Connell – on file

Other business – n/a

Members' forum – open dialogue – questions & clarifications – Glenda Carson

1. Per capita increase – to resolve financial challenges being faced at the national level. The impetus was largely decreased income from diminishing membership and rising costs related to supporting membership across the country. While investments could hold the organization's functioning at present, it became apparent that within five years the CWL could be facing insolvency if the situation were not addressed. Per Capita fees are the directed source for increasing income. Identification of other avenues for saving was tasked to the provincial presidents and other members of the board as well.
2. New patroness – Our Lady of Guadalupe – Is it a time of change? – visionary looking to future – costly to change? – Father Patrick stated her image is associated with motherhood.
3. Indigenous peoples – how to respond to what has been done to date? – CWL speaks as a national voice – National president has written a letter to CCCB – Bishops are asking for our patience as they prepare to address the situation
4. Voting online – Not for profit regulations do allow virtual meetings and voting.

Registration report – Ethel Jack and Sandra Kline

2 voting/20 accredited/3 honorary life and life members/1 provincial spiritual advisor/1 parish spiritual advisor/ 1 provincial president/9 members = 37 total

11:30 – adjournment

Jessie Parkinson led us in closing prayer.

Minutes – 73rd AMM

**Catholic Women's League of Canada
Nova Scotia Provincial Council 73rd (2021) Annual Meeting of Members (AMM)
July 10, 2021 – 1:15 p.m. – virtual**

1:20 p.m.- Jessie Parkinson led us in our opening prayer service the Magnificat and reflection.

Glenda Carson called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. She acknowledged and thanked the Mi'gmaq people for the use of their beautiful land. Housekeeping issues were identified. Glenda remarked that outside the pandemic, Hurricane Dorian, tragedies, Hurricane Elsa, we would see peace and calm.

Notice of Annual meeting of members 73rd Nova Scotia Provincial Council was read by Carol LeBlanc.

Credential report

2 Voting

23 Accredited

Three Life members were present – Julie Lelievre, Theresa Duann and Toosje van de Sande and diocesan spiritual advisor Father Raymond.

It was moved by Janice MacDougall, seconded by Mary ten Brink to accept the credential report.

It was moved by Elizabeth Doyle, seconded by Rose Ann Hetherington to adopt the standing rules as presented in the annual booklet.

It was moved by Carol LeBlanc, seconded by Ann Myers to approve the agenda as circulated.

Report of provincial executive pre-2021 AMM executive meeting business

An on-line vote took place for the National Executive.

Adoption of 2020 AMM minutes – Carol LeBlanc

The AMM 2020 minutes were read by Carol Ann LeBlanc and adopted as presented.

Treasurer’s report – Sandra O’Connell – on file

Oral reports of provincial executive and Spiritual Advisor

Spiritual Development – Jessie Parkinson

One of the most pressing and difficult issues in our Church now is our acceptance of, and response to, the uncovering of hundreds of unmarked graves at the site of former residential schools. This is a heartbreaking tragedy. Many of us our mothers and grandmothers. Can you imagine the pain: your child is taken away to school, in the care and custody of the Catholic Church, never to be seen or heard from again? It is unthinkable. We cannot, we must not, look away.

There is a great opportunity for us as women in the Catholic Women’s League to be leaders in the journey toward truth and reconciliation. We need to have reconciliation, but there is no reconciling with knowing the truth. We can help our members and the members of our parishes know the truth by educating them, by holding prayer services and by joining the call to action.

Sister Priscilla Solomon presented to the Dioceses of Toronto’s National Indigenous Peoples Day lots of information and shared a list of resources for her audience to use to educate themselves. Google her!

Using some of these tools hold a prayer service, view the videos with colleagues and friends and write to your MP asking him/her to immediately take steps to implement all 94 recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Mary knelt at the foot of the cross. As much as it pained her, she could not look away. Let us follow her example in this, as in everything that she did.

President elect/Organization – Joline Belliveau

Annual reports – Reporting councils in our province of Nova Scotia were 24 out of 65. Annual reports are so important as they are part of the legacy, we share with other CWL members.

Strategic Plan – Goal 4 – Examining and studying leadership within the League – looking at the short term and long-term strategies and activities within the councils and developing programs for use with the communities. Goal 1 – to developing new endeavors to promote the League – Inspire, videos,

Instagram. Goal 2 – to develop training programs to teach CWL members how to speak for the voiceless (social justice). Goal 3 – League misconceptions, league diversity and tool kit.

Executive Orientation Program – Modules are now available on the CWL website. Leadership training, an introduction or as review.

The Catholic Women’s Leadership Foundation (CWLf) – Spring Newsletter 2021 includes news from the board’s co-chairpersons, explanation on the leadership program and highlights on this year’s graduating class. The website is cwlfcanda.ca.

Our CWL website is quickly developing into our most important source of reference to seek out current information, webinars, and updates on the strategic plan. Look up the new section called Inspire- which includes CWL member’s personal testimonials on what the League means to them.

Christian Family Life – Linda Howell

The 2020 reports from Antigonish Councils 15 and Halifax-Yarmouth 7 indicated the average age of members in Nova Scotia is 65-80.

Members have had a difficult time in the pandemic. Many unemployed, or working from home, not seen their children or grandparents have not met their newborns. Youth have had to deal with virtual learning. Nursing homes have been affected as their contact with the outside world has been very limited.

The recent discoveries of unmarked graves at former residential school sites have been very traumatic for Indigenous families.

Community Life – Catherine Gonsalves – attending granddaughters’ baptism.

Education and Health – RoseAnn Hetherington

The 2021 Marian Hepditch-Littlepage Prize of \$500.00 was awarded to Donna Reindorf, a graduate student from AST. Donna generously shares her gift of compassionate leadership to help bring together diverse communities, encourage collaboration and witness god’s goodness to those she meets.

Blood donations are needed. The Catholic Women’s League supports the Canadian Blood Services “Partners for Life Program.” The partner code is CATHO11269Services Partners for Life by using the CWL team code CATHO11269.

Care for Our Common Home Thank you to all the Councils who planted trees. Pope Francis signed the encyclical *Laudato Si’: On Care for the Common Home* on May 24, 2015. A seven-year plan has been launched to achieve the sustainable goals written in the encyclical. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops have prepared a great resource entitled “*Living Out Laudato Si’: A Commentary and Practical Resource for Canadian Catholics*.” It can be found at ccc.ca.

Legislation – Mary ten Brinke

Our theme “Care for Our Common Home” has certainly had a different meaning during COVID-19 pandemic. We need to not only take care of our homes, but most certainly ourselves. We need to protect our environment and be aware of our actions and how they can affect each other.

Annual reports – Antigonish Diocese, reported that 11/39 councils filed, and Halifax-Yarmouth Diocese reported 5/24.

Bills we were encouraged to support by letter writing from National included:

Bill C-233: An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (sex selective abortion)

Bill C-268: An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (intimidation of health care professionals)

Resolutions – Elizabeth Doyle

Through a resolution, we can express our concerns with the many issues prevailing in our community such as homelessness, health care and human trafficking.

A resolution workshop was forced to be canceled due to the pandemic.

Cathy Bouchard, National Resolutions chair prepared an up-to-date Resolutions Guide and distributed to parishes.

Letter writing to our government officials remain an effective means of expressing our concerns. Parish Councils responded to this request on Bill C-7, Bill C-233 and Bill C-268.

Past President – Peggy MacNeil

Cleo Windsor for Antigonish and Elizabeth Doyle for Halifax provided excellent annual reports for 2020. 35% of annual reports were completed. They did their best meeting online and learning new skills or just letting their fellow sisters in the league know that they are thought of, loved, and valued as CWL members.

The Constitution & Bylaws helps guide us in making decisions. The instructed vote on the amendments to the National C&B is delayed until March 2022. As past presidents you are encouraged to make a presentation on these amendments at your council meetings after determining how best to conduct the vote given local health restrictions.

Archives are a permanent history of our League. Guidelines are available under Manuals on the National website.

Council should have an updated copy of the National Policy and Procedure. Do you have your own council P&P?

Correspondence – Carol Ann LeBlanc

Various measures were taken to remaining connected with League members and the inability to have regular meetings and conduct business. Correspondence was sent electronically and by paper to those without email.

Minutes were taken for meetings and up-to-date lists of council executives and life members was maintained.

President's – Glenda Carson

Again, as in the year 2020 we started the year with expectations hoping COVID -19 would abate. With the resurgence of the virus and variants, our province again had to impose restrictions. Our passion and faith as Catholic women rose strong together to confront the hardships being experienced.

As we progressed through the spring, more tragedy struck. It was related to our Aboriginal people and the tragic realization of the significance of the death of so many Aboriginal children through the discovery of unmarked graves and the trauma experienced by parents who waited in vain for their children to return. This tragedy strikes us on many levels: personal, within our own province, as faithful members of our beloved church and as Canadians. We can move forward with authentic action that advocates for better living conditions and equality for our Aboriginal people and all others who experience marginalization and prejudice. The CWL recognized the need to celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day before the discovery of the lost children. We were called to action to invite Aboriginal women to our council meetings and share in their stories. The need for advocacy is strong and is central to our mission as an organization.

Congratulations to St. Ninians's and St. Ambrose on the 100th anniversary of their Councils.

In conclusion, I feel closure to our "annus horribilis." This does not mean that our future is calm and certain. But there is great hope for much good and positive change that will strengthen us in our humanity and faith.

Spiritual advisor – Father Patrick O'Neill

Since ordained in 2002, I have always made sure I was present to the CWL in all the parishes that I served. It is a great honor to be asked to serve in this capacity as your Spiritual Advisor.

Working with the Provincial Executive has been a pleasing and an enjoyable time. We are certainly living in difficult times due to Covid-19. As human beings we are created to be in relationship and interact with each other. Now we must isolate ourselves and respect social distancing 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. I know that some people even as we progress in re-opening may still be anxious or nervous. 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. 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 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.

Antigonish Diocesan president – Janice MacDougall

We are staying connected with our council presidents by sending email updates that are being shared with council executive and members.

Currently we have thirty-seven active councils, and two councils were officially disbanded.

The AMM held via Zoom on June 19, 2021, with seventy-five people registered with 54 people in attendance on the actual day. 21 of 37 councils were represented.

With two years completed, my promises to do my best, be open and accountable, be kind and share information in a timely fashion all still stand. It is hard to find the words to express my gratitude for the guidance that was given by Glenda.

Halifax-Yarmouth Diocesan Council – Sandra Kline

Not being able to meet in person, hold workshops, have social gatherings and fund-raising were among the most difficult. Only eight of our 26 councils submitted annual reports. Members were kept informed with councils using the best methods they had to stay in touch.

The Halifax-Yarmouth Diocesan Council held a few virtual executive meetings and virtual AMM at the end of June which included the election of our new executive. We are now looking forward to a new beginning.

Other business

1. A dialogue on choosing Patroness

Father Patrick O'Neill explained image facts of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Mary appeared to Juan Diego; an Aztec convert to Christianity. In 1531 the Virgin Mary appeared to an Indigenous Mexican. Our Lady of Guadalupe remains a powerful symbol of Mexican identity and faith, and her image is associated with everything from motherhood to feminism to social justice. The dialogue concluded we were to reflect and educate our members on the meaningful of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

2. Allocation of provincial fundraising for the 100th Centennial Convention

Three options proposed for the use of the money will be forwarded through the Diocesan Council presidents to parish councils. It will come back to the provincial convention in 2022.

- Support attendance of members to the first in person provincial convention (registration fees)
- Support attendance of members to the national convention in New Brunswick in 2023 (registration fees)
- Identify a project that would support our Indigenous communities.

3. On behalf of the Nova Scotia Provincial Council, Joline Belliveau, president-elect expressed the following:

Glenda: Your term as our CWL Nova Scotia Provincial President has not been without its challenges. It by far, has been an unprecedented time for us all, and more so for our leaders. ...forced into a state of unfamiliar territory, making decisions without any former guidelines. So... from myself, the Provincial Executive, and the Nova Scotia members, a huge, huge, thank you for all your foresight, time, energy and all the emails and amazing written reports and guidance. A \$100 donation to the Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation has been made in your name/honor. Wishing you many blessings in all your future endeavors, hope and dreams.

Provincial executive council elections – Peggy MacNeil, past president

Secretary for elections – Carol Ann LeBlanc

Peggy MacNeil gave overview of election procedure – the nominating committee was Father Patrick O'Neill, Doreen MacDonnell, and Peggy MacNeil. Nineteen letters were sent – Reply was one decline and five let their name stand. We were encouraged to let our names stand as our experience and leadership is valuable and we are role models.

President	Joline Belliveau
Past president	Glenda Carson
President-elect	Jessie Parkinson
Treasurer	Sandra O'Connell
Standing chairpersons	Cleo Windsor, Janet Terrio

Registration report – Ethel Jack and Sandra Kline

2 voting
20 accredited
4 Honorary Life and Life members
1 Provincial Spiritual advisor
1 Diocesan Spiritual advisor
1 Parish Council Spiritual advisor
1 Provincial CWL president
10 members
Total 40

Adjournment – 3:20 p.m.

Closing prayer service – Jessie Parkinson

Jessie Parkinson let us in the prayer for Truth and Reconciliation (Prayer of repentance and solidarity with Indigenous Peoples following Canada's Truth & Reconciliation Commission)

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Annual Report 2021

Cathy Farrow, Provincial Council Treasurer

As of December 31, 2021 there are 60 Parish Councils in Nova Scotia. For the year 2021, 22 Councils submitted their Parish Council report. Due to COVID 19, many councils have not met, nor have they had many fundraisers, and this is probably why fewer Council submitted their financial reports.

Thank you to those councils who submitted their reports.

All Councils track revenue and expenses by using bank statements, deposit books, Ledger/Columnar book, receipt books. Also, several use excel or a computer program.

6 out of 22 Councils reported preparing an annual budget

15 out of 22 Councils reported having their books examined by an independent individual experienced in accounting procedures

22 out of 22 Councils report that the Treasurer provide a financial statement at their monthly meetings, as well as an Annual Financial Statement.

The focus of the 2021 Annual report was Communication

9 Councils reported they did not receive communiques distributed to their local parish from National, Provincial, or Diocesan Councils.

6 Councils reported that 67% of the time they usually received communiques sent to their Parish Council from National, Provincial, or Diocesan Councils and that the information was relevant, clear, and concise, not repetitive and that they had time to deal with the information in the communiques.

Amounts paid to the National Voluntary Fund for 2021 was \$1,672.00

Parish Donations made by Parish Councils amounted to \$18,618.00

Other Donations made by Parish Councils amounted to \$21,238.14

Total Donations amounted to \$41,528.14

Thank you once again, to parish councils and Diocesan Council for completing their annual reports

Commitments

	Antigonish	Halifax-Yarmouth	Total
National Voluntary Fund			
Coady International Institute	\$ 290.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 335.00
Development & Peace	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Catholic Missions in Canada	\$ 262.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 662.00
Euthanasia Prevention Coalition	\$ 70.00	\$ 130.00	\$ 200.00
CNEWA	\$ 70.00	\$ 285.00	\$ 355.00
National Bursary Fund	\$ 90.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 120.00
Sub-total	\$ 782.00	\$ 890.00	\$ 1,672.00

All donations			
National Voluntary Fund	\$ 782.00	\$ 890.00	\$ 1,672.00
Standing Committees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Parish Donations	\$ 16,290.00	\$ 2,328.00	\$ 18,618.00
Other Donations	\$ 9,257.14	\$ 11,981.00	\$ 21,238.14
Total Funds Reported	\$ 26,329.14	\$ 15,199.00	\$ 41,528.14

May 28, 2022

Catholic Women's League of Canada Nova
Scotia Provincial Council
Attention: Cathy Farrow

I have reviewed the 2021 accounting and banking records for the Catholic Women's League of Canada, Nova Scotia Provincial Council. I have verified the opening and closing bank and book balances for 2021. I have examined all deposits and expenses recorded and ensured that the bank balances were reconciled to the book balance monthly. I believe the Financial Statement for January 1 - December 31, 2021 represents a true and fair view of the financial results for the year 2021.

Sincerely,

Jerry Rankin

Jerry Rankin --

Antigonish Diocesan Council President's Report

Antigonish Diocesan Council Annual Report 2021

Janice MacDougall, President

of councils reporting: 17 of 37

Sincere thanks to the 17 parish presidents who completed the annual reports for 2021.

All of the 17 councils who participated in this survey reported that they have a president chair. A warm welcome to the 7 presidents who are "new" to this role of president and thanks to the 10 presidents who said "yes" again! Thanks to each of you for saying yes, for your service & your dedication!!

- 5 have been League members for over 25 years
- 6 have been League members for 16-20 years
- 2 have 21-25 years of membership in the League
- 4 have 11-15 years of service in the League

Age groups for the 17 presidents who participated in this year's survey are:

- 65-74 (8), 55-64 (5), 45-54 (2) and 75-84 (2)
- None of the 17 presidents who participated in the survey are under 45 or over 85

The top resources reported as being used for sources of information are:

- Diocesan newsletters (16), national communiques (14), provincial website/newsletter (12), *The Canadian League Magazine* (13), national website (13), parish bulletins (7), google searches (3), Canadian Conference Catholic Bishops (1) and Catholic Organization for Life and Family (1)
- Three quarters of the 17 councils have discussed and acted on the League theme "Care for Our Common Home"
- Just over half of the councils focused on Bill C-7, Act to amend the Criminal Code (Medical Assistance in Dying)

The top resources being used by presidents to help preside over meetings are:

- *Constitution & Bylaws* (11), *Roberts Rules of Order* (8), *Executive Handbook* (6), Council Policy & Procedure (5), *National Manual of Policy & Procedure* (5), and *Parliamentary Procedure* (2)

15 of the 17 presidents who participated in the survey reported they are a signing officer for cheques that are issued. 11 signed bank documents, 10 reported writing letters within the CWL, 4 wrote letters outside of CWL, and 3 reported signing petitions.

Attendance of the spiritual advisor at council meetings varied: monthly (7), rarely (6), annually (2), weekly (1) and never (1). Support and guidance from the parish spiritual advisor was reported by 16 of the 17 presidents who completed the survey.

When asked if the national theme and or logo were helpful, 13 replied saying yes and 4 said no. The current practice of changing the national theme every two years was favorable with over 90% of the presidents who responded to this question.

Presidents reported that they represented their councils by attending church functions, sacramental events/special masses, community events, fundraising dinners, World Day of Prayer, conferences and anniversaries. One president met with her local politician, attended a Pro Life event and a retreat. Councils slowly, but surely, got back in the swing of things by hosting funeral lunches, fundraising projects, providing scholarships/bursaries, visits to members, held their annual tea and sale/bazaars, held social events and made donations.

The greatest challenges listed for 2021 were: not having a full executive, feeling overwhelmed, recruiting, keeping members informed and interested, finding time, feeling inexperienced, resistance to change and to new ideas, chairing meetings and delegating duties. Some presidents also struggled with public speaking, lack of confidence, organization skills and too much correspondence. Most presidents shared that they were supported by their sisters in the League in many ways! I believe there has always been and will always be challenges facing councils.

Now for the “most proud” and “best” section of this survey!! Presidents shared that their members are willing to help and to work together for their parish, community, people in need and the well being of all members. In several councils, it is the dedicated, enthusiastic members and strong core groups that keeping “things” rolling by doing whatever they can. Sisterhood, friendship, spiritual companions, unity, teamwork, setting goals and working towards them are the experiences in most councils. It fills my heart to know that despite the many obstacles that have been placed in our paths, councils have been able to carry on for God and Canada!

Final thoughts! For my third and final year, as diocesan president, I am amazed at the resilience of many council presidents, who despite the pandemic, were able to keep their members updated and informed. It is for sure that technology has been a challenge for some members and councils; but technology was the “glue” that kept us connected and in the know! The world, as we knew it, has been changed. COVID-19 has given us the opportunity to make changes going forward. It is my wish that each council make changes that will help keep their members interested, engaged and active in the League! More than ever the League needs each and every member to work together, in harmony, with compassion, engaged in actions and with love, for all of God’s creations.

Being an active member of the League has many options. Not everyone needs to, or wants to do everything, but I believe that everyone needs and wants to do something! Learn and share, invite and welcome, pray and participate, and most of all, be kind and caring! I look forward to continuing to ***“Care for Our Common Home”*** while ***“Caring For Each Other”***.

Let’s continue to build the League by ***“doing what we can, when we can!”***
May the blessings of the Lord be always upon us. Our Lady of Good Counsel ~ Pray for Us!

Halifax-Yarmouth President's Report

Halifax – Yarmouth Diocesan Council President's Annual report 2021

Sandra Kline, President

10 Parish Council Presidents out of 22 submitted their annual reports. A special thank you for your participation.

100% of Presidents were elected. Thank you for your dedication to the League.

- 7 presidents have held the position in the past
- 2 have been league members for more than 25 years
- 1 between 16-20 years
- 2 between 11-15 years
- 5 between 6-10

Age groups for the 10 presidents: 4 between 55-64; 4 between 65-75; 2 between 75-84

Information used to inform members:

10- National Website and communiques; 09 – Provincial websites and newsletters

08 – diocesan newsletters, parish bulletins and the Canadian League Magazine

60% of our parish councils introduced and discussed the theme Care for our common Home and 50% used Bill C-7 An act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying).

40% of parish councils reporting they met monthly with their Spiritual Advisor and 90% reporting their Spiritual Advisor as supportive of the CWL by attending meetings, involvement in outreach initiatives and spiritual guidance, attending service award ceremonies and holding days of reflection for Lent and Advent.

70% reporting having attended diocesan meetings and conventions – 60% attended retreats, special masses – 50% church functions – 40% provincial meetings and conventions and world day of prayer – 30% community events, fundraisers and dinners and remembrance day events – 20% anniversaries, conferences, workshops and no events – 10% regional meetings and national conventions.

100% reporting they are signing officers for cheques while 90% look after bank documents and 80% handle letters written inside and outside the CWL

90% of councils did not subsidize cost to conferences while 10% paid 100% of the cost.

0% subsidized for fundraisers and events and national convention

10% of councils paid 100% for workshops

20% of councils paid 100% for Diocesan and Provincial conventions

On the question of the Executive Handbook - 100% have read and understand the duties of their executive team and assisted in their responsibility to oversee the operations of the council.

80% of councils report they provide an annual summary of the councils to all members mostly by e-mail and oral reports (75%) written reports (63%) newsletters and parish bulletins (25%)

Of council involvement other than standing committees participate in annual events, such as teas, bazaars, etc. (70%) social events (60%) scholarship/bursary and funeral lunches (50%) fundraising (40%) visitation (30%) policy, donations, rosary groups ,outreach groups and phone committees.

When asked their top things they were most proud of in the council their responses were:

- The were able to obtain their membership in spite of deaths, no in-person meetings
- Members were very generous and stepped up to help when needed
- Willingness of members to work for our communities especially the seniors, foodbank, prayer shawl
- Support for members

Due to the pandemic situation council activities lessened. Rosary sessions (inside and outside) were held my several councils and members attended whatever events they were allowed to under the circumstances.

The reporting presidents felt their greatest challenges were:

- Keeping member engaged
- The proposal for per capital increase is causing concern and if it is passed there could be a loss of membership in many cases
- Getting members to come forward to fill executive positions
- Getting new members is almost impossible especially during this pandemic

I was encouraged as I read the findings of the councils reporting and I am fully aware that all the council in the Halifax-Yarmouth Diocesan are continuing to do their best under these unfortunate circumstanced we are going through and look forward to seeing what this next year will bring.

May our Lady of Good Counsel Pray for Us and Guide us as we continue our work for God and Canada in our new theme (Catholic and Living it!)

Nova Scotia Provincial Council President's Report

Provincial President Annual Report 2021

Joline Belliveau, President

As I reflect over this year as president of the Nova Scotia Provincial council with all the upheavals and struggles still existing, in spite of the turmoil I can say 'We survived' and much, much better 'We are alive!'

Last year began so quiet: lots of events cancelled, and contact was made with online meetings, emails, or phone calls. However, the CWL work still continued. I struggled to fill all the executive positions. Finally, after months of asking, pursuing, we are almost a complete slate of officers, still missing a Resolutions Committee Chairperson.

At one point, I decided to call all the Life Members. I did call the Nova Scotia Antigonish Diocesan Life Members and although I did not acquire any names in my search to fill the executive, I enjoyed my conversations with members I hadn't connected with in a long time.

The Diocesan AMMs/Conventions did not happen last year in Nova Scotia. However, the Provincial AMM did, on Saturday, July 10th, 2021. The attendance was very low, but it was so great to hear from other members in Nova Scotia voicing their concerns and opinions: Per capita fee.... Our Lady of Good Counsel.... residential schools.

In Nova Scotia, our Covid restrictions came back with a vengeance in September - so both the Leadership/retreat meeting and our fall provincial executive meeting were cancelled. Fall executive meeting was an online event - after the National Executive meeting in October 2021.

I attended the National AMM in August - attending as the Nova Scotia Provincial President.

Invited to the 100th Anniversary Mass for the St. Ambrose CWL Parish Council, Yarmouth, on Thursday, August 26, 2021. My greetings were written in the pamphlet handed to members/friends as they entered the church. Many of the sister councils were in attendance sharing in the joy and celebration.

From September to December, I again was able to attend either by Zoom or in person meetings. My own Halifax-Yarmouth Council had a meeting September 2021 in Kentville - lowest attendance ever - the executive outnumbered the members at the meeting.

Wed. October 13th - Saturday, Oct. 16th, joined the Go To sessions for the National Executive fall meeting. Introduction of our new theme - Catholic and Living It (love it!) Held the provincial executive meeting (again online) on the following Saturday, Oct. 23, 2022. Discussion was on New Theme, declining membership, instructed votes, 100th Anniversary funds, Implementation Committee.

The Governance sessions chaired by Kim, Fran and the Implementation Committee were absolutely awesome. Thank you so much. (my mantra is "to think outside of the box.")

I introduced something new - on a monthly (more or less) basis I meet with the diocesan presidents. It is not a long meeting, approximately an hour long and we go over topics of concern, interest, of confusion: disbanding of councils, finding venues for the conventions (and not AMMs.), instructed votes.

I received the annual reports from both Diocesan Presidents, Janice MacDougall, Antigonish Diocese and Sandra Kline, Halifax-Yarmouth. I have outlined some of the comments/thoughts. The report combines both council reports and the outcome is as follows:

- slightly less than half the councils submitted annual reports - (27 out of 59)
- all Presidents were elected
- majority of the presidents were between 55-75 years of age
- members kept informed by National & provincial websites, communiques, newsletter, bulletins, and Canadian League magazine (in that order)
- one diocese uses the Executive Handbook extensively
- 60-70% of the councils did discuss and used the theme "Care for our Common Home"
- approximately half of the reporting councils focused on Bill C-7 Act to Amend the Criminal Code (Medical Assistance in Dying).

- are happy with the Spiritual Advisor's support and guidance - barely . 40% of the Spiritual Advisors met with the CWL parish councils on a monthly basis.
- Most of the Parish Council Presidents are signing officers - one council is more active in letter writing - the other is not - and neither are much involved in petition signing
- The majority of the functions attended by CWL members were event fundraisers, World Day of Prayer, church functions - very few councils if any are involved in other areas of attending community functions representing CWL.

Challenges:

- members not stepping forward to fill executive positions
- keeping members engaged and informed (keeping them interested)
- recruiting (attracting new members is "almost impossible", especially during this pandemic)
- feeling inexperienced, overwhelmed - too much correspondence
- Per Capita fee instructed vote

Most proud:

- Members willing to help and work together, members very generous and willing to help when needed
- willingness of our members to help in the council's parish and communities.
- In spite of the obstacles and challenges - Covid, no in person meetings, passing away of members) members were able to obtain and keep memberships and continued to keep councils active.

Our League is changing, is evolving. Our five-year plan is slowly moving forward and in spite of all the confusion, some groans, disappointments it is still a necessity to stay with this process. We need to trust in ourselves, to believe this redefining of the League, this pushing out of our comfort zone, will all create a stronger League. It takes courage, perseverance, discussions, and a sense of humor - which all our members own in abundance and are willing to share. We need lots of prayers as well as a sharing of all our thoughts to see a vibrant and happy place for women.

May our Lady continue to guide us.

Proclaim the truth and do not be silent through fear."-St Catherine Of Siena

Past President's Report

Past President 2021 Annual Report

Glenda Carson, Past President

This report compiles information from our two Diocesan councils, reflecting the submission of eighteen parish council annual reports out of a total of 59 councils in the province for the year 2021. This report cannot be considered truly representative of the parish council past presidents in our province. However, it does reflect some common perspectives based on anecdotal information from diocesan and parish council levels.

Provincially, the position of past president was filled in 70% of the parish councils that completed the annual report survey. However, the actual number of filled positions varied significantly between the diocesan councils, ranging from 40% to over 80%. Again, this may reflect the fact that there were significantly fewer reporting parish councils in one diocese.

Serving in a Consultative Capacity

The majority of past presidents reported being called on for advice consistently by their parish council presidents. They attended executive and general meetings as well as social and spiritual events when they were being held. They encouraged and supported their presidents and offered advice when called upon. Goals for enacting the role of post president that were highlighted in the survey included facilitating strong communication, sharing their experience and offering guidance, and offering support to all members when necessary.

Of the past presidents reporting, an average of 50% have served the League for more than 25 years and over 50% have served as past president before. The majority of members of the reporting councils are between the ages of 65 -74, with a number between the ages of seventy-five and eighty-four. Again, this does not truly represent the CWL membership in Nova Scotia, but it does accurately reflect that, in general, our membership demographics weigh more towards senior members.

Archives and History

Past Presidents acknowledged their responsibility for maintaining and updating council archives. They are aware that archives are the history of their council and hold important documents related to accomplishments. Archived material is most commonly stored in a room in a church, using filing cabinets, photo albums, memory sticks, DVDs and CDs. Examples of archived material that is kept indefinitely by many of the reporting councils include: annual reports, the parish council Book of Life, deceased members histories, the list of past executives, membership renewal data, minutes of executive meetings, minutes of general meetings, records of pin and award recipients, and a record of service of members. Financial information is usually kept from 5 – 8 years for a majority of the councils. The location of their Charter is known by almost all of the parish past presidents. The loss of charter information for a parish council is somewhat concerning and may reflect a lack of communication on its whereabouts among the executive or an actual loss of the document over time. Reflection on the importance maintaining a council charter from a historical and administrative perspective, as well as how to obtain a copy of the charter, will be addressed in a future provincial past president communique. For our diocesan and provincial councils, archival storage can be a vulnerable aspect. There can be challenges in finding a suitable location for storage and often comes at a cost to the council.

Study and Implementation of the Constitution & Bylaws

Most councils reported having a copy of the National Manual of Policy and Procedure and the League Constitution and Bylaws. Referral to these resources by parish councils ranges from a regular basis to only about once a year. It is important to note, however, that many councils only conducted the most essential and basic of business over the past two years. This may have affected the frequency in which they looked to national council resources for guidance.

The majority of the councils reporting have a copy of their own policy and procedure manual. Those without are willing to look at developing one over the next year. Updates are done as required or when a policy is changed. Diocesan councils and life members were noted to be a resource for parishes in developing their council policy and procedure manuals. A provincial past president goal for the year 2022 will be to review the use of parish council policy and procedure manuals across the province and to offer support, as needed, for development and maintenance. This will be done in collaboration with our diocesan past presidents.

Generally, the assistance of the Diocesan council was sought the most for consultation on matters throughout the reporting year. Most councils reported that they rarely or never sought assistance from the provincial or national council levels. Many councils did seek advice from their spiritual advisor on a monthly basis but rarely seek advice from their Bishop. Advice from life members is sometimes requested. Life members remain an untapped resource in our province.

Other Duties as Assigned by the President

Past presidents perform a myriad of extra duties for their presidents and their councils. This includes re-assuming or filling the role of a vacant executive position, including president and standing committees; chairing meetings in the absence of the president; chairing nominations and elections committees; facilitating the transfer of League information to members; planning social, spiritual and fundraising events; facilitating workshops, assisting with the preparation of agendas; promoting the council to the parish and community and being a council representative at the annual meetings of members.

Most past presidents were satisfied with the quality of communication from other levels, finding it to be clear and concise. Some did report, however, that when reports came from other levels there was not always enough time to participate and that there was replication of information between levels. While timelines for distribution of information is sometimes difficult to control, guidelines for writing communiques may be a helpful resource for some of our executive members at the provincial and diocesan levels.

Past presidents offered the following suggestions when in the role of past president: offer advice and guidance when requested; be available when the president needs assistance; be open to help out as needed and provide support in a variety of ways and remind the president to rely on her executive to accomplish tasks. This last point reflects an important part of the mentoring role by past presidents.

Implementation of the Strategic Plan

The majority of past presidents supported the implementation of the visions provided by the Planning Strategically Report. Because of the challenges faced by councils in meeting, many past presidents felt they did not have the opportunity to fully respond to this task. However, some reported that they were able to carry out activities, including the sharing of questionnaires and information with members, encouraging members to follow the implementation plan on the national website and discussing the implementation progress at general meetings. All of this served to increase members' knowledge and awareness of implementation progress. One past president did report that some members were become weary of the long implementation process. This may speak to a need to ensure communication

is highlighted for members regarding the many strategic plan steps and tools that have already been completed.

Challenges and Successes

A major challenge experienced by past presidents was the need to support their councils by continuing to serve as president. This was usually because of the ongoing challenge in recruiting new presidents into the role.

The pandemic was still a major challenge for our councils at all levels for the year 2021. This was primarily in relation to the inability or reluctance of members to meet. Success stories from the reporting parish councils were limited because of this. However, some councils have been able to meet virtually and there was still an effort to keep in touch with members. This was often through email and telephone. Information and support was provided, when requested, from the diocesan and provincial level, regarding conducting council business and voting when unable to meet in person. This was important for many councils when carrying out their instructed voting for the motions regarding revisions of the League constitution and bylaws and the motion to increase the national per capita fee.

Outreach to members was a particular point of success stories for past presidents and included: providing treat packages to seniors living alone, providing prayer blankets for sick parishioners, arranging funeral honour guards and receptions for members when possible, adding a fun aspect to meetings and social activities so members could feel welcomed and want to continue to attend and the planning of a fall fair with COVID protocols in place.

It was reported by a past president that members are generally feeling burned out. This is truly an authentic and understandable response among many members right now. However, it was also further stated in the report that “members are trying very hard to keep CWL alive in the hearts of their ladies and looking forward to a return of meetings and fundraising, which keeps members together and centred on a common goal.” This speaks to the heart and soul of our members of the Catholic Women’s League. It is not that we are without significant challenges and concerns. But more importantly, we are blessed with members who have a desire to engage with the mission and vision of the League and work tirelessly to promote and implement the good works and actions that are a fundamental part of our organization.

Spiritual Development Report

Spiritual Development Standing Committee 2021 Annual Report

Mary Myers, Standing Committee Chairperson

A heartfelt thank you is extended to all spiritual chairpersons in the province for their leadership, although in a diminished capacity, since Nova Scotia was under restrictions due to Covid for most of 2021. This prevented prayer services, masses, and gatherings and created a disconnect with many of our membership who “Stayed the Blazes Home” for the second year.

Antigonish Diocesan council reported that 12 of a possible 37 councils reported and Halifax-Yarmouth Diocesan Council reported that 6 of a possible 23 councils reported for a total of 18 councils reporting in the province (a participation rate of 30%). Of those reporting, 16 councils have a spiritual development chair, half of which were elected, and half appointed.

It was reported that councils in both Dioceses increased their knowledge of our theme “*Care for Our Common Home*” by reading articles in *The Canadian League* magazine; studying *Laudato Si* (two Halifax-Yarmouth councils attended Bishop Dunn’s retreat on the reflection of “*Care of the Common Home*” and Pope Francis’s encyclical *Laudato Si*); setting up displays each week during Lent on the corporal works of mercy and collecting recyclables which were cashed in to buy milk for elementary schools, collecting used and new clothing for Community Cares and personal toiletries to donate to Transition House, encouraging members to recycle; encouraging members to reach out to their neighbours and Sisters in the League.

Antigonish reported that 67% of councils spend one-third of the business meeting on spiritual growth programs and activities. The other 33% had spiritual development but not for the prescribed amount of time.

Halifax-Yarmouth reported 67% did not spend 1/3 of their meeting on spiritual, but clarified with the following: One council attends Mass before the meeting and prays a decade of the Rosary for members who are ill, others began their meetings with a spiritual program and Mass at times. Another council reported their Deacon who is their spiritual advisor attends their meetings and does a spiritual reflection near the end of the meeting.

Antigonish Councils have organized liturgies and programs for their members which included reflections in person and/or on-line on various topics - a Lenten retreat, Scriptural Rosary, weekly mass, prayer services at funerals (when permitted), a prayer service for deceased members, and opening and closing prayers at meetings. Also, some provided gifts to First Communion children.

Halifax-Yarmouth reported that Due to Covid lockdowns, some councils were unable to organize liturgies and other programs. Some, however, led Rosaries on Zoom, read at a member’s memorial mass, and attended a Diocesan retreat. Some councils had retreats or programs of at least two hours to focus on spiritual development.

Councils celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel by wearing their CWL stoles at

Sunday Mass on April 25th, by offering special intentions for members with some members participating online, by encouraging each other to remember Our Lady of Good Counsel in prayer and service, and by following Fr. Patrick O’Neill live on Facebook. Some councils recited the rosary, said prayers at their meeting, and watched mass on Salt & Light TV.

Halifax-Yarmouth reported that due to Covid restrictions, some councils were unable to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel on Apr. 26, 2021; however, some members prayed the rosary at home, watched the mass on television and one council was able to pray the rosary and celebrate mass.

Due to Covid, National Faith Day could not be celebrated in September but many of the members prayed at home.

Several councils reported their spiritual advisor attends all meetings while the majority of spiritual advisors attend on a fairly regular basis. Most councils include their spiritual advisor on their agenda. He fills various roles within councils—offering prayers and reflections;

supporting, encouraging and promoting the League; advising on faith and religious matters; attending meetings, preparing prayers for liturgy committee meetings, and officiating at ceremonies. One council referred to their spiritual adviser as their mentor

In their survey, spiritual development chairs have reported that to develop their personal spirituality, they have read spiritual books, recited the rosary daily, made novenas, studied the bible, journaled, did the Liturgy of the Hours, recited the Divine Mercy Chaplet, had a prayer partner and made a retreat. They found inspiration by watching TV mass and inspirational and educational videos on YouTube, reading spiritual materials such as daily reading in *Living with Christ, The Word Among Us* and *Living Faith* (daily reflections), research, from people they met and from observing nature.

Antigonish reported that 3 councils used the national website resources, while Halifax-Yarmouth have 83 percent of members use the website. Of these, they found the resources for prayer services and communiqués helpful. They encourage council members to study and discuss Catholic teachings at meetings by sharing what they have read and encouraging members to read relevant articles in *The Canadian League* magazine and the *Catholic Press*.

Councils reported studying Pope Francis's encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* and participated in Pope Francis' request to pray the rosary daily in May to end COVID-19.

CWL members are very active in the church, taking leadership roles on parish pastoral councils, parish committee chairs, parish finance committees, diocesan council/committees, and pastoral associates, and serving on Liturgy Committees. CWL members have served in every lay ministry in the church and have chaired or organized many of these.

Antigonish reports that Catholic Missions in Canada has not been a high priority this year; however, some financial and prayerful support was provided. Other missions which received financial assistance were Development and Peace, Esk-Omi Mission, Cody International Institute Fund, National Bursary Fund, Chalice, TV Mass for Shut-Ins, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, Nation Diocesan Seminarian Association and Christmas Daddies, local outreach programs such as Hope Cottage, Feed Others Dartmouth, Mental Health Association, and outreach to the Nova Scotia Hospital.

Some councils have reached out to women of other faiths/churches to join in prayer, meetings, social events or as speakers, participated in World Day of Prayer which was presented online in

2021. Participation in the other ecumenical activities was low. Halifax Yarmouth reported some councils participated in The Fellowship of the Least Coin, Women's Inter-church Council of Canada,

and Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Note that councils were unable to organize anything that involved more than 10 people.

Councils expressed interest in learning more about spiritual development and offered suggestions for training topics. Among these were: workshops at the diocesan/ provincial levels on topics and resources for making presentations (would be helpful if offered by a former spiritual development chair). Presentations could be done at monthly meetings or a member at Diocesan level could give a session once Covid restrictions are lifted. Some other suggestions were how to access resources for prayer services and reflections, facilitating memorial masses, feast day mass, funeral honour guards and vigil prayer services, training sessions for calendar of liturgical events, history of the saints, catechetical training on all aspects of the Catholic faith such as Mass/Reconciliation, etc. Also it was suggested that a workshop on how to develop our new theme be given.

COVID-19 has certainly forced us to “think outside the box”, but councils have come up with inventive ways to show their love of neighbour: serving on COVID-19 protocol committees to keep churches safe for daily mass, assisting others in the community with basic needs, holding a prayer service for deceased members including mass, candle lighting and lunch for family and friends, providing Lenten candle prayer bowls for seniors and candy bags for an adult residential centre. Members of one council attended Father Michael McGivney Feast Day Prayer Service. Suggestions were made that Canada needs Our Lady Outdoors Rosary Rally, Metanoia (Wild Goose) virtual 5-week program, 12 Hour Palliative Care where 12 members choose to pray 1 hour at home when in-person gatherings are not permitted, council members share their catholic faith with members (one member who did this graduated from the Ministry Diploma Program from St. FX University.)

CWL funeral rituals were continued as much as possible/allowed during Covid restrictions.

As most councils reported inability to meet due to Covid restrictions, information received by way of communique or other methods could not be shared at meetings. Some success stories shared from Halifax-Yarmouth included encouraging members to remain strong in difficult times and reminding them that God is beside them no matter how trying things are; Footprints in the Sand was read to remind us that we are never alone; a pilgrimage was made to St. Mary’s

Basilica where the history of the Basilica was shared, Mass was attended, and lunch was attended - this was not possible during Covid restrictions.

In conclusion, thank you to the 18 councils for responding to the survey and to both diocesan

Spiritual Development chairs, Doreen Boudreau and Marie-Claire Arsenault, for generating their annual reports from these responses. Hopefully when restrictions are lifted, Diocesan and Provincial councils can reach out to councils to encourage them to submit year end reports either online or in hard copy so that reporting percentages can be increased enabling us to have a clearer picture of activities of our CWL councils in Nova Scotia.

It might seem that we haven’t been able to do anything during the various lockdowns and all the restrictions, but this report shows that the CWL in Nova Scotia is alive and active. COVID-19 has given

us a chance to step back and focus on the importance of prayer and our neighbour. May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to give us strength and direction.

Organization Report

Organization Standing Committee 2021 Annual Report

Jessie Parkinson, Standing Committee Chairperson

The global pandemic had, once again, an almost devastating impact on the ability of parish councils to recruit and retain members. As a result the majority of Organizations chairpersons did not bother to file annual reports with their diocesan counterparts. 8 parish councils in the diocese of Halifax-Yarmouth and 13 councils in the Antigonish Diocese filed reports. There are 59 parish councils in Nova Scotia, so this is a significant drop in participation. Only 17 had an organization chairperson, the majority appointed, and most had previously held this position. This supports what we already know: that there is a lack of new leadership at parish levels and a real need to help them empower their members to hold office. As our membership ages this is critical to our survival.

Most councils did not understand the need to report on race/ethnicity and answered “unknown”. They felt that their councils represented the culture of their parish community. This is probably quite a different picture from provinces with a larger diverse ethnic population. Most members are over the age of 35.

Restrictions on meetings and events during most of 2021 meant that there were limited opportunities for fundraisers, meetings, social activities and spiritual events. As is common with most seniors, members did not want to associate with others outside their immediate family for fear of contracting the virus. Council executives struggled with getting their members engaged, and it seems apparent that even the executives were not engaged based upon our response rate. Although most of our councils use online membership to report to National, they do not use social media to keep in touch and do not use the available platforms such as Zoom to meet. They contact their members by phone and kept in touch in this way. Education around these valuable resources is essential. Most people have some kind of “device” to keep them engaged with family; they do not seem to realize that this same device can also be used to help them meet.

Membership – recruitment of new members and retention of existing members – remains a critical issue. Personal invitation, notices in parish bulletins and the involvement of the parish priest continue to be the most successful tools. The problem with this is that if church attendance is down, so is the ability to recruit. Apathy also played a significant role. If you cannot meet, socialize and fundraise “what is the point of joining?” say prospective members. In order to keep current membership in place, creative means to collect dues were once again required.

Most councils have a mix of elected and appointed executive members, and most do not have all positions filled. They report that they “make it work”.

Traditionally councils have used luncheons, fairs, teas, fundraising activities and spiritual events to attract and engage members. Unfortunately most of these activities could not be held due to a shut

down or gathering limits. A few councils had a “take out” luncheon which they reported as successful, but which required more work by fewer people.

Councils with members on the diocesan and provincial executives readily ask for help getting information to members and help in resolving problems/issues. Not all councils have a Life Member to call upon for advice since only former provincial executive members have that designation. With only 2 dioceses, the requirement that nominees for life membership have held the position of diocesan or provincial president and the aging demographic means Nova Scotia has fewer Life Members to call upon for guidance and support.

There are a number of new resources published by national to assist councils to welcome members and keep them informed: *“Diversity: Tools for Council Use”*; *“Welcome Program”* and *“Executive Orientation”* are among them. Less than half of the reporting councils were aware of these new membership tools, but none have made use of them. 40% of councils are aware of the latest activities of the *Strategic Plan Implementation Committee*.

Councils reported some of the issues in their role as Organizational chair and completing the survey as follows:

- Difficult to do any recruitment activities, with low attendance at church
- Challenge to hold events, members are hesitant to attend meetings
- There was very little opportunity to actively engage in regular meetings and activities
- Holding to instructed vote was long and tedious
- Not comfortable using technology, not computer literate “Another member did it for me.”
- “I found some of the questions in this survey difficult to complete. (Ethnicity of members: What is Oceania? North American? (many members consider themselves Canadian/ North American))”
- “I found the survey straightforward and easy to complete”

Diocesan chairs reported they attempted to fulfill their roles in some of the following ways:

- Attended Zoom meetings for diocesan, provincial and national conventions/AMM
- Composed and sent 2 memos this year re: #6 Welcome Programs, Membership Fees; #7 Membership, Strategic Plan Updates and Annual Reports.
- Submitted articles for Spring and Fall issue of Diocesan Newsletter
- Attended the 7 diocesan (zoom) meetings held this past year
- Prepared Reports for Diocesan (zoom) Officers’ Meetings held Feb, June, and Sept
- Contacted 6 councils to complete diocesan ‘staying connected survey’
- Received access code from national, to monitor the completed annual report surveys. I had many phone calls and emails to councils to assist in completing annual reports. The final surveys are forwarded to each diocesan officer.
- Visit the CWL website frequently to stay up to date with new initiatives and resources; completed national surveys

We are all looking forward to getting back to some degree of normalcy once restrictions in our Province have been eased- which actually happened yesterday! I am looking forward to our 2 Diocesan conventions this spring and hopefully a Provincial convention in June. I want to see our members and encourage them to get back to work, for God and Canada.

Community Life

Community Life Standing Committee 2021 Annual Report

Cathy Targett, Standing Committee Chairperson

This annual report reflects the annual report submissions for Halifax-Yarmouth and Antigonish Diocesan councils. We appreciate and thank the councils who took the time to prepare their reports during the past year of restrictions due to the pandemic. The community life role had 11 of 37 councils reporting, and 9 councils have a chairperson within Diocese of Antigonish. There are 7 positions filled in the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth. The council reports provided significant engagement in the community despite restrictions. The Executive managed to keep the membership informed with regular emails and phone calls. Phone calls were made throughout the year to let members know someone was thinking of them as we were not able to meet in person as often as usual. Fundraising efforts were limited due to the restrictions in place for gathering, but fortunately councils were able to meet pre-arranged financial commitments.

Social and Economic Justice

Overall, minority groups were supported. Councils participated with prayer, volunteering, and monetary donations for those incarcerated, suffering domestic violence, homelessness, and human trafficking. Support for local organizations included affordable housing, anti-poverty programs, school programs, clothing drives, drop-in centers, emergency shelters for homeless and those experiencing domestic abuse, employment training programs, food banks, food hampers, soup kitchens, single parent resource center, wish foundation, restorative justice programs and violence prevention programs.

Support was provided for multiple local school breakfast programs, hospitals, local emergency shelters, and the local food and clothing bank. Local community support for seniors was provided through donated Easter flower bouquets to residents of 2 local Nursing homes. To support the youth in our community, bursaries were donated to high school grads, members volunteered at the First Communion and Confirmation Ceremonies in the Parish. In addition, donations to programs such as community outreach program for youth in crises. A Christmas tree was purchased to help beautify a local public park in one community with a plaque attached in honor of the 100 years of CWL.

One council was able maintain the support their foster child and they usually adopt a family for Christmas food and gifts. This year we held a food drive and also collected a good quality of personal care products. CWL members continue to work at the food bank on a weekly basis.

Due to COVID-19 the council was not able to participate in the prison ministry or with the restorative justice program. Many live in small rural communities with the nearest prison 100 km away. In addition, there were many limitations on visiting and gatherings.

Dignity and Rights:

Human Trafficking

Canada has marked February 22nd as Annual Human Trafficking Awareness Day. Three councils participated and discussed it to improve the awareness of this issue among our membership. Two councils reported they prayed the rosary for these causes.

Half of the chairpersons are very aware of human trafficking laws and what is being done in the fight against human trafficking and sharing information with their councils. Public Safety Canada released the 2018 Human Trafficking Consultation Report on January 14, 2020, Building a Safe and Resilient Canada. Only two councils shared the information about the report.

The majority of councils are aware of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. A small percentage of councils supported minority groups (domestic violence, homelessness, human trafficking, poverty and racism) through donations, prayer, and volunteering. Councils did not support incarcerated or individuals suffering from bullying.

Indigenous Peoples

Majority of councils are very aware of the struggles of Indigenous women. Only two councils discussed Bill C-262 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.

Three councils reported celebrating National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21, 2021, through awareness and educations. One council celebrated mass and invited the Indigenous community. Additionally, members participated in a rosary and prayer service livestreamed to the parish, and prayer by members who were unable to do more due to pandemic.

This year the discovery of graves on the former residential school sites has brought strong criticism against the Catholic church. Half of councils reported being aware of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation held on September 30th. They showed support with prayer, discussion and promoted event on their Facebook page. They joined with the Knights and the parish prayer group rosary and prayer service livestreamed and open to the parish. It was also discussed and CWL members were encouraged to participate in activities of the day. Prayed for all who are affected by these tragic findings and members attended Mass at our local church, individual prayer by members, and discussed the importance with our children and families.

Orange Shirt Day 4 councils wore orange on September 30th to promote awareness in Canada about the residential school system and the impact it had on indigenous communities for over a century, an impact recognized as cultural genocide?

Several councils support organizations that assist Indigenous peoples. They provided financial support to emergency shelter homes and food banks that support people in need including Indigenous peoples.

Canada Summer Job applications Half of the chairpersons continue to monitor the Canada Summer Job applications when they are available.

Developing Countries:

Half of reporting 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 encouraged the well-being of people before profit margins, and to further encourage governments to facilitate these changes. Councils did not host invited guest speakers from developing nations to their meetings.

Councils supported the following organizations that focus solely on developing countries:

Chalice, Operation Eyesight International, Samaritans Purse, Buy-A-Net Malaria Prevention Group, Operation Christmas Child, Save a Family Plan, Holy Child Association, and Sleeping Children Around the World.

Catholic Near East Welfare Association- Most groups focused on other topics this year because of the pandemic. However, 2 groups distributed pamphlets and one group spoke of it at meetings.

Councils (4) supported the CNEWA national voluntary fund to help support Christians in the Middle East and Holy Land. One council promoted Catholic Near East Welfare Association this year at their meeting. Two councils supported CNEWA national voluntary fund to help support Christians in the Middle East and Holy Land. Councils did not celebrate the CWL Day of Prayer for Christians in the Middle East and Holy Land.

On September 21st, councils did not celebrate the CWL Day of Prayer for Christian sisters and brothers in the Holy Land and Middle East. However, the topic, designated as the International Day of Peace, was brought up at the next CWL Meeting and members prayed at home. Councils did not host invited guest speakers from developing nations to their meetings.

Immigration, Immigrants and Refugees:

Immigration, especially in the maritime provinces, is vital to grow our population and meet labour needs. The Atlantic Immigration pilot program continues to help employers in Atlantic Canada to hire foreign skilled workers retain international graduates who want to stay on in Atlantic Canada after they graduate.

The members rate their knowledge from very good to poor referring to the availability regarding immigrants and refugees in your community and the availability of English language courses, need for financial assistance for food and rent that is offered, the number of immigrants and refugees in their communities, and their countries of origin. Only three councils reported being informed about Canada's official immigration and refugee policies.

Members have a general understanding of the difference is between a temporary foreign worker, immigrant and refugee and would be able to explain it. No councils were able to participate in citizenship ceremonies.

Remembrance Services

The majority of councils supported the Poppy Campaign and all but 2 participated in Services at the Epitaph, or through television or livestream services. Four councils reported wearing red on Friday in support of Canadian troops

Resolution 2016.01 Equal Access to Permanent Resident Status, An Amendment to the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act

No councils wrote letters to the prime minister or continued to review and monitor Resolution 2016.01 of offering to strengthen or establish programs for foreign workers. One council monitored the government's response to the request.

Overall, council members are familiar with the League's program for CCODP of donating 1% of the price of luxury items they purchased during the year to CCODP. Because of the pandemic and not meeting in person most did not take part in the annual 1% Program.

Mary's Meals

Following an article in The Canadian League magazine on Mary's Meals, two councils indicated they supported this initiative with a monetary donation. The topic is brought forward regarding what the National Chair tells us about aiming funds to support Mary's Meals or Care of our Common Home projects, Development and Peace, but most councils are focused on local Community needs.

Comments from Councils:

Covid-19 has challenged, but not limited the council's undertakings. With depleted financial resources and the inability to fundraise in support of those in need the majority of groups continue to maintain some level of communication and also to sponsor and assist when able despite these limited resources – financially, geographically and age-related. Councils members connected through mail, emails, phone calls and home visits. Councils reported they were able to collect personal care items for shelters, support food bank, visits to isolated and lonely in the community, dropped off baking to neighbours, support Christmas Daddies, needy families, and Chalice Christmas catalogue. Successes include volunteering at the food bank, help with church duties, providing gifts for needy children (Share Christmas) and one council opened a Food Bank as a new project. As you can see our councils are addressing the daily concerns during these challenging times. Their love and caring for fellow members of their communities – both local and global – is to be commended and I am inspired by their dedication to be working together for God and Canada. May our Lady of Good Council bless and guide us as we reach out to those in our community and across the globe.

Christian Family Life

Christian Family Life 2021 Annual Report

Cleo Windsor, Standing Committee Chairperson

Seventeen councils in Nova Scotia responded to the 2021 online report. While the reporting councils described activities in support of seniors, the disabled, and youth, it is evident that Covid 19 restrictions had a significant impact on the activities of CWL councils this year.

Councils reported supporting the sanctity of life at all stages, through donations to advocacy organizations, communication with the Provincial government, and prayers. A Walk For Life was held,

with donations going o palliative care. There is a Pro-Life brochure to be found on the CWL website under “to organize” and then under the subheading “promotional material.

Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love) Family Year continues until June 2022. While the councils could not participate in activities this year, members continue to support families through prayers, social calls, and funeral receptions. Members assisted seniors and disabled members of their parish families through cards, transportation, meals, gifts, and communion. A resource brochure entitled *Annulment Today* is also available on the National website.

Members reported serving youth through involvement in religious education, First Communion, and Confirmation; as well as donations to Brownies and Girl Guides. The decrease in the number of youth attending mass is a concern to everyone. World Youth Day is scheduled to resume in Portugal in 2023. Hopefully members will be able to support youth from their parishes who are planning to attend.

2021 was a challenging year and one in which members could not take part in their usual activities. However, the CWL continued to support Christian Family Life in many ways. They reached out to others online, by mail and with personal visits, when possible.

As we move towards a post-pandemic time, we all look forward to more connection and personal involvement with our sisters in the League, and all the groups who need our care and support. It is vital that we reach out to others: youth, members, non-members, the elderly, and anyone who is not feeling love and understanding, to make them feel that they are part of us and are wanted and needed in our community and in our church community.

Education and Health

Education and Health Standing Committee 2021 Annual Report

Carol Ann LeBlanc, Standing Committee Chairperson

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, Education and Health chairpersons reported a quiet year and only a few parish councils submitted annual reports. Chairpersons have an average of 10-25 years within the age group of 55-75 years serving as chairs.

Catholic Education

Councils are informed of Catholic Religious Instruction in their own church parishes and are aware of the many resources offered online including the CWL websites. Since the pandemic, distant learning has involved parents more with their children’s preparation for first communion and confirmation. Catholic education unfortunately is not part of the curriculum at school.

Literacy and Continuing Education

Scholarships and bursaries are presented to high school graduates and university and college students with councils usually specifying that children of CWL members be considered.

The National Bursary Fund application must be submitted to National by May 15 of each year. A member followed courses for two years at The Atlantic School of Theology with funds received and a member followed the course offered at St. Paul's University, Ottawa.

Contributions were made to Coady International Institute.

Wellness and Sickness/Disease

The response for the CWL Mental Health Postcard campaign was low as many were unaware of this project. Due to lack of funds, councils were not able to support national organizations that focus on Health & Wellness but members supported organizations on an individual basis such as: The Alzheimer Society, Canadian Cancer, Canadian Diabetes, Canadian Red Cross, Heart & Stroke, Multiple Sclerosis Society, Relay for life, Coalition Life, Foster Parents Plan, Local branch of Birthright, Mater Care International, Ronald McDonald House, Children's Wish Foundation, Kidney Foundation, local schools, Transition House, Parkinson's, St. Vincent de Paul and Hospice Palliative Care.

The Canadian Blood Services 'Partners for Life Program' was not promoted. More information will be provided to councils.

12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care – Councils encouraged all members to pray for palliative care with several councils arranging twelve members to pray for one hour in their homes. The Palliative Care postcards were used by one council and one council provided information on advanced care planning.

Environment

Care for Our Common Home initiatives have continued to be of importance. Members have addressed environmental issues by eliminating the use of plastic bottles, straws, and bags, participating in waste cleanups, recycling, and using green bins for organic waste, staying aware of climate change, and reducing paper.

Trees were planted in commemoration of 100th, 80th & 75th anniversaries of League and Councils.

Genetics

The subject of the technology to alter genes considering the teaching of the Catholic Church was addressed by councils as having good-to-fair knowledge. Councils felt references for research and guidance on this topic would be helpful to present at meetings.

Closing remarks from the parish council chairpersons

Learn and more information is needed on palliative care and assisted suicide, loneliness for the elderly and grief counselling and Mental Health.

Personal opinions:

- a) 'The archaic thoughts on fertility and IVF treatment' will limit the growth of attracting young people to join the Church/CWL
- b) Learn more about LGBTQ2 – varying views on sexuality welcomed by the Church

Over the past year it was especially important to stay connected with members. It has been incredibly challenging physically, mentally, spiritually and in many cases financially for many members and their families. Meetings and fund-raising were put on hold for most of the year for many councils.

My thanks to Earlene Landry and Gail Grapes, Diocesan chairpersons, for their valuable insights. Our Lady of Good Council will guide us as we help protect the environment and keep people aware of the Education and Health in our communities. Stay safe.

Communications

Communications Standing Committee 2021 Annual Report

Elizabeth Doyle, Standing Committee Chairperson

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts on our councils over the last year, most of the many meetings and functions looked considerably different than usual. There were far fewer virtual meetings, with zoom meetings, phone calls and emailing becoming the more common ways of connecting this year. A total of 23 parish councils responded to the Communications Annual Survey, out of a possible 59.

Based on the survey results received, the majority of the Communications positions were filled, with the majority of those filled positions being appointed.

The Canadian League Magazine (Winter): Articles which resonated with our members were the care and concern of our members during the pandemic along with the pornography campaign which increases awareness of its harmful effects.

(Spring): Critical decision making affecting the future of the League and again mandatory age verification for adult pornographic websites. (Resolution "Mandatory Age Verification".)

(Fall): This edition enjoyed less readership reflecting perhaps a weariness around the pandemic as well as indicating they did not have access to the publication online.

Evangelization

The majority of councils promoted the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation however there was a lack of promotion for World Communications Day.

Mass for Shut-ins continue to prove popular with our members as it is produced in Nova Scotia and many of our council members participate. There is only minimal support for the other forms of media. The league sponsored Mass honouring Our Lady of Good Counsel is shared among members with great participation of all councils.

Promote the League

The majority of councils used social media and the internet to promote the League and share information. Many members visited the national website (cwl.ca) for current information and resources. The majority of councils have not used local media for advertising however took advantage of church bulletins, emails, and telephone committees.

Most councils either did not encourage, or were unsure whether members were encouraged, to monitor media content. For the most part, there were no instances where the council or member spoke out about inappropriate content.

Media: Newsletters and Bulletins

The majority of councils did not produce a newsletter. Of those that did, in the majority of cases it is prepared by the President and distributed via email.

Media Relations

The majority of councils did not work with local media. Of those who have it was an invitation to attend an event they were having.

Pornography

Newspapers continue to provide information regarding the influence of pornography along with various websites and/or legislation. Unfortunately, councils were unable to participate this year in the Pornography Hurts Campaign I suspect due to covid restraints.

Resolution 2002.11

Councils have encouraged their members to become educated on Internet Safety & responsible and appropriate technology use and become aware of age verification controls on adult websites. Unfortunately, there has been a lack of action to ensure the educational system received curricula support to enable students having access to tools to respond thoughtfully and critical to media content. At least one Council, however, has acted to encourage Governmental support for Research Development of tools aimed at protecting children from offensive content online.

Strategic Planning Updates & The Renewal Prayer

The majority of councils have shared the strategic planning information with their members, including the information in *The Canadian League* magazine. The majority of councils were aware of the strategic planning monthly updates on the national website.

The Renewal Prayer has been proffered for use at monthly meetings. It is encouraging to see a good number of Councils take advantage of the information provided on the National Website.

While technology continues to present challenges to overcome – people remain encouraged and positive about their abilities to contribute to their councils. As has been a common theme for the last two years, the Covid Pandemic has thrown a wrench in the works with regards to meetings, participation and programs however our councils are alive and well. The National, Provincial and Diocesan websites have workshops and other sources of information available to use for your council meetings.

Legislation Report

Legislation Standing Committee 2021 Annual Report

Janet Terrio, Legislation Chairperson

Both Diocesan Councils sent annual reports; Antigonish reporting 4 out of 36 councils (11%) submitted and Halifax-Yarmouth reporting 4 reports from 22 councils (18%). Of the eight councils, four positions were filled.

Parish councils in both dioceses reported high awareness of their representatives at the Municipal, Provincial and National levels. Some councils knew how to contact these representatives and how to access current legislative information. Councils supported the following bills:

- **Bill C-7: (Medical Assistance in Dying)**
- **Bill C268: (Intimidation of health care professionals)**
- **Bill C233: (Sex Selective Abortion).**

One council spoke about Bill C273 (S-233 Guaranteed Basic income) and Bill C230 (redressing environmental racism). No councils used the “Faith in Action” workshop.

All councils faced challenges during 2021, including but not confined to:

- Limited number of meetings due to COVID-19 restrictions
- Difficulty finding information on bills and researching the facts surrounding them
- Finding members interested in becoming chairs

Thank you to Antigonish Diocesan Legislation Chair Jolene MacLellan and to Halifax-Yarmouth Diocesan President Sandra Kline for their excellent annual reports.

The challenges since 2020 have called for innovation, “thinking outside the box”, being able to adapt, and to pivot. At all levels of the Catholic Women’s League of Canada we have sisters who meet these challenges and will continue to lead us into the future.

The Strategic Planning Committee and its Working Groups are showing us how the League can evolve. With God’s help we will continue Our Mission:

The Catholic Women’s League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.

Credentials Report

**74th Annual meeting of Members
June 11th, 2022
In –Person and Video conference Session.**

Credential Report

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

Registration Report

National Executive	_____
<i>Diocesan Executive</i>	_____
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	_____

