



**Nova Scotia Provincial Council
Catholic Women's League of Canada
Community Life - Communiqué # 1 – June 7-9**

The Community Life Annual Report is on page 32 in your Report Book.

I encourage you to request your parish to complete the annual reports and proudly share all the wonderful work your council does in your parish and community. If you need assistance completing your reports on line, please contact your Diocesan Community Convenor or self for assistance.

Share Lent collection in support of Development & Peace was permitted by the Archdioceses of Halifax-Yarmouth and Antigonish. If your council is still to participate or support the Share Lent collection, please ensure your council when submitting contributions to Development and Peace will specify in writing that the donation is not to be forwarded to any of the 52 partners under investigation.

For those of you who are still unaware that CWL National Executives have suspended funding to Development and Peace until the Canadian Catholic Bishops Conference complete their audit on D&P

I have a report from Development and Peace dated June 4 from Dan Gillis, animator of Maritime Region on their current activities which I will read at the end of my report. Thanks

Canada Summer Jobs Program 2019 : The attestation change definitely indicates our voices made a difference on this issue. So let our voices always be heard.

Human Trafficking is a colossal issue in Canada and in the world. The 2 Representatives from the Antigonish Diocesan Faith Formation group articulated the parameters of the problems of Human Trafficking. Indeed, Human Trafficking is modern day of human slavery. I am sure you must have been surprised to hear the revenue is over \$150 billion which is even higher than what they earn from the sale of drugs. So please share the package Cecile Miller provided with your councils and let us see how we can help these helpless women, immigrants, children and indigenous communities. Letters to our MPs will help. Host and attend awareness events in your community.

The National Inquiry into the missing indigenous women and girls which started two years ago at a cost of 92 million came to a close with sweeping reforms to stop this alleged genocide. The information was documented on 1200 pages and results shared early this week. Several social, economic reforms were recommended and the police department was asked to be more attentive on how these cases are handled. Let us pray that the recommendations are followed and the quality of life for women and children improve. We are here today on traditional MicMac territory. *Let our voices be heard!*

Bill C-262 introduced in 2016 which was passed in the House of Common last year is still pending in the Senate. The Bill C-262 introduced in 2016 which was passed in the House of Common last year is still pending in the Senate. The Bill compels Canada to review federal laws with an eye to compatibility with United National Declaration on the right of Indigenous people (UNDRIP). The Conservatives are stalling as they are concerned that passing this Bill would give Indigenous people a “Veto” over resource development projects and create legal economic uncertainty. Please follow this closely and we may have to intervene and be their voice.

The CWL focuses on Human Dignity and the rights of persons and this includes refugees and the marginalized in our society. Let our councils help refugee families through fundraisers providing them with transportation, tutoring them in English, familiarizing them with their surroundings and the Canadian way of life , and the list goes on. As we all know faith without work is dead. Our Mission statement calls us to witness God's love through ministry and service.

Economic and Social inequalities is growing in the world. Let us be instrumental in bridging the gaps. Let us also focus on what we can do with issues in Developing countries issues such child labour, trade laws and we have to be vigilant in monitoring and looking for change in policies where Government puts profits before people. Councils can continue to

make a difference by supporting the wonderful works done by Chalice, the sisters of charity with whom Fr. Jim is working in Peru, the India or Nigeria Helper program and so on.. Please always see if your council can provide a few meals each year to the Soup kitchens in your area and also try to volunteer in these kitchen. Let me tell you it is very rewarding!

This weekend we have heard so much on our new theme “Care for our Common Home”. Talk to your council about the conservation of water, staying away from the use of plastic dinnerware, etc. Encourage them to read Pope Francis’ encyclical “Laudato Si” which focuses on social and environmental issues. Let us take care of what we are fortunate to have received from God. At your council meetings talk about ways we can protect Mother Earth before it is too late.

The H.U.G. (Helping, Understanding, Giving) Project provides toiletries and clothing to women and children who seek refuge in shelters. Many councils are already involved in providing useful items to shelters and soup kitchens. More information on the HUG project is available on the National website. It is a Centenary Project. Report all your good deeds to the Centenary Committee.

May our Lady of Good Counsel bless you and your families and may the Holy Spirit guide you and show you ways to continue to use all His wonderful gifts as you serve your communities.

Have a wonderful summer and I pray the summer is toasty and enjoyable

Thank You!

Catherine Gonsalves,
Provincial Chairperson, Community Life –
[cgonsalves47 \(a\) gmail.com](mailto:cgonsalves47@gmail.com)