

Nova Scotia Provincial Convention
Catholic Women's League of Canada
Education and Health Oral Report
June 7-9, 2019

Madame President and Sisters in the League,

Marian Hepditch-Littlepage Prize

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

Barriers to Accessibility Survey

Earleen Landry, Education and Health Chairperson has shared that the Provincial Government is currently developing accessibility standards in education and the built environment. Nova Scotians are being asked to participate by providing input to an online survey to share their experiences with accessibility in education and the built environment barriers. Paper copies are also available by contacting the Accessibility Directorate.

Education standards will address accessibility in public and private learning facilities such as schools, colleges, universities, early childhood education and the Nova Scotia School for Adult Learning.

The Built Environment will address how to make buildings, rights-of-way and outdoor spaces accessible.

The survey is easy to complete and available in English, French and American Sign Language.

The deadline for the survey completion and submission is June 12.

For further information, please see <http://novascotia.ca/accessibility/standards-consultation>.

Nova Scotia Health Care

There have been many newscasts and articles in newspapers across the province regarding the critical health care issues in Nova Scotia this year. On the Health Care Redevelopment website, the Provincial Government communicates the following:

“Health care needs are evolving and redevelopment projects in Nova Scotia's two largest centers present a once in a lifetime opportunity to rethink and rebuild the way we deliver health care. The plans are focused on making our health care system stronger to ensure the needs of Nova Scotians remain at the heart of everything we do. Together, these projects will help support the health care of all Nova Scotians today, and for future generations.

There will be opportunities for the public to stay informed and engaged in these exciting projects.”

There is information on this website outlining the plans for the two largest health care centers, Halifax and Cape Breton. It is easy to get frustrated with the current state of affairs in the health care system wondering with all the issues, can our health care system be fixed. This website provides an overview of the plans and projects which form the roadmap to improve and redefine health care in Nova Scotia. There is a section for updates as well as the opportunity to ask questions and provide valuable input. For further information, please see healthredevelopment.novascotia.ca

After the Bell Program

“No more pencils, no more books, no more breakfast, no more lunch???? (quote from After the Bell website)

Food Banks Canada’s After the Bell Program provides nutritious, healthy food for children in need during the summer months to supplement meals that children would normally receive at their schools during the school year. Food Banks Canada will deliver 100,000 healthy food packs to food banks across Canada in 2019. Feed Nova Scotia will receive 8,000 packs to help fill the summer gap across the province. These packs will provide healthy and nutritious food providing children the physical health and fuel to enjoy the summer days. The packs contain child friendly, nutritious foods such as shelf stable items including milk, hummus, crackers, cereal, oatmeal and raisins. Feed Nova Scotia will supplement with perishable items such as apples, cheese and yogurt. One in five Nova Scotian children live in poverty. However, one in three children are being supported by the food banks for food insecurity.

Planning is underway now for food banks across Canada to deliver 130,000 packs in the 2020 After the Bell Program! An increase of 30,000 packs! Perhaps Councils might want to consider getting involved in this wonderful initiative for 2020! Feed Nova Scotia is looking for food and monetary donations to support this program. Volunteers are always welcomed and needed. A donation of \$2.00 received by Feed Nova Scotia provides enough food for three meals.

www.afterthebell.foodbankscanada.ca, www.feednovascotia.ca

May Our Lady of Good Counsel bless you, your families and the work you do for God and Canada.

This concludes my report.

RoseAnn Hetherington
Education and Health Chairperson