



The Catholic Women's League of Canada BC & Yukon Provincial Council

July 18, 2024

From June 20 – 22, 2024, the The Catholic Women's League of Canada, BC & Yukon Provincial Council gathered in Kamloops for the 77th BC & Yukon provincial convention. One hundred and thirty attendees participated in fruitful meetings, prayerful ceremonies, and fun activities.

The opening Eucharistic celebration was held at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, with celebrants, Rev. John Garden and fellow priests, and Derrick Cameron celebrated Friday's mass. National President, Shari Guinta welcomed attendees. Peter Milobar, MLA for North Thompson, Councillor Katie Neustaeter for Mayor Reid Hamer-Jackson of Kamloops, and District Deputy Garry Mayhew, and Grand Knight Rick Kirkwood, representing the Knights of Columbus, brought greetings. After President Catherine L'Heureux officially opened the convention, the Knights of Columbus hosted a reception.

The convention opened with reports presented by diocesan presidents and provincial officers, who conveyed the many works and activities of members across the province and the Yukon, and a report by the past president, Sharon Geiger, on the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations. On Friday, Sheri Guinta's presentation on the three core values, and her conversation, stimulated several questions and discussion. Father John Garden presented on both days, with considerations of the question, "What does it mean to serve the Lord with joy, especially when our Christian discipleship includes experiences of suffering, pain or anxiety." On Saturday, Lynne Langley held a workshop on "Celebrating and Welcoming Immigrants", ably supported by the provincial executive in heritage costume: a favourite of the attendees was the rosary, said in several languages. Dr. Gerry Turcotte, President of Corpus Christi College and Principal of Saint Mark's College, described how his thoughts on social justice, at the heart of Catholic social teaching, has been shaped by his faith and his encounters. The Church, in our Christian engagement, identifies the dignity and worth of each individual. It is not always obvious how to volunteer, but we are encouraged to commit to service. The 2023-2025 officers of the BC & Yukon provincial council recommitted their service. They remain: Spiritual Advisor Rev. John Garden, President Catherine L'Heureux, Vice-President Sylvia Jurys, Secretary Kathryn Weswick, Treasurer Renee Johnson, Chair of Faith Victoria Oppertshauser, Chair of Service Laura Esposito, and Chair of Social Justice Angelina Stiglich.

The closing celebration was held at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church with Bishop Joseph Nguyen as celebrant. After the final blessing, the recommitted officers of the BC & Yukon provincial council were installed.

About the Catholic Women's League of Canada

The Catholic Women's League of Canada, founded in 1920, is one of the largest organizations of women in Canada, with more than 60,000 members representing every province, territory and the military. The League is organized and pledged to serve all citizens, and has often received the commendation and keen appreciation of the federal, provincial, and municipal authorities for the voluntary services able performed by its national membership. The BC & Yukon provincial council represents about 7,000 members in the dioceses of Kamloops, Nelson, Prince George, Vancouver, Victoria, and Whitehorse.