

Date: August 21, 2023

BC & Yukon Provincial Service Communique # 1

Greetings Everyone,

Introducing Myself: First, I am the newly appointed BC & Yukon Service Chairperson. I have served on many levels of the League. Provincially I was Secretary, then Communications Chair, then Spiritual Development Chairperson. I have been a CWL member for over thirty years, love all the work that the League does. I enjoy going to conventions just having returned from my 16th National. I learn so much at each one!

This is going to so many people because... the responsibilities and duties came from eight committees and now, fall under the three new committees – Faith, Service, and Social Justice. Two of the six diocesan councils are still under the eight standing committees but all will be with the three standing committees with the elections in 2024, and so, to ensure that everyone gets this communique, I am sending it to many.

Introduction of the duties under Service --- in the League of the Future - As this is a new position and encompasses areas which before were under many other committees, I will begin by outlining the areas that now are covered under the Service Committee. (Taken from the document “Guidelines by Standing Committee Responsibilities per C & B from National office)

Service (Hands That Share) “Service to the Church, Canada, and the World - The Catholic Women’s League of Canada and its members provide service to those in need, their parish, their local community, the country, and the world. The League Prayer includes the words, “... teach us to share with others at home and abroad...” The League is known and valued for this service.

Through service, members are encouraged to:

- Provide/coordinate volunteer activities/ projects of the council in service of members, the parish, or the community.
- Develop services to help in the areas of homelessness, human trafficking, poverty, bullying, racism, etc.
- Support food banks and soup kitchens, serve funeral receptions.
- Invite guest speakers to educate members about charitable needs in the local community, the country and abroad,
- Educate members about issues relating to restrictions to providing service, such as summer jobs applications, criteria restrictions for peaceful witnessing.
- Study and implement the action plans of adopted resolutions that pertain to service

I have only listed the responsibilities that now lie under Service. For the complete list of the responsibilities that fall under all three new committees, go to www.cwl.ca and type in Guidelines by Standing Committee Responsibilities per C&B.

With this communique, I would like to focus on two mandates under this committee which read “develop services to help in the areas of homelessness, human trafficking, poverty, bullying, racism” and “support food banks and soup kitchens, serve at funeral receptions.”

So, I will ask, “How will you and your council help those who are homeless, or poor? How will help be given to those who have suffered extreme loss with the devastating wildfires? How will help be provided for those who are hungry through food banks or soup kitchens? Do you have any new ideas which other councils may also want to incorporate into what they do? I would love to hear about them.

National Convention 2023 held in St. John New Brunswick August 13 – 15, 2023

I was fortunate to be voted in as one of the two accredited delegates for BC & Yukon Provincial Council to attend the National convention. I learn so much each time I go to any convention, and I come away with a renewed zest for the League. This was my 16th National convention.

There was one resolution brought forward, gifted to us from Manitoba titled **2023.01 Combatting Textile Waste in Canada**. Please read the brief and follow the action plan for this

resolution, which can now be found on the National website. We all need to do our part in being responsible consumers and buying clothes that are made from natural fibers, which when put into landfills will biodegrade quickly. As long as we keep buying textiles that are made from non-biodegradable products, companies will continue to make them. In this way, we are part of the problem and I believe that we each need to do our part to change this. Please check labels before buying your next item of clothing.

At the National convention, the following were elected to these respective offices:

Spiritual Advisor – Bishop Wayne Lobsinger	President – Shari Guinta
Vice President – Betty Colaneri	Secretary – Treasurer – Dorothy Johansen
Chairpersons – Faith - Rolande Chernichan	Service - Jolene Bellineau
Social Justice - Glenda Carson	
Life Member Liaison – Jacqueline Nogier	

I would like to end with a prayer which I found on p. 563 of the Sunday Missal written by Raymond Friel and David Wells, “At Your Side Prayers for Messy, Delightful, Complicated, Outrageous, Everyday Life (Toronto: Novalis, 2020). For me it epitomizes how we can humbly give service to all our brothers and sisters:

About Prayer

It's about humility, not merit.	It's about honesty, not best behavior.
It's about the Heart, not the head.	It's about faith, not certainty.
It's about simplicity, not complexity.	It's about friendship, not fear.
It's about intimacy, not distance.	It's about community, not just me.
It's about routine, not whenever.	It's about changing our mind, not God's.
It's about what we undergo, not what we do. It's about being called into being.	
It's about being loved. And, being loved, loving others, loving the world.	

“It is not enough to say we are Christians. We must live the faith, not only with our words, but with our actions.” Pope Francis

Ciao for now and God bless.

Laura Esposito, BC & Yukon Service Chairperson

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