

From: Laura Esposito, BC & Yukon Provincial Service Committee Chairperson

Greetings as we begin the season of Lent,

**Thank you** to all Diocesan Chairpersons of Service who sent in the annual reports on time. My provincial report has been completed and sent to Joline Belliveau National CWL Service Chairperson. It will appear in the provincial convention book in June.

**Giving Service** - Giving service has been an integral part of the Catholic Women's League from its inception to present day. Service takes many forms, manifesting itself in different ways in each council. The following is taken from the Handbook for Chairpersons of Service and lists ways in which local councils may engage in service:

- Host events in support of parish (communion breakfasts, clergy appreciation lunches, senior evenings, funeral receptions).
- Support/host/participate in events in service of the community (serving at food banks or soup kitchens, collecting winter clothing for shelters, visiting shut-ins, etc.).
- Support national or international initiatives by, for example, sponsoring a person through an organization such as Chalice, participating in events held by groups such as Development and Peace, etc.
- Develop/support services to help in the areas of homelessness, human trafficking, poverty, bullying, racism, etc.
- Educate members about charitable needs in local, national and international communities through guest speakers.
- Organize fundraisers for council initiatives.
- Study and implement the action plans of related adopted resolutions.

**A reminder of Resolutions** passed at the National convention in August 2024 – all of which fall under the auspices of the Service committee.

**2024.01 Increase supported Housing for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness with Mental Health and Mental Illness Issues**

**2024.02 National Universal Pharmacare Program to Include Coverage for Drugs Prescribed for mental Illness**

**2024.03 Grant the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise Legal Authority to Investigate Environmental and Human Rights Abuses**

The above three resolutions also fall within the ways that local councils can give service listed in the Handbook for the Service Chairperson. **In which ways has your council followed the action plans outlined in each of the Resolutions?** Please find the complete Resolution on the National website [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca) under Resolutions.

**Molly Boucher Bursary** This is a reminder that anyone who is pursuing further education, and who has been a member of the League for at least 2 years can apply for this \$2000.00 bursary. The guidelines, criteria and application form can be found on the provincial website [www.bcyukoncwl.com](http://www.bcyukoncwl.com). The deadline to send an application to me is

April 30, 2025. Please ensure all paperwork is sent and guidelines are followed. So far, I have not received any applications. Please apply, you may be the next recipient!

### **Attending Presentations by Your Locally Elected Government Official**

This evening I attended a presentation in regards to changes in requirements for people seeking Work Permits to Canada and those here as International Students. There are various layers to the changes. The presentation was by Taylor Bacharach, my local Member of Parliament, along with other organizations and business owners in my community concerned about the impact these changes will have on our economy. These changes may impact rural communities, more than urban ones. For example, the Manager of my local Safeway informed us that 80 of 180 of his employees fall into the category of foreign workers. That is almost half!! What would happen to the service that the citizens of my community expect to receive when they go in to buy their groceries, if all these employees were not there because of these changes made? Who would provide these services? There were many other points raised. When I first about these changes in November I wondered what we, the citizens of Canada, could do to help alter this possible outcome. One outcome of the meeting was that we could all write our MP and also the Federal Minister of Immigration and Refugees to express our concern, similar to what we do for our resolutions. With many voices heard, we collectively may make an impact. We can all do our part to help those who are new to our country. Let's remember that most of us come from families who were once immigrants to Canada. Many of our ancestors came because of the devastation in Europe after World War II seeking a better life in Canada. Now, people from other parts of the world are in the same boat because of the conditions they find in their home countries. How can we help? Let's again remember the early years before the Catholic Women's League of Canada came into existence. In ways, we have come full circle!

### **Pope's Prayer Intentions**

#### **March 2025 - For families in crisis**

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

#### **April 2025 - For the use of the new technologies**

Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crisis of our times.

**Quote from Pope Francis** "Let us pray for peace: peace in the world and especially peace in each of our hearts."

I wish you a fruitful Lenten journey and a blessed Easter filled with peace, love and the joy of the risen Lord. Ciao for now and God bless. Laura