



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

MEMO

DATE: March 31, 2025
FROM: Shari Guinta, National President
TO: Provincial Presidents and Secretaries
CC: National Officers
National Life Member Liaison

**Please forward this message to presidents
according to your provincial communications protocol.**

The national executive/board continues to research, evaluate and learn about the governance of the League.

You will find in this mailing by the national officers, many initiatives and opportunities available for councils to participate in.

National Vice-President Betty Colaneri has initiated the "R3 to 1, Unity!" initiative and a task force to work on membership initiatives. Councils need assistance—they need training and support.

National Secretary-Treasurer Dorothy Johansen has brought to your attention the League Development Fund. Some changes were made to the application and approval process, and I encourage councils to offer programs and apply for assistance through this fund. I am also excited about the modifications to the [national website](#). The website is always being reviewed and updated for better and easier access to resources. Please visit the site often.

National Past President Fran Lucas speaks to elections, which are so important at all levels of the League. Outreach to eligible women is crucial for the quality and health of the executive committees and the councils themselves. Diversity in gifts and talents of women who are eligible is a gift in itself. Fran has outlined the process for you. It takes work to encourage women to let their name stand for nomination and to have a proper election. But it is worth it!

National Chairperson of Faith Rolande Chernichan has focused on the [Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope](#), declared by the Holy Father. She has given several resources, activities and dates to remember. Members will find these worthwhile and spiritually rewarding, I am sure.

National Chairperson of Service Joline Belliveau has focused on [Development and Peace—Caritas Canada](#) and Share Lent, familiar to all councils. The work continues in these initiatives along with each of the voluntary funds that the national council supports. Palliative care also remains a focus for this committee. Joline has also issued communiqués on palliative care as well as mental health issues and resources. This is in line with the national theme, *Here I am Lord, send me*, which concentrates on mental health. All councils are urged to promote awareness about these issues.

National Chairperson of Social Justice Glenda Carson has been working hard with her committee on resolutions that will be presented this year as well as with the national social justice Indigenous relations subcommittee. Glenda will be offering a webinar this spring that the board is excited about.

My concern is the drop in membership, and I can only encourage all councils to do membership recruitment and for parish councils to be supported in developing membership drives. Use of the resources on the national website as well as diocesan and provincial experience is a basic and important asset.

The League is planning for the annual national convention in Toronto, Ontario, August 11th to 13th. Please promote the convention. The World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations ([WUCWO](#)) will be hosting the North American Regional Conference on Sunday, August 10th, just before the convention. This would be a unique opportunity for members to experience the work of WUCWO and the League's participation in it. The vice-president of the North American region is Honorary Life Member Barb Dowding (2014–2016). Information about the convention will be in spring issue of *The Canadian League*.