



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

MEMO

DATE: October 5, 2018

FROM: Marie C. Rackley, national chairperson of community life

TO: Parish chairpersons of community life

CC: Parish presidents, diocesan presidents, provincial presidents, life members (on request)

It is hard to believe that the summer season has come and gone, and school has begun. Goodbye to the lazy days of summer blessed with beautiful weather and lots of sun. As the fall season changes the forests to many vibrant colours, please take a moment to remember the Province of British Columbia struggling to recover from the devastating fires.

As your new community life chairperson it gives me great pleasure to extend a warm welcome and introduce you to the sub-committee chairpersons who have agreed to work with me during the next two years:

- **Life Member Dorothy Johansen (Alberta) – Dignity and Rights of Person**
- **New Brunswick Provincial Council 1st Vice-President Madonna Clark – Refugees, Immigration and Citizenship**
- **Prince Edward Island Provincial Council Past President Irene Gallant – Social and Economic Justice**

You will hear more from these ladies in communiqués over the course of the next two years.

Canada Summer Jobs 2019

At the 98th annual national convention Resolution 2018.01 Attestation Requirement on Canada Summer Jobs Program was adopted. Applicants of the program were compelled to endorse an attestation of values promoted by the federal government that contravene the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom*. By way of the attestation requirement, Canadian youth were denied work experience and opportunities through businesses and organizations that ethically could not sign the attestation.

The resolution will be printed in *The Canadian League* magazine. The 2019 Canada Summer Jobs applications will soon be compiled and released in early January/February 2019. Now is the time for members to write the prime minister and local members of parliament to state that the attestation be removed from any future applications. Remind the federal government that the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom* guarantees the right to “freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression”. Let’s be pro-active and take action!

Social and Economic Justice – Developing Countries

In August, I received an e-mail from Marisa Thorburn, executive directive of Save A Family Plan (SAFP) located in London, Ontario. She explained that SAFP created a natural disaster fund to assist families impacted by the recent flooding and landslides in Kerala, India. Research of the organization provided the following information:

- In 1964, Pope Paul VI made an appeal to help the people of India at the closing mass of the International Eucharistic Congress held in Bombay, India. Monsignor Augustine John Kandathil listened to this appeal and took the challenge.
- In 1965, SAFP was founded at St. Thomas University, Fredericton, New Brunswick. In 1973 it moved to St. Peter's Seminary in London, Ontario, providing the organization a more central location and space to grow.
- SAFP's mandate is to reduce poverty and create a sustainable economy by helping families become strong and self-sufficient. It empowers families and communities. SAFP teaches basic literacy and education to adults to help them find employment to support their family.
- In 1978, a partnership began with Canada's federal government via the Canadian International Development Agency to support the SAFP community development program. SAFP was registered with the federal government in 1986 and was incorporated as a registered charity and non-profit organization.
- In 1990, SAFP helped start a 2,000 homes by the year 2000 community development program with Haiti.
- On December 26, 2004 a devastating tsunami struck South East Asia and Southern India. SAFP began emergency aid to help those affected.
- SAFP celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2015.

Parish councils have supported SAFP over the years. Donations should be sent directly to SAFP. Visit safp.org for more information or e-mail Marisa Thorburn at mthorburn@safp.org.

Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace

At present the League is holding funds collected for Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP). Questions pertaining to some of the programs in developing countries, funded by the organization, remain unanswered. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops is working with CCODP to come to a solution.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me. May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to bless each of you as you continue to do the good work in your communities "For God and Canada".



Marie C. Rackley
National Chairperson of Community Life