



To: Members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada

From: National President Anne-Marie Gorman
National Spiritual Advisor Bishop Stephen Jensen

CC: President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

Re: Statement on the Status of the Canadian Catholic Organization for
Development and Peace National Voluntary Fund

Date: November 17, 2018

Since 1978, members and councils of The Catholic Women's League of Canada have been faithful contributors to the League's 1% Program, the national voluntary fund that supports projects of the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP), with more than \$2.2 million being collected and forwarded to CCODP.

The League strongly endorses the mission of the CCODP as the Canadian bishops' agency which supports partners in the Global South that address unjust social, political and economic structures. As a branch of Caritas Internationalis, CCODP has supported individuals and communities in developing countries.

In the past year, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has reviewed the partner groups supported by CCODP because of evidence that many of them are at odds with the moral teachings of the Church. The audit process and the required corrective measures will take significant effort and time. The bishops must ensure that all donations made will contribute only to projects that are in keeping with Catholic values and protect the integrity of the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, its operations and staff.

In its recent meeting held November 16,17,2018, the national executive of the League discussed the current status of the review. While anxious to see a conclusion to the audit, the League is also aware of the needs of members and councils to disburse their charitable donations. Therefore, the national executive has determined that while the investigation is ongoing, CWL parish councils should not collect donations on behalf of CCODP, but instead to redirect any donations to any of the other national voluntary funds that support development work, either within Canada or abroad. Furthermore, the national executive will disburse immediately the donations received from members and councils that are currently held in trust for CCODP.

The national executive of The Catholic Women's League of Canada believes this is a temporary but necessary measure while the audit continues, so that the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace can effectively support communities that strive for justice and peace in the Global South.

For further information, please contact national office at (888) 656-4040.

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