



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

MEMO

DATE: March 25, 2019

FROM: Fran Lucas, national president-elect and chairperson of organization

TO: Parish council chairpersons of organization

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

The League's total membership count for the year ending 2018 was 77,676. In 2017, it was 80,169. The greatest impact to the decline is non-renewal of memberships with a 2018 total of 7,254! Please ensure that members who have not yet renewed for 2019 are called immediately. Be prepared to add some personal touches with this call such as offering to meet for a coffee just for the sake of catching up or to share the latest strategic planning actions, inviting them to the next meeting and offering to pick them up, offering to pick up the membership fee saving them the necessity of mailing it in or inviting them to the spring tea or some other special event.

Fourteen parish councils disbanded in 2018! For councils that may be struggling, please call the diocesan present-elect for suggestions on how to keep the council active and vibrant.

An enhancement has been made to national development fund criteria on how funds may be used. Funding when visiting parishes without a League council to promote the benefits of membership is now available. The primary intent is to provide assistance when visiting remote location parishes. For urban councils, expenses for such an initiative should be minimal. Life members would be wonderful resources to utilize in this endeavour. Enclosed in this mailing is the new Development Fund Guidelines. This document and the application form are available at cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/512-National-Development-Fund-Package-2018.pdf.

Information from the planning strategically implementation committee, inviting members interested in being part of a working group to facilitate the strategic actions for the next 12 months, is included in the mailing. Is that you?

Thank you to parish councils that diligently filled out the annual report survey. This year saw a 2.74% decline in councils completing the surveys. A plan to correct that next year will be worked on.

Women's Voice is the official magazine of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO). Councils may benefit from an inexpensive subscription to this magazine for member education on the involvement of the League and the work of its global sisters. For more information please visit wucwo.org/index.php/en/messages-resources/women-s-voice-subscription. The first four councils that e-mail Natalia Bilynskyy at communications@cwj.ca will receive a complimentary one-year subscription on behalf of the national organization standing committee.

Happy Easter!



Fran Lucas
National President-Elect and Chairperson of Organization