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August 20, 2019

Most Rev. Lionel Gendron, President
Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops
2500 Don Reid Drive
Ottawa, ON K1H 2J2

Your Excellency,

National council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada met in 99th annual national convention in Calgary, Alberta. On behalf of the 846 attendees, representing 78,000 members across Canada, I am writing to commend the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) for its document entitled *Protecting Minors from Sexual Abuse: A Call to the Catholic Faithful in Canada for Healing, Reconciliation, and Transformation*.

The national executive struck an *ad hoc* committee of experienced members at its February 2019 meeting to study the document in greater detail. The *ad hoc* committee found the document to be sincere, informative and practical. Use of words in the document such as "respect", "compassion", "non-judgemental", "education", "training" and "communication" struck a chord with committee members, as these are embodied in the League's mission and core values. The committee, whose recommendations were accepted, acknowledge the document's expression of concern, compassion and support of those who have suffered abuse.

Pope Francis' letter concerning the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors (February 2, 2015) notes all church leaders and the entire Catholic faithful are urged to open "pathways of reconciliation and healing". Further, the recognition that, "Healing from the wounds of sexual abuse does not happen in isolation; it calls forth a community effort..." encourages the League to offer its assistance.

As national president of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, I offer you sincere regard from the members and support for the efforts of the CCCB and the church in Canada. If members of the League may be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. Through collaborative efforts, the church community can move towards healing and reconciliation.

Sincerely,

Anne-M Gorman
National President

SG/amg