



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

MEMO

DATE: September 30, 2019

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)

For years I have enjoyed and welcomed the month of September as it brings me back to reality and helps me focus on current issues and future endeavours. I begin to focus on activities of several organizations I belong to, but especially my parish council meetings, which bring me in contact with my League sisters as I catch up on their news. What a wonderful way to share the love of God and the love of Our Lady of Good Counsel as we start another year of service to God's people and Canada.

Many things have occurred which we must continue to monitor. I know you have heard this information before, but we cannot let it rest until we are satisfied with the results of our labour.

Development and Peace—Caritas Canada (CCODP)

The final report written by the Catholic Conference of Catholic Bishops was sent to the national council of CCODP and to each bishop to review. The report is on the plenary agenda in late September 2019. Most recently Deloitte Canada was commissioned to prepare a review to facilitate greater alignment of the CCODP's works with expectations of the bishops of Canada. It is organizational in nature and considered an internal matter between the two.

Canada Summer Jobs

Resolution 2018.01 Attestation Requirement on Canada Summer Jobs Program was adopted at the 98th annual national convention. Although the attestation changed for the 2019 application, many Christian organizations were denied federal funding again. Legal action is being taken by the Canadian Council of Christian Charities, as two of its members were refused funding. Both in 2018 and 2019, the Toronto Area Right to Life was also denied funding.

The federal election is on October 21, 2019; however, we cannot sit back and wait. It is time to write letters to members of parliament and the prime minister about the discrimination shown to some Christian charities. We must let the League's voice be heard. Applications will be released in late December or early January for the 2020 program. The *Catholic Register* published several articles in June and July regarding this issue.

Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA)

CNEWA has been a voluntary fund for the past five years. The League has a partnership with CNEWA to help Christians in the Holy Land live with dignity and respect for their beliefs. At the 99th annual national convention in August, a cheque was presented to CNEWA representative Melodie Gabriel for \$16,346.13. Please remember Christian brothers and sisters this year when making yearly donations.

Human Trafficking

Much is being said and written about human trafficking in Canada. It takes place in our communities. Girls as young as 11 are targeted and sold on the streets. In the fall issue of *The Canadian League* magazine, please look for the article "Human Trafficking in Canada" written by life member and sub-committee chairperson Dorothy Johansen.

"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me" (Matthew 25:35-36).

May Our Lady of Good Counsel and her son Jesus look after each of us and guide us on this journey of faith.