



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

MEMO

DATE: September 24, 2021
FROM: Faith Anderson, national chairperson of community life
TO: Parish chairperson of community life
CC: Parish presidents, diocesan presidents, provincial presidents and life members (on request)
ENCL: Food Bank Project

“...Consumerism—excessive spending to buy more than we need
—is a lack of austerity in life. This is the enemy of generosity.
And material generosity—thinking about the poor:
'I can give this so that they can eat or have clothes'—has an ulterior result:
It enlarges the heart and helps us be magnanimous.” (Pope Francis)

I am pleased to send my first parish council memo as national chairperson of community life, and I look forward to exploring the various areas under this standing committee. I encourage you to contact your diocesan counterpart for regular updates.

The implementation committee working groups have provided the following products, which can be very useful in your yearly planning. Both can be downloaded from the national website (cwl.ca).

- (#622) Calendar of Social Justice Events: cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/622-CWL-Calendar-of-Social-Justice-Events-module.pdf
- (#623) Embracing Diversity: Tools for Councils includes a calendar of Canadian multicultural celebrations, found at cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/623-Embracing-Diversity-Tools-for-Council-Use.pdf

These documents have valuable information and helpful links to assist you in broadening your reach to multicultural women in your parish community and be aware of dates and social justice events.

By the time you receive this memo, your council will have prayerfully recognized the first National Day of Truth and Reconciliation on September 30th. According to *The Catholic Register*, several dioceses across Canada have announced fundraising appeals for the residential school's reconciliation efforts. The newspaper reported, “How these funds are to be spent and by whom will be determined later, in consultation with Indigenous leaders...” Contact your diocese to inquire if an appeal is being undertaken that councils can support. In 2006 the church committed to raising \$25,000,000 toward reconciliation.

National Voluntary Fund: Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA)

During these difficult times, a thank you is extended for your continued support of CNEWA's projects in the Holy Land (previously known as Velma's Dream). Your generosity allows Christians to remain in the land of Christ and to continue their good works in His name. CNEWA is hoping to host another Holy Land pilgrimage for members in 2022 or 2023—stay tuned. Thank you is extended for your support to the *Care for Our Common Home* projects through CNEWA—ensuring clean water for women in India and providing essential food to hungry school children in Ethiopia. An updated report will be shared on how your donations made a difference. For more information about CNEWA's joint projects with the League, visit cnewa.org/ca/catholic-womens-league or e-mail Melodie Gabriel at mgabriel@cnewa.org.

National Voluntary Fund: Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP)

Since 1969, the League has been encouraging members to put aside 1% of the cost of all personal items they purchase and of funds raised by councils to support CCODP partners working to improve the status of women in the Global South. Collectively, these funds have a tangible impact on the lives of thousands of women striving for a better future. Councils and members are urged to take this 1% challenge and know that through their generosity, women in developing countries will have the opportunity to improve their life.

Refugees and Immigration: Canada announced the resettlement of up to 20,000 vulnerable Afghan nationals to Canada through special immigration and humanitarian programs. Councils are urged to be informed on refugee and immigration issues and support Catholic refugee sponsors in the community.

Affordable Housing: The federal government's plan will invest \$2.5 billion and reallocate \$1.3 billion toward 35,000 affordable housing units in Canada. This investment will help young people, low-income Canadians, homeless people, and women and children living in a violent environment find a safe, affordable home. Members are urged to monitor this initiative.

Food Bank Project: Food Banks Canada reported more than one million visits to food banks were made per month before the pandemic, and most Canadians feel hunger and food insecurity will worsen during the pandemic. Councils are invited to participate in the Food Bank Project to support those who need to access this resource. Food Banks Canada, *A Snapshot of Food Banks in Canada and the COVID-19 Crisis* report indicated "...42 percent of food banks reported a reduction in volunteers to be a challenge of critical importance since March. Volunteers have always been the backbone of the food bank network, with a significant portion of the food bank network being run entirely by volunteers." Please support this project.



The Catholic Women’s League of Canada
Community Life Standing Committee

FOOD BANK PROJECT

September 2021 – June 30, 2022



“...Teach us to share with others at home and abroad, the good things You have given us.”
(The League Prayer)

Parish councils are invited to participate in this project to booster the supplies at local food banks. Councils will have ten months to collect, volunteer, tally their donations and submit their efforts by **June 30, 2022**. A detailed report will be provided to celebrate councils’ contributions and participation.

Some suggestions:

- Collect top food bank items: (choose low sodium, low sugar and high fibre options when possible).
 - peanut butter
 - canned soup
 - canned fruit
 - canned vegetables
 - canned stew
 - canned fish
 - canned beans
 - pasta (most prefer whole grain)
 - rice (most prefer brown rice)
- Ask for two or three volunteers to collect, tally and deliver food bank items.
- Invite your parish to participate.
- Hold a parish collection to support global food needs through Mary’s Meals at marysmeals.ca.

Conversion Chart
 350 ml = .7716 lb
 750 ml = 1.6535 lb
 (metric-calculator.com/convert-ml-to-lb.htm)

✂ -----

FOOD BANK PROJECT

September 2021-June 30, 2022

Parish Council Name: _____ (please print)

Diocese and Province: _____ (please print)

1. Number of pounds of canned and dry goods donated to local food bank. _____
2. Total amount of monetary donations made to local food bank. _____
3. Monetary support to Mary’s Meals (<https://www.marysmeals.ca/en/>) _____
4. Sponsor a child with Mary’s Meals. _____
5. Number of members volunteering at local food bank. _____
6. Additional information: _____

Please return by **June 30, 2022** to: The Catholic Women’s League of Canada, C-702 Scotland Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3M 1X5 or e-mail to Faith Anderson, National Chairperson of Community Life at info@cwl.ca.