

Community Life Annual Survey - 2021

ID. Council Code (e.g. VC-020)
name

Introduction

Wherever there are people in need of food and drink, clothing, housing, medicine, employment, education; wherever [people] lack the facilities necessary for living a truly human life or are afflicted with serious distress or illness or suffer exile or imprisonment, there Christian charity should seek them out and find them, console them with great solicitude, and help them with appropriate relief. This obligation is imposed above all upon every prosperous nation and person. (*Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity*)

Social justice and dignity is a human right that should be available to all His people. The community life standing committee provides the opportunity to promote restorative justice programs and organizations. It then documents all the inspirational works being done by your councils as incentive to our current members as well as a means of recruiting new members to join us as we help our sisters at home and abroad. It is essential that these wonderful works be recorded for our history and as a reference for members to use in presentations and correspondence. The survey will give us a better understanding of what your council is doing and what your members choose to focus on. It will also serve as a method of highlighting all your amazing works.

The survey is very comprehensive and broken into each sub-heading. Please do not feel daunted by the length of the survey. There are many options, but we understand that councils will focus on just a few of the priorities listed. It is perfectly okay to leave questions unanswered if your council has not pursued a certain topic. This information might prove useful in setting your goals for the year as well as offering possibilities to expand your scope in this standing committee.

You will see questions to "skip" if you do not have a standing committee chairperson for this position. The intent of the question is to determine any personal growth of the chairperson. We still want to hear if your council was able to make progress related to that question. You can include this work accomplished by your council in the last question of the survey, where it asks to share any other council activities not yet reported.

Thank you for completing this annual survey. Your diligence in filling it out is very much appreciated.

Faith Anderson, National Chairperson of Community Life

About You

Q1 Parish Council Name:

Q2 Parish Council Registered Town:

Q3 Parish Council ID number:

Q4 Reporting to:

Q5 Is this position filled or vacant?

Filled

Vacant

Q6 If filled, were you elected or appointed as a standing committee chairperson?

Elected

Appointed

Leadership Profile

As the implementation committee begins its research into leadership in the League, your input into the profile of leadership is important. We invite you to answer the following three questions. (Note: Responses are voluntary.)

Q7 How long have you been a member?

Less than 5 years

16-20 years

6-10 years

21-25 years

11-15 years

more than 25 years

Q8 Have you held this position previously?

yes

no

Q9 What is your age?

under 18

55-64

18-24

65-74

25-34

75-84

35-44

85+

45-54

In 2021, The Catholic Women's League of Canada has once again been challenged in holding in-person council regular meetings and many have embraced the virtual world by holding virtual gatherings via various platforms. Diocesan, provincial and national annual reports were prepared, however, most annual meetings of members were held virtually, including the national annual meeting of members. Please share your thoughts on being able to perform your duties as chairperson of community life.

Dignity and Rights of Persons

It is our responsibility, as Christian women and members of a national organization, to play an active role in opposing discrimination wherever and in whatever form it appears.

Q10 Are parish council members familiar with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?

yes

no

Q11 What minority groups has your council supported, and in what ways?

	had a guest speaker	had a workshop	provided a donation	volunteered
those incarcerated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
those suffering from bullying	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
those suffering from domestic violence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
those suffering from homelessness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
those suffering from human trafficking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
those suffering from poverty	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
those suffering from racism	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q12 As chairperson, have you:

	yes	no
become aware of the struggles of Indigenous women	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
discussed Bill C-262 <i>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q13 As chairperson have you become aware of the laws and what is being done in the fight against human trafficking?

yes

no

Q14 If yes, have you shared this information with your council members?

yes

no

Q15 Public Safety Canada released the 2018 Human Trafficking Consultation Report on January 14, 2020 *Building a Safe and Resilient Canada*. Did your council have the opportunity to read and review this report? Please give details.

Q16 Canada has marked February 22nd as Annual Human Trafficking Awareness Day. Did your council develop plans or take any action?

yes

no

Q17 If yes, please provide details.

Q18 February 8, 2021 was the International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking. Did your council take part?

yes

no

Q19 If yes, please provide details.

Q20 Do you as chairperson continue to monitor the Canada Summer Job applications when they are available? Continued monitoring of the wording of these applications is essential to ensure community organizations are supported.

yes

no

Q21 If yes, please provide details.

Social and Economic Justice

We must be active in making sure the most vulnerable members in our society are protected with love and justice.

Q22 Did your council help and support social and economic justice by providing supplies, participating in the work of organizations caring for the needy or providing other support?

yes

no

Q23 What types of local organizations does your council support, and how? Please do not provide the names of the organizations. Also, exclude overseas initiatives and pro-life organizations. These are reported elsewhere.

	financial support	prayerful support	volunteer support
affordable housing initiatives	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
anti-poverty foundation or campaign	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
before, during or afterschool programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
clothing drives	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
drop-in centres	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
emergency shelters for homeless	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
emergency shelters for those experiencing domestic abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
employment and skills training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
food banks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
food hampers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
resource centres for single parents	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
restorative justice programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
soup kitchens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
violence prevention programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
wish foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q24 Does your council support organizations that assist Indigenous peoples?

yes

no

Q25 If yes, provide details.

Q26 Did your council celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21, 2021?

yes

no

Q27 If yes, how did you celebrate this event?

Q28 This year the discovery of graves on the former residential school sites has brought strong criticism against the Catholic church. Did your council recognize the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation held on September 30th?

yes

no

Q29 If yes, please provide details.

Q30 **Orange Shirt Day:** Did you wear orange on September 30th to promote awareness in Canada about the residential school system and the impact it had on indigenous communities for over a century, an impact recognized as cultural genocide?

yes

no

Q31 Due to COVID-19 was your council able to participate in the prison ministry or with the restorative justice program? Please explain.

Q32 In what ways have you promoted the Catholic Near East Welfare Association?

distributed pamphlets

My emphasis was on other topics this year.

spoke at meetings

Q33 Did your council support the CNEWA national voluntary fund to help support Christians in the Middle East and Holy Land?

yes

no

Q34 If yes, how much?

Q35 Did your council, on September 21st, celebrate the CWL Day of Prayer for Christian sisters and brothers in the Holy Land and Middle East? This day is designated as the International Day of Peace. If yes, please provide details. If no, please skip the question.

Refugees, Immigration and Citizenship

Canada and the League have a long standing tradition of welcoming new citizens.

Q36 Have you become informed about Canada's official immigration and refugee policies so that you can explain them to others?

yes

no

Q37 How would you rate your members' understanding of the needs of immigrants and refugees in your community in terms of: (Please skip this question if the position is vacant.)

	excellent	very good	good	fair	poor
availability of employment services	<input type="radio"/>				
availability of English language courses	<input type="radio"/>				
financial assistance for food and rent that is offered	<input type="radio"/>				
countries of origin of immigrants and refugees	<input type="radio"/>				
number of immigrant and refugees in the community	<input type="radio"/>				

Q38 If members were asked what the difference is between a temporary foreign worker, immigrant and refugee, would you be able to explain it?

yes

no

Q39 Did you or your council members:

	yes	no
participate in citizenship ceremonies?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
participate in Remembrance Day services?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
support the poppy campaign?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
wear red on Friday in support of Canadian troops?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

To recognize and remember the Canadian troops who fight for the freedom of all, members are encouraged to wear red on Fridays in support of the troops.

Q40 Have you continued to review and monitor Resolution 2016.01 Equal Access to Permanent Resident Status, An Amendment to the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act? In what ways?

- | | yes | no |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Wrote letters to the prime minister. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Strengthened or established programs for foreign workers. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Monitored the government's response to the request. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace

The CCODP is "the official development organization of the Canadian Catholic church and is deeply rooted in the values of the gospel, particularly the preferential option for the poor. It is a democratic movement for international solidarity that supports partners in the Global South in the pursuit of alternatives to unjust social, political and economic structures." (www.devp.org/en/)

Q41 Are council members familiar with the League's program for CCODP of donating 1% of the price of luxury items they purchased during the year to CCODP?

- yes no

Q42 Did your council take part in the annual 1% Program?

- yes no

Q43 How much was the donation?

Developing Countries

To help a family become economically independent is to help a community become economically independent.

Q44 Following an article in The Canadian League magazine on Mary's Meals, did your council indicate interest in supporting this initiative?

- yes no

Q45 If yes, provide feedback.

Q46 As chairperson, have you or council members:

- | | yes | somewhat | no |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| become aware of conditions of child labour in developing countries? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

become aware of the implications of trade laws?

become knowledgeable about the economic difficulties of developing countries?

criticized structures that put profits before people?

invited guest speakers from developing nations to meetings?

Q47 Has your council supported any of the following organizations that focus solely on developing countries?

Buy-A-Net Malaria Prevention Group

Chalice

Doctors Without Borders

Habitat for Humanity

Holy Childhood Association

Canadian Red Cross

Mustard Seed Project

Operation Christmas Child

Operation Eyesight International

Pennies for the Poor

Samaritans Purse

Save a Family Plan

Sleeping Children Around the World

World Vision

Summary and Final Thoughts

Q48 Is there anything else you would like to share about your council during Covid-19?

Q49 Does your council have a community success story that you would like to share with other councils? Please describe.

Q50 What is your biggest challenge with community life and do you have plans to address it?

Q51 Have you done any new projects, workshops or ideas that you would like to share?

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey. Your council's initiatives will be added to the strong voice of Catholic women across Canada.

Before pressing the "submit" button, please "print" the survey responses for your records.

To "print", ensure that pop-ups are enabled. If you are unsure how to enable pop-ups, please contact national office for assistance.

WARNING: Once "submit" has been pressed, the "print" function is no longer available.