

Welcome to The Catholic Women's League of Canada, the largest Catholic women's organization in Canada with approximately 70,000 members, and parish councils in every province, including the Yukon and Northwest Territories, as well as on military bases. The national executive/board is composed of 11 provincial presidents and 11 elected officers. The national office located in Winnipeg, Manitoba, is staffed with five full-time and two seasonal employees. With your membership, you will receive *The Canadian League* magazine published three times per year to keep you informed about League happenings. You may also access the national website (cwl.ca), to learn about current happenings or follow the League on Facebook or Twitter.

The mission statement changed in August 2018 and proclaims that "The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service." As a national organization, a delegation meets with the federal government annually in Ottawa to present resolutions that are generated by members like you at the parish level, who recognize an inequality or injustice and lobby for change. Through national voluntary funds, Coady International Institute, Catholic Missions In Canada, Catholic Near East Welfare Association and Euthanasia Prevention Coalition are supported. The League is also affiliated with the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO). Marusia Kobrynsky of the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada is the current Canadian representative on the WUCWO board.

At the 98th annual pre-convention board meeting, *The Catholic Women's League of Canada Plans Strategically 2018-2022* was adopted. An implementation committee was struck to bring the plan to life in parishes and will be in place until 2023. Now is an exciting time for the League as members work to see the evolution of this tremendous and necessary organization. None of this would have been or will be possible without the voices from members of strong faith at the grassroots, who work diligently for the betterment of communities and the world. I encourage you to visit To Inspire on the national website at cwl.ca/to-inspire/.

What a wonderful gift to belong to such an organization. I encourage you to attend diocesan, provincial and national conventions where you will be able to experience with like-minded women the joy of belonging and hear of the great work accomplished by women inspired by the Spirit. Faith, fun and fulfillment are the three prongs to meetings that make CWL parish councils strong and vibrant, especially in difficult times. You will most certainly make friendships within your local council and find affirmation and comfort from your new and renewed partnerships.

The national theme *Catholic and Living It!* invites members to build relationships—renewing old and creating new ones—through the guidance of the Holy Spirit while strengthening their faith and building up life.

My prayer for you as a new member and for all League sisters is that we live as Jesus lived, grow in faith, and share our tremendous womanly genius with our sisters and brothers in order to make the world a better place of peace, joy and fulfillment.

Thank you for joining The Catholic Women's League of Canada. It is a gift to yourself and the wider community, which continues to give the longer you belong. May you and your council flourish as you grow spiritually, learn more and widen your horizons as strong Catholic Christian women.

God bless,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fran Lucas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "F" and a long, sweeping underline.

Fran Lucas
National President