



**Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial Council of  
The Catholic Women's League of Canada**

*One Heart, One Voice, One Mission*

Communique No. 1

**Date:** September / 23 / 2015

**To:** Chairperson of Community Life Committee / Parish President / Provincial  
President / Provincial Executive / Life Members  
National Community Life Committee

**From:** Barbara McGrath, Provincial Chairperson of Community Life

**Dear Members of the League,**

I sincerely hope that you all have had a great summer and are ready to continue the important work of the League in the year ahead. Many very crucial issues have continued to be of grave concern to us during the summer months and now we need to continue with an action plan to address these issues as soon as possible.

**Syrian Refugee Crisis**

During the summer, we all heard about and have been called upon to act on the present **Syrian Refugee Crisis**. It is important that we bring this issue to the forefront at our meeting and discuss ways we can become involved. Pope Francis has strongly encouraged us to do whatever we can to support these refugees. We can act on this concern by attending public meetings, giving financial assistance or helping to sponsor refugees into our country. Some people may already have taken part in webinars on how to sponsor a refugee into our country and our national community life chairperson has sent us information on more sessions that will be available. Our government must be pressured to help in any way possible to alleviate this world crisis. We need to talk to candidates in the upcoming elections to discuss with them the importance of dealing with this crisis as soon as possible. These people are crying out for our help and we need to act.

**Development and Peace: Strong Women Building Stronger Communities**

Our support of the 1% program continues to improve the lives of women and children in developing countries throughout the world. The one percent we donate may not seem to be much but with the contribution of all members in the League the funds are making a difference in the Global South. We are encouraged to continue donating 1% of the cost of all luxury and personal items, and of funds raised in our Councils.

**Seniors: We Value Their Presence**

We must continue to fight for basic human rights for seniors in our province. During the upcoming Federal and Provincial elections, we must advocate whenever we can for all seniors, many who have and continue to experienced hardships in their everyday lives. Talk to the candidates and let

them know that we are concerned and that they must make the plight of our seniors a priority. Continue to write letters to our government members, attend meetings and get involved whenever we can.

Remember every time you do something special for a senior you are bringing joy to their lives. Keep up the good work.

### **Child Poverty**

Child poverty is still a problem in our country and province even though a great deal of work is being done regarding this escalating problem. Provinces have poverty reduction strategies and a National Strategy Summit on Child Poverty took place last year. Even though all this work is being done, we still hear stories that are heart wrenching. We have to keep this issue in the forefront and do whatever we can to ensure the work continues.

Please visit the [www.cwl.nl.ca](http://www.cwl.nl.ca) and check out the Palliative Care motion presented at the Provincial Convention in June. You will also find an action plan with suggestions on how to act on this motion in your council.

These are just some of the important issues that deserve our immediate attention.

Please contact me with any suggestion that you have or any Community Life issues that your council thinks we should bring to everyone's attention. I look forward to hearing from you throughout the year.

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.

God Bless

Barbara McGrath