



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

One Heart, One Voice, One Mission

Date: September 13, 2015

To: Parish Presidents / Provincial Executive / Life Members/ National President

From: Ruby Sharpe, Provincial President

Re: Communique #1

Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower. ~Albert Camus

As I think about my first communique as Provincial President, I can't help but think about how the month of September has always brought a new phase to life. As a child, it meant the return to school, the reconnection with friends that you had not seen over the summer and the chance to learn new things. As an adult in the workforce, this was the time when the slow down at the office ended and staff had all returned, recanting the stories of vacations and time enjoyed with family. These days for me, September brings a rejuvenation of the Catholic Women's League - the summer break has finished, councils commence their regular meetings and members start to enthusiastically plan League activities. It is such a wonderful time of year!

National Convention

In August, I had the great privilege of representing you at the National convention, held in Vancouver. The convention was, as always, very informative and such a wonderful opportunity to meet our sisters across the country. As accredited delegate, Rita Janes, Past President has already shared highlights of the convention. I will also be sharing some information with you at the Fall Meeting. There is a wealth of information, inclusive of presentations and daily summaries on the www.cwl.ca website.

So many of you have heard me encourage all Presidents to attend a national convention. Next year's convention will be held quite close to home in Halifax. Travel costs should be a little easier for councils to absorb. So, start planning now!

Table Officers

In my memo of July 7, 2015 I informed you of the new Provincial Table Officers. We are so fortunate to have so many talented and eager leaders prepared to step forward and assume positions on the Executive. I offer my sincere appreciation to each of the Table Officers and ask that you and your councils pray for us as we continue in our leadership positions for the next two years.

Financial Sustainability - Cookbook Project

For the past few years, one of our concerns was the financial situation of the provincial council. So many of you had contributed ideas and certainly, your councils rose to the call with your monetary contributions. We sincerely thank you.

Over the past two years, we embarked on a fundraising initiative to produce a provincial cookbook. A committee was put in place to oversee the production. You have all been so gracious with your submission of your favourite recipes as well as canvassing for ads purchase to assist in covering production costs. Many hands have made light work and I am pleased to report that we are optimistic that we will have the finished product "Cooking With Love" ready for distribution at the Fall Meeting! We are now counting on each council to commit to selling the cookbooks within their parish and community. It is anticipated that this initiative will be a major help in alleviating our financial sustainability concerns.

Fall Meeting

As you are aware by now, the Fall Meeting will be held on October 4-5, 2015 at St. Catherine's Renewal Centre in Grand Falls-Windsor. While I hope to see all of you in attendance, I urge you to bring along at least one other member from your council. Our meetings and conventions are such a key time for learning more about the league, information sharing and networking. It is a great learning opportunity, especially for potential future leaders.

Provincial and Federal Fall Elections

With both a provincial and federal election slated for this fall, it is a great opportunity for us to ensure elected government officials understand and appreciate our views and hopes as Catholic women. As candidates canvass your area, I encourage you to engage them in discussions on topics that are important to our league. What will the candidate do if elected to help in our efforts to have an independent seniors advocate in the province? How will they work to improve the quality of palliative care? What is their position on physician assisted death? How will they address the many components of poverty and homelessness? These are all critical issues for the Catholic Womens' League - this is our chance to be heard.

Please feel free to contact me at anytime, even if its just to say hello.

I look forward to seeing you at the Fall Meeting. These are exciting times as we move forward with our initiatives with palliative care, Pope Francis' encyclical, the New Evangelization, seniors and our many social justice issues.

God Bless
Ruby Sharpe