



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

**One Heart, One Voice, One Mission  
Hospice Palliative Care**

**Date: September 7, 2016**

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

**From: Ruby Sharpe, Provincial President**

**Re: Communique #3**

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Welcome back from what I pray, has been a blessed and enjoyable summer! We had wonderful weather, flowers and trees in full bloom, and multiple displays of the beauty of God's creation.

**National Convention:**

You would have received an email from me on August 20, 2016 providing some of the major highlights from the National Convention in Halifax. We will have further discussion at our Fall Meeting. I have continued to reiterate the many benefits of attending national conventions. I do hope that many of you are planning for attendance at the 2017 convention in Prince Edward Island. By that time, we will have a new Provincial President and she will be blessed with having the opportunity to attend, represent our great province and be a part of the Catholic women of Canada in action!

Please note that there is still a lot of information from the convention (daily summaries, keynote speaker presentations) that is posted on the national website. I would encourage you to take some time to review if you have not already done so.

**National Executive:**

In my August 20th email, I included a listing of the new National Executive. This listing can also be found on the national website. Some of the National Chairpersons have already issued communiques and these can also be found on the website.

**Fall Meeting:**

As you know by now, our 2016 Fall Meeting will be held October 2 & 3 at Terra Nova Resort. We did investigate other venues as we were concerned about the cost. However, after much negotiating, we were able to make this a reality. To all those who helped, a sincere thank you is extended to you.

We will circulate the draft meeting agenda within the next week or so. I look forward to seeing all of you again!

**President's Visits:**

Over the past year, I have managed to visit with some of the councils across the province. It is my plan and hope to visit as many councils as possible over the coming year. Depending on the needs of your council, I may be asking another Executive officer or other member of expertise to

come along with me. I would ask that you start thinking about how the visit could best benefit your council - what do members need? how can we best help? I will be contacting presidents directly to strategize, but if you have ideas, feel free to contact me. We will discuss further at the Fall Meeting.

**Motion from 2016 Convention:**

At our 36th Annual Provincial Convention of the Catholic Women's League in Corner Brook, May 2016, a motion was passed to "write a letter to Government requesting they investigate the negative effects of the recent budget on the most vulnerable and poorest citizens and the effects on the social and economic conditions of the province." This letter was sent on June 16th and a response received July 15th. A copy of Premier Ball's correspondence is attached at the end of this communique for your information. I have been in communication with Aisling Gogan, Director of Poverty Reduction Strategy and we are planning a face to face meeting for later this month.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Fall Meeting!

May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide you in all that you do.

God Bless  
Ruby

July 15, 2016

Ms. Ruby Sharpe, Provincial President  
Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial Council  
of the Catholic Women's League of Canada  
60 Quidi Vidi Road  
St. John's, NL A1A 1C1

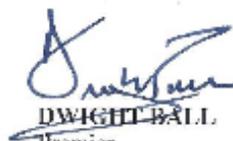
Dear Ms. Sharpe:

Thank you for your letter and for the work that you and the members of your organization do to support vulnerable people in our province. I appreciate the concerns you raise in your letter. The decisions made in Budget 2016 were made with consideration of potential impacts of vulnerable people in our province.

To mitigate the impacts of some budget decision on individuals and families with low income, we have developed the Newfoundland and Labrador Income Supplement. This supplement invests \$44.3 million in 2016/17 (\$63.7 million annually) to be paid directly to low income individuals and families. The budget also increases the Low-Income Seniors' Benefit (by \$12.7 million in 2016/17). Additionally, increases were made to the budgets for the Supportive Living Program (\$2.5 million increase) which provides funding to community-based groups that deliver supportive housing and to the monthly fuel allowance for eligible Income Support clients (\$3 million increase). We are also implementing full-day kindergarten in September, 2016.

Work continues to assess the needs and best responses to support poor and vulnerable people in our province. The Poverty Reduction Strategy Division of the Department of Seniors, Wellness and Social Development is currently working on an action plan to address poverty and end homelessness in our province. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this work, please contact Aisling Gogan, Director, Poverty Reduction Strategy at 729-1298 or via email at [AislingGogan@gov.nl.ca](mailto:AislingGogan@gov.nl.ca).

Sincerely,



DWIGHT BALL

Premier  
MHA, Humber-Gros Morne

cc: Hon. Sherry Gambin-Walsh, Minister of Seniors, Wellness and Social Development  
Hon. John Haggie, Minister of Health and Community Services  
Hon. Cathy Bennett, Minister of Finance