

Oral Report Organization
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The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Diocese of Thunder Bay
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Madame president has asked me to give my report on the new on-line reporting system. I will begin with a brief history.

As you are aware, annual reports are meant to share the good news from your parishes and dioceses giving highlights to the unique activities and work you are providing. Traditionally these reports were hand written on a template provided for you and submitted to the diocese and then forwarded to provincial and national levels accordingly for inclusion in annual report books. These reports were inconsistent, often very wordy and hard to interpret into a report that would give justice to all that is happening in your parishes.

2016, annual reporting took on a whole new look! In February 2016, Executive Director, Kim Scammell, came to our winter provincial executive meeting and gave a workshop introducing us to the new system for electronic annual reporting. The hope was that this would provide more consistent reporting and at the same time offer ideas for other things that could be embraced in your parishes. It also would allow for timely, targeted, specific questions that could change yearly depending on the focus and theme. Additional rationale for the change in reporting included making the reports easier to complete and collate, more inclusive data, consistent electronic, unbiased reports. The new system was trialed in three provinces prior to the final reports being formatted for general members.

As a province, we brought two members from each diocese to Toronto in September 2016 for an organization workshop. The diocesan organization chair was a required member of this working group along with another member who would be willing and able to assist in training the parishes. Our two-day workshop included hands on computer simulated examples of completing the reports. Everyone left feeling enthused and confident in being able to share the new information with their dioceses with the intent of training parish members through workshops and meetings.

National office sent out the annual report packages in November and the anxiety levels of all members escalated! Once the links and passwords were clarified most parishes could complete the reports with minimal assistance. There were glitches of course, as all new programs encounter. One of the greatest challenges was the confusion regarding the dual dates for on-line submission of reports, one date was December 15th while another stated that the reporting system would be open till December 31st. Unfortunately, those who waited till December 31 were locked out and had to submit paper reports. This will be remedied this year. 80% of Ontario's reports were filed on-line this year. That shocked national office! Imagine how high our percentage would be if the closing date had been clear. When on-line

memberships were introduced there was only a 20% compliance. You are to be commended on your willingness to embrace this new technology. Overall, a large amount of feedback was received and forwarded to national office to assist with improvements for this year's reports.

In Ontario, we have nine pages of collated feedback, most were suggestions for improvement along with some positive comments that were forwarded to national office. Yes, some women did like these reports and found them straight forward. There are 540 good news stories posted on the Ontario website, please take time to review these.

I have received reassurance from national office that changes will be made thanks to all your hard work. Like all new things, these are a work in progress and will improve each year as we share our thoughts and concerns.

This concludes my report,