

SOCIAL JUSTICE REPORT

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The social justice project for the Diocese of Thunder Bay comes in three parts that lead to one common cause. The first part was "The Feathers of Hope" resolution which was presented by St. Patrick's Cathedral Council. "Feathers of Hope" is a First Nations youth action plan. This helped youth have a voice in their communities and government.

The second part was Dr. Cindy Blackstock, (Executive Director, First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada) who was on her way to speak to First Nations people in the North. CWL member, Colleen Martin, saw an opportunity to raise awareness and inform members regarding the problems facing First Nations children. She invited Dr. Blackstock to stop over in Thunder Bay to give a presentation. Dr. Blackstock spoke about the plight of First Nations children and the problems of not having the same privileges as non-native children, especially in health and education.

The third part resulted in Mikinakoos (Little Turtle) Children Fund. This fund was begun by a group of people which included Colleen Martin from Thunder Bay Diocese. They saw a need to address child poverty on remote reserves. They hoped, through this fund, to provide nutritional breakfasts, educate for healthy living, provide maternity and infant care courses, and distribute clothing, sporting goods, and other amenities needed by children. The CWL councils were invited to contribute to the fund. Fifteen out of twenty-five councils were able to do so with the other councils indicating that they assisted the reserves that border their towns.

The Catholic Women's League of the Diocese of Thunder Bay has worked diligently on their Social Justice project with the National theme in mind:
One: Heart: Having a loving gesture to those in need
Voice: Speaking out for those who cannot speak for themselves
Mission: Putting the plan into action