



**Ontario Provincial Council  
Community Life – Communiqué #4  
Care for our Common Home  
September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

To: Diocesan Community Life Standing Chairpersons  
From: Mary Capobianco, Ontario Provincial Council, Community Life Chairperson  
cc: Diocesan Presidents, Provincial Officers,  
National Community Life Chairperson, Sub-committee chairperson

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**Truth and Reconciliation Working Group  
Learning, Listening, Actioning.....Working Our Way Towards Reconciliation**

Dear Sisters in the League,

At the post-AMM meeting of the Ontario Provincial Council (OPC) held in July 2021, the OPC council unanimously agreed that it was most important for the CWL to have a visual presence as we all continue on our journey towards healing and reconciliation. To this end, the OPC Truth and Reconciliation Working Group was established and I was asked to lead the group to focus on this most important issue.

To date the working group consists of Colleen Martin, Linda Squarzolo, Colleen Perry and myself. As time goes by, there will be additional members added as needed. After much research, deliberation and soul searching, the working team met and established our main goals, timelines and a tentative action plan. In this document, a summary of our progress to date has been provided. Please note that we fully recognize this journey is only beginning and will continue well beyond this executive’s term. Therefore, the plan will change, adapt and update as we all continue working towards healing and reconciliation.

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**Learning, Listening, Actioning.**

**MAIN GOALS of this working group:**

- 1. Be aware of our past**    *Learning*
- 2. Be inclusive in the present and support local efforts**    *Listening*
- 3. Strive for a better future**    *Actioning*

Future communications will soon be sent to expand on each of these goals outlining specific actions and suggestions for councils to undertake.

In the meantime, I congratulate the many councils that have already taken the initiative to start their journey by organizing events and prayer services. I ask those that have or are in the process of doing so to please share their experiences by sending the information to me and I will be happy to post and share with others. We will be investigating the most efficient way we can easily share this information with all. Stay tuned for more details as we start our path towards healing and reconciliation.

September 30<sup>th</sup> is National Truth and Reconciliation Day. The day was created to give everyone an opportunity to recognize the legacy of residential schools. More than 150,000 First nations, Metis and Inuit children were forced to attend these schools between the 1870s and 1997. Let’s all use September 30<sup>th</sup> as a starting point for GOAL ONE: *Learning – To be aware of our past.*

We ask everyone to please pray the following prayer:

***Together We Pray***

*For the children, who died in residential schools throughout Canada  
and for all those who continue on a journey through darkness,  
That there may be healing founded on truth and that the Spirit  
Will inspire our ongoing commitment to reconciliation.*

*God, through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit,  
Continue to offer us correction so that your grace might change  
And transform us in our weakness and repentance.*

*Give us humility to listen when others reveal how we have failed  
And courage to love others as ourselves, mindful of your love  
For the weakest and most vulnerable among us.*

*Amen.*