



**Ontario Provincial Council of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Community Life Standing Committee**



Directive #1

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September 6, 2022

To: Diocesan Community Life Chairpersons
From: Karen McDonald, Provincial 2nd Vice-President/Community Life Chairperson
cc: Provincial Executive, Diocesan Presidents, National Community Life Chairperson, Provincial Community Life Sub-Committee

"Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, our elder sister in the Lord, discreetly, you watch over us. May your love for Jesus and Mary inspire in us words and deeds of friendship, forgiveness, and reconciliation. Pray that God will give us the courage, the boldness, and the strength to build a world of justice and peace among ourselves and among all nations."

Excerpt from Prayer to Saint Kateri (National Shrine of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha website)

It is an honour to serve as 2nd Vice-President of the Ontario Provincial Council and to be gifted with the Community Life ("CL") Standing Committee and with chairing the OPC Truth and Reconciliation Working Group. Through prayer and teamwork, I embrace the challenge!

Accompanying me on this two-year journey are **Pat Weller** (Pembroke Diocese) and **Kathleen Niro** (Sault Ste. Marie Diocese) as my sub-committee chairpersons. Pat and Kathleen are dedicated League sisters and I thank them for saying 'yes'. Provincial President-Elect Colleen Martin has graciously agreed to remain as a member of the OPC Truth and Reconciliation Working Group ... I am blessed!

Appreciation goes out to Mary Capobianco and her team for their amazing work in furthering the goals of this committee.

Provincial Theme (2022 to 2024)

Provincial President Linda Squarzolo has asked us to focus on the provincial theme, "**Go Make a Difference**" ... and I love it! Stay tuned for more information on a *Community Life* project involving this theme.

OPC Truth and Reconciliation Working Group

This working group was established by the Ontario Provincial Council in 2021 with a focus on educating and raising awareness. The main **goals** are **Learning, Listening, Actioning ... Working Our Way Towards Reconciliation**.

Did you know? ... a section dedicated to Truth and Reconciliation appears on the provincial website providing Links, Spiritual Resources and Upcoming Events (www.cwl.on.ca ... RESOURCES ... TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION).

September 30th is National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day in Canada, honouring the children lost, the Survivors, their family and communities. We can ***make a difference*** and show support for this initiative by **wearing orange** to honour the children who survived residential schools, and recall those who did not. This is an opportunity to raise awareness about the tragic legacy of residential schools, to honour the Survivors, and to remind ourselves that we have so much to learn on our journey toward reconciliation and healing.



In order to share information and feature activities across Ontario, we ask members to submit T&R events and activities (with photos), favourite book recommendations, upcoming webinars, and ideas for future articles. **Please share your activities, prayers, and events or photos with us.**

2022.01 Enact Federal Legislation to Reduce Food Loss and Waste

This resolution relating to *Community Life* was adopted in 102nd annual national convention in Kelowna. Submitted by Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council, the resolution "... **urges the federal government to enact legislation to reduce food loss and waste in Canada's agri-food, industrial, commercial and institutional sectors.**"

(link to full text: <https://cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Resolution-2022.01-Enact-Federal-Legislation-to-Reduce-Food-Loss-Waste-Final.pdf>)

We are asked to read it, familiarize members with it and follow up on the Action Plan. Present it at a meeting or invite a guest speaker on the topic. Make copies available (some members prefer a copy to read and may take it home to share with family).

Faith, Service and Social Justice

On August 24th, 2022, the national board advised the standing committees will be **reduced to three**, and released the new Faith, Service and Social Justice Guidelines (found at: <https://cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Faith-Service-and-Social-Justice-Guidelines.pdf>).

Current **CL** responsibilities include: *dignity and rights of persons; social and economic justice; refugees, immigration and citizenship; Development and Peace; and developing countries.* The first two will fall under **social justice** and final three under **service**. The guidelines will assist councils to transition to the new structure.

Let us embrace this transition with the same conviction as Bellelle Guerin when she began her journey to form the League over 100 years ago. The world is changing ... we need to do the same.

Lots of love,

Karen