

Provincial Challenge: “Light the Province Blue” – A CWL Call to Action for February 22, 2026

In solidarity ♥ In prayer ♥ In action ♥ Across Ontario

The **Toronto Diocesan Council** has ignited a powerful wave of awareness. On February 22, 2026—the National Day of Awareness of Human Trafficking—the CN Tower will shine blue as a beacon of hope, vigilance, and solidarity with victims and survivors. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of **St. Padre Pio CWL Council in Vaughan**, Vaughan City Hall will be illuminated in blue annually on February 22nd and thanks to Toronto Diocesan Social Justice Chair, the Mississauga City Hall Clock Tower will also glow blue from 8:00 p.m. on February 22nd. And the light continues to spread: through the advocacy of **St. Margaret’s CWL Council in Thunder Bay**, both the City Hall and the iconic fountain will be illuminated blue on February 22.

As this light spreads, **we now warmly invite every CWL council across Ontario to take part**—not only this year, but annually—so that our shared commitment to compassion, justice, and public witness becomes a lasting tradition of hope.

THE CHALLENGE

On February 22, 2026, every CWL council in Ontario is challenged to find a way to “**Light the Province Blue**” by engaging their town, city, parish, or local institutions in a public act of awareness.

Your goal: **Create a visible, local sign of solidarity that mirrors the CN Tower’s blue illumination—and sparks conversation, prayer, and awareness in your community.**

WAYS COUNCILS CAN PARTICIPATE

Councils can choose *any* initiative that fits their size, resources, and local context. Here are some options to inspire creativity:

1. Request a Local Landmark to Light Up Blue

Invite your municipality or local organizations to illuminate:

- A town hall or municipal building
- A bridge, fountain, or clock tower
- A church steeple or parish façade
- A community centre or arena

Many municipalities welcome awareness requests—this is a powerful, public way to stand with survivors.

2. Host a “Blue Vigil for Freedom”

Organize a simple, prayerful gathering:

- Blue candles or lanterns
- A short prayer service or rosary
- A moment of silence for victims and survivors
- Invite local clergy, first responders, or community partners

3. Create a “Blue Ribbon Trail”

Encourage members to:

- Tie blue ribbons around parish grounds or community spaces
- Distribute blue ribbons after Mass
- Offer a small card explaining the meaning of the ribbon and the national day

4. Partner with Local Schools or Youth Groups

Invite students to:

- Wear blue
- Create posters or displays
- Participate in a short awareness activity

This builds intergenerational advocacy and education.

5. Illuminate Your Parish

If public buildings aren’t possible:

- Light the church in blue
- Place blue lanterns along the walkway
- Display a blue spotlight or window lighting

Even small gestures can spark big conversations.

6. Social Media Awareness

Councils can:

- Post a photo of their initiative
- Share facts about human trafficking
- Use a unified provincial hashtag: **#CWLBlueForTheBroken**
#LightTheProvinceBlue #HopeForAll #EndHumanTrafficking

SHARE YOUR LIGHT

Councils are invited to send photos of their initiative to:

opcsecretary24@gmail.com

These images will be shared across provincial social media to amplify awareness and celebrate the collective witness of CWL members across Ontario.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Human trafficking is a devastating reality in every corner of our province. **By lighting Ontario blue—one parish, one council, one community at a time—we:**

- Honour victims and survivors
- Raise awareness
- Encourage conversation
- Inspire action
- Witness to the dignity of every human person

Blue for the Broken ~ Light for the Lost ~ Hope for All