



The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council

Community Life
Communique # 1



Inspired by the Spirit... Women Respond to God's Call

DATE: September 2017
TO: Diocesan Chairpersons of Community Life
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)
CC: National Chairperson of Community Life (for information)
FROM: Sr. Susan Scott, Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Chairperson of Community Life

Welcome to all Community Life chairs and those who will be helping with the work of this important standing committee. I am thrilled to have been called to serve the CWL in this position as Provincial Community Life Chair, and invite any questions, concerns or requests at my email abmkprovcomlife@gmail.com

We continue this journey of struggle for justice and peace, hope-filled and inspired, for we have as our companion on this journey, our God who walks with us! We missed *International Peace Day* on September 21st with the theme of *Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All*. The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP) would like everyone to participate in International Peace Day to show support for women. Statistics have shown that agreements are 35% more likely to remain in effect when women are involved in peace negotiations. Urge the federal government to increase its budget for overseas development aid for women and peace rather than fund military solutions. It's not too late to engage your members in these goals to improve the lives of our sisters both at home and abroad. We'll get a jump on the event for next year.

As you spend time on the D & P home site ([Development & Peace Home](#)), you will see that this year's theme is: **May Peace Be With Her – Women at the Heart of Peace**. If you visit the site you can a) sign the Action Card online, or download the card and send it by mail to the House of Commons (no stamp required). Both of these actions can be taken from the comfort of your home! There are five stories of inspiring women peacebuilders whose lives will inspire you. God knows we need people of peace in our world today! There is also a short video to watch when you click on this link - [Women Peacebuilders: D & P Fall 2017](#). Keep October 20th open on your calendar and perhaps plan a prayer celebration in your community. This date marks the 50th anniversary and you can still register as a member at no cost!



As we continue in the “Strategic Planning” which was presented at our National Convention this past August, I invite you to imagine your calling which you received at your baptism to be “Prophet”. We will need women deeply in touch with our CWL roots, who can ensure that the priorities of this standing committee – the dignity & rights of persons, social AND economic justice, refugees, immigration & citizenship, are retained and carried into our future.

“Prophets, by their very nature, cannot be at the center of any social structure. Rather, they are “on the edge of the inside.” They cannot be fully insiders, but they cannot throw rocks from outside either. They must be educated inside the system, knowing and living the rules, before they can critique what is non-essential or not so important. Jesus did this masterfully (see Matthew 5:17-48). This is what Martin Luther King, Jr. taught the United States, what Gandhi taught British-occupied India, and what Nelson Mandela taught South Africa. Only with great respect for and understanding of the rules can a prophet know how to properly break those very same rules—for the sake of a greater purpose and value. A prophet critiques a system by quoting its own documents, constitutions, heroes, and Scriptures against its present practice. This is their secret: systems are best unlocked from inside.

Richard Rohr “The Edge of the Inside” Sept. 12, 2017