



The Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation's goal is to assist women to develop foundational skills in leadership, management, media, and communication. Women will have the confidence they need to assume a leadership role wherever they are called – in the Church, business, not-for-profits, private or public sector – while understanding and living their Catholic faith.

**Our Vision:**

A just, merciful, and compassionate world nurtured by the genius of women.

The Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation desires to provide the tools which will encourage this genius to be more fully expressed and lived every day in society.

**Our Mission:**

To fund leadership education that inspires Catholic women to be transformational and influential leaders where they live and work.

**Our Objectives:**

- To **develop women's leadership capacity-building programs** that are of the highest quality and that are consistent with Catholic values by establishing and maintaining partnerships with key educational institutions.
- To **identify promising women leaders** who will benefit from leadership education that builds on their lived experiences.
- To **secure financial and human resources** in support of Catholic women's leadership education and activities.
- To **establish and maintain a national network** of support for Catholic women leaders.
- To **develop and implement a communication plan** to raise awareness about the importance of women's leadership

Women have always had a significant role in the Catholic Church. Historically, women held roles as educators, philosophers and doctors in the Church. Others have had a tremendous impact on the world through their service of the sick, poor and hungry. Biblically, stories of women range from acts of charity, hospitality to spreading the Good News with the Apostles themselves. Today, Catholic women are at the forefront of the Church – serving in administration, engaging in speaking events, involved in social justice – and spreading their faith in the workplace, their home, and the world. Think of the roles that you, yourself, have and continue to hold.

Over the past few decades, we have seen a growing need for Catholic women to fill leadership positions – roles where they are able to share their values, gifts and talents in powerful and meaningful ways.

## **HISTORY**



The Sisters of Service of Canada, approached the Catholic Women’s League of Canada (League) with a gift and a challenge. Inspired by the shared mission of a just, merciful and compassionate world nurtured by women, the League and the Sisters of Service had a vision to transform the leadership landscape through the world-class education and training of Canadian Catholic women to service in leadership capacities. This vision led to the formation of the Catholic Women’s Leadership Foundation. Together these groups provided the initial funding to launch this exciting endeavour – agreeing that they would match each other’s contribution. The founding board was established in January 2015 and began the organizational work necessary for a new public foundation. The League had provided \$100,000 seed money to assist in the incorporation, registration and first board meetings of the foundation. The Sisters of Service contributed a generous \$500,000. In August 2015, the League membership, at the League’s National Convention in Vancouver voted to donate \$400,000 to the Foundation – matching the Sisters’ gift.

The Board has developed founding bylaws, researched various educational institutions and existing programs, established a budget, identified the financial needs of the Foundation and related initial fundraising plan

## **YOUR INVESTMENT:**

### **A Bright Future for Catholic Women**

Our mission is simple: To fund leadership education that inspires Catholic women to be transformational **and influential leaders where they live and work.**

**We cannot do this alone. We need your help and investment today.**

With seed funding of \$1,000,000 from the Sisters of Service and The Catholic Women's League of Canada a campaign has been launched to raise the additional funds needed to create a lasting endowment fund of \$2,500,000 to ensure training opportunities will be available in perpetuity.

The endowment fund will generate the invest income needed to support a high quality leadership program.

### Capital Campaign

We are in the middle of our campaign to raise \$1.5 Million for the Foundation's Endowment. To date we have reached 88% of our goal, with 1.32 Million dollars through total confirmed pledges & verbal commitments. You will notice that an article was in the last League magazine giving members the opportunity to contribute to the campaign.

If you are interested in learning more about our capital campaign, please contact us at [donations@cwlfcanada.ca](mailto:donations@cwlfcanada.ca) or make a donation today.

**Join us as we improve the world around us through the development of confident, effective and faithful leaders for tomorrow!**

The website for the Foundation is [cwlfcanada.ca](http://cwlfcanada.ca)



## **Our Leadership Program:**

Open to *all* Canadian Catholic women, candidates will be screened for key leadership qualities: determination, willingness, and a positive and collaborative work ethic. Developed with key educators, selected women will participate in three modules – both online and face-to-face – on topics such as:

Understanding Self and Leadership

Transformative Leadership for Social Change

Media Training

Communication skills

Catholic Leadership Theory

Catholic Teaching on Bioethics, Moral Issues, Catholic Social Issues, Ecology

Ethics and Spirituality

Conflict Resolution

The program will be women-centered and will feature numerous networking opportunities, membership development and a mentorship plan designed to strengthen each woman's ability to grow. The cohorts will begin small to ensure each woman has a valuable, in-depth learning experience.

After completing the program, women will have the skills they need, whether they are speaking on behalf of an organization, fundraising for a local community group or serving as a director of a major corporation, to make a tremendous difference in their community.



## **The Impact on Women and the Community**

The impact of the Leadership Program is far-reaching for both the community and the Catholic Church. In the quest for Catholic social justice in society:

Women will gain valuable leadership skills;

Trained lay women will be capable of providing succession in the area of Catholic social justice currently championed by the diminishing numbers of women religious;

Registered charities will gain additional skillsets and knowledge, resulting in more effective promotion of their missions to create a just and compassionate society;

Local parishes, committees and dioceses will be strengthened by the feminine genius as women take on more leadership roles;

Governments at all levels will be encouraged by a constituency of women not afraid to advocate on behalf of those without a voice.

Further, *graduates will:*

Establish long-term relationships with like-minded women, encouraging one another;

Gain the tools necessary to speak confidently about and take action on contemporary social issues in corporate and social settings;

Benefit from an increase in economic and career opportunities as they gain additional skills, indirectly enhancing influence within their personal spheres.

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