



# THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

## Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council

### Education & Health Standing Committee

#### Annual Report 2010

#### 4 out of 5 Councils reporting:

##### Education:

Across the Province the CWL has been active in the Education of its membership and communities. They promote, support and assist our Catholic Schools in the education of our young. There has arisen an issue regarding the disbandment of Catholic and other Faith based education in favour of a more secular education. To counteract the petition promoting secularization and combining of the two school boards, members have become active in preserving their legal right to Catholic Schools, by writing letters to the Minister of Education and the sending of postcards regarding this issue to their various Parliamentary Ministers, Premier Ed Stalmach and Education Minister Dave Hancock.

The membership is active in the roll of volunteer in schools and church. Catechism classes, RCIA programs, sacramental preparation, scripture study and children's liturgies are some of the areas. They participate in literacy programs and English as a Second Language program. They assist and facilitate ESL programs for immigrants and sponsor students in Africa and Peru. Members have attended workshops for setting Catholic Education goals and have taken leadership roles. Thirteen members serve as trustees on School Boards and thirty-five members serve on school councils. They supply bursaries, scholarships and awards. Calgary diocese celebrated the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Calgary Catholic School Board by inviting Dr Lucy Millar to speak on "**You and Your Faith. What Would You Do Without Your Faith**" at a council meeting open to all councils. The Northern communities celebrated and assisted at the Regional Aboriginal Hand Games Competition. Several councils donated to the Coady Institute fund, Newman Theological College and St Joseph's Seminary and funded the purchase of smart boards and other educational supplies for an inner city school. Faith development was encouraged in the membership by retreats and bible studies.

##### Health:

Members have kept themselves informed on current health issues by organizing speakers at meetings, handouts, and workshops on such issues as : Diet and Exercise, cancer issues, senior health issues, dementia, heart and stroke prevention, embryonic stem cell research, mental health issues and especially Palliative and Long term Care issues and child obesity. Once again they have written letters to the Health Minister on the two levels of government on several of these issues. They protested BillC-384. They promoted good health practise among members by encouraging frequent hand washing, getting flu shots, and taking care on icy walks and roads. They created prayer chains, visited the sick and shut in,

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and donated to various Health organizations such as Cancer Research (all forms), participated in Walk for the Cure, volunteered at flu clinics and blood donor clinics and several serve on boards that advocate for seniors and hospice care.

**Environment:**

Members promote the integrity of their environment by using the **4Rs.....Recycle, reuse, reduce, and repair**. The use of bottled water is discouraged. The Diocese of Grouard-McLennan went so far as to produce their own CWL crested environmentally friendly water bottle. Plastic and Styrofoam utensils are avoided at meetings and members are encouraged to bring their own cup or water bottle to the meetings. They supported and participated in **Turn off the Lights for an Hour** and promoted Earth Day in April 2010. They promoted the use of drought resistant plants and environmentally friendly products for cleaning. They recycled juice boxes, milk cartons and other items, held rummage sales to recycle clothing and other household items. They used Fair Trade products (coffee, chocolate etc.), limited photocopying and assisted with highway, city and parks cleanups.

**Summary:**

Albert Mackenzie Catholic Women are **Health** conscious, **Educationally** active, and **Environmentally** aware.

Respectfully submitted;

Pam De Luca

Education and Health Standing Committee Chairperson

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council

Catholic Women's League of Canada