



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



**Community Life Chair
Communique #6
December 29, 2020**

TO: Diocesan Chairpersons
CC: Provincial Executive
CC: National Chairperson of Community Life (Marie Rackley)
FROM; Theresa Hickey, ABMK Provincial Chairperson of Community Life

Greetings CWL Sisters

We are into our Seventh Day of the Christmas Season and in a blink of an eye we will be celebrating 2021.

In this time of Pandemic and scary time in our world, we know God is in charge and keeps us on our journey. The song, Be Not Afraid, certainly gets good use today and always as we continue to be in the COVID 19 pandemic.

How many of us will be happy when 2020 ends? Today is December 29/2020, in a few days we will be shooting out the old year and in with the new. 2020 was heavily defined by the COVID-19 PANDEMIC, which has led global social and economic disruption, mass cancellations, postponements of events, worldwide lockdowns and the largest economic recession since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

For many in 2020 the fight against RACISM (Black Lives Matter) was a top story worldwide. The murder of George Floyd on May 25, 2020 at the hands of police amplified the black lives matter movement and immediately called the need for action. Then the Jason Blake (29 years old) shooting on August 31/2020, another black man shot several times in the back as he entered his car where his three children were seated.

Canada was outraged by the death of a mother of seven who died after she had filmed herself from her hospital bed pleading for help. Towards the end of the video, which was live streamed, two female hospital staff entered her room and heard making degrading remarks to the patient. It's very unfortunate and a sad situation when a patient is admitted to a public hospital for treatment and comes to the end of her life because of ignorance. The death of this beautiful indigenous woman (Joyce Echaquan) is a tragic reminder of what society must do to end Systemic Racism. It definitely underlines the urgency of the actions we must take as a society.

What about The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW)? In 1946 - 2013, there were 824 missing or murdered indigenous women identified. The RCMP's 2014 National Overview stated the number grew to almost 1,200 between 1980 to 2012.

What is Systemic Racism? There is so much confusion in society on Systemic Racism. Racism occurs between individuals on interpersonal levels. There are many forms of Racism, institutional, structural, systemic and individual racism.

Why are people of colour treated differently? Systemic Racism definitely needs to be clearly defined since there is so much uncertainty and confusion about what the term really means. It is how society works. Good people can participate in Systemic Racism.

What can we do to end Racism in our Communities? We all have been exposed to racism. We as a society should be aware of our own prejudices, educate ourselves, see our resource list for learning, and talk to children and youth about racism. We certainly can speak up when we hear something hurtful or showing up in person for a rally or event on racism. Lastly, we can contact our local elected officials who make decisions for our communities and let them know we care about racial justice.

"No one is born hating another person because of the colour of their skin or background or religion. People must learn to hate, and if they learn to hate they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite." Quote by Nelson Mandela.

There are many sites to find information on the above:

<http://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/>
<http://www.cbc.ca/>, <http://www.library.wisc.edu/>,
<http://www.communitycommons.org/>
www.aptrweb.org

"We should certainly count our Blessings, but
we should also make our blessings count."
Quote by Neal A. Maxwell

Theresa