



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

Meeting with the Alberta Government

DATE: February 24, 2020



A well-attended meeting was held at the Alberta Legislature in the afternoon of February 24, 2020. Present and representing the Alberta Mackenzie Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada were:

Judy Look – President
Mary Hunt – President Elect
Betsy Fletcher- Resolution Chair
Sharon Malec – Legislation Chair

Attending and representing the Government of Alberta were:

- Minister of Education – Honourable Adrianna LaGrange
- MLA Brooks Medicine Hat – Michaela Glasgo
- Ministerial Assistant – Eliza Snider (Education)
- Ministerial Assistant – Chad Hallman (Health)
- Ministerial Assistant- Hannah Storvold (Children's Services)
- Legislative Coordinator – Melissa Crane



Our meeting began with brief introductions of the participants in attendance. Judy Look gave a comprehensive report about the Catholic Women's League. She stated the League's Mission, purpose and our history. Included was the reason that we requested the meeting for the betterment of the community of Alberta. She expressed that we represent over 9,000 ladies in the province of Alberta and Northwest Territories. Concerns are brought forward in the form of resolutions or as initiatives to our conventions and we continue to act upon them.

Betsy Fletcher spoke on Resolution 2015.01 – Establish National Standards & Inter-Provincial/Territorial Protocols for Child Welfare Interventions. Hannah Storvold (Children's Services Ministerial Assistant) took note of our concerns. She explained how children are getting lost. Would it be possible to attach concerns to a Social Assistance Number or even a birth certificate that is to be produced when children register for school?

Mary Hunt spoke on Resolution 2019.01 – In-School Dental Screening for Children in Alberta in Grades K-12. She expressed the concern that children who do not have good dental health often have other health problems. This then can lead to problems in school. Minister LaGrange agreed and said

that Alberta Education was looking into having Eye Screening in the schools. During the discussion, we decided that we should approach our dentists to see if they have a dental program for schools and see if we can help to facilitate this.

Judy Look spoke about the Senior's Advocate. This was an initiative brought forward in 2014. We were excited that an Advocate was appointed. However, we are disappointed that it has now been moved to the Health Ministry. When searching the web, it was found that there was not a way to contact the Senior's Advocate. Chad Hallman noted this and assured us that it will be taken care of.

Sharon Malec spoke on Resolution 2018.01 – Official Recognition of Obesity as a Chronic Disease. It was noted that often there is bullying at school of children that are Obese. Many health issues surround this disease. As Obesity affects so many areas of the population, it was understood that better education for both adults and children would be stressed.

Questions and comments were well accepted by both the government officials and the CWL. We went away from the meeting feeling that it had been a fruitful meeting with the request of meeting again in October 2020 or February 2021.