



*The Catholic Women’s League of Canada*

*Edmonton Diocesan Council*

Community Life Chair

Communiqué – Spring 2021

TO: Diocesan President, Parish Presidents, Parish Community Life Chair

FROM: Katherine Tarras Edmonton Diocesan Community Life Chair

We have received a communiqué from Theresa Hickey ABMK Community Life Chair on ***“The Little Red Dress.”***  Red Dress Day is the unified expression of those who are mourning; to condemn the reality that we are living in a genocide against indigenous women and girls.

“During the pandemic there has been a sharp rise in violence towards indigenous women. In May 2020 there was a 17% increase in domestic violence over a three-month period compared to a 10% increase over a five-year period in 2014.

You can help build a relationship with our indigenous sisters by attending local indigenous-led events. Invite a local Indigenous representative to speak at the next organization event. Respect their interests and cultural values. Build trust. Accept and celebrate differences.

The Alberta government established the Alberta Joint Working Group on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls made up of members of Alberta Legislative Assembly. People put in long hours to set a path for Alberta to take action on recommendations for the Final Report of the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. For more information go to [www.alberta.ca](http://www.alberta.ca/) Alberta Joint Working Group on MMIWG.

The Government of the N.W.T is expected to release its MMIWG (Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls) action plan in May 2021. [www.mmiwg-ffada.ca](http://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/).

On May 05, 2021, communities across the Alberta Mackenzie honoured their lost loved ones with the symbol of the little red dress. Support our indigenous sisters by walking and standing in solidarity with them while showing the government that we demand justice for them and their families. Wear a red ribbon, hang a red dress outside on a tree branch or in a window, attend a candlelight vigil and most of all pray for our indigenous sisters and their families.

Try to connect with our indigenous sisters, keep in mind and share the power of The Little Red Dress.”

Theresa’s full report can be found on the ABMK website: <http://www.cwl.ab.ca/>

For those who were not able to attend our 2021 Virtual Convention an update on the Refugee Welcome Bags: the last were delivered on the 2nd of April, this was to hold them over until the end of April. There have been no requests since then.

**Development and Peace** event,THINKfast is a 25-hour interactive learning experience designed for youth. Participating in this 25-hour educational and fundraising fast you stand in solidarity with those in the Global South who need our support, both through financial support to projects they are leading, and through a greater understanding of the structures that perpetuate poverty and injustice. With the pandemic precluding in-person THINKfasts for the second successive year, we held a virtual version of the popular event from March 11 to 12, 2021. Over 500 people of all ages “Zoomed in” from across Canada. <https://www.devp.org/en/thinkfast>

**Catholic Missions in Canada**, the annual Tastes of Heaven goes virtual, and national, the gala fundraiser was not staged in 2020, one of the long lists of victims of the COVID-19 virus, but the keystone event returned April 29 in a virtual realm. Fr. Frank Salmon, OMI, willingness to surrender to God’s will, and his desire for social interaction, are two of the reasons Catholic Missions in Canada (CMIC) has tapped him as this year’s missionary recipient of the St. Joseph’s Award. The 75-year-old will be feted in a ceremony led by Cardinal Thomas Collins in this year’s gala. If you are looking for a charity to help, keep them in mind. <https://www.catholicregister.org/item/33017-fr-salmon-a-missionary-who-s-always-on-the-go>

The federal government in its budget on the 19th of April has opened spending to some of the key priorities of faith and social justice groups. But how that money will be spent and its impact on Indigenous reconciliation, transitioning to a greener economy, providing childcare and helping charities survive the economic devastation of the pandemic is unsure.

I leave you to enjoy a Blessed summer, stay safe and Take Care,

God Bless,

Katherine Tarras