



# The Catholic Women's League of Canada Edmonton Diocesan Council



## Community Life Chairperson's Report Fall 2017

Madame President,

Betty Colaneri, the National Community Life Chairperson has recently posted a communiqué which reminds us that International Peace Day is September 21. Even though this day has passed, I want to remind everyone to mark their calendars to observe it next year. The 2017 theme was Together for Peace: Respect, Safety, and Dignity for All. You can read the full communiqué on the National website or pick up a copy at my display.

The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace encourages all members to learn more about the 1% Program. Since 1969, the League has encouraged members to set aside 1% of the cost of all personal items purchased to fund improvements to the status of women in the Global south. You can download the brochure at [cwl.ca](http://cwl.ca) under the resources tab/Promotional materials. You can also take advantage of the free membership in CCOPD available until October 20, 2017. CCOPD has launched a new campaign May Peace Be With Her which highlights how women are our best hope for establishing peace in the world today. A 5% increase of women in parliament makes a state 5 times less likely to use violence when faced with an international crisis. Also, peace agreements have a 35% greater chance of lasting at least 15 years when drafted by women. Finally, when 35% of parliamentarians are women, the risk of conflict relapse is near zero. You can support their campaign by filling out an action card online at [dev.org](http://dev.org). You can also sign up to receive the Development and Peace eNewsletter.

Under this standing committee, one resolution was passed at National Convention - Resolution 2017.01 Full Implementation of the Supreme Court Decision in R v Gladue for Indigenous Offenders. The actions asked for are

1. Letter writing
2. Invite an Indigenous person who has come into contact with the correctional system to share their story
3. Monitor the Federal Government response to this resolution.

You can find a complete copy of the resolution at the Resolution and Legislation display table.

We need to continue to monitor the Human Trafficking crisis. We must remain diligent in letter writing. Madam President received an e-mail with a special request regarding Magdalen House and the fact that they are very close to closing their doors as a society. A letter has been prepared that gives information about where they are at as a society and what they have done. Please take this letter back to your council for further discussion. This is a last ditch effort to remain a viable organization. You can also make a difference by taking out a membership to the Magdalene House Society or by making a tax deductible donation.

Lastly, remember to keep our refugee families in your prayers as they learn a new way of life and to keep all refugees in your prayers. St. Charles Council continues to provide new refugees with welcome bags and they ask for your continued support of this huge project.

I'm going to end with a quote from Mother Theresa: Find your own Calcutta. Find the sick, the suffering and the lonely right there where you are.

This concludes my report. Are there any questions?

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Heck  
Community Life  
Standing Committee Chairperson