

Madame President, Sisters in the League,

Our Provincial Community Life Chair has provided a handout, that was developed at a Provincial Executive meeting. This handout will help us with our “Caring for Our Creation” projects. The handout is attached to my report on the Diocesan website.

**Development & Peace:**

Development and Peace is celebrating 50 Years of Solidarity. This from their website, “For decades Development and Peace has been in solidarity with worldwide social movements in addressing injustice and creating change. Thanks to the support of Canadians from coast to coast, Development and Peace has invested more than $600 million in over 100 countries since its creation in 1967.” They would like us to visit their website to “discover the moments of mobilization, here in Canada and around the world, that have marked our history”. There is also an animated “time line” video available to watch.

**Some News Items:**

- There has been a report issued which indicates Canada’s “broken” temporary foreign workers program is making foreign workers vulnerable to exploitation at the hands of unscrupulous employers. Andrea Burkhart, executive director of the Action Coalition on Human Trafficking (ACT) Alberta Association says “Overwhelmingly, the majority of what we heard in this report and the majority of the work that we see at ACT Alberta on labour trafficking comes through the temporary foreign worker program” and she goes on to say "This program is failing. It is failing to protect the rights of migrant workers and is being manipulated by immigration consultants, recruiting agencies and employers." I will attempt to follow up on this report and see if there are action items for us to become involved in.

- There is a Utilities Consumer Advocate for home heating and electricity that is working to get dozens of Albertans who have had their services cut off during the summer months get reconnected. Since November 1, the Utilities Consumer Advocate has helped reconnect 43 Albertans whose services were cut off during the summer.

Under current regulations, utility retailers cannot shut off a consumer’s service between November 1 and April 14 and any time of the year when the overnight temperature is forecast to drop below zero degrees in the next 24 hours for natural gas and October 15 to April 15 for electricity.

- Alberta has ban door-to-door home energy & furnace sales. Alberta’s government voted earlier this year to ban door-to-door sales of home energy products after receiving 244 complaints about energy contracts and 159 about furnace sales so far in 2016. It was determined that aggressive vendors have used fear and misleading sales pitches to get residents to purchase what they often don’t need, at grossly inflated prices.

- The Alberta electricity market has been partial fixed. Our province had the most volatile electricity market in the world and financiers were reluctant to lend money to Alberta projects. Transalta, one of the largest players in Alberta's electricity oligopoly, has agreed to a multimillion-dollar settlement with the province for insider trading & manipulating power prices five years earlier.

**Catholic Missions In Canada (CMIC):**

Please visit their website, which states “where there are two or three gather in His name…”

SUGGESTED HINTS TO HELP CARE FOR OUR CREATION

(from your AB/Mackenzie Provincial CWL Care Team)

1) Consider using a rain barrel.

2) In place of commercial cleaners, use vinegar and baking soda.

3) Don’t accept the packaging from stores such as shoe boxes, hangers, plastic covers, etc.

4) Use environmentally friendly wash cloths, towels, cleansers and yard products, i.e. crushed up egg shells in flower beds.

5) Buy used items – sell or give away anything you don’t use or need.

6) Ask stores for paper bags or carry a cloth tote bag in your purse for small purchase items.

7) Re-use wax paper bag from cereal boxes where ever you need wax paper.

8) Can or freeze your own fruit and vegetables.

9) Hang clothes outside to dry instead of using a dryer. Hanging clothes inside helps with the humidity in your home.

10) Plant a garden or become involved in a community garden.

11) Walk more, drive less or use public transit or carpool.

12) Pick up garbage on the street/sidewalk when you see it.

13) Do not litter.

14) Use water wisely – reconsider showering every day and use towels and clothes more than once before washing.

15) Buy less “stuff” i.e. don’t need newest phone if old one is still working.

16) Put on a sweater instead of turning up the furnace.

17) Consider forming purchasing co-ops to buy in bulk reducing the need for un-necessary packaging.

18) Use “gray” water for watering plants (gray water is previously used water).

19) “Military” showers – 3 minutes, turning off the water in between bathing and rinsing

(There is an inexpensive shutoff one can buy to place on the shower head)

20) Buy local foods.

21) Buy second-hand clothing.

22) Replace wipes with wash cloths and rags.

23) Recycle, recycle, recycle whenever possible.

24) Work with the schools to educate young people of the importance of caring for our planet and showing them by our actions.