



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



**Report for Organization Standing Committee Chairperson
Fall Diocesan Meeting – Saturday September 28th – Sacred Heart Parish, Wetaskiwin
ORAL REPORT**

Madame President,

The Edmonton Diocesan Council has about **4,200 members**, representing a **decrease of ~200 members** over the past year. Membership attrition is also being experienced across Alberta and Canada. As such, it is vital for Councils to **reach out to all non-member Catholic women** in their Parishes to invite them to learn more about the Catholic Women's League. Our Provincial President-Elect, Mary Hunt, has challenged every League member **to invite one other** Catholic woman to join her Parish Council this year. We are also going to take on this challenge at the Diocesan Council level. If successful, this would **double our membership** by next summer! I have already invited my daughter!

But - our job is not “done” once new members join. While women join the League for a variety of reasons (an interest in service, to strengthen one's faith, or to make new friends) members **stay** because of a **sense of purpose** and deep **friendships** that form. We need to make sure we are looking out for each other, supporting each other, and encouraging one another. If a **strong sisterhood** exists within a Council, all members feel they belong.

Likewise, it is important to **celebrate the gifts and talents each woman brings** to her Council. Heartfelt recognition for service and dedication to the League ensures **members feel appreciated, noticed, and valued** – regardless of years of service, age or position. This year, I encourage all Councils to find ways to tell each member how much of a gift they are to the League; **including newer or younger members who are often forgotten**, but whose enthusiasm for the League is essential. This may take the form of a personal note, recognition at a meeting, a service pin or an award such as the Maple Leaf Service Pin or the Bellelle Guerin Award.

Parish Buddy calls took place early to mid-September – every Council President should have received a call. If any Council did not hear from its Parish Buddy, please let me know as the Organization Chair and I will follow up. The **list** of Councils by Parish Buddy is also posted at the **Organization display**.

This afternoon, we will hold a discussion regarding the **final report of the Zone Restructuring Sub-Committee**. Councils are invited to take a look at the **maps** on display over the **break**. I will be on hand to answer any questions.

Finally, Fran Lucas presented information on the National CWL's first year of **Strategic Planning** today. This same presentation has been given to all Diocesan Organization Chairs in Alberta, and I have a copy of it. If interested, **Parish Council Presidents can request** to have someone present it to their Council. I have **sign-up sheets** available today, or requests can be sent to me **via email**. Once requests are received, a **presentation team** will be identified. Depending on how many councils are interested in a

given area, we may consider hosting a presentation for a **couple of councils at one time**. We will try to expedite the processing of requests as much as possible, but ask for your **patience** as this is a new initiative.

Thank you, this concludes my report. Are there any questions?

Respectfully Submitted,
Clover Oryschak
Organization Chair and President-Elect
Edmonton Diocesan Council