



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

VANCOUVER DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Communiqué

Diocesan Theme – Held in the Palm of His Hand

Chairperson: Angelina Stiglich
Committee: Past President

Date: November 9th, 2019
No: 2

*"Every leaf speaks bliss to me, fluttering from the autumn tree."
Emily Bronte*

My dear sisters in Christ. What a stunning and beautiful fall we have had so far this year. As the days have shortened, we have been blessed with clear skies and sunny days, followed by crisp, dry evenings. As the trees have shed their summer green and changed to fiery hues of scarlet, orange and gold, we are constantly reminded of the miracle of God's creation as we are surrounded by so much glory.

Centenary Committee

It's hard to believe that after so much anticipation the Catholic Women's League 100th Anniversary is almost here. I hope many of you are planning on attending the Convention in Montreal, August 9th – 12th. The Centenary Committee is looking for pictures of memorable events which have taken place in our parishes, dioceses or provinces over the last 100 years. They are asking for these photographs to be brought to the National Convention in 2020 where they can be put on display for the duration of the convention. The Centenary Committee will be choosing pictures from those displayed to be included in a 100th Anniversary Commemorative coffee table book. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have your parish council's photo included in this book? Scour your archives ladies for some interesting shots from the past. Let's be proud to display our history. I look forward to seeing them in Montreal.

National Office

The CWL National Office in Winnipeg has welcomed some new staff members. Geraldine Arenas, Katherine Choi and Deborah Villeneuve will join Executive Director Kim Scammell, Senior Accounting Clerk Valroy Anderson and Executive Secretary Amanda McCormick. Geraldine assumes the new role of office clerk (clerk@cw1.ca) and is fluent in English and Tagalog. Katherine Choi is the new membership coordinator (membership@cw1.ca); she is very technically gifted and multi-lingual, speaking English, Cantonese and Mandarin. Deborah Villeneuve is the new office assistant (officeassistant@cw1.ca); she is fully trained in transcription, team building and security. Please remember to extend them a warm welcome if you are calling or emailing National Office.

Constitution and Bylaws

As I noted in my first communiqué, I plan on highlighting various sections of the Constitution and Bylaws in my communiqués. Some councils have contacted me in the past when a vacancy has come up during mid-term. The following section of the C & B deals with this issue:

Part XI, Section 4: Vacancies at any level of the League.

- (a) Resignations from office must be made in writing to the executive, submitted to the president.

Email: PastPresident@vancouvercw1.ca

- (b) In the event of a vacancy in the office of president, the president-elect shall complete the unexpired term of the president.
- (c) In the event of a vacancy in the office of president-elect, a vice-president shall perform the duties of the president-elect until the next election. She shall not be appointed to the office of president-elect nor assume the office of president.
- (d) In the event of a vacancy in any other office, a member shall be appointed to by the president in consultation with the executive and serve until the next election.

I do realize that not every council has a president-elect to step into the position of president, but it is so important to have a clear succession plan in place when you are electing your executive. The position of president-elect allows the next president to train for 2 years, then assume the position with confidence that they are ready to assume the reins of leadership. For those planning elections, please remember to encourage members to step forward. Past-presidents, I urge you to nurture and mentor our future leaders.

Remembrance Day

As we approach November 11th, let us never forget those brave men and women who fought for our freedom. Did you know that Remembrance Day was first observed in 1919 throughout the British Commonwealth and was originally called Armistice Day; it commemorated the armistice agreement that officially ended the First World War on Monday, November 11th at 11 am- on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. From 1921- 1930, Armistice Day was held on the Monday of the week in which November 11th fell. In 1931, Allan Neill, MP for Comox-Alberni introduced a bill to observe the day only on November 11th. The bill passed and the name of the day was also changed to Remembrance Day. It has been observed as such since November 11th, 1931. Leading up to the day, poppies are worn to honour and support veterans. Many CWL councils lay a wreath at Royal Canadian Legion Cenotaph ceremonies. Let us never forget those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

*“In Flanders fields, the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That marks our place: and in the sky
The larks shall bravely singing fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below”
Lt. Colonel John McRae*

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you all a blessed Christmas with family and friends. May the special joys of the season shine on you for the rest of the year and beyond!

God Bless,

Angelina Stiglich