



THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
Ottawa Diocesan Council
Organization Standing Committee



Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call

COMMUNIQUE #1

JUNE 2017

TO: Parish Organization Standing Committee Chairpersons
From: Lynn Lavictoire, Diocesan President-Elect and Organization Chairperson

“The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.” (2 Corinthians 9.6-7)

In the spring 2017 edition of The Canadian League magazine, National Past President Barbara Dowding reflected on the need for change and renewal in order to encourage new women to become part of the CWL. The challenge she set out was to find ways to accommodate women, such as busy professionals and mothers, then welcome them as sisters into our councils; help them learn from our experiences, grow in spirituality, and allow them to make a difference.

In her recent Communiqué #3, our National President-Elect and Chairperson of Organization Anne-Marie Gorman, highlighted the activities that have been occurring at the national level to address this need for change and renewal. The main focus has been on strategic planning; the process of determining the goals the CWL needs to achieve and how it should accomplish these goals.

Concrete action occurred in the fall of 2016 at the national executive meeting where the past, present, and future national presidents (Barbara Dowding, Margaret Ann Jacobs, and Anne-Marie Gorman, respectively) were tasked to investigate the possibility of a national strategic plan for the CWL. Based on their initial investigations, a steering committee was formed, in the spring of 2017, to move ahead with the development of a strategic plan. This committee includes the original team, plus Ontario Provincial President Pauline Krupa, Québec Provincial President, Ingrid Lefort, Honorary Life Member, Danielle McNeil-Hessian, and Vancouver Diocesan President, Roxanne McDonald. A professional consultant, Donna Dunn, from Tecker International, was also hired to help guide committee activities.

Some of the more immediate outcomes of the steering committee's activities will be reflected at the upcoming National Convention in Charlottetown, PEI on August 8, 2017. These include:

- Dr. Reginald Bibby, a leading expert on religious and social trends in Canada and co-author of the book *Canada's Catholics*, will present his findings at the convention.
- Consultant Donna Dunn, will facilitate a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis, for the attendees at the convention, based on their understanding of the CWL and visions of the future. The purpose of the SWOT analysis is to help identify the internal strengths and weaknesses of the CWL, as well as its external opportunities and threats.
- The convention will be livestreamed across Canada so that any CWL member who cannot attend the convention can listen to the presentations, as well as participate in the SWOT analysis.

Livestreaming of the SWOT analysis is a chance for everyone to be involved in the strategic planning process. It is also an opportunity for all of us, through the power of the Holy Spirit and the guidance of our Lady of Good Counsel, to make a positive difference in the future of our League. †