



**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Sault Ste. Marie Diocesan Council
Community Life Standing Committee**

September 2021

To: Community Life Standing Committee Chairpersons
From: Kathleen Niro, Community Life Standing Committee Chairperson
CC: Diocesan Officers, Parish Presidents, Provincial Community Life Standing
Committee Chairperson

"It's not only good to have faith, we need to live faith." - Father David Vard

My dear Sisters in the League,

Current times have stretched us, called us and made us more aware of the importance of what we are doing or may not be doing. Discernment and change for my predecessor, Debbie Mattiazzi, has given me the opportunity to act as the interim Community Life standing committee chairperson until our spring elections at convention 2022. Debbie has served faithfully and genuinely during her term on the Diocesan Council. I thank her for her valued contribution, integrity and inspiration of a woman of faith. I pray for her, her ministry, continued discernment and that God may continue to bless her, in all that she does and the lives she touches.

We have a newly elected National Community Life standing committee chairperson, Faith Anderson. Her biography can be found on the National website at the following link, <https://cwl.ca/communique-2-community-life/> . Faith comes with a wealth of experience and we are blessed to have her for the next two years, please keep her in your prayers. She has issued two communiques for the upcoming dates of September 21 and September 30.

National Communique #3

<https://cwl.ca/communique-3-community-life/>

September 21, 2021

National council adopted this day of prayer at the 2019 national convention, with September 21st chosen as it is also the International Day of Peace. All are encouraged to access Catholic Near East Welfare Association's (CNEWA) website (cnewa.org/ca/) to learn about its work in the Middle East, Northeast Africa, India and Eastern Europe, "... in places where poverty, war and displacement shatter innocent lives."

We are being asked to set aside September 21st to pray for Christians in the Holy Land. This date is also the International Day of Peace. In Faith's communique, she offers a list of some suggestions and activities on how this day may be observed. Bear in mind our local COVID restrictions with your planning.



September 30, 2021

The federal government recently passed legislation to make September 30th a federal statutory holiday called the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. With the designation of this statutory holiday, the federal government "is committed to reconciliation and ensuring that the tragic history and ongoing legacy of residential schools is never forgotten." It is suggested that this be a day of quiet reflection or participation in a community event—a day to pray for reconciliation and the healing of Indigenous peoples and to recognize in some way the significant effect the residential schools have had.

Attached is a resource list. It consists of a variety of books, videos, and podcasts. Although the links will not work, you can use your internet to search the titles for the ones that interest you. I have also attached the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action. Please share with your members.

I want to take this opportunity to share with you my recent experience. I was trying to arrange for a speaker for September 30, to help learn or know better what has happened in our country... the residential schools are not common knowledge in our history. Unfortunately, I have not been successful in this endeavor, however, as preparation for the speaker I thought I should educate myself. I heard of the book "Five Little Indians" by Michelle Good last fall and purchased it for my great niece. It is a fiction story based on facts. The set up of the book is small stories connected by period and places and how the lives intertwine. It breaks my heart to know that such cruelty exists in our world and so close to home. For those who like to read in small stints, this would be a good book. It is a heavy read, but a worthwhile read. I needed a tissue more than once. If your council has a book club, this could be a recommendation.

Our Provincial Community Life Chairperson, Mary Capobianco, has also issued her 4th Communique, <https://cwl.on.ca/community-life-communique-4/>. This Communique is an update on a working group coming out of the Provincial AMM in July 2021. The **OPC Truth and Reconciliation Working Group** was established and Mary was asked to lead the group to focus on this most important issue. The goals are "**Learning, Listening, Actioning...Working Our Way Towards Reconciliation**". Let's all use September 30th as a starting point for GOAL ONE: *Learning – To be aware of our past*. Please go to above link to read the full Communique.

Lastly, I want to remind you to vote on September 20, 2021. Mary has graciously provided a copy of the **2021 Federal Election Guide**. With much collaboration and consultation, Catholic Charities of the Archdioceses of Toronto has produced, a concise and thoughtful guide to the upcoming election and the issues that we all need to consider, as we head to the polls. Please share with your members.

"Actions matter and so does our Vote!"



Thank you for your faithfulness and perseverance in your baptismal call, especially in the works of the Community Life standing committee. I look forward to our next few months together as we continue in service for God and Canada.

Kathleen Niro
Community Life Chairperson
2nd Vice President
Sudbury Regional Chair

We ask everyone to please pray the following prayer:

Together We Pray

*For the children, who died in residential schools throughout Canada
and for all those who continue on a journey through darkness,
That there may be healing founded on truth and that the Spirit
Will inspire our ongoing commitment to reconciliation.*

*God, through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit,
Continue to offer us correction so that your grace might change
And transform us in our weakness and repentance.*

*Give us humility to listen when others reveal how we have failed
And courage to love others as ourselves, mindful of your love
For the weakest and most vulnerable among us.*

Amen.