

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

Annual Report: 2025

# of Councils Reporting 20/27

As CWL members we belong to the largest organized body of Catholic women in Canada. We hope to share our Christian values through our actions. At CWL meetings we have learned to use Robert's Rules of Order for parliamentary style meetings, making motions, and writing agendas and minutes. Many of our past presidents have accepted the call to diocesan council where they then provide training, or were called to provincial council where they provide faith events, try to influence legislation, and bring our concerns to national. We collectively gather, receive and respond, and act on resolutions.

National office sent a memo in the Fall for parish officers/chairs to complete their 2025 Annual Report. This submitted summary does not cover all we do; it only gives a snapshot of our participation in what was new in 2025:

- topics introduced through education/webinars/training/National Web Toolkits
- concerns brought forth by members affecting our country/citizens (resolutions)
- new developments in laws in our country (legislation) which will affect citizens, especially vulnerable people

Parishes are sent memos about these new developments.

How did this new issue or educational information affect us? Did we learn something new?

Did we act on a resolution? Have we shared what we know and get a chance to express how it affected us?

**In 2025, you, through twenty parish councils in our diocese, have communicated with national through the annual report.**

In June 2025, parishes received memos and shared educational information from national council about two pieces of legislation being introduced at the House of Commons. Half of the parishes also wrote letters to government and/or circulated and filed petitions with their MP's for *Removing Charitable Status from Pro-Life and Religious Organizations* and *Expansion of Medical Assistance in Dying*.

However, the National Earth Day toolkit unveiled in May 2025 on the CWL website (go to [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca) and enter your individual CWL number) was not viewed or used much at all so that is something we might want to check for future Earth Days (April 22). Yet, council comments in the reports indicate they continue to be aware of, adopt, and promote sustainable and eco-friendly practices.

National council heard you asking for information about Human Trafficking and being with our Indigenous sisters. Memos were sent and on January 21<sup>st</sup>, half of the councils (10) watched the national social justice webinar *Finding Hope in the Fight Against Human Trafficking*. On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, a third of the councils that reported (5) watched the national social justice webinar *Walking Together with Indigenous Sisters*.

Our councils acted on the new 2025 national resolutions. Seven councils explored Resolution 2025.01 Federal Government to Create a Unified and Centralized Cybercrime Reporting System for Individuals in Canada. Five councils explored Resolution 2025.02 Amend the Canadian Criminal Code Section 223(1) Defining When a Child Becomes a Human Being. Three councils explored Resolution 2025.03 Strengthen Support for Chaplains to Provide Faith-Based Care to Members and Families of the Canadian Armed Forces. Seven councils explored Resolution 2025.04 Federal Government to Complete the Development of the Office of Palliative Care.

Diocesan Chair Activities:

- Participated in in-person and Zoom meetings with officers and diocesan executive
- Prepared 2 memos for councils and articles for the spring and fall newsletters
- Attended the NS provincial convention in Sydney River in June 2025
- Attended the Fall Conference in Stellarton in October 2025
- With diocesan officers prepared and delivered workshops entitled *Advocacy: Faith in Action* and *From Idea to Action: Drafting Resolutions Together*
- Member of Resolution Development Committee and Chair, Resolution Review Sub-Committee
- Lead role in implementation of action plan for the Antigonish Diocesan Resolution 2025.01 and 2025 national resolutions

Denise Forgeron

Antigonish Diocesan Social Justice Chair