



Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council

of The Catholic Women's League of Canada

June Newsletter

Introducing the 2024 – 2026 Executive



Who are We? What is the organization of the ABMK Council? From the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council Policies (dated March 1, 2024):
Section 4 Organization

1. The Council shall be composed of (see C&B, Part VIII, Section 1(c)):

- Alberta Mackenzie officers
- Presidents of the diocesan councils in the Alberta Mackenzie province
- Diocesan and parish accredited delegates to the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Convention.
- Honorary life members and life members holding membership in the province

2. The Alberta Mackenzie Executive shall be composed of (see C&B, Part XI):

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Past President
- Three Standing Committee Chairs: Faith, Service and Social Justice
- Presidents of the five diocesan councils: Calgary, Edmonton, Grouard-McLennan, Mackenzie-Fort Smith and St. Paul



PRESIDENT – Betsy Fletcher

Greetings Sisters in the League. I am honoured that you have elected me to be your president of the Alberta Mackenzie Council. Thank you for your confidence in me. With your prayers, I will do the best I can to serve. You have also elected an

excellent group of women to help guide our members for the next two years.

As president I will chair our provincial meetings and conventions, meet with government representatives (when available), provide updates and programs suggested by the National Council, attend events on your behalf, and, of course meet with as many of you as I can over the next two years.

A bit about me: I have a wonderful and supportive husband, Tom, and two lovely daughters who each have a wonderful husband. Added to that mix are three beautiful grandchildren and a cat. I enjoy reading, gardening, travel, walking and British tv mysteries. I hang my shingle in Cold Lake AB located in the Diocese of St. Paul.



VICE – PRESIDENT – Jan Myhre

Although born and raised in Calgary, I moved away in 1982 and didn't return until 2006, where I needed to meet women of faith who share my values. St. Peter's council in Calgary welcomed me, and although it wasn't my intention to be an active member, it wasn't long

before I was the council's treasurer, and so my CWL journey began. Little did I know it would change my life.

Being a member of the League is a gift. My faith has grown immensely, and working on the various levels has helped me to realize how important the role of women is in church and society. As I take on the role of Alberta Mackenzie Vice President, I ask for the prayers of my League sisters, and the intercession of our patroness Our Lady of Good Counsel.

I'm married to Jim with a blended family of 7 children and 13 grandchildren. I love spending time with family, watching our grandchildren grow up. I work at the Calgary Catholic Pastoral Centre and love to travel.

SECRETARY – Janet MacPhee

"Lord, grant that I may Live this day with Love and Laughter".

I have been a member of the League for over 30 years with more than half of that being on the executive at different levels, but I have never been a secretary before.

I look forward to this challenge and being a part of this executive especially as we have now moved fully into the new structure. Thus, part of my portfolio includes our website. With prayers, God's help, and contacting a few knowledgeable people, I will be able to keep the site up to date and maybe add a few items to it.

My husband of almost 45 years, Stephen, is very supportive of my time with the CWL. Dividing our time between Calgary and our "Ache Ridge" in the Okanagan, we enjoy time at the lake and then in Calgary where we live next door to our son and daughter in law!

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide me and to be "generous in the service we give to our sisters and brothers".



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TREASURER – Celine Berlinguette

I am pleased to represent the Alberta Mackenzie Catholic Provincial Council as treasurer for the 2024 – 2026 term. Being that this my second term as treasurer, the learning curve will be greatly reduced. The treasurer's position is one that deals with budgets, spreadsheets, numbers, deposits, payments and much more. All functions that I like to do. My past work experience as well as volunteer experiences have been mostly in the accounting field.

The CWL national and provincial level provides excellent guidelines and procedures with the Constitution and Bylaws, as well as the ABMK Policies.

I look forward to serving you along with our great team on the 2024 -2026 AMK Provincial Council.

I hang my shingle in Lac La Biche, AB located in the Diocese of St. Paul.



SERVICE – Lola Alsmo

The League's core value of Service covers local, national, and international actions members undertake as we become our Lord's hands and feet in this world, carrying out that part of our mission to 'witness to the love of God through ministry and service.'

At the Provincial level, a Service Chair can be a resource for information, and assist with communication and coordination between other Service chairs, wherever it may be requested. Parish and Diocesan Councils are involved with many diverse works, 'at home and abroad', as our League prayer states, sharing ideas and encouragement among our sisters enhances both our efforts and our joy.

I have been a member of the League for over 40 years, currently a member of St. Anne's CWL in Thorhild, in the Diocese of St. Paul. After 11 years on Diocesan Council, I felt encouraged to continue to serve, and now am a member of the ABMK Provincial Council as Service Chair.

I have a favourite quote to share with everyone:
"Unfurl the sails, and let God steer us where he will"
~ St. Bede the Venerable

It's going to be so great to hear from you all!



PAST PRESIDENT/ARCHIVES – Mary Hunt

When I think about the Catholic Women's League, my heart brims with love and gratitude for the women who choose to belong to the League in the service of God and Canada. For over 30 years, I have served the League and have had

the privilege of meeting countless women who possess a profound calling to care and who share the vision of Katherine Hughes and Bellelle Guerin. As Past President, I look forward to assisting Betsy in a consultative capacity and as a mentor during the next two years. I am responsible for the **archives and history** of the ABMK Council which is a collection of information and is available as a source of inspiration and enthusiasm for future councils. I am responsible for encouraging the study and implementation of the National Constitution and By-Laws and the sharing of any proposed revisions to the National Manual of Policy and Procedures.

The 2024-2026 ABMK Provincial Council is eager to serve and provide leadership and I am excited to collaborate as a member of this outstanding team of women...*Here I Am Lord; Send Me!*

FAITH – Mary Molloy



The League's core purpose is "uniting Catholic women to grow in faith, and to promote social justice through service to the church, Canada, and the world."

Through the core values members are called to live the Mission Statement to "grow in

faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service."

The focus of the Faith Standing Committee is to: Connect Faith Chairs across ABMK to encourage growing their friendship while strengthening their faith through prayer, recognizing the sanctity of life, the study of Catholic teachings, awareness of homelessness, encouraging vocations, ecumenism, and interfaith endeavors. Collaboration with ABMK Service and Social Justice Chairs to engage all three committees to work on projects reflecting the core values of the league.

A bit about me: I have been a member of the CWL for 30-plus years, belonging to St Joseph's Basilica Parish, Edmonton AB. I have just completed a term as ABMK Service Chair.

I look forward to meeting and working with all of you. God Bless.

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SOCIAL JUSTICE – Renee Spohn

My love for the Catholic Women’s League began in 2002 when I became a member of St. Martha’s council, Lethbridge AB. I enjoy serving on the Calgary Diocesan Council and am currently past

president on it. In 2018, I received the Elsie Yanik Award for leadership and service.

Together we will advocate for Social Justice: the dignity of human life, workers, the poor, and God’s creations. I will provide resources to inform members, encourage them to communicate with government, and to act on our human rights, palliative care, MAiD, Bill S210 pornography, and Truth & Reconciliation.

I am filled with hope as I know we have a strong work ethic and a passion to care for others.



St. Paul’s Diocesan President – Annette DeBoer

I have been a member of the Catholic Women’s League of Canada since 1991 at St. Joseph’s Council, Whitecourt.

I have held the positions of President, Secretary/Treasurer at the Parish level, and President, Health & Education,

Resolutions & Legislation and Organization at the Diocesan level and two terms as Communications for the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council.

In my current role as St Paul Diocesan President, it is my pleasure to represent the members of the Catholic Women’s League in St Paul Diocese on the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council.

CORE PURPOSE

Uniting Catholic women to grow in faith, and to promote social justice through service to the church, Canada and the world

CORE VALUES

FAITH - following Catholic teaching

SERVICE - local, national and international

SOCIAL JUSTICE - actively involved in society

MISSION STATEMENT

The Catholic Women’s League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.

ENVISIONED FUTURE

The Catholic Women’s League of Canada is an inclusive and engaged community of Catholic women inspired by faith. It is:

A vital participant in the church;

A valued partner for social justice;

A respected advocate at all government levels;

Connected to the world.

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Calgary Diocesan President – Kathleen Winter

Born in Dublin, Ireland, Kathleen came to Calgary, AB by train, by ship (6 days), then train again (3 days) with her mother and brother in May of 1958. Her father came in 1957 flying directly to Calgary to find a job. Once here she never left.

Graduating from Bishop Grandin High School and attending Hollingshead Business College she got her first “real” job at Calgary Power where she met her husband, Willis. They have been married for 49 years and their 50th Wedding Anniversary will be Thanksgiving weekend. They have two daughters and four grandchildren. With season tickets to Theatre Calgary and Citadel Theatre in Edmonton, they also enjoy the outdoors riding their bikes.

Members of St. Bonaventure Parish in Calgary, Kathleen became a CWL member in 2004.

As president of Calgary Diocesan Council, she is looking forward to visiting councils and getting to know the members. Kathleen was Co-Chair of the 2024 ABMK Provincial Convention.



Edmonton Diocesan President – Jean Ashdown

I grew up in Red Deer and came to Edmonton for university where I have remained. I have a degree in Medical Laboratory Science and worked mostly for Canadian Red Cross/Canadian Blood Services before I retired 11 years ago. My

husband Chris and I have two children and will soon be grandparents for the first time. We have been involved throughout our marriage in teaching and promoting natural family planning with Serena. Chris was ordained as a permanent Deacon in 2018 and was moved to St. Joseph’s Basilica parish a year and a half ago. Last year I assisted him with the RCIA program there.

I became a CWL member over 30 years ago at St. Agnes parish at the encouragement of my mother. I am now a member of St. Thomas More Council, Edmonton AB. I enjoy travelling, reading, sewing, crafts, refinishing furniture and drinking tea.

As President of the Edmonton Diocesan Council, I hope to be able to listen to the concerns of councils and assist them so that their members will continue to grow in their faith and be of service to one another and their communities.



Grouard – McLennan Diocesan President – Linda Vandenberg

Born in Fort Vermilion AB, I am the oldest of eight children. My parents homesteaded and worked a small mixed farm where I and my siblings worked at

an early age. I enjoy living in northern rural Alberta and I graduated from Glenmary High School in Peace River. I worked in the school system as a teacher assistant, instructor, teacher and administrator.

I married my high school sweetheart, John almost 50 years ago and we are still having fun together. We have two grown children and four lovely grandchildren. We try to spend as much time as we can with them even though they live in Montreal QC and Taber AB.

A CWL member since 1984, and belonging to St. Paul’s CWL in High Prairie AB, this is my second time around as diocesan president. I have also served on the provincial executive before. The Diocesan President position allows a member to work as leader at the local level as well as sit on provincial council, and it is in this position, I hope to work on building membership and leadership at the grass roots.

Mackenzie – Fort Smith Diocesan President Wendy Ross

Wendy hangs her hat in Hay River Northwest Territories and belongs to the Our Lady of Assumption CWL Council.

A detailed biography for Wendy will be available in the Fall Newsletter (October 2024).

The Objects of the League shall be to unite the Catholic women of Canada:

1. to achieve individual and collective spiritual development
2. to promote the teachings of the Catholic church
3. to exemplify the Christian ideal in home and family life
4. to protect the sanctity of human life
5. to enhance the role of women in church and society
6. to recognize the human dignity of all people everywhere
7. to uphold and defend Christian education and values in the modern world
8. to contribute to the understanding and growth of religious freedom, social justice, peace and harmony