

The Catholic Women's League  
**Manitoba Provincial Council**  
71st Annual Convention  
June 9, 2019

**ORAL REPORT**

**President**

**Rolande Chernichan**

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This time last year, we were excitedly counting down the days to hosting the national convention! What an outstanding effort by our volunteers to make it fun and a success in every way! You were awesome in your energy, your commitment, your dedication! Our members poured their hearts into giving visitors a wonderful experience with simple but genuine friendly hospitality. Thanks to the frugal and efficient leadership of convention chair, Susan Bernier, the seed money that had been advanced to the planning committee was returned for reinvestment until we host another national convention.

The laptop and printer purchased for the convention have become inventory of provincial council and are being used as needed. A projector has been purchased for video or power point presentations by provincial council. It is available to diocesan councils for their meetings or conventions.

Manitoba's membership remains at 2200 members. The gains through recruitment are offset by those who don't renew their memberships or because members are deceased. I encourage your efforts through personal invitation; affirm your members; and stay in touch with those less active. On invitation of Fr. Guna to promote CWL to women in the missions of Keewatin-Le Pas diocese, your provincial executive has budgeted for that to occur in the coming months. On invitation by Archbishop Richard Gagnon, Rose Anne Seymour and I have promoted the League and its strategic plan to the clergy of all deaneries in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg using power point and a scripted presentation.

How quickly two years have gone! I am humbled by the privilege to have served as your president. It was an honour to represent you at special events. I have had the privilege and blessing of working with a supportive, enthusiastic and dedicated executive. My term has been memorable because of the 2018 national convention ... being part of the promotional delegation in Charlottetown in 2017, to seeing the convention fully realized and serving as hostess for our province. Being part of the honour guard for the Jubilation Mass marking Catholica 200 was also special. Most rewarding and memorable was the experience of being part of the national executive; particularly sharing in the multiple consultations and discernments in developing the League's strategic plan for its future, and the plan's adoption at the 2018 convention.

My sisters you are awesome! Keep sharing your gifts of time, treasure and talents! Don't compare yourselves against other councils; do what you can and don't be discouraged by outcomes that are less than hoped for. To quote Fr. Paul Bringleston, "The big results are not in your hands or mine but in the hands of loving God who is making something out of this in ways we sometimes will never see."

As the implementation of the strategic plan for the League unfolds, may you embrace change patiently and positively. The past 99 years of League history serve as inspiration that our call to holiness and our faith in action have made a difference. Rejoice! The gifts of the Holy Spirit are ours to transform our hearts with love and to animate our service as joyful disciples of Jesus.

Brother bishops and spiritual advisors, husbands and family members, sisters in the League, thank you for the support you give as companions in our journey as women of the Church, called to serve God and Canada through The Catholic Women's League of Canada. Our Lady of Good Counsel: pray for us.



The Catholic Women's League  
**Manitoba Provincial Council**  
70<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention  
June 3, 2018

**ORAL REPORT**

**President**

Rolande Chernichan

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What an honour it is to serve as your president! You are awesome! Our League has been afire with the prompting and nudging and inspiration of the Holy Spirit! Our members really are living spirited energy in their response to our national theme and the many ways God calls us. Your annual reports reveal that you serve with humility; you pour love and faith into everything you do.

The excitement is mounting as the years and months have whittled away into a countdown of just weeks where we will lay out our welcome mat and give guests from across Canada their best national convention experience ever! What a privilege to be part of a sisterhood that gives you a connectedness no matter where your travels take you in Canada.

Our Rural Initiative Trust Fund proved to be a huge success. Your provincial executive is thrilled that so many from rural Manitoba seized the opportunity to apply for an accommodations subsidy so as to attend our national convention. It was fantastic to see that our sisters from Keewatin-The Pas Archdiocese were of the nineteen members who applied. We were able to approve every applicant for an 80% subsidy for their three-day hotel stay at the Delta hotel. We even had enough funds left over that we were able to also subsidize the accommodations for Fr. Shantha Kumar, their diocesan spiritual advisor, to come and experience his first national convention. How good is that!

Hopefully many of you will take in the events of national convention week. Yes, many of you will be working behind the scenes, but we want you to also take the time to experience the spirituality, the speakers, and the fun that it can be. Come be affirmed why we belong to this vibrant organization that makes such a difference in the world. We especially hope you will join us on Tuesday for Manitoba Night. You've all had a hand in preparing to host our national convention, and Manitoba Night is to celebrate YOU who helped to make it happen!

I encourage all CWL members in Manitoba to come and join in forming the honour guard on July 15<sup>th</sup> at St. Boniface Cathedral when Cardinal Gerald Lacroix will be here to celebrate a Mass in honour of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Church in western and northern Canada. There will be a full day of festivities, and we can all be proud that the League has had a share in the evangelization of the west and the north, and it continues to do so.

I close with the good news that in the next few weeks our provincial website will go live. We hope you will enjoy its features and that it will help make your involvement in the League a lot easier. Our aim is to use the website to help our members embrace the digital age. Maybe one day we will be able to report that 100% of our reports were done online! Keep up your good works! You are a blessing to many!