

**Report of the Board Chair to the
3rd Annual Meeting of Members of the
Catholic Women’s Leadership Foundation
June 26, 2017**

I am pleased to present this report for the **period July 1, 2016 to June 26, 2017** to the Annual meeting of members of the Catholic Women’s Leadership Foundation (**Foundation**).

Board members as of January 2017 are:

- Rita Janes, Chair (January 2015- December 2017);
- Neysa Finnie, Vice- Chair and Treasurer, (January 2015 - December 2017);
- Becky Kallal, Secretary (January 2015- December 31, 2017);
- Irene LaFort, (November 2016 – December 2018),
- Irene Dayler (January 2017 – December 31, 2019);
- Adrienne Castellan (January 2017 – December 2019).

The work of the **Foundation** Board is directed by the mission of the Foundation, “to fund leadership education that inspires Catholic women to be transformational and influential leaders where they live, work and volunteer”.

The **Foundation** was incorporated in 2014 under the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act and as a private charitable foundation under the Canadian Income Tax. By-Laws for the **Foundation** were approved by the Board and registered with Industry Canada in 2016.

Gift agreements were made between the **Foundation** and the Daly Foundation (Sisters of Service) for \$500 000 in 2015 and between the Catholic Women’s League of Canada for \$500,000 in 2016. In both cases, the funds were restricted by the donors.

Fundraising

During 2016 and 2017, the **Foundation** continued its fundraising campaign agreement with the consulting firm of BNP Philanthropic, an agreement signed in January 2016 and reaching completion June 30, 2017. The campaign, with the professional counsel of BNP, and especially with the strong support of a Campaign Cabinet, chaired by Claire Heron has been quite successful. Campaign volunteers, all of whom were Catholic Women's League members from across Canada, have worked enthusiastically and diligently to secure the campaign target sum of \$1.5 million. The deepest appreciation is offered to these very dedicated women who have demonstrated their committed support of the **Foundation**. Thank you.

We are also grateful to our many donors from across Canada, mainly religious orders and dioceses. However, it must be noted that this donated money is, for the most part, committed over five years. All donations are very gratefully received, but the donation from the Sisters of Mercy and the Presentation Sisters of Newfoundland of \$500 000 must be acknowledged in particular, not only for the considerable sum of money but for their expressions of confidence in the program we are offering to Catholic women. It was a program they wanted to eagerly support so it could be available to Catholic women in Canada without delay. In July 2017 the **Foundation** was pleased to receive a private donation, outside the Campaign, for \$100 000 from the family of a deceased life member. The **Foundation** continues to receive donations from many Catholic women across Canada but especially from members of the Catholic Women's League.

In the spring edition of the Canadian League Magazine, a special appeal was made to all members of the Catholic Women's League. So far the response has been very positive. The presentations supporting the **Foundation** being made by members of the Campaign Cabinet, Foundation Board members, provincial, diocesan and parish presidents at Provincial and Diocesan Catholic Women's League conventions give much optimism that we will reach our \$1.5 million goal very soon.

Thank you, everyone.

Structure of the Foundation Board

The Board operates within its Articles of Incorporation (2014) and approved By-Laws (2016). Meetings are held monthly by conference call and as deemed necessary. One two-day face –to –face meeting is held during the year.

At the February face-to-face meeting, Terms of Reference were approved for the following committees: Governance, Finance, Fund Development (to include Planned Giving and Donor Recognition), and Communications.

Members of the Governance Committee are the chair, treasurer and secretary of the Board. The Governance Committee meets monthly or as necessary.

The Finance Committee, presently chaired by the treasurer of the Board, Neysa Finnie, is responsible for all financial dealings including Investments. The Board receives financial and investment updates at each meeting, along with reports from the BNP Campaign.

We are especially grateful to Betty Anne Davidson Browne, past CWL National President, for volunteering her services to receive and receipt all donations, along with sending thank you letters to all donors. Betty Anne deposits all monies received, pays all expense claims and communicates with the Treasurer on a regular basis. A special thank you to Betty Anne.

Once new nominees are confirmed for the Board in January 2018, committee chairs will be put in place for all committees and the Board and committee chairs will be encouraged to find members for their committees outside of present Board members.

Nominations and Appointment of Board Members

Based on the call for nominations on the Foundation website two new members, Linda Dayler and Adrienne Castellon were appointed to the Board in January 2017. Irene LaFort was

appointed to the Board in November 2016, by Margaret Anne Jacobs, National President, Catholic Women's League.

Becky Kallal prepared Board Orientation Binders for each new member and reviewed same at the February meeting.

There is presently a public Call for Nominations to the Board, targeting people with financial/investment background and as well as for a person with expertise in Communications.

Linda Dayler, Adrienne Castellan, along with Board Chair Rita Janes are responsible for overseeing the Nomination process, using the criteria matrix approved September 2016.

It should be noted that the December 2017 members of the original committee, (Claire Heron, Velma Harrison, Kim Scammell) appointed by the Catholic Women's League to establish a foundation to support Catholic women leadership were thanked for their accomplishments and for getting the Foundation off to a good beginning. Josephine Lombardi, Board member since January 2015, was also thanked for her service to the Board and her sharing with the Board her knowledge of Catholic theology and its application to women leaders.

Leadership Program

The Program Committee operates as a committee of the whole.

Since the establishment of the Foundation Board, members have sought and evaluated appropriate institutions across Canada who could provide a leadership program for Catholic women as described in our Mission and further elaborated in the Board's objective, "to develop women's leadership capacity – building programs that are of the highest quality and that are consistent with Catholic values by establishing and maintaining partnerships with key educational institutions". Since January 2017, the Board has formed a strong partnership with a Canadian Catholic University who can provide a program that integrates Catholic faith, leadership and personal development. The Board is very pleased with the content developed

for the program and the delivery format, which is both a face-to-face residence program and a distance education program. It is expected that a formal contract will be signed between the Foundation and the University in the immediate future.

The Board has also approved the criteria for the participants who wish to take to program and once the contract is signed with the hosting institution Catholic women across Canada will be invited to apply. The first cohort of 14 women will be selected by a selection committee, comprised of people from the Board and the community at large.

Marketing

A website was approved in 2016, and it is the hope that the public will find this as a way of keeping in touch and supporting the Foundation. Invitations are extended to viewers to subscribe to a monthly newsletter, A person has been hired to keep the web site up to date.

The National Board of the Catholic Women's League has offered the Foundation a space to post information in each Canadian League Magazine. Becky Kallal has offered to take the lead in doing this and meeting the Magazine's deadlines.

The Foundation hosted a table in the exhibit hall of the 2016 CWL National Convention in Halifax and made a promotional presentation to Convention participants. Again this year the Catholic Women's League has honoured our request for an exhibit table and time on the agenda to give an update on the Foundation. The Board chair will be responsible for both and has received offers of help from Irene LaFort and Betty Anne Davidson who will be attending the Convention as honorary life members.

1000 brochures were distributed at the 2016 Convention and another 1000 sent to Campaign Cabinet volunteers when requested. The intention was these would be distributed at diocesan and provincial conventions. There will be a revised and updated brochure prepared for the 2017 CWL convention, along with two pull-up banners thanking Campaign volunteers and

donors.

Respectfully submitted

Rita Janes, Chair

Addendum

September 2017

We can now share and do so with great enthusiasm and gratitude the relationship we have with the Providence School of Transformative Leadership and Spirituality, Saint Paul University, Ottawa to facilitate a Leadership Program for Canadian Catholic women beginning May 2018 in keeping with our Vision and Mission.