EDUCATION & HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 2010
52 Councils Reporting

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Our councils have been actively involved in fulfilling the objectives of this Standing Committee. Thank you to the councils who completed and sent in their Annual Reports. Thank you to the Chairs for their leadership in convening the Standing Committees for Education and Health.

(a) Catholic Education

(i) **Catholic Schools and Catechesis**

Our councils promote, support and assist our Catholic Schools in many ways. **Spiritually** councils and individual members assist in religion programs in the school and at the church. In the schools they have taught and prayed the rosary with the students, made rosaries, purchased bibles and rosaries for students, have given crucifixes to graduating students here and in India, helped with Junior High Chapel supervision, assisted with sacrament preparation and celebrations. At the Church or within the school program members have taken on the role of catechism teachers, assisted with bible school and catechism classes, and instructed in weekly religion classes. One council has a group of mothers (Mothers Who Care) who pray weekly for our schools. Councils **volunteer their time** in language arts programs, reading programs, with CGL the Catholic Girls Club, graduation events, toast and lunch/milk programs, organizing a backpack/ school supplies program for underprivileged children, providing snacks for school staff, and bus driving. One council is in a partnership with another school providing food for breakfast, lunch, and snacks and also donates mittens, scarves and other clothing items. **Financially** councils support lunch programs, donate to the Mother Hubbard kitchen in Vanier School, fund retreats, make donations for religious celebrations and special events. Councils are involved in fundraising events: cookie walk, collecting Campbell soup labels. Councils have promoted and had educational presentations for their members; invited their principal to speak at a meeting re new Catholic School, distributed early learning brochures re Early Detection of Learning Disabilities, attended a workshop setting goals for Catholic Education in their district, and displayed Catholic information on bulletin boards and church bulletins. Many of our members are in **leadership roles.** Currently we have 13 trustees on School Boards and 35 members on School Councils.

(ii) Rites of Christian Initiation

There are 62 members participating in the RCIA programs. They are doing so in a variety of roles as facilitators, leaders, instructors, sponsors, and prayer partners. Councils have hosted lunches and receptions for the program, and given gifts to the candidates.

(b) Literacy and Continuing Education

Sixteen members participated in literacy programs and "English as a Second Language" education. Members have been involved teaching English, facilitating weekly ESL classes for immigrants, conducting citizen preparation workshops, and sponsoring students in Africa and Peru. One of our members coordinates the "Early Learning Program" for the Edmonton Catholic School System.

Sixteen members attended post-secondary schools or took courses on line. Courses were in a variety of fields: fine arts, music and harmony, law, education, pharmacy, social work, business, management, administrative, leadership training, religious studies, and theology.

Attendance at Conventions: Diocesan – 145 members, Provincial – 32 members
National – 17 members

(c) Scholarships and Bursaries

Councils gave a total of **$11 085** in scholarships and bursaries to **37 recipients.** They were awarded to students
at all levels of education but with the majority given to students graduating from grade 12 with plans to pursue
post graduate studies at university or college.

(d) Wellness and Sickness/Disease

Members promoted wellness in their communities in a number of ways. They organized speakers for their meetings on diabetes, nutrition, the kidney foundation, post-partum depression, and Seniors' Outreach programs. Some members attended a forum on Alberta Health Care Reform, the annual meeting of Alberta Association of Gerontology, and a Clinic on Food Safety; others wrote letters to Premier Stelmach protesting proposed pharmacy policy in which seniors would be indexed according to income, and provided information for members to receive personal directive kits –free kits available from the Alberta Seniors and Community support 1-877-427-4525. Members serve on boards that advocate for seniors: Seniors Housing Board in Edmonton and the Olds Hospice Society Board.

Members have been encouraged to receive their flu shots, to take vitamin D, to develop healthy eating habits, and to provide healthy snacks for their meetings. Members have taken an in-service in pastoral care, participated in relay for life for cancer, hosted a caregiver's retreat for parishioners and CWL members, volunteered at a wellness clinic, taught CPR, assisted at blood donor clinics, and flu clinics. At council meetings brief health information is shared with members re risk of heart disease, breast feeding advantages and other topics of interest.

Our members are active in caring for their members (family/friends). They visit and take communion to the
elderly, sick and shut ins in hospitals, nursing homes, and senior lodges, deliver meals on wheels, take the elderly shopping, provide rides to mass, for appointments, and meetings, volunteer in continuing care and assisted living facilities and assist with feeding in nursing homes.

Councils send get well cards, thinking of you and bereavement cards, birthday cards, and mass

cards. Our
members attended and participated in masses, prayer meetings and services at senior's lodges and extended care facilities. They have presented prayer shawls and spiritual bouquets, formed prayer chains,
phoned sick members, sent flowers, celebrated special times with seniors, and delivered poinsettias to members
90 years of age and members who have served 50 years with the league.
Our caregivers are a blessing to the league.

(e) Environment

Our councils are involved in not only the 3rs but 4rs - **recycling, reusing, reducing, and repairing.** To raise awareness on environment issues councils have had a mini retreat on the impact of industry and consumerism on the environment, invited a speaker to introduce Norwex cleaning products that are environmentally friendly, supported the Turn off Lights for an Hour, promoted Earth Day (April 17, 2010), participated in the Garden Committee, promoted the use of drought resistant plants and discouraged the use of bottled water. To avoid using Styrofoam or plastic utensils our members are encouraged to bring their own coffee mugs, plates and cutlery to meetings and pot luck dinners. Some churches have boxes for recycling juice boxes, milk cartons, and other recyclable items. Rummage sales are great fundraisers as well as environmentally helpful in recycling clothing and household items. Other environment initiatives are using fair trade coffee, limiting photocopying, composting, eliminating litter by picking up garbage, and assisting with highway and park cleanups.

(f) General Information

The Poster/Essay Contest was advertised in Church Bulletins, posted on church and CWL bulletin boards, delivered to Catholic Schools in the area, e-mailed to religion teachers in the district, and promoted in Catechism classes.

Thank you to all Chairpersons of the Education and Health Standing Committees for sharing your good works and submitting your Annual Reports.

May you be blessed as you continue to work for God and Canada.

Respectfully submitted,

Caroline MacDougall

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Diocesan Education and Health Standing Committee Chairperson