



London Diocesan Council  
Of  
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

One Heart, One Voice, One Mission!

To: All Parish Presidents, Regional Chairperson, and Community Life Chairpersons

Cc: London Diocesan Council

From: Kathy Levesque, London Diocesan Chairperson, Community Life

Date: May 23, 2015

Directive # Directive # 9

I hope that all who attended the annual London Diocesan Convention in London had an especially good time. This convention was very special for me and I will not forget it. Thank you to all who supported me this year.

**Development & Peace** – On April 25, 2015, a devastating earthquake hit Nepal causing 8,000 deaths and left 17,800 people injured. On May 25<sup>th</sup>, another earthquake caused 48 more deaths and 1000 more people injured. A joint emergency campaign with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) and Canadian Catholic Organization for Development & Peace (CCODP) are campaigning to raise funds for the victims of the earthquake in Nepal. Please support by making donations to Development & Peace/ Nepal Earthquake, 1425 Rene-Levesque Blvd., W., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Montreal QC H3G 1T7 or online at [www.devp.org/donate/nepal](http://www.devp.org/donate/nepal). Pope Francis prayed “for the victims, those wounded and for all those who suffer because of this calamity.”

**Introduction to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees** – A summer session will be provided for an online course for *Introduction to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees program*. This information is for anyone or a council who may be interested in sponsoring refugees. Register by May 25<sup>th</sup>. For more information, visit <http://etraining.rstp.ca/login/signup.php> or call Sara Shahsiah Trainer at 416-290-1700 ext. 401 or Toll Free 1-877-290-1710. Email: [sshahsiah@rstp.ca](mailto:sshahsiah@rstp.ca) or [www.rstp.ca](http://www.rstp.ca)

### **Empowering First Nations & Youth – Feathers of Hope**

**Seven Ways Make a Difference in support Feathers of Hope – Empowering First Nations & Youth** – Ways on how we can help in to make a difference in supporting Feathers of Hope – empowering First Nations and Youth:

**I AM A WITNESS** - In 2007, the Caring Society and the Assembly of First Nations filed a human rights complaint against the Federal government alleging that Canada's failure to provide equitable and culturally based child welfare services to First Nations on reserve amounts to discrimination on the basis of race and ethnic origin. After many efforts by the Federal Government to have the case dismissed, a hearing on the complaint began on Feb. 25, 2013 at the Canadian human Rights Tribunal and will continue into 2014.



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The I Am a Witness campaign invites organizations and people of all ages to follow the case in person or online and to decide for themselves if First Nations children are being treated fairly.

**JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE** – A principle named in memory of Jordan River Anderson, a First Nations child born with complex medical needs who spent more than two years unnecessarily in hospital while the Province of Manitoba and the Federal government argued over who should pay for his at home care. He died in hospital at the age of five years old, never having spent a day in a family home. First Nations children are frequently left waiting for services they desperately need, which includes services in education, health, childcare, recreation and culture and language. Jordan's Principle calls on the government of first contact to pay for the services and seek reimbursement later so the child does not get tragically caught in the middle of government red tape.

**SHANNEN'S DREAM** – Shannen Koostachin, youth education advocate dream: safe and comfy schools and culturally based education for First Nations Children. She worked very hard to try to convince the Federal government to give First Nations children a proper education. She passed away at the age of 15 years old in 2010. Named in her memory, the campaign engages Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples to better understand the education inequities and to take action to ensure all First Nations and young people attend good schools and receive a proper education that prepares them to achieve their dreams and be proud of their distinct cultures and languages.

**TOUCHSTONES OF HOPE** – are a set of principles to guide a reconciliation process for those involved in Indigenous child welfare activities. This fosters relationship building. Opportunities that provide a space and place to have respectful and truthful conversations about child welfare are provided in order to create a new reality for Indigenous children. It includes concrete next steps for moving forward together so that all Indigenous children and healthy and living with dignity and respect.

**CHILD AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT** – is a key factor in making a difference for First Nations children and youth. Engaging and uplifting children and youth in culturally-based equity and social justice movements provides young people with the opportunity to raise awareness among their peers about the inequities faced by First Nations children and youth. It promotes ways that children, youth, and communities can collaborate, think creatively about the future and inspire hope for others in making a difference. In supporting child and youth engagement, communities and organizations support tomorrow's future leaders!

**TAKE ACTION FOR FIRST NATIONS CHILDREN AND FAMILIES NOW** and sign up to support the 7 Ways to Make a Dream. Contact: Andrea Auger, Touchstones of Hope Coordinator [aauger@fncaringsociety.com](mailto:aauger@fncaringsociety.com)

**MANY HANDS, ONE DREAM** – is a long-term initiative to generate commitment, foster collaboration, and develop and implement solutions that will improve the health of Aboriginal children and youth in Canada. Visit the Many Hands, One Dream Website [www.fncaringsociety.com/many-hands-one-dream](http://www.fncaringsociety.com/many-hands-one-dream)



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