

“This is why the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she “groans in travail” (Rom 8:22). We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf. Gen 2:7); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters” (Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*’).



CALL TO ACTION INITIATIVE

TO: All parish councils

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, councils are encouraged to choose a time when it is advised that it is safe to resume regular activities, to participate in the call to action initiative. The survey can be completed at surveymonkey.com/r/CWLEnvironment once your council has participated.

Call to Action: The speech from the throne to open the first session of the 43rd parliament stated, “From forest fires and floods, to ocean pollution and coastal erosion, Canadians are living the impact of climate change every day.” Also stated was, “The Government will also act to preserve Canada’s natural legacy, protecting 25 percent of Canada’s land and 25 percent of Canada’s oceans by 2025. Further, it will continue efforts to reduce plastic pollution, and use nature-based solutions to fight climate change – including planting two billion trees to clean the air and make our communities greener.”

Life on earth is interconnected. Plants, animals and people rely on a healthy earth to exist. As Canadians, members can do their part to make Canada a better place to live and a safe place for the next generation.

+ 31 MILLION TONNES GARBAGE PER YEAR

“‘Waste’ does not exist in nature... Canadians generate approximately 31 million tonnes of garbage a year (and only recycle about 30 per cent of that material). Thus, each Canadian generates approximately 2.7 kg of garbage each day” (Community Research Connections).

ESTIMATED \$11 BILLION WORTH OF PLASTIC PER YEAR BY 2030

“Plastic waste ends up in our landfills and incinerators, litters our parks and beaches, and pollutes our rivers, lakes, and oceans, entangling and killing turtles, fish, and marine mammals. Less than 10 per cent of plastic used in Canada gets recycled. ...Canadians will throw away an estimated \$11 billion worth of plastic materials each year by 2030” (Prime Minister Trudeau).

“About one-third of the plastics used in Canada are for single-use or short-lived products and packaging. ...in Canada, up to 15 billion plastic bags are used every year and close to 57 million straws are used daily.”

What Can You Do?

- Organize a plastic and waste clean-up day(s) in your neighbourhood, church grounds, school yards, parks, rivers/streams and highways. (Some initiative may already be in place. Check your local municipality for details. Some provinces have an Adopt a Highway program to access.)
- Eliminate the use of plastic bags and plastic straws.
- Reduce your garbage.
- Plant a tree. All councils are invited to participate in the 2020 centenary project. See cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/04062020-Tree-Planting-Promo.png for details.

Councils are urged to display the League crest and take photos and submit to On the Spot.