



## **Centred On Faith and Justice**

National President, Velma Harasen, chose the theme "Centred on Faith and Justice", serving the people of God in 2011 -2012. The League focused especially on the poor and marginalized, taking action as Women Against Poverty. "Change for

Change" was promoted with pockets and purses emptied of change to make a difference in the life of the poor in each community.

Supporting refugees and the homeless and donating to shelters, food banks, soup kitchens, hospitals and seniors' homes along with many other creative initiatives contributed materially, spiritually and emotionally to the marginalized.

The League was represented at several forums sponsored by Dignity for All, a campaign for a poverty free Canada, urging the federal government to take action to alleviate all forms of poverty.

There was a focus on aboriginal women including resolution 2011.02 Children of Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women. Concern for our Indigenous continued in following terms with Resolution 2013.01 Building Relationships and Partnerships with Canada's Indigenous Peoples and continues today where we acknowledge the aboriginal land we occupy.

Velma Harasen's dream was always to have an international project that our league sisters across the country could embrace. "It's been a dream of mine since (the CWL) established the theme centred on faith and justice, and (focused on) women against poverty."

With this in mind, CNEWA (Catholic Near East Welfare Association) has joined forces with the Catholic Women's League of Canada in "Velma's Dream," a fundraising initiative aimed at alleviating some of the problems in the Holy Land.

When Velma Harasen saw the plight of Christians firsthand, she knew The Catholic Women's League of Canada could help. "Velma's Dream" became reality when (CNEWA) became a recipient of the National Voluntary Fund.

Members have continued to this day to support the poor and marginalized through food banks, Dr Simone's Food for Children charity, donations, helping missions, the homeless and many more.

As Communication Chairperson, I understand the importance of making use of our resources such as the League Magazine, social media, travel, telecommunications, newsletters or word of mouth, to bring awareness of injustices, to look beyond and see where there's a need, so we can take action to make a difference in serving the people of God.

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