



Halifax-Yarmouth Diocesan CWL

TO: Community Life Chairs
FROM: Ethel Jack, Diocesan Chair of Community Life
RE: Communique # 5, October 2020

In the Communique from National of August 27th, members of the CWL were encouraged to participate in the first annual National Day of Prayer for Christians in the Holy Land on September 21st. Due to personal circumstances, I am only just beginning to resume my normal activities and apologize for missing this instance to inform and allow you the opportunity to plan for participation in this Prayer Event. However, since it is slated as an Annual Event, perhaps you may wish to take the opportunity to have it duly noted in your schedule of events for each year.

In "*Laudato Si'*, on Care for Our Common Home," Pope Francis reminds us that "access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival and, as such, is a condition for the exercise of other human rights." Life without water is not sustainablethe stewardship entrusted to us MUST be protected and be inclusive for the whole of God's creation. It serves to underscore our responsibilities to those of third world nations, but also our responsibilities to our Indigenous peoples who inhabited this land, long before the advent of European settlers. Sadly, our success in providing this basic human requirement is sadly lacking. Despite being in possession of the third largest fresh-water reserves globally, the Federal Government has not met the requirements for safe drinking water to 618 First Nations Communities in Canada. Although the intent is to reduce long-term advisories to zero, the policies of the Fed. Gov neither resolve the funding gap for infrastructure nor offer an approach to the creation and maintenance of said necessary infrastructure. This failure to ensure a safe drinking water source ensures the continuance of this water crisis.

Despite COVID-19 travel restrictions, the Province continues to process immigration files, on track to meet&/or exceed nominations from previous year. Due to a great number of applications for entry to Nova Scotia, the Office of Immigration prioritizes workers arriving through the Provincial Nominee Program and Atlantic Immigration Pilot Program. 2019 saw a record-breaking number of immigrants – 7580. However, because COVID-19 is restricting the mobility of people all around the work, impacting Nova Scotia with a reduction in the first quarter of 2020 from 1270 to 1185. In the second quarter, NS experienced a significant loss of 1000 during the months of April & May from 2019. The Federal, Provincial and Territorial Immigration Ministers recently held an online meeting, discussing the impacts of COVID-19, and have affirmed a commitment to welcoming immigrants post pandemic. They view immigration as an important factor for the country's post-coronavirus economic recovery – key to the maintenance of our population, growth and labour needs. International students are viewed as integral to economic and demographic growth across the country, according to NSI Minister Lena Metlege Diab. It is considered a priority, with many positive impacts. Research indicates that Nova Scotians regard immigration as positive, with immigrants helping our economy and growing our population. There is an expectation that the Province is on track right now to meet & or exceed nominations from previous years.

2020 sees the first time that Indigenous Fishermen have been awarded Lobster licences and were able to launch an historic Lobster season. Sadly, they have been met with resistance from some of the established licensed Fishermen in the Digby area, while the boats leaving from the Potlotek Reserve in Cape Breton experienced a more calm departure.