

Congregation of Our Lady of Sion Canada-US Province

**November 2010
Provincial Leadership Team Meeting
Toronto, Ontario**

November 26 – 29, 2010 - Jackie Chenard, Mary Babic

November 27-28 – Isabel Lewis, Jackie Chenard, Margaret Hughes, Mary Babic

CHAPTER MANDATE 2008

Anchored in God's heart and bursting with passion for our Charism, we commit ourselves to:

- **Strengthen our local areas and faithfully live out our projects of life.**
- **Celebrate and nurture our deepening relationships with our friends and associates.**
- **Honour and support one another in the process of discernment affirmed at this Chapter.**

DIRECTIONS

- We will nourish the spiritual life of the Province through the study of our Biblical, Foundational, Jewish and Church sources.
- We will be united with the whole Congregation on the journey of transformation/reconfiguration.
- We value our networking relationships and we will reach out and explore other relationships for the sake of the mission.
- We will live out the last chapters of our life in Sion as fully as possible.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Local areas and regions invite more friends and associates to study days, meetings and workshops.
- Each area be more mindful about sending items for the newsletter.
- Information of the hopes and plans of sisters in their later years be gathered and analyzed in order to put appropriate actions and future plans in place.
- A networking/communication system for sisters in various retirement facilities be established.

I. MANDATE

1. Recommendation #3

As part of our mandate, Jackie and Mary have been mindful of Recommendation #3 as it pertains to putting “appropriate actions and future plans in place.”

Our goal in this was to have prepared materials available for all of us in the province to educate ourselves, to prepare for ageing as appropriate, and to help care for each other.

The sisters in Saskatoon have had much experience and information which has already been a help to those who are there and those who have decided to settle there. As a part of her work for us over the past year until the end of October, Kathleen McAuley worked on an extensive report on Retirement Options in Ontario.

She completed her research and sent us the results mid-November. Her report is quite detailed and includes lists of facilities, names of associations, definitions of care, alternative levels of care, examples of facilities, eligibility and admission for long term care homes, home care options, and links to other information sites.

At our next team meeting we will do a final edit and then make it available to anyone who is interested.

2. Choosing Priorities

We also looked at the tasks and timelines outlined for the PLT from the Eastern and Western Regional Meetings for the next 14 months, until Jan 20, 2012 to set some priorities.

The first has to do with the congregation and is to work within the

Delegate/Chapter Planning Committee in moving towards a structure to be proposed to the CLT that we will begin to live in January 2012. See Western Regional Meeting timelines.

The second has to do with the work being done in provincial teams: to support the work of R and E, the Friends and Associates Team, and the Vocation work of preparation of materials to be used i.e. communications, Stephanie and Mary Ellen, and contact with inquirers, Isabel.

A third priority is to continue to make concrete our provincial planning for ageing. This will include updating living wills and emergency contact information for each sister and getting information out to the province about the options that may be available in the locations where they want to retire. (See Mandate re Recommendation #3 above)

In addition to these priorities, individual, community/area, and province concerns will be attended to as they arise.

III. PROVINCE

1. Projects of Life

We received updates on a number of projects of life which will eventually be posted on the members' site. Thanks to all for the work begun at the regional meetings in making concrete our responses to the General Chapter documents through our projects of life. We look forward to receiving the others and ask that they be submitted for our January PLT meeting (Jan 29, 2011).

2. Request for Teleconferencing at the January 2011 Assembly

We received a request re: teleconferencing or the use of skype for those not able to attend the meeting in January. We are making inquiries to see about the possibility of making use of this technology, its cost, logistics and feasibility.

3. Retreat Day for July 2011 Chapter

Bernadette and Sylvia have been asked and agreed to take on the organizing of the retreat days before the Chapter in July 2011. We thank them for their response, help and generosity in doing so.

IV. PERSONNEL

We noted that we will need to review our records for those who have living wills, powers of attorney, those that may need updating and those that are missing. Emergency contact information for each sister will also need to be updated. We will contact those affected to review and respond in the next few months to come.

V. TEAMS/COMMITTEES/COLLABORATION

1. R and E

As mentioned in the September minutes, Mary Ellen Coombe is continuing the work of R and E, focussing mainly on work on the website and with the Advisory Council. Bernadette O'Reilly has agreed to work with Mary Ellen as a sounding board for her work with the Advisory Council of R&E. We would like to thank Bernadette for her openness and response.

VI. FINANCES

1. Budgets

The budgets as prepared by sisters, teams and committees and presented by Bernadette and Paul were discussed and approved. Thank you to everyone for their hard work and care in submitting their budget(s). A special thank you to Bernadette and Paul for all their hard work.

2. Monthly Statements

We received the following note from Paul and Bernadette regarding monthly statements:

“There have been understandable concerns about the length of time it takes for sisters/communities to receive monthly financial reports. We are committed to changing this situation. We have made some changes on our part to help bring about a faster return time in 2011.

At this moment, for the year end, we need your cooperation in these two ways:

- Please pay off any credit card charges incurred in 2010 before the end of December. Any charges outstanding slow the process of closing year end and the new accounts cannot be opened until the previous year is closed.
- Please send in December accounts as early as possible in the New Year.”

3. Donations approved.

- Kairos - \$ 300.00
- St. Mary of Egypt Refuge - \$ 300.00
- CRC for Haiti - \$1000.00

4. Saskatoon Cemetery Memorial Marker - \$ 4,000. Approved.

We received a request for a tombstone to mark the graves of our sisters buried in the cemetery in Saskatoon. This was approved. We will also look into having a memorial marker for the graves of our Sisters buried in Kansas City and possibly Maine.

VII. OTHER

Next meeting : January 29 – February 1, 2011