

P.E.I. Right to Life News

“Life Sanctuary”

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Life Chain

On October 1st of this year, tens of thousands will take to the streets to proclaim their support for the sanctity of life. This silent and prayerful vigil is a caring testimony to the rights of the unborn. For the past 17 years people who believe that children need to be protected before birth have used this method to make the public aware of the plight of the unborn child. Anyone who believes that we need some protection for the unborn should use this event to show how they feel. Everyone is welcome to join in this silent vigil.

The life chain in Charlottetown has been an annual event for the past 14 years. Originally it was held twice a year, on the second Sunday of May and in October. It is now held only on the Annual International Life Chain Day.

This year the Life Chain is being held on Sunday the 1st of October from 2 – 3 p.m. The chain will start at the Cenotaph at junction of University Avenue and

Grafton Street and move north out University Avenue. It is hoped, but not necessary, the groups moving north and south will join.

All participants are invited to gather after at Murphy's Community Center (formally the Basilica Recreation Center) after the "Life Chain" for refreshments.

Our Association provides signs if you wish to carry them. Sign pickup will be at the Cenotaph, corner of Euston and University (Betty Brite), and at the Royal Bank- Papa Joe's corner on University Avenue. The signs available proclaim the following messages:

"it's a CHILD not a CHOICE",

"Choose Life Not Abortion",

"Life is a Beautiful choice",

**"unborn babies are special persons
– let them live"**

This is a silent vigil and debate with anyone is discouraged but an explanation of what we are doing there is certainly encouraged. Life Chain Code of Conduct is stuck to the back of the signs. Please read and abide by this.

How necessary is this public statement? In Canada the unborn have no protection from fertilization and conception to their exiting the birth canal. In no other country in the civilized world do the unborn have less protection.

What protection is required? For years there has been little debate about abortion. A debate is needed on protection for the unborn.

The United States is one of the few countries to legalize abortion through the Courts. Most countries legislate limitations on abortion. Both systems have determinates on when abortion can take place and when it cannot. Hoping for any increment of protection would be an improvement on what we have now.

There have been three bills of significance introduced in Parliament in the past few months.

A Bill introduced in June 2006 by Leon Benoit, Conservative MP, would amend the Criminal Code "to make injuring or killing an unborn child while committing or attempting to commit an offence against the mother a separate crime under the law. The bill called Bill C-291 never made it past the five member Subcommittee on Private Members Business. It was declared non votable and was said to clearly violate the Constitution including the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Mr. Benoit is confident the Bill will successfully pass the next round when it comes back for further debate and another vote in modified form.

MP Paul Steckle (Huron-Bruce) introduced Bill -338, an Act to amend the Criminal Code making it a crime to commit an abortion after 20 weeks of gestation. Steckle wants the issue debated, stating that Canada is the only Western democracy with absolutely no protection for the unborn. The proposed Act could be a big improvement in restricting the abortion of the unborn over the protection now in place - **which is absolutely nil from fertilization up until the moment of birth**. This act would also address the medical necessity of abortion and is a serious attempt to limit the wide-open medical requirement of abortion on demand presently supported by the Canada Health Act. This Act should bring to the awareness of the Canadian people that some restrictions are definitely better than no restrictions. Any debate is certainly welcome.

Another private members Bill from Bloc Quebecois MP Francine Lalonde tabled

in the previous session of Parliament, prior to the last election, is to be reintroduced in the next session of Parliament. **This proposed Bill will attempt to legalize assisted suicide in Canada.** The proposed legislation is being promoted by a number of MPs who are very interested in opening the discussion on end-of life issues.

There is perceived pressure from doctors to be allowed to legally kill patients. There is pressure from the international community in that a few countries like Holland have legalized euthanasia. There is pressure from the Canadian Courts who are allowing certain forms of "passive euthanasia" (Withholding or withdrawing life sustaining treatment or administering lethal doses of painkiller).

In a quote from Euthanasia Prevention Newsletter (August 2006), Dr. Joseph Ayoub, an oncologist who teaches medical ethics at the University of Montreal, believes most medical organizations and doctors don't support assisted suicide. He says, "Assisted suicide does not honour human dignity. Especially now in the modern era of medicine, there are ways to heal patients physically and psychologically."

Don Babey, the executive director of the national organization "Dying with Dignity" sees legalizing euthanasia as a way of dealing with a pressing issue in Canada. What is this pressing issue? The Health Care system is more and more dealing with an aging population and their prolonged life due to the advances of medical science and technology. Is our aging population becoming an issue? End-of-life web sites are growing. They are promoting enticing exit protocol for the emotionally weary, the depressed and for those unfortunate souls who feel they are a burden and no longer welcome in this world.

There is a grave danger of losing human dignity and respect for life with the perceived need to terminate the life of our most vulnerable citizens.

**If a man loses reverence for any part of life
He will lose reverence for all life.
Albert Schweitzer**

Judicial Activism

In the August of the *Interim* under the banner of "The Menace of Judicial Activism" in a question and answer session with Rory Leishman - an Author on Judicial Activism, Canadians are prodded into becoming aware of the dangers posed by judicial activism. Judicial activism happens when a judge presumes to change the law from the bench, as opposed to fulfilling their sworn duty as Judges to uphold the law as found in the common law, statute laws and the Constitution of Canada.

Mr. Leishman states that, "Prior to the 1980s, Canadian judges were loathe to indulge in judicial activism. Today, most appeal court judges know no such restraint. They are disposed to overturn the law whenever they see fit."

Another article in same *Interim* states that An Ontario Court of Appeal Judge Roy McMurtry may have a major conflict of interest in a 2003 case that proved a landmark in homosexual marriage rights. Gwen Landolt, national vice president of Real Women of Canada, is presently filing a complaint in an appeal to the Canadian Judicial Council. She is quoted in the *Interim* as saying "McMurtry has shown contempt for parliamentary democracy and judicial convention. When I studied law, the Ontario Court of Appeal was an outstanding court of integrity and legal jurisprudence. It is now a political body.

These examples of "judicial activism" are only two of many being cited in recent publications. As Leishman states, "No Canadian can be safe from the tyranny of arrogant judges and human rights adjudicators who are allowed to get away with imposing their arbitrary will on the law."

-President's Message-

Hemke VanderZwaag

At this time I want to say thank you to the Board Members for the support given me as President. Without it I could not have been able to function as your President. Special thanks to the Executive for your time and the effort you put into this organization and all the work you do in our office. A special thanks to the volunteers. Thank you all.

This summer our office was changed around with some renovations and additions. It took some time.

As a result we were not able to do our paperwork the way it should have been done. Sorry for the inconvenience. If you tried to call us or write to us and did not get an answer that is the reason. We as a Board hope to do our best from now on.

I would ask all our members to be active in either education, volunteering, or by contacting your MP's for any Bills of concern that are in Parliament (see page 2 for Bills). Please join us on Oct. 1st for our Life Chain- a nation wide silent vigil for the unborn. We together can and will make a difference.

Pro-life should be a type of attitude portrayed by every human being. A child, even if not yet born, is a special gift. It is life given by God and should not be killed in a cruel way. Abortion - our fight must go on even if one life can be saved. This is my message to all of you. Please help us in this so very important cause. God will bless us in this effort if we ask him.

**Truly you have formed my inmost being;
you knit me in my mother's womb.
I give you thanks that I am fearfully,
Wonderfully made; wonderful are your works.**

Psalms 139:13-14

**D P
A O T I O N
B R**

Can adoption services help to prevent abortion?

The Catholic News Agency reporting on a study done by a Spanish Government Ministry in May 2006 stated the following: Madrid, May 01, 2006 (CNA) - A report by the Spanish Ministry of Health is expected to confirm that the AVA study. The Association of Victims of Abortion (AVA) surveyed 3000 women between the age of 14 and 30 in their study. This study points out that all the women polled said "they did not "receive sufficient information

about the possible side-effects of abortion." *The study also revealed that 99.1% of the women acknowledged the lack of information about alternatives to abortion, such as social or **institutional assistance or adoption.***"

The data reveals the lack of support and the pressure endured by pregnant women from fathers, work, society and doctors. If the message women received were one of support, the newspaper stated, "women would continue ahead with their pregnancy."

The Prince Edward Island Adoption Services have the following Program description:

"Adoption Services recruits adoptive families for Island children in need of alternative family situations. The program monitors private section adoptions to ensure they comply with legislated standards. In addition assistance is given to people with international adoptions. A client service for adult adoptees and birth families who seek information and reunions is also provided."

Adoptions may be open or closed adoptions and may be within the province or outside. The Adoption Act states that adoptions only be arranged in the following ways: 1) through the Director of Child Welfare, 2) through a licensed private agent, or 3) via a permit issued directly to the birthparent(s) by the Director of Child Welfare for a placement with relatives.

There are on the average 9 to 12 Department arranged adoptions on the Island each year. Private arranged adoptions range from 11 to 22 in the last four years.

According to the latest figures from Statistics Canada there have been an average of 150 induced abortions per year in hospitals and clinics by Island women from 1999 to 2003. Comparing this figure to the number of adoptions for the same period would show adoptions of the newborn don't seem to be a very popular option.

The Island Health and Community System through Adoption Services has a mandate to facilitate adoptions in this province. Looking at the number of abortions compared to the number of adoptions information on "institutional assistance or adoption" should be improved. "Life" through adoption has to be made a more

favourable and viable option in our community.

"Testimony of an Adopted Child"

by Myrna Dykeman

I realize no one is helped by my experiences unless I tell others. I am so very thankful my birth mom chose life for me. She was unwed with no family to support her. It was difficult for her. In the 1940's she would have lost her nursing job had her employers known she was pregnant and unwed. Today that would not be the case. With her parents dead, her stepmother was embarrassed and sent her to a Salvation Army Home for unwed mothers. Expectant unwed mothers are met with more compassion today.

She chose to keep her baby, but when I was 4 days old she left the hospital and I was left in the care of Mrs. Kitchen. My mother went back to nursing 120 miles away but still hoping to keep me whether my birth father married her or not. When I was 3 months old, Mrs. Kitchen contacted my mother to say she had to come and get me for my crying was annoying her drinking husband and made him angry.

My birth mother brought me to board with her. She was boarding with friends who were married and who just lost their baby boy. They welcomed and loved me. It was a very good place for me. My birth mom passed me off as the baby of a friend of hers. My birth father visited and played with me. When my birth father married someone else, my birth mother panicked and wanted me as far away from him as possible. I was 17 months old when, to the heartache of Ken and Pearl, the couple looking after me, she took me back to Mrs. Kitchen for 4 months and then 60 miles away to live with her first cousin and her husband. I was 21 months old. She felt friends leave you in life, but relatives are in your life for life. She wanted to keep me in the family until she could keep me herself. Ken and Pearl wanted to adopt me. All his life Ken carried a picture of me in his wallet. They named their daughter Myrna after me. At the age of 27, I went back into their life. To this day their sons call me their sister.

When I was two years old my birth mother married. She expected, since she had told him about me before they were married, that she could at least have me living with them. He assumed I would go on living with her cousins. He remained

stubborn insisting he should not be expected to raise another man's baby. Be very careful when you marry that your child is accepted too. Finally, when I was 4 ½ years old, she gave in and signed the adoption papers.

My adoptive parents could not have children of their own and were so proud to have a child whom they thought of as their own. I was much loved. I was baptized and brought up in a Christian home. I was happy. I loved my adoptive parents so much that I would tell them when I grew up I wanted to live near them. All through life I had this desire to live in my hometown with them. Unfortunately my husband's work took us far from them. I have no memory of life before I lived with them. I truly believed I was their daughter. Since they both came from large families, I was now loved by many aunts, uncles and cousins. My adoptive family was complete, except I had no grandparents or brothers or sisters.

Afraid someone in Junior High School would tell me, at 13 they decided to tell me I was adopted. Imagine the shock! They said they knew my birth mom and I immediately guessed who she was. Even though she was living such a Christian life it was hard to imagine her having a child out of wedlock. I guessed her because I wanted it to be her because she was so kind and loving to me. All through the years she came to visit once or twice a year and we had gone to visit her once or twice a year - sometimes more often when she miscarried babies. She lost five babies. When I was 9 she adopted a baby boy. Now knowing I was adopted made me sad because I realized that if my adoptive parents had adopted me I would never have brothers or sisters and my birth mother's only child was adopted. The only thing that calmed my tears that night was the thought that my birth father had children and one day I would find these brothers and sisters of mine.

At first I thought my birth parents gave me away because they didn't love me or want me. I said to myself, "Well, God, my Heavenly Father, wants me here and that is what is important." That comforted me. Later when I met them, I learned they both loved me but couldn't keep me.

I had no idea how many years finding my brothers and sisters would take. First, I did not want to hurt my adoptive parents feelings so I didn't search for them

until I was an adult. Instead of feeling discouraged my desire to find them increased. My adoptive parents said, "Now forget we had this talk and go on as if nothing happened. You are our daughter now and that is all that matters!" So we all played the game of make believe for the next 9 years. Once I married and had babies of my own I knew what my birth mother went through in carrying me and delivering me. I longed to talk to her as mother and daughter. Finally I got my chance with her. It was much harder than I expected to learn anything about my birth father and his family. I learned I had 2 brothers, but she would not give me names. She had many rules such as, no one was to know. Her husband's feelings and those of her adopted son came first and my adopted parents feelings came next.

Add to this fact I was living in Ontario and she in New Brunswick and we saw each other only once a year. Through the years we developed a very close mother/daughter relationship especially after the death of both my adoptive parents.

A child will love their adoptive parents according to how he or she is treated. However, your birth parents God gave you. You just have a natural bond with them and with your brothers and sisters. It upsets me to hear people who have never experienced being adopted that it's the parent who raised you who is the real parent. No one can change the truth and the truth is God chose birth parents to be parents of that child.

If you are still tempted to destroy your child by abortion please know adoption is a much better choice for your son or daughter and it gives them life. Because my birth mother chose life for me, I was able to fall in love with a wonderful man, marry and have 10 children of our own and know the joy of loving and being loved. Most importantly I was able to learn of the Lord Jesus and accept Him and have eternal life. Your child deserves this chance.

Since I raised 10 children from conception age I understand about pregnancy, delivery and raising babies, young children and teenagers. I know many who have married young and had successful marriages and families. It is easier to study with a clear conscience. How can you study to further your

education knowing your son or daughter died because you chose to put your education first or your good time first.

If your baby is brought up as a Christian, he or she will give forgive you your mistakes and poor decisions. If you destroy your child and lament that no one loves you, remember when God gave you this baby He gave you someone to love you. Keep your baby! Don't feel guilty over carrying a baby out of wedlock.

Men need to be taught at an early age not to letdown the mother of their child – to be responsible for their son or daughter. Both the birth mother and birth father are parents already. Do you want to be parents of a dead baby or a live baby? Which decision is easier to live with the rest of your life? Happiness doesn't come through harming others.

Finding my birth father and his children is another story but find them I did and I learned that he loved me and I know the joys of having brothers.

The Gift of a Baby

by Tammy MacDonald

*We await the news of arrival, gift sent
from above
Boy or girl, or by grace, maybe twins!
Allowing our hearts to expand, the love
that we feel
New life is a gift from God's hands*

*A baby grows up:
A day, a week, and then a year.
The time will go by so quickly, and
dependence soon disappears.*

*We see in the life of this child, freedom,
wonder and awe.*

*A Mom and Dad are so special:
They accept the challenge so great
To love this child sent to them, and
patience as we learn to wait.*

*Let us help these wonderful parents.
Stand by them, O Lord, we pray.
You sent us Your love in the sign of a
dove-
Holy Spirit, please guide us each day.*

At the Office

by Aukje Annema

Summer is over, and we are starting in our newly renovated office again, busy with the newsletter and membership drive. At the beginning of the summer our landlord Ken Campbell made some changes in the basement and that also meant our office space was being changed. So during the summer the office was closed. Everything got packed up and it wasn't until August everything got put back in place. We want to thank Beatrice Murnaghan for picking up the mail weekly and checking on the office for the summer months. Also many thanks to the volunteers who helped us put everything back in place.

October is our Membership month, and we encourage all our members to renew their membership. Without your membership and donations we can't buy educational materials that are needed to go out to doctors' offices, church schools and hopefully one day the public schools.

We recently bought 10 copies of the updated video "Preview of a birth". These videos are free of charge (or donation) to groups or churches. They are available at the office. Any group or class that needs educational materials is more than welcome to our office to look and take pamphlets for this purpose. Last year a teacher of a high school came into our office and took pamphlets for her "family education" class.

A book that you might like to look into is "Surprise Child, Finding Hope in Unexpected Pregnancy", by Leslie Leyland. She is a writer, teacher, wife and mother of six living in Alaska and has experienced two unplanned pregnancies and talked to women about this not unusual life changing event. For more about the book and author, see www.suprisechild.com.

Again this year we are having our **Christmas Card Fundraiser**. We hope this will be the best year yet in selling them and we would like to encourage you to come to the office and pick up some beautiful inspirational Christmas cards to sell among your friends, family and groups. By having a bazaar or craft fair, you can help us sell these Christmas Cards. They cost \$7.50 (10 assorted), or 3 pkg. for \$20. The packages are available at the

Basilica after the Life Chain and at the office on Queen Street in Charlottetown.

Volunteer Point of View

by Cathy Dowling

The new season has begun again and as a volunteer who believes that all life is precious and a gift from God I am expressing my views on the treasure we have in our province. This treasure is called "Life Sanctuary", an organization dedicated to life issues and the challenges we face as a society.

Our volunteers are dedicated, trustworthy, loyal, hardworking people who realize that there are many forces in our nation trying to destroy life as we know it. These people come from many backgrounds and faiths but all believe in truth that Life is a gift and we must protect it as best we can from conception till natural death. The broad range of life issues that these many people have prayed about and worked hard to inform us about range from abortion – infanticide – Euthanasia – Elder care – stem-cell research – cloning – same-sex marriage and the like.

These dedicated workers pray at the beginning and end of each monthly meeting, but the days in between are not left unguarded – there are always 2 or 3 volunteers who work for hours preparing for events such as: Life Chain held every year in October; the promotion and education of life issues in the community; and the Newsletter sent throughout the province to members and non members, who need to be encouraged to take the time to listen to what is happening in our world.

We need to step up to the bat and join the team as we offer hope to our children and grandchildren if we want a recognizable world left for them to live in and enjoy.

What can you do?

1. Pray for guidance about the activities you are involved in and see if you can spare a couple of hours a month to help a very worthy cause.
2. Believe your voice can make a difference in the life of someone

hurting and needing a few words of encouragement.

3. Become knowledgeable about the issues and become a contact person so that all areas of our island have a voice.
4. Open your hearts and minds about the stereotype many people falsely accuse the Right to Life volunteers as being and join the local provincial board as members. Many voices united and calling out for justice can bring the words of Deuteronomy 30:19 to our world. "I am now giving you the choice between life and death between God's blessing and God's curse, and I call heaven and earth to witness to the choice you make. Choose Life." Hebrews 11 verse 1 says: "to have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we can not see.

Let us have faith then for the reality that PEI Life Sanctuary is a cornerstone in our society, holding up beliefs before God so Canada will again become a Godly Nation. I believe that by working together we can live the dream, God bless us all.

- I choose Life -

Did you Know???

***Baptist minister** and pro-life activist Rev. Ken Campbell passed away on Monday August 28, 2006. Rev. Ken is best remembered by the pro-life movement for his attempt to provide positive alternatives to women in crisis pregnancies. Campbell purchased the house next door to a Toronto abortion clinic in an attempt to reach out to women seeking abortions and provide them with help and support to continue their pregnancy. In 1998 he defied the bubble zone restrictions and was arrested for peacefully and silently protesting outside an abortion clinic.

*** According to Statistics Canada,** there are more than 3,000 abortions performed annually in Canada after 16 weeks gestation.

***That Health Canada** is in the process of reviewing the graphic colour warnings it requires tobacco companies to print on cigarette packs in its continuing efforts to make smokers think twice before they light up. One of the new proposed graphics depicts a pregnant woman with a lit cigarette on one side of the message countered by the image of a fetus in the womb also smoking a cigarette, along with the tag line: *"Quit. You're smoking for two"*.

Ironic isn't it.

***That California lawmakers** narrowly rejected a bill in June 2006 that would have allowed the terminally ill to enlist doctors to help them commit suicide. The Senate Judiciary Committee Voted 3-2 to block the measure.

***That Planned Parenthood** has made it clear that it views South Dakota as critical. As reported in the last Newsletter South Dakota passed a law called "Women's Health and Life Protection Act". Planned Parenthood operates the only abortion facility in South Dakota and continually rants that it will keep it open.

***That the British Medical Association** voted overwhelmingly to oppose the legislation of physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia. This is excellent news. The BMS tremendously influences the Canadian Medical Association.

***That Sex Selection Abortion** occurs in Canada too! Prestigious medical journals are writing about it, and in Canada evidence that sex selection abortions are occurring was revealed in an article entitled "Canada's lost Daughters" which was published in the Western Standard. To read Andrea Mrozek's article, please visit www.westernstandard.ca

***That as recently reported in the Catholic News Agency (CNA)**

□Madrid, May 01, 2006 (CNA) - A report by the Spanish Ministry of Health is expected to affirm that abandonment by men, not social or economic problems or the supposed grave risks to the physical or psychological health of the mother, is the main reason that women obtain abortions in Spain. Although the report has not yet been made public, in an interview with the newspaper "Alba," the country's Health

Minister, Elena Salgado, revealed that, "the fundamental conclusion of the report is that the main reason women abort is because of abandonment by the man." The data reveals the lack of support and the pressure endured by pregnant women from fathers, work, society and doctors. If the message women received were one of support," the newspaper stated, "women would continue ahead with their pregnancy."

***A pro-life demonstration** took place June 21st this year outside the Dr. Georges Dumont Hospital in Moncton, to protest the commencement of abortions there after the first of July. Earlier this month NB health minister Brad Green announced he had found two hospitals to perform abortions following the planned June 30th stoppage at the Chalmers Hospital in Fredericton where 400 of the 404 provincial hospital abortions in 2005 were carried out. NB Right to Life believes the Dumont Hospital is one of the two. About 50 people took part, including Richard Doucette, State Deputy of the Knights of Columbus. Meanwhile other pro-lifers were praying inside the hospital or attending the annual meeting of the hospital's Board of Trustees. Overall at least 75 pro-life supporters were present at the hospital. Catholic Archbishop André Richard attended the Board of Trustees meeting.

***Austin Ruse, President of C-Fam** at the United Nations has come up with an interesting complaint. You have to read it carefully.

"The Center for Reproductive Rights, an anti-life/anti-family law firm in New York, has made an official complaint to the United Nations that American law restricts drug and alcohol consumption by pregnant women"

LIFE CHAIN

Sunday, October 1, 2006

2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

From the Cenotaph chaining out University Avenue.

Sign pickup – Cenotaph, corner of Euston and University (Betty Brite) and Royal Bank corner (University Avenue). Reception will follow at Murphy's Community Center (formerly Basilica Recreation Center)