

P.E.I. Right to Life News

“Life Sanctuary”

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30

Index:

1. Celebrate Life Week celebrations
2. The legal issue according to the Charter.
3. Where do we stand on the issue - Are we concerned yet?
4. Do advances in Science promote human life?
5. President's Message
6. "Billings" Program information
7. Gabriel Project
8. Notes
9. "The New Morality"
10. At the Office
11. Education Report
12. N.B. PRO Life Report
13. 2007 Pro Life Conference/Moncton
14. Abortion, my definition - murder

Celebrate Life Week

This year Celebrate Life Week will be celebrated the week of 15-21 April. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on the 21st of April at the Christian Reformed Church hall. Registration begins at 2:00 p. m. and the meeting begins at 2:30 p.m. A meal (for #'s please call 894-5473 by Thursday) will follow - \$10 donation at the door if possible. There will also be a vigil at St. Pius X Church on Tuesday evening the 17th of April at 7:30 p.m. Newspaper and radio ads will be placed and run during this week with the theme of

“Choose Life”. It is our yearly awareness program promoting life values and respect for life from conception to natural death. Attendance is open to all of our functions; feel free to attend and to be a witness for life.

The Legal Issue according to the Charter

A right is something (as a power or privilege) to which one has a just or lawful claim. **Right to life**, in its broadest sense, refers to holding human life as a paramount value. The right to life is central to debates on the issues of abortion, euthanasia, and embryonic stem cell research, as well as situations such as war or self-defense.

What are rights to life as proposed by the Charter? The right to security of the person was recognized in Canada in the Canadian Bill of Rights in 1960. Section 1(a) of this law recognized "the right of the individual to life, liberty, security of the person and enjoyment of property, and the right not to be deprived thereof except by due process of law." However, the Bill of Rights was a statute and not part of the Constitution.

In 1982, a right to security of the person was added to the Constitution. "Section 7 of the Canadian Charter of

Rights and Freedoms stipulates that, **"Everyone"** has the right to **"life"**, liberty and security of the person and the right not to be deprived thereof except in accordance with the principles of "fundamental justice". Security of the person in this section consists of rights to privacy of the body and its health and of the right protecting the "psychological integrity" of an individual.

This **"security of the person"** right has generated significant case law, such as R. vs Morgentaler in 1988. Abortion in Canada was legalized after the Supreme Court found the "Therapeutic Abortion Committee breached women's security of person by threatening their health". This court case determined that therapeutic committees were not considered adequate for the protection of the women. Some judges also felt control of the body was a right within "security of the person".

To apply the "Charter of Rights and Freedoms" under section 7., some words need to be defined. The key words are "everyone" and "life". That which is living has **"life"**. Science in the 21st Century has shown us that there is life in the womb and that the fetus cannot be termed non-living.

The term **"everyone"** may not be so easy to apply. Who is included under everyone? Being a human being qualifies; no matter what the age, no matter what the sex, no matter what the race, no matter what the orientation. Legally human life begins after the fetus is independent of the mother's body. Only then can the child in waiting be classified as human. The child in the womb is not included under "everyone" and is therefore discriminated against and not protected. This legal interpretation can and needs to be changed.

As Canadians we proudly stand up and say the "Charter of Rights and Freedoms" is a beacon of light for the world. Yet looking around, other less progressive and less freedom conscious nations do protect children in the mother's womb after

24 weeks. The Parliament of England is even now discussing the idea of pushing back the protection of the child in the womb even further than the present 24 weeks legislated. This is the direct result of the baby recently born (21 weeks) in the United States at a very early age. Other nations as well seem to be able to discuss this possibility that life begins prior to birth and are willing to do something about it. Why are we so backward and medieval in our definition of a "human being"?

After all we see and read regarding the advances of science in achieving a surprising survival rate of very young premature babies, do we really believe the child in the womb is not a human and does not warrant protection under the Charter?

**Where Do We Stand on the Issue?
Are we concerned yet?**

Aukje Annema

Why do some people get quiet when the words abortion and euthanasia are used? Either they don't agree with you or don't want to talk about it.

Well, people, it is time we talked about it. Many groups in Canada are now talking about it and being educated about it as our organization is. If we call ourselves pro-lifers, this means that we believe that all life is precious from conception till natural death; the pre-born, the young and the old, the handicapped and the mentally challenged.

Who are we to say who is to live and who is to die? That is certainly not our decision to make. There is only one who gives life and takes life and that is God. So should it not be normal to treasure life and educate people about abortion and euthanasia and the many issues that surround them - like stem cell research, studies linking abortion to breast cancer,

and many, many others.

Pro-choice people still hang on to the idea that an unborn baby is not a baby, even when we see every day around us that premature babies are born and survive. Even the case of a Florida woman giving birth to a 21 week-old baby does little to convince the right-to-choose side. Can we still say then that this baby (human) was not a baby in the womb? We now have an assumed right to kill this baby at 21 weeks and the laws of Canada cannot prevent it. That is something to be scared about don't you think?

People also think that older, lonely, sick people should have a way out of their misery, and this includes the mentally and physically handicapped. Isn't that selfish? Are we not put in this world to take care of each other and not only think of ourselves? Yes we are, it is our duty to take care of the elderly and sick and handicapped - be there for them in their time of struggles and need. There are many ways people can help out; volunteering, visiting, financially etc. etc.

Readers, I am writing to tell you about my concerns. Please don't close your eyes to these issues - help out organizations like ours, and others similar. The website listed below contain weekly and monthly newsletters for your information. Put them on your contact list and read what is happening in our nation and what you can do to help.

www.lifesitenews.com

www.lifecanada.org

Do Advances of Science Promote Human Life?

"SOME DON'T!"

According to "LifeCanada" News, The Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada released a recommendation in

February of this year calling for prenatal screening of all pregnant women, regardless of age, to identify **more cases of possible genetic malformation in unborn children**. According to the guidelines. "All pregnant women in Canada, regardless of age, should be offered, through an informed process, a prenatal screening test for the most common clinically significant fetal aneuploidies in addition to the second trimester ultrasound for dating, growth, and anomalies."

The resulting "genetic counseling" and following "options" would suggest some form of follow-up and recommendations. In the same article according to Dr. Andre Lalonde, Executive vice-president, of the Association admitted the policy would lead to more abortions. He said, women should be given the choice to abort for genetic disorders.

The article also states: "The only ethical consideration, Dr. Lalonde said, should be whether an abortion was "what the women wants. We have to be fair to give women a choice," he said."

Canadian Physicians for Life released on the 14th February 2007 a statement by president of the organization, Dr. Will Johnston, in response to the new guidelines on prenatal screening released by the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC). Following are some excerpts: On this prenatal screening procedure he states; "Even a healthy fetus, if unwanted, has no official friends at SOGC". He continues, "There is no logical end to the consumerism and utilitarianism which puts unborn children on a potentially lethal probation. Human nature allows no limit to our aspirations for our children, yet because of the screening mentality there will be no limit to our dissatisfactions with them either. Once the last Down syndrome child is gone, we will find a new focus for our anxieties. Without a profound change of

heart, it is foreseeable that this whole project will end badly". He also sees that, "Replacing unconditional love with an intolerance for imperfections is one harmful side effect of this new eugenics."

"SOME DO!"

The February edition (2007) of *Time* magazine carries an interesting article, "1 Women at a Time". A pregnancy center in North Carolina is offering pregnant women contemplating an abortion, an opportunity to see an image of the fetus by means of an ultrasonic machine. From the comments made by women who have taken advantage of this clinic the results are amazing. Comments reported in the magazine like "They bonded"; "That's my baby"; and "This changes everything"; were quite common. Having this service available means no longer will expectant mothers be fed the lie that it's just a glob of cells that are insignificant. It can be seen through ultrasound procedure that this so-called blob has a beating heart and limbs that move.

Is it time to get beyond the "see no evil, hear no evil . . . , and recognize the child in the womb to be a human being?"

Accepting that fact where to go from there? The choices don't get easier. The advances mentioned above along with stem cell research, cloning, and in vitro fertilization from sperm banks cause even the stout hearted in pro life to stop and think.

What do we believe?
Where do we stand?

We believe what we want to believe.

We are what we want to be. No more no less.

President's Report

Hemke VanderZwaag

As your President I had the opportunity to go to the annual conference of Life Canada in Vancouver in November 2006. As always we were very welcome and met Pro-lifers from all over Canada. Many times we saw people whom we had seen before, but also many new faces especially from the area where the conference was held. Always we come home with the assurance that we are not alone. We do have a great association with so many people involved all striving to stand up for the same cause in his or her community.

That always gives us the inspiration to go on and do whatever we can in P.E.I. The topic this time was different, not really talking on abortion, but on another important issue, "Healing the Culture". It was amazing how some speakers like, Camille De Blasi especially, brought their message. She spoke about her strong faith in our Creator and the message from His Word, the Bible. She said God's love for us could give us strength to teach and proclaim the values of life from conception until death, and that is the only way to change the culture.

Let us do this in His Name and for our country. This is also my message for all of us. May God bless us in this way.

What do you want for your youth?
Leadership? Great Values? Ability to make
the right decisions?

On Sunday, April 22, 5:00 p.m. in the classroom area of St. Dunstan's Basilica, Billings PEI will be presenting a workshop for mothers/daughters and fathers/sons regarding respect for themselves and others in matters of the heart and body. . . so to speak. Cost is \$15/parent & child, includes pizza and pop.

Youth from previous workshops have walked away with a better understanding of their natural body-rhythms and a sense of purpose as to why things are the way they are. Challenge your youth to be uncompromising and to strive for holiness and chastity.

Some of the topics discussed are: A Gift Unwrapped – God’s plan for Sex; Body Image – Eating Disorders, Respect and reverence for the Gift of Fertility; Romance without Regrets, and the dangers of Pornography.

PLEASE REGISTER BY APRIL 15, 2007
TO BARB@ 621-0581/DOREEN @ 569-7976 OR
EMAIL @ ARSENAULTBARB@HOTMAIL.COM.

THE GABRIEL PROJECT

The Regina Leader-Post - 2007.02.14
Letters: Babies and better decisions
By Lorraine Hope Penny, Regina

On Feb. 3, a young woman leaves a one-hour-old baby on the doorstep of a home. The baby discovered, the 18-year-old hears the media frenzy that results. You can only imagine her confusion and fear. In coming forward, there is no doubt she hopes there will be help and compassion for her as well ... The compassion of the Saskatoon couple that found the baby was truly uplifting. The husband told the Star Phoenix that, "I'm pleased to learn the baby was not, in fact, abandoned - it was placed," and "It was a thoughtful choice ... it would not have been long until the baby was attended to." Saskatoon Police Staff Sergeant Kirby Harmon said of the mother, "She was clearly without support" and "she was feeling isolated and confused and upset."

The Gabriel Project witnesses to the community a respect and reverence for life, and an unconditional love. The goal is to focus aggressively on better care for

pregnant mothers. If women are given the information, counseling and support they need and deserve, we can reasonably expect the demand for abortion to decrease. Women will then freely choose to bear children.

Jurisdictions notably in the U.S. have shown it's possible to lower abortion rates with this approach. They can be our models. The goal of the Gabriel Project is to encourage the church communities to be the Good Samaritan to the woman faced with a crisis pregnancy. The parish will do this by welcoming and assisting the woman with love. Jesus will be brought into her life and home through the care and concern of the church community. The love of the church community will open the hearts of men and women to recognize the beauty and goodness of God’s creation, and His infinite compassion and mercy.
Are we ready for this?

Notes

3rd Annual Walk for Life will be held on Thursday, May 10th at 1: 30, m p.m. starting at the Cenotaph at the intersection of Grafton and University Avenue. The theme this year, 'justice for the unborn', is in solidarity with the National March for Life taking place in Ottawa on the same day. Walk is sponsored by St. Pius X Catholic Women’s League. Everyone welcome.

In March 2006 the government of Spain ordered the terms "father" and "mother" be replaced with gender-neutral terms such as "Parent A" and "Parent B".

In a recent ruling before the Ontario Court of Appeal the judges ruled that a five year-old boy now has legally three parents. This was certainly not a biological interpretation as far as parents go. That would take the Mom and Dad to Mom #1 and Mom # 2, or the same could be done for the Dads.

Maybe the Spain version is simpler. There could be Parent "A", Parent "B", Parent "C".

The New Morality

by Mary

You didn't make it, unborn Child
They wouldn't let you be
To your bud of life they took a knife.
It's the New Morality

They didn't mean to hurt you, Love!
You have to understand.
Forgive them for what they did.
Their life was so well planned.

They couldn't take you with them
up the ladder of success.
Money meant more to them
Than a child, heaven-blessed.

Tell me, little unborn Child,
What did the Creator say?
Did he wrap you in His love,
and wipe your tears away?

You hover on the edge of time.
I see your faceless form.
You laugh whenever children play,
Oh, God, for you I mourn!

He sent His only Precious son
To teach us all "the way".
Still, we kill the unborn ones.
It happens every day!

You didn't make it, unborn Child.
They wouldn't let you be.
They just expelled a blob of cells.
It's the "New Morality".

At the Office

by Aukje Annema

Yes, its that time of year again to report on what is going on at the office. We are busy

with office admin work and meetings; keeping the membership up to date on the computer; receiving and answering e-mails; and doing regular mail and other housekeeping duties.

We are very thankful for our two steady volunteers who are in on Monday and Friday afternoons. Thank you, Thank you. For the rest of the week on Thursday the President and Treasurer are usually in and our Vice-President too, although he is in on other days sometimes and does a lot of work around the office.

Our secretary who is usually in on Tuesday cannot be there all the time anymore due to illness in the family. Our prayers are with them. She still tries to do as much as she can when she can.

We had a good Christmas Card fundraiser this year. Thanks to all of you who came in to the office to purchase them, and to all who purchased from friends and board members. This fundraiser really helps us with our costs.

Several people come in the office now to replenish the pamphlets in their doctor's offices or clinics that they visit regularly. We hope this part of our education outreach will continue to grow with the help of you, our members.

We still sponsor (but had to reduce days) the ad in the Guardian and Journal-Pioneer from Denise Montenay, "Problems after abortion?"

Watch out for the ads in the local newspapers and radio during Celebrate Life Week. We feel we reach a lot of people this way, newspaper and radio, and would like to hear your comments about this. E-Mail us or check our website. Address on front page, or phone us at 902 894-5473.

Recently we have sent out letters to organizations soliciting more help with Board member representation and volunteers. As we are the only Provincial organization without paid help, it is very demanding for a few people to keep the

office operating and provide a newsletter and necessary services to our membership.

As Board members we can also have additional responsibilities along with our own Associations duties. I am presently a Board member of "LifeCanada" and this does requires me to be out-of-Province occasionally. As "LifeCanada" is our national organization our Board feels it is important to have an Island representation on the Board of this organization.

Education Report

Our organization continues to reach out to the community in spreading life values. We have used ads in newspaper both locally and nationally along with local radio ads in this effort. We also have made up packages for doctors offices and have handed out brochures. In church communities and in local organizations we have distributed the video "Preview of a Birth" for showing to both adults and children. Our local chapters have been active in promoting respect for life in their communities especially in the erection of the large signs, proclaiming, "Take my hand not my Life".

Following is one such program that seems to be very successful.

St Pius X Parish has presented one Grade 8 catechism lesson each of the past two years focusing on Catholic teaching on the dignity of all life. This lesson included showing the "Preview of a Birth" video, and using other materials generously provided by the PEI Right To Life Association. In 2007 there will be a Right To Life presentation as part of the Grade 8 catechetics program. This year this will be a group session with all 60 students attending on April 16th. The one-hour session will include showing the video. (submitted by Jerry McCabe, Catechetics coordinator St. Pius X Parish)

Items of interest from the New Brunswick PRO Life report, March 2007

In regards the ongoing dispute between the Province of N.B. and lawsuit by Dr. Henry Morgantaler about the payment of abortions in his Fredericton clinic the federal government seems to be moving away and deferring to provincial jurisdiction. The federal Health Minister recently told the Telegraph Journal that the issue is "off the radar".

The arrest of Mrs. Susie Ryan last September for displaying an image of a 10 week aborted baby outside a Morgantaler clinic resulted in charges being laid after being held in jail for over 2 hours. If the Crown does not proceed with a prosecution within 6 months of laying the charges of "obscenity" and "corrupting morals", they could be dropped.

In the same edition Tom Barry, M.D., form N.B. asks the question, "who was behind the decision to arrest protestor (Mrs. Ryan) for displaying a picture that can be seen in Time magazine or a school textbook?". He also asks the question, "who is influential enough to convince the police to arrest and charge someone who has committed no crime?" In light of no movement on the charges being laid, that would seem to be a valid and disturbing question.

Pro Life Conference

Pro Life National Conference to be held in Moncton in 2007. The conference takes place October 25 - 27 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Moncton. The theme of the conference is, "From Sea Unto Sea - for Life!" The Keynote speaker is Mary Ann Kuharski form Minnesota, a longtime pro-life leader in the U.S. The banquet speaker will be Dennis Savoie form New Haven, Conn., and he will be joined by other acclaimed speakers form both Canada and the U.S.

This is the closest this conference has been to our Province since we hosted this same conference in 1997. That was a momentous effort on behalf of our organization chaired by Vince McIntyre.

Because of the present scope and size of the present day conference, it will likely be beyond our reach for the near future. It is therefore important to take advantage of this opportunity of attending. For more information contact this office or go direct to 1-888-796-9600 or www.dvmrl.knows.it, www.nbrighttolife.ca.

.Abortion - my definition, murder.

How people can kill an innocent baby because of the mistake they made by having unprotected sex, I have no idea. People say that abortion is okay because "the baby isn't living yet." But they obviously don't know all the facts. A baby's heart begins to beat as early as 21 days after conception and brain waves have been recorded as early as 40 days. This, to me, is considered a living human being.

There are certain exceptions that could be made. Being raped by either someone you don't know or even a family member is a horrible thing by itself. But getting pregnant is another thing. Cases like this, I think should have abortion considered. I myself still wouldn't do it but there are people out there who really couldn't deal with something like that. A lot of people think that if they were raped whether incest or not, abortion is ok. It's still not okay but it would be accepted more than if you just didn't want to carry a baby for nine months.

Another reason people might think abortions are okay is if the child has a disease from which they could die a slow and painful death or it could also be a burden for the family. But why should we kill a child just because there is a possibility for a painful

death at a young age. The child still deserves a chance to live and a chance to prove to everyone that they can have a good life. If a family thinks that a baby with a disease could be a burden then they could consider adoption. But do not kill a baby because you think it might be too hard on you. It's selfish and wrong. Every child in the world has a right to live life. Every child in the world has the right to be born. Nothing can justify the shameless act of aborting a child.

The right to life is the most basic and important right we have. And everybody has the right to including babies that have not been born yet. Once they are conceived then, they are meant to be born.

Another issue is religion. If God wanted a certain baby to die he would have made it happen himself. Nobody has the right to decide who lives and who dies except for the God who created all of us. In the end, people are still going to get abortions but if we can get through to one person at a time then eventually the world will realize it's wrong. Then maybe the world will become a better place once the murdering of innocent babies is over. *(Reprinted by permission - Chelsey Wolters age 17 !!!)*

**The Annual General Meeting
P.E.I. Right to Life Association
Saturday, April 21, 2007.
Registration 2:00 - 2:30 p.m.
The Christian Reformed Church
Mount Edward Road, Charlottetown
Guest speaker - Dr. John Barry,
Maryland, N.B.**

Editor: B. Connolly; Newspaper committee, B. Connolly, Aukje Annema, Myrna Dykeman, J. Broderick