

P.E.I Right to Life News ***“Life Sanctuary”***

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Please note new email and website addresses above.

The P.E.I Right to Life Association’s Annual Meeting (AGM) will be held at St. Pius X Parish Hall off St. Peters Road on St. Pius X Avenue on Saturday, April 26, 2008. Registration begins at 2:15 p.m. with the meeting starting at 3:00 p.m. A meal will follow the meeting - suggested donation of \$10.00 for the meal. Please contact the office at 894-5473 if attending to determine an approximate meal count.

*Enclosed with this edition of the newsletter is a **donation card**. This request for money does not replace our membership drive in the fall. To avoid increasing the membership rate the Board has decided to ask for donations in the spring around the Annual General Meeting. It is hoped that those who can afford to give more will kindly do so and thus allow us to keep our membership rate low as some members would have difficulty with an increase in rate.*

Agenda:

1. Comment
2. Points of View
3. Media Prejudice?
4. Help for Mothers
5. President’s Report
6. At the Office
7. LifeCanada Report
8. Congratulations to *The Interim*
9. The Euthanasia Issue
10. Is the Climate Changing in Canada?
11. Sign
12. Happenings at the Board
13. Poem “*Pathway to Light*”
14. Information
15. March for Life

Celebrate Life Week

This year Celebrate Life Week will be held the week of 20 – 26 of April. There will be a church service at the Sherwood Church of the Nazarene (40 Woodlawn Ave.) on Wednesday, April 23 at 7:30 p.m. Newspaper and radio ads will also be used during that week to remind the public of the sanctity of life. It is our yearly awareness program promoting life values and respect for life from conception to natural death.

Comments:

May 14, 1969 abortion was legalized in parliament with the approval of a hospital's "three doctor" therapeutic abortion committee who certified that the pregnancy would be likely to endanger the life or health of the mother. The 1988 ruling of the Supreme Court said that this application of regulating therapeutic abortions was unfair to women. Their ruling was that access to abortion was inconsistent. This decision did not contain a substantive right to abortion.

The rights from the Omnibus Bill of 1969 were cased in restrictions of necessity and arbitrated by a panel of doctors in hospitals. The Supreme Court ruling in favour of Henry Morgentaler in 1988 found these restrictions were indiscriminately applied and, as a result, were against the personal security of women. The decision did not say that all abortions were legal and that all pregnancies could be terminated without cause.

The following statement and picture appeared on a "postcard" the Association distributed in the month of January. We purchased 4000 cards and they were made available to churches and organizations like the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Women's League. We were unable to place it on local billboards because of the lack of available space. We would like to thank all those who participated in this awareness effort on and around the 20th anniversary of the Supreme Court/Morgentaler decision - the day the law on abortion was eliminated.

*"Printed on the Postcard" (shown here)
9 months. The length of time an abortion is
allowed in Canada.*

No medical reason needed.

Abortion have we gone too far?

www.abortionincanada.ca

**Points of View**

*Journalist Ann Marie McQueen ran a series of articles on the abortion issue at the time of the 20th anniversary of the Supreme Court/Morgentaler decision. In *The Ottawa Sun*, she said, "I was not exploring what was right or wrong. I was checking in, taking the pulse." She was surprised by her reader reaction. "What took me aback the most were the letters from people who have deeply suffered from their abortions. From women, yes, but men too. I didn't expect to have people pour out their hearts full of pain to me, a stranger reminding them of the very procedure which scarred them so.

*Paul Tuns Editor of the Interim in his article in the March issue quotes Dr. Garson Romalis in a recent speech, *Why I am an abortion doctor*. He said, "I can take a woman, in the biggest trouble she has

ever experienced in her life, and by performing a five-minute operation, in comfort and dignity, I can give her back her life”.

*MP Ken Epp’s private member’s bill “Unborn Victims of Crime Act” is now before the House of Commons. This bill is narrowly focused to allow a legal charge only where a fetus is hurt during a criminal act. This bill is not without its critics. Some say it is a sneaky bid to slip fetal rights into Canadian law. "It definitely is a back-door attempt to attack abortion rights," said Joyce Arthur of the Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada. "It's trying to create a form of legal personhood for fetuses. And under the Criminal Code, you don't become a person until you exit the birth canal alive. If you give any kind of rights to a fetus - if you recognize it as a person, as this bill does - it automatically conflicts with a woman's established, constitutional rights.”

Media Prejudice? Is it Changing?

This may be true. Have you noticed in the national media for years that anything or anybody even remotely connected with the pro-life cause will usually be boxed or compartmentalized as being pro life and usually treated as that bunch of fanatics. There are extremists in pro-life movement and because they make big headlines they are usually lumped together with all the pro-life efforts.

In anticipation of the 20th anniversary of the Supreme Court *Morgantaler* decision, newspapers across the country east and west including such papers as the *National Post* and the *Ottawa Sun* ran articles and columns examining the issues from both sides. This may have been a first for national publications. Both sides of the issue were discussed by journalists and editorial writers in a much more open way.

Help for Mothers

What about help for the mother in this debate? The rights of the mother and the unborn child should not be at cross-purposes. Since it is a natural act to have a baby, why should the rights of the baby and the mother be at odds? The mother should have the right to bring a child into this world not in spite of economic hardship, lack of parental support, or without community consensus. It is the mothers decision to carry and nurture her child through a caring pregnancy and no law or regulation will determine otherwise. If the mother is free to make her decision free from agitation, threats, and desertion, most, if not all, will make the decision to carry the baby. Two organizations are now in the formative stage of trying to meet this need and they would appreciate any support you are able to give.

Island Pregnancy Care and Support Services

Recently, Mrs. Isabelle Slater, a former Executive Director of the Greater Moncton Crisis Pregnancy Centre, held a series of meeting across the Island. These meetings were for the most part well attended and the general consensus was that a crisis pregnancy center would definitely fulfill a need presently being felt on the Island. It is hoped that in the near future this organization will be able to set up shop in the Province. This group asks the question “What can I do to *Help*” ... ; a woman carry to term... ; a teen facing an unplanned pregnancy... ; a father understand and participate in child-rearing...; to promote local assistance in my family church...; or educate people in the sanctity of life?

As a volunteer you can work as a peer counselor, on the Board of Directors, help raise funds, or promote awareness. For information email ipcandss@gmail.com or

phone Isabelle at 838-3234, Joan at 859-3889, or Annette 658-2473

Pro-Women,Pro-Life

Pro-Women,Pro-Life is an organization formed in January of this year to promote better choices for women than those presently promoted. It takes a stand against the idea that abortion is good for women and that it is not just a choice but a right. According to the founding director of this organization Andrea Mrozek, “We have no hidden agenda here but a very open one: To eradicate abortion in Canada, not by legislation or force, but because that is what women choose. Women should band together to remove abortion from our cultural landscape.” For more information phone 613 875-5888 email andrea@prowomanprolife.org



President’s Report-

Hemke Vanderzwaag

Time is passing but our mandate and our fight for the unborn is still the same. We are still busy in the office working to proclaim and protect the lives of those who cannot do it for themselves. Sometimes it is not easy to find the right way. But with the support of all our members we will go on to serve our Lord and Creator in the Right for Life Association.

I was very impressed to see a memorial stone for the unborn placed by the St. Francis of Assisi Church in Cornwall. We did have a memorial service there on January 27. Thanks to all who participated in this so important message. Thanks to those who placed this beautiful stone there in 1999. What a message you have given at this time. We did remember that 20 years ago the law against abortion was struck down and we realized what we have done in Canada in those 20 years. We did not celebrate but were in mourning. We

let it happen for too long already and nothing is changing yet. Our population is declining and we don’t know why? Abortion maybe?

I am asking all of you to be alert and wake up and put your time and effort in this cause, for the honour and glory of our Lord. Come and join us in “Celebrate Life Week” celebrations.

At the Office – Miriam McCabe

The Right to Life office is staffed 100% by volunteers spending at least 30 hours a week. Some of their duties are answering the phone, recording and writing receipts for all donations and memberships received, and reviewing and distributing materials, e.g. video tapes, DVD’s, magazines and pamphlets,etc. The newsletter is prepared twice a year and at that time at least 8 volunteers work for two days folding, placing in envelops, collating by postal code and mailing. Each fall we package, distribute and sell Christmas cards. Members of the Right to Life meet once a month. Board members are donating a lot of time and effort staying current and keeping aware of the latest developments. They deserve a lot of credit.

One of our Board members, as a member of the Charlottetown Chapter, is a member of the LifeCanada Board of which our Association is an associate member. This is a big commitment on her part. Her report is included in this newsletter.

The Right to Life appreciated all donations received through **Memorial Donations**. This is a good way to remember loved ones and friends. Any monies that we receive will help our Association in its efforts to protect life from conception to natural death – a sincere thank-you to all who support our organization in this way.

LifeCanada Report

By Aukje Annema, Board Rep.

LifeCanada is a national organization that provides leadership and information for pro-life groups across the country. To date 80 such groups are members of LifeCanada. Currently I am the representative from PEI on the Board of LifeCanada. This position involves working on the national level by having monthly board meetings over the telephone, attending the strategic meetings once a year in the spring and the annual general meeting in the fall. With the exception of Quebec every province is represented on the board

Many activities were organized during the year. The Abortion Breast Cancer (ABC) campaign happened in the fall of 2007. Many billboards went up around Canada to inform people of the risks of abortion/breast cancer (see www.abortionbreastcancer.ca). They also commissioned *Envionics* to poll Canadians on several life issue related questions every October. A major campaign was set up for this past January, marking the 20th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision that struck down all legal restrictions on abortion. Included in this campaign along with a website, 51 billboards went up across Canada, 21 transit shelters, bus or truck ads in 6 cities, newspaper ads in 127 communities, radio ads in 10 regions, 63,000 postcards distributed in 68 towns and cities (including PEI). This campaign was a major educational tool with a very informative website: www.abortionincanada.ca.

LifeCanada employs an executive director and a part time office manager. Their finances at the moment are dependent on their membership groups and donations. To support them you can apply for an individual membership and/or donation.

They also publish a very informative newsletter 6 times a year. Their website is www.lifecanada.org.

The National Conference is in Toronto this year and plans are well underway. This is a joint effort between LifeCanada and Campaign Life Coalition.

Congratulations to *The Interim*

“Canada’s Life and Family

Newspaper” called *The Interim* was started by Campaign Life Coalition some 25 years ago. It has reported on life and family issues on a regular basis and in a knowledgeable way, in response to the bias and left wing reporting of the “main stream” media. We cannot rely on the media to report in an honest and factual way the “life” concerns and threats so prevalent within our society. This paper is a must read for all persons who want to get some insight into the cultural and social challenges facing our nation today. *The Interim* is published 12 times a year at a cost of \$35.00 per year. The address is 104 Bond Street, Toronto ON M5B 1X9 Telephone 416 204-1687 or Fax 416 204-1027 Web site is www.theinterim.ca; email – theinterim@theinterim.ca

The Euthanasia Issue

The Manitoba Court recently upheld an injunction allowing an 84 year-old Winnipeg man to remain on life support. Previously, contrary to the desired wishes of his family, the hospital doctors of Winnipeg’s Grace General Hospital were going to remove the life-sustaining equipment and allow Mr. Golubchuk to die by dehydration and starving. The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba in a statement on withholding and withdrawing life-sustaining treatment can end any life-sustaining treatment even against the desired wishes of family or next of kin. According to Alex Schadenberg of

the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, statement, such as these, if not discontinued, “will lead to cases, such as Terri Schiavo’s, where the person is not dying, but is intentionally withheld fluids and food in order to cause death.”

Is the climate rapidly changing in Canada?

An article by Mrs Jakki Jeffs, Executive Director, Alliance for Life

“I received the Canadian Hospice and Palliative Care Association's *Issues Paper on Euthanasia, Physician Assisted Suicide and Quality End of Life Care* - this week. To say that I am shocked is an understatement.

In 1997 it was stated very clearly that *"The Canadian Palliative Care Association is opposed to legalized euthanasia and assisted suicide"* Euthanasia was referred to as *"intentional killing.."* and assisted suicide *"the provision of means to the patient to enable intentional ending of life."* Just 10 years on and the Canadian Hospice and Palliative Care Association now refers to euthanasia and physician assisted suicide as *"Physician Assisted Dying"*.

Dying With Dignity Canada counts both the Canadian Hospice and Palliative Care Association and the Hospice Association of Ontario in its list of those *"Dying with Dignity is proud to be associated with"*

Even after discussions with both hospice organizations regarding the tenuous connection - I remain sick at heart at the relationship. Having attended the International Right to Die Conference sponsored by Dying with Dignity Canada in September I have a very clear understanding of the euthanasia movement's strategy.”

This sign is one of seven standing on Island properties. We are currently

looking for other sites to use. Our President and his committee have contacted a number of churches and are waiting for confirmation. Some problems do arise because of zoning regulations. If you or a group you represent would like a sign erected on a property this can be done free of charge.



Seven Mile Bay church property

Happenings at the Board level from September 2007

30 September – Life Chain held in Charlottetown was supported by at least 150 people and a lively group showed up at the Murphy Community Centre after for refreshment. We would like to thank all those who came out in support of this quiet vigil for life.

13 Oct. Priests for Life Symposium at the Delta attended by three board members.

25 –27 Oct. The National Conference of the LifeCanada in Moncton was well attended by members of our Association. Board members who attended will give a report at the annual meeting.

24 Oct. Theresa Matters, executive director of National Campus Life Network (NCLN), met with student reps at UPEI and with Board members during her visit.

26 Oct. Dr. Clem Persaud, a presenter at the National Conference, made the trip to

the Island and gave a presentation to approximately 40 students and staff at UPEI.

November – Christmas card month. Board members were busy distributing and selling Christmas Cards in various locations.

Numerous positive compliments were received on the quality and variation of the cards. We welcome all the support the membership can offer during this fundraiser.

7 Dec - A Christmas party was hosted in the office for the volunteers of the Association. It was well attended by upwards of 30 people.

22 Jan - Board members met with Doug Currie Minister of Health and Social Services. Mr. Currie said he appreciated the visit and the information he received.

24 Jan – Board members met with Mr. Shawn Murphy, MP to discuss ongoing legislation in the House. We had a very favourable discussion on various issues and on the Ken Epp’s private member’s bill presently up for second reading. He said the attitude and pressure in the heartland of Canada is much more pro abortion than it is here on our Island. He thanked the group for the informative session.

The PEI Right to Life Association would like to thank both Mr. Currie and Mr. Murphy for taking the time out of their busy schedules to meet with our representatives.

Jan 27– A prayer service was held at 2 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Cornwall.

Board members have promoted and spoke with students from grades 8 to 10 in Sunday school class on the “Sanctity of life”. Very well received by all groups. Board members were also active distributing the video “preview of a birth” and baby models to church groups and other organizations.

Poem - Submitted by Teresa Wilson, Goose River, P.E.I. Inspired form watching an abortion on satellite TV program.)

“Pathway to Light”

God said, “My plans is you will live on earth for awhile.

Be not afraid. My angels will watch over you.

You’ll first be in darkness, like a seed in the ground, little child.

You’ll be warm, you’ll not thirst, you’ll be loved, you’ll be nourished.

You’ll grow until you know it is your time.

Then you’ll be born on earth little one.

Your Mom and Dad, with the angels, will rejoice every day.

But never forget you will always be Mine, little child.

Talk to me, Keep your faith, walk with me, my path is straight.

Yes, I am the way.

I prepare for you a heavenly home.

Follow Me, you’ll do nothing alone.

Just take up your cross and all will be right.

At the end of your pathway, I am your light.”

God loves you.

Information

Recently, as a result of the demise of the Canadian Abortion Rights League, an eight hundred number giving women living on Prince Edward Island information on how to get abortions has closed down. This pro-abortion hotline had been dispensing information on where and how to go about getting abortion. Fortunately there is a hotline available for women seeking help from an unplanned pregnancy - try pregnancy “**Helpline**”, 1 800 665-0570.

Salt + Light Television, the first ever National Catholic Television Network in Canada, is now finally available to the Maritimes on Eastlink Digital Cable. Salt + Light offers quality Christian programming that appeals to families of all ages.

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Canadian women don't support current abortion policy: poll

Two-thirds of Canadian women support legal protection for unborn children, according to an Environics poll released last week. A smaller majority of men (57%) support legal protection. Currently in Canada there are no legal restrictions on abortion at any stage of pregnancy. More than one-third (34%) of women support legal protection from conception onward. Overall, 62% of Canadians supported legal protection at some point before birth.

Royal college warns abortions can lead to mental illness/Britain

Report by Sarah-Kate Templeton, Health Editor

Women may be at risk of mental health breakdowns if they have abortions, a medical royal college has warned. The Royal College of Psychiatrists says women should not be allowed to have an abortion until they are counseled on the possible risk to their mental health.

This overturns the consensus that has stood for decades that the risk to mental health of continuing with an unwanted pregnancy outweighs the risks of living with the possible regrets of having an abortion.

MP's will shortly vote on a proposal to reduce the upper time limit for abortions "for social reasons" from 24 weeks to 20 weeks, a move not backed by the government. A *Sunday Times* poll today shows 59% of women would support such a reduction, with only 28% backing the status quo. Taken together, just under half (48%) of men and women want a reduction to 20 weeks, while 35% want to retain 24 weeks.

Some MPs also want women to have a "cooling off" period in which they would be made aware of the possible

consequences, of the abortion, including the impact on their mental health, before they go ahead.

More than 90% of the 200,000 terminations in Britain every year are believed to be carried out because doctors believe that continuing with the pregnancy would cause greater mental strain.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists recommends updating abortion information leaflets to include details of the risks of depression. "Consent cannot be informed without the provision of adequate and appropriate information," it says.

Several studies, including research published in the *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry* in 2006, concluded that abortion in young women might be associated with risks to mental health problems.



March For Life Rally

On May 8, 2008 the Catholic Women's League of PEI and the PEI Knights of Columbus will hold a "March for Life" Rally at the PEI Legislature. This activity is being held along with nationwide March for Life events in Ottawa and other provincial capitals. The Rally will commence with Mass at St. Dunstan's Basilica at 12:05PM and will march to the Legislature immediately following. Supporters can join the March in front of the Basilica at approximately 12:35PM. Pro-Life signs will be provided by PEI Right to Life and the Knights. Members of our Association are encouraged to come out and support this event. At the Legislature, Priests for Life, the CWL and the Knights will be presenting. Representatives of the Liberal and Conservative Parties will also be invited to address the Rally. Please join in defending life in conjunction with other similar events across Canada!