

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

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Founded in 1974, this is the 35th Anniversary of the P.E.I. Right to Life Association.

In a press release, Patrick Callaghan, Chairman of the Board at that time said; “The P.E.I. Right to Life Association was formally organized on February 14, 1974. The association is a non-sectarian organization, dedicated to the promotion of respect for all human life from conception. It will assist in seeking out alternatives to abortion, and urges changes in the law to guarantee that the unborn child receives the same legal protection as any other person...”

- high standards to live up to for our present association members.

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Celebrate Life Week - April 19th - 25th

Events:

- a) Media messages.
- b) Ecumenical Vigil Service in memory of the unborn (details available later).
- c) **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** – April 25, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. at The Church of the Nazarene on Woodlawn Avenue, Charlottetown (Sherwood). Registration begins at 2:30 p.m. - a meal will follow (donation of \$10 accepted). Agenda item of interest; changes to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association. Proposed changes posted on page 7 & 8 in this newsletter.

Guest speaker for the AGM is Joanne Dieleman. Mrs. Dieleman emigrated to Toronto, Canada in 1960. She demonstrated and did sidewalk counseling at one of Henry Morgentaler’s first abortion clinics in Toronto. Since then she worked at a Crisis pregnancy Center until her retirement. She now serves on the Board of this crisis pregnancy center, the editorial board of “The Interim”. She is also involved in the local Grimsby Life Center and is chairperson of the public relations committee of the Anchor Association for the handicapped. She is married and she and her husband have eight children (two adopted). Her theme for her representation will be “All life is precious”.

Is Gardasil a safe product?

In January 2007, Canada’s National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) made the recommendation that girls ages 9 to 13 be vaccinated against the sexually transmitted infection, human papillomavirus.

HPV Vaccine – There is a concern.
 Gardasil was approved in the United States in 2006 for girls as young as age 9. The conservative-funded public interest group Judicial Watch in that country recently obtained documents revealing 21 deaths and more than 9,000 reports of adverse events related to Gardasil under Freedom of Information Act.

They reveal everything from massive wart outbreaks to seizures and paralysis. Of 21 deaths, nearly a quarter cited "blood clots." Jessica Vega got the shot at school when she was 13. Soon after, she was paralyzed. It took a year of braces and treatment to get her on her feet. Brittney Bell was 12. She and collapsed with brain inflammation and paralysis. Fourteen-year-old Jenny developed life-threatening paralysis that's resistant to treatment. Jamie Venice passed out and had a seizure after her Gardasil shot. She was lucky compared to Amanda Ratner. She came down with an illness so excruciating, she had to take morphine. Her parents, both doctors, blame Gardasil. "She's gone from a position of being a competitive varsity lacrosse player in high school to someone who's chronically ill," her father, Dr. Scott Ratner, said.

Dr. Nicole Sundene, a naturopathic physician, editor of "Kitchen Table Medicine" in a November 2008 article says; "I am not really sure why they (Merck) invested so much money and research dollars in a vaccine for a very slow growing cancer that can be easily treated if caught early by yearly pap smears. I am guessing that this vaccine must have been developed by accident and now is being marketed to young girls as a major money making scheme on the part of Merck Manufacturing. She also doesn't think that the Food and Drug Administration in

the U.S. had no right "giving it fast-track approval" with so limited human research.

Also, according to a recent pamphlet published by Alliance for Life (www.allianceforlife.org) in Ontario There are some serious questions that need answers such as, "How long is Gardasil effective?" "Is Gardasil safe?" "What are the long term consequence of the HPV vaccine?" Combine these concerns with the fact that the final testing of Gardasil won't be completed until this September makes one wonder whether Canada's National Advisory Committee on Immunization jumped the gun. This pamphlet now available in the office is well documented and researched and worth the read.

President's Report by Hemke VanderZwaag
 Again this year I want to thank you for all the support you gave us over the past year and a special thanks to the Board Members who have been a big support to me in my task as President. It was a very busy year again. The board meets every month excluding the summer months.

Our mandate is still the same and our fight for the unborn will always go on. With your support we have to have a stronger voice and let people know what is really going on in our country. We are happy to have a student from UPEI on our board again. Welcome Liane. We hope to continue to support this campus Pro-Life group.

This year again I like to ask all our members to support us in our cause for the life of the unborn and support for life in all its stages. In this way we can service our Lord altogether to His honour and glory. Show your support and come to our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on April 25th, at 3 p.m. at The Church of the Nazarene on Woodlawn Ave. in Sherwood.

Euthanasia legalized?

Bloc MP Francine Lalonde has stated recently that she will again introduce a private members bill to legalize euthanasia and assisted suicide in Canada? We have yet to see the wording of Lalonde's bill but her previous attempts to legalize euthanasia and assisted suicide in the last two parliamentary sessions (Bill C-407, Bill C-562) were worded in a very permissive manner. There is a strong likelihood that she will introduce her private members bill at this sitting of the House.

Ms. Lalonde is not without support. A RECENT POLL SUPPORTS THIS INITIATIVE.

A LifeCanada – Environics poll reveals disturbing trends of those polled in the Canadian populace who consider euthanasia a viable option. In the November release of this poll on the question of palliative care vs. euthanasia, when asked the question, the results were 44% chose palliative care and 44% chose euthanasia. When the same question was asked of age 60 and over, 51% chose palliative care and 36% chose euthanasia.

At the World Federation of Right to Die Society Conference in Toronto in 2006 it was quite revealing how the subject of euthanasia was promoted. Barbara Coombs Lee, the executive director of Compassion & Choices believes that the language is important for winning the culture. Steve Hopcraft said, “The terms of suicide and assisted suicide must be banned because they have negative connotations.

According to their polls the expressions such as “Aid in Dying” and “End of Life Choices” are most acceptable. Also by using such terms as “Patients’ Rights”, “Senior Citizens’ Issues”, and “The Right to Choose” can

gain the upper hand in a debate. The themes of “personal freedom”, and “people should be free to make their own choices” are very convincing arguments.

These people are very organized and passionate in the promotion of their message and should not be underestimated in their quest to legalize euthanasia.

In the Netherlands the number of cases of euthanasia reported have gone up by 10% in 2007. Euthanasia as defined in Netherlands only includes voluntary actions that are requested by a person who is competent. Any intentional action that causes the death of a person who is incompetent or involuntary are not counted as acts of euthanasia but rather deaths without explicit request. It is difficult to get accurate reporting from the Netherlands due to underreporting but it was determined that in 2005 there were approximately 550 deaths without request.

According to the October 2008 Issue of the *Euthanasia Prevention Coalition Newsletter*, the State of Oregon in the U.S. is now using the suicidal approach as a way to trim health costs. They cite a story about a 64 year-old retiree who received bad news from her doctor concerning the return of her cancer after 2 years remission. The cost of the doctor’s prescription given her to combat the disease she expected to be covered by the state health plan. She soon received a letter from the agency saying that her health plan would not cover the cost of the prescription. The letter also went on to say that although it wouldn’t cover her treatment it would cover the cost of assisted suicide (called *comfort care*). Apparently if you have little chance of surviving more than five years this is your choice.

Where have all those pretty sounding words such as “Choice” and “Rights” gone? Laws such as “Death with Dignity

Act” in Oregon can soon take on new meaning and direction. The assumed control over dying initially proclaimed as a “right” can be quickly and quietly lost in the cost cutting application of the Act.

Michael Cohen in the March 2009 issue of *The Interim* in his article “Nothing dignified about euthanasia” Writes; “The modern age screams against authority. We must always be in control of the situation. Resist aging, resist decline, resist anything that doesn’t appeal to us for any reason at any time. Death is the only taboo left. How appropriate it is, then, that the great egalitarian blade comes for us all. We can shout and moan and complain, but in the end we can do nothing. We slide and slip into the beyond. If we are confident that this life is merely the land of shadows, that real life hasn’t begun yet, then death is of only passing fear. But if we have no such confidence, we have to die pretending that we are still in charge. A shame...”

Margaret Somerville has written a very insightful article entitled: “Dying as the last great act to living”. The link to the article:

<http://www2.canada.com/calgaryherald/news/story.html?id=f8d6ff96-5156-4595-b3fe-6373d51c0207>

Margaret Somerville is the Founding Director, McGill Centre For Medicine, Ethics and Law and The Samuel Gale Professor Of Law.

A quote from “Dying as the last great act of living” *Calgary Herald*, Monday, 9th of March 2009 is as follows:

“The challenge is to maintain death as the last great act of human life, an act through which we can find meaning and pass meaning on to others. Euthanasia is a predictable response to a loss of meaning in relation to death. Even if we believe that doesn't matter, we should be

concerned, because our capacity to find meaning in life may well depend on our being able to find it in death.”

Remembering Pauline

Pauline MacDonald served on the Board for nearly 20 years. She and her husband Wilbur were strong supporters on the board as well as being charter members of the Southern Kings Chapter of the Right to Life. She also served as president of the Association from 1998 until 2004. During her tenure she was a staunch advocate for respect for life in all its stages. She also started “Celebrate Life Week” as a public awareness campaign on life issues. This “week” will continue to honour her memory for the foreseeable future.

That life begins at conception or fertilization was to Pauline a non-debatable fact. If the child were aborted after this time it was the killing of a human being. She considered all life precious and her dedication, fervour and commitment in this cause will be a lasting testament to her.

Our sympathies go out to Wilbur and members of her family. Also we extend our sympathies to the family of Gerrit Visser, another charter member of the Southern Kings Chapter.

Life Canada Report by Aukje Annema

Life Canada is keeping busy with staying up to date on research and distributing news and providing educational materials to the pro-life groups in Canada. Many resources are available through them, which we then can use on a provincial level. Life Canada operates four educational pro-life websites to help reach as many people as possible: www.lifecanada.org, www.abortionincanada.ca, www.avortementaucanada.ca, and

www.abortionbreastcancer.ca. These sites contain current, factual information on abortion and other life issues. Web-based information is the most effective way to reach a large audience. They also print a bi-monthly newsletter and an online E Newsletter. Please consider subscribing to their newsletter; info is on their website. An executive director and a part-time office manager work in the office in Ottawa. For funding they rely on the provinces and pro-life supporters, and at the moment money is running out to keep the office going. We as a National board appeal to you to donate to Life Canada, as a one-time or monthly giver. We cannot afford to lose such a great educational resource for the whole Pro-Life movement. Please consider this prayerfully. The latest research is now available on the Life Canada website: Sexually transmitted Infections: Canada's Hidden Epidemic.

Greg Hebert and I attended a Forum on "Federal Legislation to protect the unborn" last February in Ancaster, Ontario. This was organized by Life Canada. The Forum was an attempt to address a difficult issue for our Canadian Pro-Life movement: what kind of pro-life legislation should be supported to protect the unborn from abortion. Two speakers were invited with in depth experience in the pro-life cause and each brought a different perspective. They were Mr. Colin Harte: Author, Changing Unjust laws Justly and Mr. Clarke Forsythe, JD, Senior Legal Counsel, Americans United for Life. They were excellent presenters and made us understand more the complicated issues that comes with legislation on abortion, especially "gestational" legislation.

The National Pro-Life Conference will be held in Saskatoon, Oct.29-31, 2009. The

Theme will be: *Building Bridges: Making Choices for Life.*

At the Office - Aukje Annema

First of all thank you to all the people who renewed their membership and gave donations. We had a great response, without which we couldn't run the office and get the needed educational resources Our Christmas card fundraiser was a success. Volunteers came to package them and many people came to the office to buy them. Thank you to our board members for selling many cards. The Board has been busy with a lot of administrative business such as following up on the tax regulations from the auditor and changing constitution and by-laws re the Chapters (more on pages 7 & 8).

Many volunteers came to the office to help with receipts, entering computer membership data, etc. Thanks to all of you. Any people still interested in volunteering, please call the office, we can always use more help. In January we already started planning for our annual Right to Life week. A lot of work goes into this and all board members are involved. We hope you can attend some events, especially our Annual Meeting, April 25th.

The HPV Vaccine pamphlet is available at the office. It is produced by Alliance for Life, Ontario.

I want to leave you with some websites that might be of interest to you:

www.lifesitenews.com

www.priestforlifecanada.com

www.prowomenprolife.org

www.4mycanada.ca

www.thesignalhill.com

Stem Cell Update

Recently President Obama lifted a ban imposed by Past President George W. Bush on federal funding of embryonic

stem cell research. This ban has been, according to some in the scientific community, a serious handicap to keeping up with the rest of the world in this research. The news of the U.S Food and Drug Administration going ahead on their research trials on human embryo has some in the Canadian scientific community all excited according to news releases.

Although it may sound that opposing the use of human embryos for the supposedly betterment of mankind seems like a backward and old-fashioned position, we need to remember that these embryos are human. Even though President Obama was quoted as saying that the research on these embryos would be conducted “ethically and with rigorous oversight”, it is still research that is conducted on dead babies.

To date the only stem cells treatments that have been successfully used for medical purposes have been adult stem cells. Our scientific community should be encouraged to continue adult stem cell research with its enormous potential and not to promote or encourage embryonic stem cell research.

Why is Abortion Wrong?

This little story sent in by a member tells us that abortion is wrong not only because it can adversely affect women but, **because it kills human beings**. Author unknown.

A worried woman went to her gynecologist and said: 'Doctor, I have a serious problem and desperately need your help! My baby is not even 1 yr. old and I'm pregnant again. I don't want kids so close together.'

So the doctor said: 'Ok, and what do you want me to do?'

She said: 'I want you to end my pregnancy, and I'm counting on your help with this.'

The doctor thought for a little, and after

some silence he said to the lady: 'I think I have a better solution for your problem. It's less dangerous for you too.'

She smiled, thinking that the doctor was going to accept her request.

Then he continued: 'You see, in order for you not to have to take care of 2 babies at the same time, let's kill the one in your arms. This way, you could rest some before the other one is born. If we're going to kill one of them, it doesn't matter which one it is. There would be no risk for your body if you chose the one in your arms.'

The lady was horrified and said: 'No doctor! How terrible! It's a crime to kill a child!'

'I agree', the doctor replied. 'But you seemed to be ok with it, so I thought maybe that was the best solution. The doctor smiled, realizing that he had made his point.'

He convinced the mom that there is no difference in killing a child that's already been born and one that's still in the womb. The crime is the same!

-Shifting the Focus from Women to the Unborn -

Abortion is not wrong because it hurts women. Abortion is wrong because it intentionally kills an innocent human being. That is why it hurts women both psychologically and physically. The pro-life message must not confuse the reason abortion is wrong with the effects abortion has on women. Testimonies and personal appeal are powerful--and important--but they shouldn't replace the fundamental message about what abortion does to the unborn.

Student Pro-Life Groups

National Campus Life Network (NCLN) is a national pro-life organization that supports and trains pro-life students at over 35 universities and colleges across Canada.

Supporting these student organizations is very important to perpetuating a life culture among our young people. In the past few months some campuses have tried to eliminate debate on abortion and to deny pro-life clubs and groups from getting any sanction or recognition within their student organizations. The controversy is ongoing but there have been some success stories. These students need our support in getting the message out to the people who need it most. A recent poll found that support for abortion went from 33% in high school to a whopping 66% in university graduates. When this strong bias in favour of abortion is combined with the fact that 64% of all abortions are performed on women in the university age range, a respect for life presence on campus is absolutely necessary.

UPEI Students for Life Club

The club is off to a great start this semester. Pro-Life speaker and co-founder of the CCBR Jose Ruba came to the Island at the end of February to give a talk to the members of the Pro-Life Club. He made two presentations, one to the students and one to the general public. Everything went well and the members are eagerly waiting for the next event to happen on campus. Ideas for future events will include pro-life movie showings, debates and a possible visit from Stephanie Gray, another pro-life speaker. Also the club would like to try a pro-life Nativity scene for next Christmas. If you have questions or would like to get involved with our future events, don't hesitate to contact us at email - upeisfl@gmail.com.

This is the 10th year of publishing the newsletter for this editorial staff. Bernie Connolly, editor and members Aukje Annema, Myrna Dykeman, and John Broderick.

March for Life

Join pro-life Canadians from across the country in the 12th annual March for Life, marking the 40 years of abortion in Canada.

The National March for Life "Exodus 2009 – A Future without Abortion" will be held in Ottawa on Thursday, May 14, 2009. Participants will gather on Parliament Hill at noon and begin a march through downtown Ottawa at 1:30 p.m.

Members of the P.E.I. Right to Life Association are asked to join with the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Women's League in commemorating this momentous occasion. The P.E. I. Event takes place in Charlottetown at the Province House at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday the 14th of May. More details will be forthcoming in the near future. Our Association needs a good showing. Try to be there.

Changes to the Constitution and By-Laws

On page 8 are the sections of the Constitution and By-Laws being proposed for change and/or deletion by the Board of the Association.

Major changes involve the status of the Chapters within the Association. According to our present Constitution and By-Laws the Chapters are an integral part of the Association and are required to be bound by our Constitution and By-Laws.

The Chapters for the past number of years have acted as independent organizations. They have set their priorities in goals and activities especially in their fundraising. They have decided on their own to whom they wish to donate their monies. The Board of the Association has always had a good working relationship with the Chapters and has no quarrel as to their activities or fund raising. In fact we have been quite proud and supportive of their efforts. Unfortunately their activities had come in conflict with the charitable status of the Association under the guidelines of Revenue Canada. For the Chapters to comply with these regulations and the stay under the umbrella of the Association would require major changes to their operation and activities.

For example the Chapters they would be required to submit financial statements to the Board of their activities, which would be strictly limited. They would also be limited drastically in their distribution of funds – for example, for whom they can fundraise and to whom they can donate money.

Constitution -

Article V of the Constitution is being proposed for deletion by the Board of the Association.

ARTICLE V

The Board of Directors of the P.E.I. Right To Life Association may grant Branch status to any group of members in good standing of the Association residing in a designated geographical area and who espouse the same objectives as the P.E.I. Right To Life Association. A maximum of five branches may be formed within each county.

By-Laws

SECTION XI Membership

Membership fees shall be due (after the Annual General Meeting for the fiscal year). SHALL BE CHANGED to read, shall be due “at the beginning of the calendar year”.

SECTION XVII The following section will be deleted in its entirety.

Local Branches of the P.E.I. Right to Life Association:

a) In order to be granted branch status, each branch shall agree to be bound by the constitution and by-laws of the P.E.I. Right to Life Association.

All members of each local branch are members of the P.E.I. Right to Life Association. Membership fees shall be submitted to the Provincial Association. Local branches shall have a Management Committee made up of an executive group consisting of: i) President, Vice-president, Treasurer and Secretary. Each may also choose to utilize up to five members at large in addition to the executive.

d) Local branches shall assume responsibility for the management and operation of the group including:

- i) the establishment of boundaries for the group’s territory in concert with the Board of the P.E.I. Right to Life Association and neighboring branches;
- ii) the responsibility for recruitment of members;
- iii) the recruitment of members to stand for nomination to the Management Committee as Executive Members or Members at large;
- iv) fund raising;
- v) establishment of an office or headquarters, if possible;
- vi) acquisition of resource materials; coordination of educational activities;
- vii) contacts with established groups and churches within the area;
 1. reporting of activities through a written report at monthly meetings of the P.E.I. Right to Life Association;
 2. an annual report of activities and finances shall be submitted to the annual general meeting of the P.E.I. Right to Life Association.