

# CHOOSE LIFE

## NEWS

VOLUME XXXVIII | ISSUE #2 | SUMMER 2019

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## Politics and Sacrifice



by Valerie  
Hettrick

With the announcement that RU-486 will be fully funded by the Saskatchewan government, pro-lifers must learn a tough lesson: politics means sacrifice.

Too often we expect our political leaders to step into the hail of bullets that is abortion and the culture of death without proper backup or support from constituents and experts. We want to see lone heroes risking everything to stand on principle, a captain standing on the deck of a sinking ship, daring the waves to take him.

Perhaps this is a romantic idea of politics, and it could not be further from what really happens. In fact, this idea is not only damaging to the pro-life movement, but it is safe and lazy. Standing on the sidelines is not how battles are won.

Politicians are regular people. They feel the pressures of angry radicals, of the media, and of other politicians, some of them within their own party. For every heroic William Wilberforce, there are thousands of politicians who want to do the right thing but do not know how.

We need our pro-life doctors, lawyers, policemen, construction workers, moms and dads, farmers, teachers, religious leaders, and, yes, political leaders, to stand up together and make our voices heard. When pro-life politicians see that there is support for them, they will be willing to take more risks.

We heard that pro-life politicians were not able to find even one pro-life doctor who was willing to take the risk of speaking to the Saskatchewan government about the dangerous truth of RU-486: how it hurts and maims women, how it makes them victims, how it risks the lives of women in

remote communities who will not be able to get help if complications should arise.

This is why it is so vital for pro-lifers to make our voices heard, to place ourselves in the line of fire beside the politicians. How can we expect our political leaders to sacrifice themselves if we are not just as willing to do so?

This does not mean that we should let politicians off the hook when they break their word or surrender to pressure from the other side. We have to ensure that we exert pressure on our political leaders to live up to the commitments they make, otherwise the central tenet of our democracy collapses.

In Prince Albert, the local pro-life association won a court case against the City over discriminatory practices. The City broke its own rules for the use of the City's courtesy flag pole by denying its use to the pro-life community. By taking the City to court, the Prince Albert Right to Life Association was able to hold politicians to account for their actions. Sometimes pro-lifers need to use the carrot, but that doesn't mean we should be afraid of using the stick.

We must walk a thin line: to give support without being taken advantage of, to give the benefit of the doubt without being naïve. But it is the line we have to take.

If you want to make a difference, make your voice heard. Speak to your representatives, to your friends, to your family. More importantly, get out and volunteer for your local pro-life candidate. Volunteers make a lasting difference and your representative will be even more eager to listen to your concerns. They value and depend upon their volunteers.

In order to win, we need you. Every one of you.

God bless your summer vacations. ♥



## Calendar of events

### **AUGUST 25: 20th Annual Pilgrimage at the Pro-Life**

**Millenium Cross** 3:00 PM, 10 km N.E. of Aberdeen, SK on HWY #41. Keynote Speaker: Cathy LaFleche, Executive Director of Saskatoon Pregnancy Options Centre

### **OCTOBER 1: Dying Healed Program,**

Fox Valley Community Hall, Fox Valley, SK. Check website for registration to open <https://lifecollective.io/mtfl/events>

### **OCTOBER 6: Life Chain** Most Life

Chains start at 2:00 PM. Visit [campaignlifecoalition.com/life-chain](http://campaignlifecoalition.com/life-chain) for info and locations in SK.

### **OCTOBER 18-20: Rachel's Vineyard**

**Retreat - Saskatchewan** Suffering after an abortion? Attend a Rachel's Vineyard retreat and find healing. Contact Elaine: (306) 480-8911 OR [r.vineyardsk@sasktel.net](mailto:r.vineyardsk@sasktel.net)

### **NOVEMBER 8-9: 2019 National Pro-Life Conference, Change is in the Air**

Executive Royal Hotel 2828 23 St NE, Calgary, AB. Keynote Speaker: Christina Hagan, Former State Representative for Ohio and Sponsor of the Heartbeat Bill. Register online: [ChangeisintheAir2019.ca](http://ChangeisintheAir2019.ca) OR call: 1-866-780-5433

### **MAY 9, 2020: Sask. March for Life,**

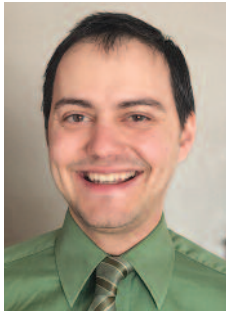
Begins at Holy Rosary Cathedral, 2104 Garnet St. Next year's March will be on a Saturday! Invite your family and friends!

### **MAY 14, 2020: National March for**

**Life, Ottawa.** If you or someone you know is interested in joining Sask. Pro-Life on our youth trip to the National March for Life, contact us! [spla@sasktel.net](mailto:spla@sasktel.net) OR (306) 352-3480

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

# Can You Feel Change is in the Air?



**By Alex Ogrodnick**

Since our March issue of Choose Life News there's been a lot of buzz about pro-life issues in Saskatchewan.

Between the two of us, our president and I have done at least one media interview each month between April and July. Most of these interviews centred around the Saskatchewan Government's decision to fully fund the abortion pill.

In addition to our increased public profile in the media, the movie *Unplanned* finally hit Canadian theatres this July. The movie outlines the journey of Abby Johnson, a director of a Planned Parenthood (PP) clinic in Texas and PP's 2008 employee of the year. The movie follows Abby on her journey from a staunch defender of abortion to pro-life activist. Her story (told also in her book by the same title) is compelling and powerful precisely because Abby became involved in the abortion industry with the noblest of intentions. She wanted to help women in crisis, but her journey exposes many of the truths about the abortion industry and abortion itself.

If you haven't seen *Unplanned* already, I strongly encourage you to do so, or to look for it on DVD. Also encourage everyone you know to see the movie. It has the potential to change minds and invigorate those who see it. Thank you to all those in Saskatchewan who have worked hard to bring *Unplanned* to their local theatres!

What is almost as significant as the content of *Unplanned* is its coverage in

the mainstream media. It has been very successful in its box-office performance. *What should we make of this increase in attention to the issue of abortion?* I have to say that I am thrilled to find the media actively covering stories about the abortion pill and *Unplanned*. There is a simple truth that we have known for a long time in the pro-life movement: we win when these issues are discussed.

The majority of people are not enthusiastically pro-abortion. Most of them have never thought seriously about abortion. Most of them have never heard the arguments of the pro-life movement. The pro-abortion side has done its best to hide the truth about abortion from public view. It avoids talking about it, hides behind the language of reproductive rights, and does its best to silence all opposition. Once abortion is discussed publicly, we can reasonably expect to see a lot more support for the pro-life position in our country and in our province.

Now just because the topic of abortion is coming into public discourse doesn't mean we should start resting on our laurels. Now is the opportune time for us to take action. What exactly should we be doing? In the first place, we need to ensure the Saskatchewan Government knows we disapprove of its decision to fund the abortion pill. The Government had good reason not to fund it, but they caved to pressure. They need to feel the opposite pressure from those of us who think that funding a dangerous medical procedure is unacceptable. I was pleased to find that Marci Deutscher's point about the dangers to rural women was actually printed in her letter to the *StarPhoenix*. (See page 6. I've made this point numerous times in interviews, only to see it cut from the published articles.) Accordingly, the first thing that I ask you

to do is sign our pledge against the abortion pill on our website (see page 5). Then, contact your MLA by phone, email, or written letter. Make your displeasure heard by your MLA. We cannot let this action by the Government quietly pass by.

The second key action that we must take is supporting our pro-life candidates in this coming federal election. **There is no better investment of your time during an election than to volunteer for a pro-life candidate who has a reasonable chance of winning.** It is a limited time investment than can reap a massive return. Volunteers make a tremendous difference in who wins a seat in parliament. A further benefit is that it establishes a relationship between you and your elected official. Our elected representatives are far more willing to push for the issues that matter to us if they know that they have a strong force of dedicated volunteers behind them. Please contact our office if you are willing to volunteer this September and October so that we can connect you with a pro-life candidate. It would be unfortunate if, after all this attention, pro-life issues were not a factor in this election! ♥

**“ I have to say that I am thrilled to find the media actively covering stories about the abortion pill and *Unplanned*. There is a simple truth that we have known for a long time in the pro-life movement: we win when these issues are discussed. ”**

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# Saskatchewan Leadership



**Colette Stang, Sask Pro-Life past-president, Greg Ottenbreit, MLA, and Valerie Hettrick, Sask Pro-Life president.**

**Editor's Note:**

At the Sask ProLife annual convention, Yorkton MLA Greg Ottenbreit brought greetings to his local constituents. His remarks did not go unnoticed by the media, pro-abortion advocates, and Opposition (NDP) MLAs, who criticized not just Ottenbreit's speech, but his presence at a pro-life event. They felt that in his capacity as Rural and Remote Health Minister (and during a time when the government was considering funding the Abortion Pill), he had no business expressing solidarity with people who advocate for an end to abortion. Premier Scott Moe consequently spoke with Ottenbreit stressing that ministers must represent the government position (ie. that abortion is legal and the SK government will not challenge the current Canadian laws).

**For more information:**

*"Ottenbreit gave speech to pro-life group amid abortion pill debate"*  
(thestarphoenix.com)

*"Sask. premier says 'small line' crossed by cabinet minister's comments at anti-abortion event"* (CBC News online)

## Letter to Scott Moe

I am responding to the unsatisfactory letter our Premier sent back to me when I encouraged him to support Mr. Ottenbreit and any MLA in the matter of

freedom of conscience, values and speech. His curt response was that abortion was a Federal matter...

Dear Mr Premier:

Thank you for taking the time to respond to my email of April 18, 2019.

Having said that, I am disappointed in your response. My concern was that of supporting, or at least not condemning, your minister for having an opinion on matters dealing with life, not your opinion regarding the legality of abortion in Canada. Your response, however, suggests that you have a lack of interest in doing whatever is possible to limit, or at the very least discourage, abortion in our great province. Abortion is a horrific procedure that harms the mother, the family and to say the very least, kills a baby. Abortion weakens our families, communities, provinces, and all of Canada. I would hope that you would have an interest in doing all that is within your power to at least limit the number of babies that are aborted in Saskatchewan.

Here is a recap of the 1988 Supreme Court ruling on abortion decision:

There is nothing in the wording of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* to indicate a constitutional right to abortion. And although claims are often made that the Supreme Court of Canada recognized a constitutional right to abortion in its 1988 *Morgentaler*

decision, that is an incorrect understanding. As Osgoode Hall Law Professor Shelley A.M. Gavigan wrote in an essay published shortly after the 1988 decision, "The Supreme Court's decision, profound as it was, did not create a right to abortion for Canadian women, nor did it offer any resolution of the abortion issue."

Associate Professor of Law at University of Ottawa, Daphne Gilbert, quoted in an article in *The Epoch Times*, says, "The Morgentaler decision didn't say a woman has a constitutional right to abortion, it didn't go that far: pro-choice is not a legal question, it is a social/cultural issue." According to this article, Daphne Gilbert who "specializes in Charter rights, says the Morgentaler case didn't go as far as the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision in the *Roe v. Wade* case, which granted the constitutional right to abortion and subsequently changed laws in 46 states."

The provincial government can decide which "medical procedures" they will or will not provide in Saskatchewan – is that not correct? (After all, the province has chosen not to provide chiropractic services, dental services and many others.) **If abortion is a "procedure" that the provincial health services are forced to provide, please show me the details and the directive** and I will renew my efforts to lobby the federal government on this issue. By the way, Federal politicians say that providing abortion services is a provincial decision; I hope you can understand our concerns and frustrations, as this issue continues to be a "ping pong" strategy for provincial and federal politicians, to avoid taking a stance on the issue.

Meanwhile, I am confident that our provincial government, through our Ministry of Health, has the authority to provide guidelines, which will help innocent mothers and babies greatly. I believe you could:

*continued on page 5*

continued from page 4

1. Not provide abortions or abortion pills to minors without the parents' consent
2. Insist that (high quality) ultrasounds of the unborn baby be shown to the mother before she makes the final decision
3. Provide a detailed explanation as to what the "procedure" involves: that the baby will be burnt with a saline solution or dismembered, and that there is a very high likelihood that the mother will face extreme guilt as a result of having chosen to eliminate her baby, thereby increasing the chance of depression,

- addictions, self-harm and potentially becoming sterile and other dangers
4. Get an agreement from the father (assuring that the father or abuser is not coercing the mother to abort her baby), while at the same time, expecting that the father will be held responsible for the care of the young baby

These are only a few of the measures that would be of great benefit to women in our province, to say nothing of the benefit to the unborn child.

Mr. Premier, I reiterate that I want to encourage you to give support to all your Members in the matter of freedom

of speech, conscience and values. I also encourage you to develop policies and practices that will show a greater reverence and respect for life...for the citizens of Saskatchewan.

I look forward to your response as to your willingness to support the items listed above. Thank you for your time and for your service to our great province.

Yours truly,

Gilles L'Heureaux  
Moose Jaw, SK

## LETTER

### Can't MLAs attend Pro Life events?

I am deeply perturbed over the attacks against Rural and Remote Health Minister Greg Ottenbreit for the "crime" of attending a pro-life meeting and making some supportive remarks.

Contrary to what Trudeau and others are telling us, abortion is not a right. The Supreme Court of Canada did not say so. We are just in the absence of a law against it. This leaves a provincial government with the authority to

defund the procedure since [pregnancy] is not an illness or physically dangerous to one's health. The dangerous abortion pill Mifegymiso should also not be funded. Abortion is an unnatural act and also extinguishes a human life. Abortion is also much more dangerous to a woman's health than the pregnancy itself.

Pro-lifers would like to educate people to these facts, and provide women who

have unwanted pregnancies with compassionate support and the option of choosing adoption rather than abortion. This does not stop a woman from having an abortion if she insists on it.

About 50% of the population is pro-life minded. Why can't their MLAs try to support them? The right of freedom of expression is involved here.

Ben Lewans, Shaunavon, SK

## Stop Funding the Abortion Pill!

In June the Saskatchewan government decided to provide universal coverage for the abortion pill, Mifegymiso, also known as RU-486 (see pg. 6). This means the abortion pill is now readily available to women throughout Saskatchewan, including women in remote areas. Not only does this pill destroy the life of a child, but it also poses a risk to women. In this abortion process most women will bleed 9-16 days, 1 in 12 will bleed more than 30 days, and 1 in 100 will require hospitalization.\* Despite this risk, women are sent home to undergo this traumatic experience alone and in some cases, far from emergency medical services.

We cannot be silent and allow the Saskatchewan government to believe



we approve of this decision. Contact your MLA to let them know you do NOT want your tax dollars destroying the lives of children and putting women at risk. Go to [saskprolife.com/abortionpill](http://saskprolife.com/abortionpill) to make your pledge and find out how

to contact your MLA!

\*Source: <https://www.abortionprocedures.com/abortion-pill/>

## ABORTION PILL IN SK

# Full Funding but Only Half the Story



By Mariette Ulrich

As of June 7, 2019, the abortion drug Mifegymiso is now 100% covered by the Saskatchewan government (i.e. taxpayers). Our province was the last in Canada to agree to provide full funding, which the NDP blamed on pro-life politicians stalling the process. A group of U of S medical students had lobbied for the coverage on the grounds that it would save women living in remote and rural areas from having to travel to larger cities for surgical abortions. What they failed to publicize is that these women will be at greater risk for any complications, including a need for backup surgical abortion, if they use this drug at home. There is in fact no mainstream media coverage about the

drug's negative side effects, or that when it fails, women are required to undergo surgical abortion as a back-up. Presumably, these would be emergency cases, which would still require travel, but with additional cost and trauma.

The Sask Party Health Minister Jim Reiter concedes that the issue is "very divisive" but insists that "Federal law has made it very clear that abortion needs to be provided. This is a less invasive way of doing that." Both statements are debatable: the lack of abortion laws on the books in Canada does not mean the state is obligated to provide abortion services and access; the move is one of political expediency and capitulation, not the fulfillment of any legal obligation. Secondly, Reiter makes

chemical abortion sound like a 'kinder, gentler' version, which is never the case for the pre-born baby, and frequently not for women who suffer negative side effects. Few mainstream media outlets are willing to discuss the side effects of the drug, which have been well-documented in the years since Mifegymiso (formerly called RU486) has been in use. These can include heavy bleeding, nausea, vomiting, and painful uterine contractions. According to National Right to Life, about 2% of women hemorrhage and more than 1 in a 100 require hospitalization. Cases of maternal death have also been linked to this drug. See the film *Unplanned* (based on a true story) for a realistic depiction of this type of abortion experience. ♥

### Sources

"Sask. to provide universal coverage for abortion pill Mifegymiso," (CBC news)

"Saskatchewan under pressure as last province not fully funding abortion pill," (LifeSite)

"Quick Facts about RU486" (nrlc.org)

## A MEMBER'S LETTER TO THE EDITOR: STARPHOENIX

### Mifegymiso Debate

I was rather surprised to read Murray Mandryk's column regarding the Sask Party and its members' varying opinions on abortion stating there are "cracks in the party" (SP, April 13). Rather than weakening an organization, diversity of opinion is a valuable asset that strengthens it. Is Mr. Mandryk suggesting that anyone involved in politics has to toe the line on all party policies or only on policies relating to abortion?

The April 16 StarPhoenix had Vicki

Mowat saying Ottenbreit is "incapable of doing his job." Mr. Ottenbreit has every right to express his opinion, but that doesn't mean he's going to change the abortion law. I also wonder why Ms. Mowat is so anxious to have Mifegymiso available to women in rural areas. I can't think of anything more heartless than giving a woman a pill so she can go home and abort her baby with no support. If the real problem is lack of a medical facility, what is she going to do if complications arise? The Mayo Clinic website states that medical abortions

should not be done if patients "can't make follow up visits to the doctor or don't have access to emergency care."

I'm wondering who the patient is going to sue when complications arise from using this very dangerous drug — the doctor for prescribing, the pharmacist for providing, or the government for approving it. One thing is certain — those who have made the biggest fuss to have it included will get off scot free.

Marci Deutscher  
Saskatoon

This letter first appeared in the Saskatoon Star Phoenix, May 13, 2019

**“ I can't think of anything more heartless than giving a woman a pill so she can go home and abort her baby with no support. If the real problem is lack of a medical facility, what is she going to do if complications arise? ”**

## SASKATCHEWAN AND THE ABORTION PILL

# Letter to Minister Ottenbreit

Dear Sir,

With respect to you and to all the women in your life, be it wife, daughter, or granddaughter, nieces, etc. I beg you to seek knowledge on the harm this pill can do to women and young girls. The side effects are horrendous to the woman and the consequence of the woman "killing" her conceived child is something you cannot reverse. I have been listening to and watching a documentary on the consequences of abortion, on a program called "the Missing Project."

Within hours of an abortion, women suffer immensely: physically, mentally, and spiritually from the decision they have made, and the suffering never ends, unless healing is sought. In most instances, the clinics have not given alternative suggestions (adoption,

guidance, support, etc); instead, they encourage her to end the life of the child. The regret and remorse are terrible, and not only for the women, but for men, who are led to believe they have no say.

I believe you have heard all these words over and over, but it's time "men" step forward and become "real men," and start protecting and caring for women and their children again. Responsibility and chastity need to be taught; "a sexual experience" is not going to give you joy and fulfilment, when you can just keep "popping abortion pills" to end "the fruit" of your actions. Where has the chivalry gone as in past years, when your father, grandfather and great grandfather lived on this earth, and protected and defended women!

Where have we arrived today, to say it is justifiable to get rid of the most beautiful aspect of creation, a child! What about you and all your co-workers, Sir: is this what you would deem "okay" if someone was threatening your life in your mother's womb? This evil has got to end, and it can begin with you, not supporting to fund\* an act to end the lives of more children, and affecting the lives of their mothers through despair and hopelessness from a selfish motive or an uninformed decision! Truth will rally in the end; let it start with you.

Sincerely,  
Elaine Green  
Regina, SK

*\*Editor's Note: The SK government announced its decision to fund Mifegymiso, the abortion pill, on June 7, 2019.*

## NATIONAL NEWS

# Brad Trost Receives Borowski Award

Joe Borowski is remembered as a man who inspired a whole generation. Elected in 1969 as an NDP Member of the Manitoba Legislature, he resigned as a Cabinet Minister two years later because of the government's funding of abortion. For 25 years, Joe Borowski fought heroically and unceasingly for the unborn. He lost 50 pounds in an 80-day hunger strike, dueled with Revenue Canada over his periodic refusals to pay taxes to a government that supported abortion, and was arrested and jailed dozens of times.

In his court case, *Borowski v. Regina*, he argued that unborn children were entitled to full legal protection. Reaching the Supreme Court took 11 years and half a dozen lower-court trials, before the court dismissed his challenge on the basis that there was no longer

any law to which it applied (because the Supreme Court had by then struck down the 1969 abortion law).

His great sacrifices in defending unborn children stands in stark contrast to the majority of today's political leaders who refuse to take a firm line on moral issues. Within the pro-life movement, he is widely regarded as a hero and a major force for the unborn, as he sacrificed his career and his personal comforts to defend the most defenseless. Joe Borowski died on September 23rd, 1996, after a year-long struggle with bone cancer.

Campaign Life Coalition began giving out a Joseph P. Borowski Award to honour Canadian politicians who publicly champion Life and Family issues (see list). On May 9th, 2019, the award was presented to MP Brad Trost. Brad has been a resounding supporter of Life and Family issues since 2004, when he became a Conservative Member of Parliament (Saskatchewan) at age 30. Fifteen years later, it is difficult to enumerate the countless times he



has spoken up on behalf of the unborn. He was not afraid to publicly criticize his party, including its 2009 decision to give \$400,000 to the Toronto and Montreal Pride parades, and the 2011 decision to give \$6 million to the International Planned Parenthood Federation.

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“The number one purpose of government is to defend life.” - Brad Trost

*continued from page 7*

Trost also objected to Stephen Harper's "ironclad party discipline" when he voted for the 2015 Reform Bill that gives more power to MPs and seeks to limit the power of the party leaders. Trost said he would continue to defend pro-life principles when he ran for the Conservative Party leadership. "The number one purpose of government is to defend life," Trost said. "Science is clear when human life begins;" he

considers "all human life sacred," and believes it "is meant to be protected."

*Source: Campaign Life Coalition; edited for length*

#### **Borowski Award Past Recipients**

- **1997 Roseanne Skoke (L) Nova Scotia**
- **1998 Tom Wappel (L) Ontario**
- **1999 Senator Stanley Haidaz (L) Ontario**

- **2000 Elsie Wayne (C) New Brunswick**
- **2002 Gary Breitreutz (C) Saskatchewan**
- **2003 Paul Szabo (L) Ontario**
- **2005 Rob Merrifield (C) Alberta**
- **2006 Pat O'Brien (L/Indep) Ontario**
- **2013 Steven Woodworth (C) Ontario**

*Note: 'Missing' dates represent years during which no recipient was found worthy to receive the award.*

## **LETTER TO PRO-ABORTION FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

### **Letter to Maryam Monsef**

*Editor's Note: On May 15, 2019, Liberal Minister Maryam Monsef posted an open letter denouncing twelve Conservative MPs who exercised their free choice to attend the March for Life in Ottawa. Monsef's intolerant personal attack was written on official Government letterhead: our tax dollars at work.*

Dear Minister Monsef,  
I recently read the letter you sent to twelve MP's from the Conservative Party of Canada. I would like to address some of the points you made in that letter. But first, I must say that I am appalled that you would assume that you speak for all women and try to shut down the voices of those who represent us. We value freedom of speech, don't you? Further, you wrongly say that in Canada, abortion is a "right." It is legal, but not a right--and we as Canadians have every right to try and change laws that harm women.

You may be unaware of the harm that abortion causes women, but we are not. We have researched, we have walked, we have comforted those who have been harmed. We have noted the coercion placed upon women by men. After all, when a woman becomes pregnant, the onus is on her to have an abortion. She carries the entire burden of that abortion, physically, mentally, emotionally. As a woman, you should care about that.

As you probably know, we are not anti-choice. It just sounds good for you to say that. I believe the greatest choice a woman has is to say no to sex before marriage. In our current society, we

scoff at that, but it is the greatest protection a woman could ever have. You may not want to empower our daughters with that message, but I do. I believe in that choice.

But then there are the horrors of rape when a woman (or a man) is given no choice at all. How awful that the pro-choice movement uses these incidences to throw pro-life people under the bus and make it seem as though we don't care. We care a great deal, but we also know that an abortion doesn't heal a woman from rape. Maintaining her dignity through support and counselling is what is needed to heal. For some women, the abortion is like a second violation. Other women cherish the child that was conceived. And of course, not everyone who is raped conceives a child. We need to greatly improve the way sexual assaults are dealt with but it seems that for some, abortion is the only answer for a rape victim. They need so much more.

The movie you refer to in your letter is not anti-choice. It highlights the humanity of a child and the change a woman went through as she witnessed that child trying to escape death. This is a true story. Are you saying that the only people/women who matter are those who agree with you? That is anti-choice. Are you afraid of the movie? Why is Canada fighting to keep it away from the public? Why do we treat Canadians like children? Let them see the movie and decide for themselves what is necessary for women. That is choice. Knowing the truth and then choosing.

You bully, you shame, you coerce, you use rhetoric in your letter but you seem more interested in protecting an ideology than you are in protecting women. Your approach to sexuality will only exacerbate disrespect towards women, and continue to put them in harm's way with no support. Abortion doesn't help women; it turns them into a commodity. What do we do with a commodity when it is broken? We throw it away. What do we do with a woman who is pregnant? We throw away her baby.

You may call such barbarism, "a right to choose," but good choices never include the demise of an individual. And so I trust that you understand from this letter, that the Conservative Party will NEVER take a woman backwards. It would listen to her, and give her real choices: choices that preserve her health and dignity and that of those she loves.

Conservatives are open to all views, unlike the Liberals and NDP who don't allow any pro-life people in their parties. That is anti-choice and anti-democracy. Conservatives would also never take away a woman's freedom to speak freely, unlike you, who want to take away our ability to speak. You dictate what you think we want to do with our sexuality. Just because you can use the manipulative language the pro-choice movement has always used, doesn't mean you are speaking for women.

Florence Paquette  
Saskatoon, SK



## FREE SPEECH IN SASKATCHEWAN

# City of Prince Albert Fined for Mishandling Pro-Life Application



The Prince Albert Right to Life Association flag featuring Umbert.

The City of Prince Albert has been ordered to pay the Prince Albert Right to Life Association (PARLA) \$6,000 for 'mishandling' a decision regarding the city's courtesy flagpole. The case dates back to 2017, when the city declined to fly PARLA's flag, which depicted a cartoon fetus, named Umbert the Unborn, and the words "please let me live."

In a written decision issued June 7, Justice G. V. Goebel ruled that "it is evident that the City did not follow its own policy or proceed in a procedurally fair manner. Further, I am unable to complete any reasonable analysis because of the lack of intelligible or transparent reasons."

In April 2017, petitions circulated asking the city to reject the pro-life flag. In early May, Mayor Greg Dionne said the association's application was put on hold pending the group's submission of a new, nationally-recognized flag. He said he'd be open to a different flag that doesn't portray an image of a fully-developed fetus. PARLA received no communication from the city in response to its application to use the courtesy flagpole, but rather read about the decision in local media reports.

Under the policy at the time, the Director of Community Services reviewed applications to use the flagpole. The policy said flags of organizations which may be considered controversial, contentious or divisive shall not be flown and that flags of commercial, political or religious organizations required city council approval.

Dionne acknowledged that a new design wouldn't be approved in time for the 2017 flag raising. In November of 2017, PARLA filed for a judicial review of the city's flag policy decision. In May 2018, the city ended the practice of allowing access to a courtesy flagpole.

"The City had a duty to follow its own prescribed procedure and to ensure general fairness ... Here there is no doubt that the policy was not followed," Justice Goebel wrote. "In the circumstances, I would have no hesitation in finding there was a denial of procedural fairness." Still, she wrote, PARLA's application to the court is now moot, because the flag policy no longer exists.

The Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms sent out a press release late Friday (June 7, 2019) praising the

decision. "The Court's decision appropriately rebukes the City for treating free speech unfairly," Justice Centre staff lawyer Marty Moore said. Moore, along with Philip Fourie of Kirby Fourie Coertze in Prince Albert, acted as counsel for PARLA.

"The way it was handled, between the city council and Prince Albert Right to Life, was very unjust and very unfair," said Valerie Hettrick, president of the Saskatchewan Pro-Life Association.

Hettrick said the broader issue at play was the right to free speech. The decision reflects the idea that municipal governments have to serve the people, regardless of their own views on a given subject, she added. "That (Goebel) awarded \$6,000, which we really hadn't asked for, is a sign to me that municipal governments need to be a little bit more careful on how they handle situations in their cities," she said. "It's just really a matter of sticking up for what we believe in, and we have every right to do so." ♥

*This is an abridged version of an article that appeared on the Saskatoon StarPhoenix website in June, 2019 (Peter Lozinski, Prince Albert Daily Herald; Amanda Short, Saskatoon StarPhoenix)*

# BATTLEFORDS RIGHT TO LIFE

## “Share Your Stories”

Battlefords Right to Life held its annual Spring Banquet and fundraiser on Sunday, May 5, 2019 at St. Joseph Calasanctius Church hall In North Battleford. An enthusiastic crowd of 125 enjoyed a meal, fellowship, and inspiring talks. Alex Ogrodnick gave opening remarks, followed by a message from Fr. Stefano Penna from the Diocese of Saskatoon. Attendees ranged in age from babies and toddlers, young parents, to seniors over 90, with a good turnout of high school students



Since the banquet took place within the Easter season, Father began his talk joyfully proclaiming the resurrection of Christ. He noted how far our society has drifted from the values of Christian culture, pointing out some recent news stories and noting how they parallel similar trends in Nazi Germany. One such trend is the legalization (and popular acceptance) of “medically assisted death.” Father shared that in practice, euthanasia is not what its name implies: far from the peaceful, happy death experience portrayed by the media and popular culture, many people suffer physically and mentally during the process. He noted that three drugs are required for the lethal cocktail: one to paralyze the patient (since some experience uncontrolled shaking or spasms), one to render the patient unconscious, and the last that actually stops the heart.

He talked about the need in society for people to stay connected to each other, instead of remaining in isolation and succumbing to the endless ‘hits’ of dopamine brought on by spending

hours on electronic devices. We need to share our stories, particularly emphasizing that the older generations need to tell their stories and share their wisdom with the young. We have shared what we believe, but not always why we ourselves believe it.

Father urged us not to forget our roots. We must centre our lives on Jesus, the King of life, if we are to be light in this culture of darkness: that is the real story, and we know how it ends. Life wins! We have to do what we can where God has planted us. By staying close to the Word of God, the Mass and the sacraments we will attain the grace we need to fight the culture of death. Father received a standing ovation. Many people at the banquet said they were very moved and encouraged by Fr. Penna’s message. ♥

*(Submitted by CLN staff, with notes from Jim McLane, president, Battlefords Right to Life)*



**Fr. Stefano Penna**

from John Paul II Collegiate in North Battleford.

Born and ordained in Saskatoon, Fr Penna has been a priest since 1986. He is currently the pastor of St. Paul’s Co-Cathedral in downtown Saskatoon. He has a passion for education and travels extensively as a lecturer, workshop facilitator, consultant, retreat master, mission preacher, and animator of Catholic educational communities. He is an inspiring and popular speaker with a tremendous wealth of knowledge and experience.



**Jim McLane, president of Battlefords Right to Life**

## Thank you, Knights of Columbus

The Saskatchewan Pro-Life Association extends a sincere THANK YOU to the **Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus Charitable Foundation** for their recent grants.

The Knights helped sponsor the Regina March for Life in May, as well as this issue of *Choose Life News*. Your generous assistance is greatly appreciated! ♥



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# MACKLIN-DENZIL PRO-LIFE Annual Walk for Life

By Frances Stang

On Sunday, June 9, 2019, about 50 people of all ages gathered at St. Mary's Church in Macklin for the annual Macklin-Denzil Pro-Life (MDPL) Walk For Life. Those participating came from Macklin, Denzil, & Unity. MDPL President Colette Stang led us in prayers for the pre-born, followed by a brief message from Sask Pro-Life Executive Director, Alex Ogrodnick. We then walked from the church along Express Avenue to St. Joseph's Park. At the park, the walkers gathered in front of the Grotto where more prayers were said.

Walking out of the park along one of the pathways, we passed by the place where a statue of St. Teresa of Kolkata will be placed. This statue is in remembrance of the millions of babies

whose lives were ended during the past 50 years of abortion in Canada. It is a joint project of the St. Joseph's Park Committee and Macklin-Denzil Pro-Life.

Leaving the park, the walkers then spread out along Highway 31 where we maintained a silent vigil for a few minutes. The walkers then continued down Highway 31 to Star Avenue, then to Main Street and Express Avenue, and finally back to the Church where the walkers gathered for refreshments in St. Mary's Parish Hall. Approximately \$1500 was raised by the walk participants. ♥



# PASQUIA PRO-LIFE Annual Walk and Talk in Nipawin



On Sunday, June 2nd Pasquia Pro-Life held its Annual Walk in Nipawin. About 40 people showed up to walk in witness



to the humanity of the pre-born and listen to Alex Ogrodnick, the Executive Director of Sask Pro-Life. Many came



away inspired as Alex shared how to become an effective force in the pro-life movement. ♥

## SK PRO-LIFE ANNUAL CONVENTION

# Yorkton Convention, Pro-Life Equipped & Ready



***Vanessa Otten instructing the convention attendees on pro-life apologetics.***

On April 5 and 6, 2019, Parkland Right to Life hosted the Saskatchewan Pro-Life Association Gala & Convention in Yorkton, SK. The venue was Yorkton Victory Church and the theme was "Pro Life 101: Equipped and Ready." The keynote speaker was Vanessa Otten, a pro-life activist who works full-time for the Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform.

The Friday evening banquet and gala included remarks from Hon. Greg Ottenbreit MLA. Country/gospel singer Troy MacNaughton provided entertainment after the banquet, and this was followed by the presentation of the Dombowski Award. This year's recipients were long-time pro-life advocates Ted and Emily Deneschuk from Yorkton. The final item on the evening's agenda was an introductory talk given by Vanessa Otten.

Saturday's first speaker was Alex Ogrodnick, Sask Pro-Life Executive Director, who gave a summation of past

projects and future plans for Sask Pro-Life. This was followed by a spirited and inspiring presentation by Pastor Mark Lautamus, the founder and current pastor of Yorkton Victory Church. Vanessa's "Pro Life 101 session #1" followed, wherein she outlined a few tools pro-lifers can use to engage people in conversations about abortion.

***continued on page 13***



***Shawna Arnold from Fountain of Hope shares her personal testimony about abuse and abortion***



***Ted and Emily Deneschuk, recipients of this year's Dombowski award.***



***Pastor Mark Lautamus receives a pro-life rose from Valerie Hettrick, Sask Pro-Life President.***



***Left to Right: Garth Hettrick, Val Hettrick, SK Pro-Life President, Cathay Wagantall, MP***



**Alex Ogrodnick, Sask Pro-Life Executive Director, and convention speaker, Vanessa Otten.**

**continued from page 12**

In the afternoon, Vanessa continued with her Pro-Life 101 theme, and we also heard greetings and encouraging comments from Cathay Wagantall, MP for Yorkton-Melville. This was followed by a heartfelt testimony by Shawna Arnold, author of *From Darkness into Light*, who shared her story of healing after abuse and abortion. Former Sask Pro-Life president, Colette Stang spoke about the upcoming Regina March for Life and the Ottawa March, followed by the testimonies of young people who attended last year's March in Ottawa. The convention wrapped up just before 5pm Saturday afternoon. ♥



**Troy MacNaughton, gospel country singer.**

# HIGHLIGHTS OF VANESSA'S TALK "How to have Conversations about Abortion"

DRAW the truth out of people, rather than telling it to them. Ask: "What do you think about abortion?" then be ready to listen and ask more questions. Your **questions will force the other person to think about their answers.**

Here are **Three Must-Use Strategies** in any Conversation about Abortion:

1. First **build common ground.** Find something in the other person's thoughts about abortion that you both agree on. Build a connection or a bridge. People are disarmed by kindness and your listening and/or agreeing with them. They expect you to disagree right away.
2. Then **make a comparison or analogy.** Compare the abortion situation to something else:  
A: Is it OK if I 'choose' to swing my arms and legs wildly?  
B: Yes, you have every right to do that.  
A: Even if I'm close to someone and I hit them?"  
B: Well, no; not if you're going to hurt someone.  
A: So then we have to limit our choices if they hurt other people?"
3. **Follow with a Question:** if I can limit choices that hurt others, then shouldn't that logic apply to abortion?

Vanessa Outlined **the Human Rights Argument** that underlies the majority of pro-life apologetics (every pro-lifer should have this argument memorized):

1. Do you believe in human rights? ("Of course!")
2. Who should get human rights? ("Everyone! - all humans.")
3. If two human beings procreate, what species is their offspring? ("Human.")
4. Then isn't abortion a human rights violation?

The preceding argument gets to the core of why abortion is wrong. Most people have not heard this argument.

Vanessa explained what to do **when people bring up difficult cases.**

- Vanessa acknowledged that people will bring up Difficult Circumstances arguments like cases of rape/incest, poverty, health of the mother, disability of the baby, personhood (legal), bodily autonomy, "back alley" abortions (maternal safety), teen pregnancy, career/education interrupted, woman is not supported (there is coercion or pressure to abort), or the baby is unwanted.
- One can respond to all these "difficult cases" arguments by making a comparison. Replace the pre-born child with a toddler. "Is it OK to kill a 2 year-old in these circumstances?" "No!" "If not, then why is it OK to kill a preborn child?"

Vanessa shared with us the **importance of listening with compassion.**

- We need to be very compassionate for rape victims. There is no death penalty for rapists, yet why is there one for babies conceived in rape?
- Listening is crucial: people often share painful stories that are very personal. "Listen to understand and care," not necessarily to respond.
- "Address the heart:" there is often more to the story.
- We hate abortion, but NOT the women who've had abortions.
- "Truth without love is ineffective, but love without truth is a lie."

**” Sandra: Vanessa was the highlight. Put fire in my heart. Gave me tools to talk about the wrong abortion ideologies. Hands on, straightforward stories! ”**

# 2019 SASK MARCH FOR LIFE

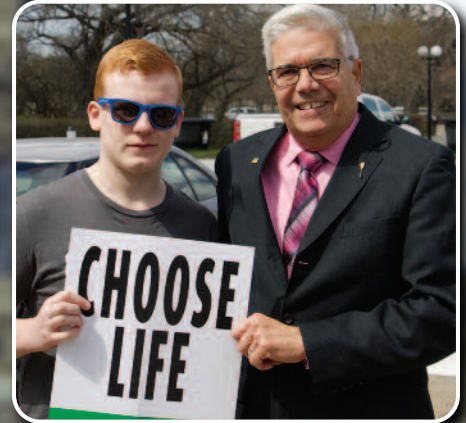
## 200 March in Regina



The Saskatchewan March for Life took place Thursday, May 9, 2019 in Regina. The March is always a joint effort of the Knights of Columbus, Campaign Life Coalition, and the Sask Pro-Life Association. This year's theme was "50 Years Too Many," marking the 50 years since abortion became legal in Canada.

The day's activities began at Holy Rosary Cathedral with Mass celebrated by Archbishop Donald Bolen. Immediately afterwards a Dedication to the Unborn was led by Fr. Jeffrey Stephaniuk.

*continued on page 15*



**Warren Michelson, MLA Moose Jaw North, with youth.**



**Cathay Wagantall, MP Yorkton-Melville**



**Ken Gray, Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Saskatchewan**





*continued from page 14*

The March itself began around 1:00 PM and participants made their way down 13th Ave. and Albert St. The March ended at the Legislative Building where participants gathered to hear greetings from the Knights of Columbus, Cathay Wagantall, MP Yorkton-Melville, and Ken Gray, Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Saskatchewan. Valerie Hettrick, President of Sask Pro-Life, read greetings from Rosemarie Falk, MP Battlefords-Lloydminster, and from Kelly Block, MP Carlton Trail-Eagle Creek, who were both unable to attend in person. Warren Michelson, MLA Moose Jaw North, did not speak but was in attendance.

The main speaker at the March was Shawna Arnold, author of *From Darkness into Light*. See page 16 for a summary of her talk.

At the end of the program all pastors, priests, and religious were invited to

come forward and a final prayer was led by Pastor Joshua Winters.

A group photo was taken on the steps of the Legislative Building and participants proceeded to hold signs and pray along Albert St. for the Silent Witness. The Silent Witness ended around 4:00 PM and participants made their way back to Holy Rosary Cathedral.

**Colette Stang, Past President of Sask Pro-Life**

The final count of participants was around 200 people. Thank you so much to everyone who came out!

The **2020 Saskatchewan March for Life** will be taking place **Saturday, May 9, 2020!** We look forward to seeing you! ❤️



**Dedication to the Unborn at Holy Rosary Cathedral**



## Speaker: Shawna Arnold



**Shawna Arnold, author of *From Darkness into Light: Finding my Way to the Father's Merciful Love*,** addressed the crowd at the Regina March

for Life. She listed the side effects of abortion, and asked: Why? Why are women not told the truth about abortion? She said she can't change the law on abortion but she wishes that women were told the truth about the side effects it causes. Visit Shawna's blog at [shawnaarnoldblog.wordpress.com](http://shawnaarnoldblog.wordpress.com)

- Bouts of crying
- Depression
- Guilt
- Inability to forgive yourself
- Intense grief / sadness
- Anger / rage
- Emotional numbness
- Sexual problems or promiscuity
- Eating disorders
- Lowered self esteem
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Nightmares and sleep disturbances
- Suicidal urges
- Difficulty with relationships
- Anxiety and panic attacks
- Flashbacks
- Multiple abortions
- Pattern of repeat crisis pregnancy
- Discomfort around babies or pregnant women
- Fear / ambivalence of pregnancy



## Love Comes Full Circle

By Lois I. Reetz

My Regina March For Life 2019 was memorable for a variety of reasons. One event, however, stands out in my memory, above all the other people I heard and the activities I participated in. I was standing on Albert Street holding my We Need A Law sign, for the Silent Witness part of our March For Life. Sadly, 50 years have now passed since pre-born humans have had any legal value or protection in Canada.

Someone in a passing vehicle had just unleashed a long string of profanities at me, directed at my *We Need A Law* sign. I



**Lois Reetz with others at the Legislature steps**

was standing just back from the traffic lights, a couple of car lengths from the road to the Legislature buildings. A car pulled up in front of me and the passenger rolled down her window. A woman in sunglasses with short wavy hair said, "Thank You for being here and saying what you are saying. You will never know how much your being here means to me. Keep on Fighting!"

Her words were very encouraging, so I thanked her. She then told me her story: her mother had been pressured to abort her, but had refused. It was wartime, giving additional stresses to her mom. "Look at me now!" she said with a big smile on her face. I agreed that she looked really good, strong and healthy too. She then told me that she is now lovingly caring for her elderly mother!

The light changed to green and the car drove away. I will certainly never forget this brief encounter. This woman who is now supporting her mom with her love, is completing the circle of love. Her mom had supported her with her love:

enabling her to be born and experience all that her life would bring to her. I had tears welling up in my eyes as I choked back a wave of emotion. The car moved out of my sight. I had just received a big hug from my Heavenly Father! I knew I was in the right place at the right time and that I was doing what I was supposed to be doing. Soon, I also had a big smile on my face, as I thought about this brief conversation, confirming the value of all of our lives. ♥



## MOOSE JAW RIGHT TO LIFE

# Long-time Volunteer Honoured

by Jason G. Antonio

As Cathy Marr retires as a volunteer with Moose Jaw Right to Life after 45 years, she believes people are more aware of the need to protect life. "I think there are a lot of younger people who have really grasped this and are just so sincere in doing something about (ending abortion)," said Marr, 87. The future of the pro-life movement looks promising, she continued. She believes the public's hearts and minds can be changed so there is more respect for the unborn.



**Cathy Marr retires as volunteer with Moose Jaw Right to Life after 45 years. Photo by Amy Pryadko**

Her faithfulness in attending every pro-life event stands out. "Because of her experience, she was always able to offer good advice," said Hardy. "Cathy is a prayer warrior. That is important for our organization. A lot of our business is done on faith." Marr is an inspiration, added board president Jean Landry. It's easy to become discouraged, especially since fewer people volunteer today. However, Marr brought optimism and hope to her work.

'Prayer warrior' is an apt description, Marr said. She said faith in God keeps her from being discouraged. She commended the group's president and board members, noting the organization is gathering momentum. She believes in the ethic of life beginning at conception and ending at natural death. While her Christian faith is a factor in this outlook, she also thinks

she would still hold the same views even if she wasn't a Christian.

"I would still believe that abortion is killing a future citizen of the world," she said. "When people can't reason that way, it boggles my mind." Many people can't believe that an unborn child growing in its mother's uterus is another human being. "They think it is a blob of tissue, and it isn't," she added.

However, she says pro-life people should never give up and should pray

that hearts and minds would one day believe in the beautiful gift of life. She is thankful her mother gave birth to her so she could enjoy life. Marr intends to take it easy now that she has retired. She loves to garden, but at age 87, she isn't able to do as much as before. "I have to be sensible," she smiled. ♥

*This article first appeared in the Moose Jaw Express/Moose Jaw Today.com. Reprinted with permission. It has been edited for length and clarity.*

About 20 supporters and board members of Moose Jaw Right to Life honoured Marr by holding a celebratory supper on April 11. The organization will miss Marr greatly, said Ron Hardy, board vice-president. Marr has been a mainstay and pillar for many

A large poster for the 20th Annual Pilgrimage at the Pro-Life Millennium Cross. The background is a clear blue sky with a large white cross. Text on the poster includes: "20th Annual Pilgrimage at the Pro-Life Millennium Cross", "A Living Rosary is celebrated along with other prayers", "Sunday, August 25, 2019 - 3:00 pm", "Location: 10 km N. E. of Aberdeen, SK on HWY #41", "Keynote Speaker: Cathy LaFleche - Executive Director Saskatoon Pregnancy Options Centre", "Visit the Pro-Life information tables", "Free Will Offering for Hot Dogs &amp; Drinks", and "- Bring your rosary &amp; chairs www.prolifemillenniumcross.ca". There are two small inset photos: one showing a group of people holding a sign that says "PILGRIMAGE TO THE PRO-LIFE CENTRE", and another showing people walking on a path. A sign on the left side of the poster says "Praying for the Sanctity of Life" and "Sponsored by The Knights Of Columbus". At the bottom, it says "Keep Life Sacred!".

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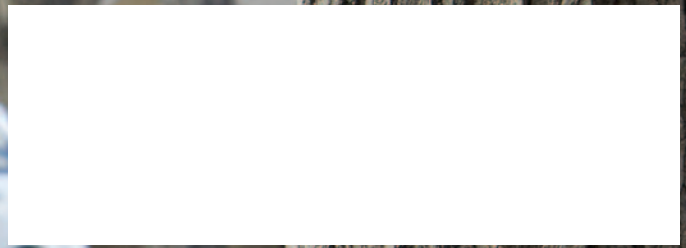
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