

CHOOSE LIFE

NEWS



VOLUME XXXVII | ISSUE #2 | JUNE 2018

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What is Your Role?



by Valerie
Hettrick

I have been a pro-life advocate for as long as I can remember. Even as a child I would participate in the Knights of

Columbus walk-a-thons to raise money for the Regina Pregnancy Centre. I knew only that pro-life involved babies, and who doesn't love babies?

When I was asked to allow my name to stand for President of Saskatchewan Pro-life Association my knee-jerk reaction was: "There must be someone else who can do a much better job!" I was then reminded of the statement, "If not you, then who?"

I am very honoured to serve as your President and I hope to make myself available to you. The continued building of the organization, which has been accomplished over the years by the past president, Colette Stang and the board of directors, has been phenomenal. They have made my job easy, if and only if, you, our dedicated supporters continue to walk with us in this battle for LIFE. The Sask Pro-Life board of directors is made up of people from all over the province who use their time and talents to deal with the many issues that come across our desks each day. They are amazing people and I am grateful to be working with them. I hope to continue this legacy with your help.

In order to continue moving forward I would ask that each of you consider what your role might be in the pro-life movement: where do your talents lie? As the provincial entity for the pro-life movement, Sask Pro-Life has four main branches: prayer, education, pregnancy crisis (Love Them Both campaign), and our political arm. There is a place for each of us; where is yours?

For those of you who are unable to be in

the trenches of the movement, your prayers and financial assistance are most appreciated. We have two amazing full-time staff members: Celeste Ulrich, our office manager, and Alex Ogradnick, our executive director. Both of these individuals are extremely dedicated and hard working. We need your help to be able to keep them both on the payroll. Please consider giving a monthly donation and perhaps participating in our "5 for 5" campaign. Sign up for a donation of 5 (or more) dollars a month and find 5 friends to do the same. Simple, cheap and efficient (go to: <https://www.saskprolife.com/>).

In the media, we hear very little about the positive things that are happening in the Pro-life movement, so in this issue of CLN we are focussing on the REAL news: the Sask Pro-Life 2018 Convention held in Prince Albert; the March for Life in Regina; the March for Life in Ottawa, where many young people represented Sask Pro-Life, and other important news. What excites and motivates me is that so many young people and professional people are becoming involved and leading the Pro-life movement. I am also encouraged by the incredible amount of cooperation and networking among the Pro-life entities in Canada that has been accomplished in the last few years. My prayer is that your hearts will be encouraged to carry on the good fight! ♥



Calendar of events

JULY 13-15: One More Soul Life and Family Conference - Rama, SK

Celebrating 50 years of Humanae Vitae! Speakers include Dr. Brett Salkeld, Dr. Martin Owen, Colm Leyne, & Fr. Jeffrey Stephaniuk. See onemoresoul.ca for details!

AUGUST 16-19: National Campus Life Network Symposium - Langley, BC

Learn how to be effective in the pro-life movement with apologetics training, leadership, and fellowship! Students & young adults 16-28 are welcome to attend. Let the high school or university student in your life know. Consider sponsoring a student to attend! Register and more info at NCLN.ca/symposium

SEPTEMBER 16: Annual Pilgrimage at the Pro-Life Millennium Cross - Aberdeen, SK

10 km N.E. of Aberdeen, SK on HWY #41 at 3:00 PM. Join the 19th Annual Pilgrimage! Keynote speaker: Marie-Claire Bissonnette, youth coordinator for CLC. For more information visit: prolifemillenniumcross.ca

SEPTEMBER 30: Life Chain - Your local Community

Most Life Chains start at 2:00 PM.. Visit campaignlifecoalition.com/life-chain for info and locations in SK.

OCTOBER 19-21: 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

MAY 9, 2019: SK March for Life - Regina, SK

Save the Date! Our provincial March is on Thursday (same day as 2019 National March).

Handing on the Torch



By Alex Ogrodnick

We've all experienced that awkward moment of finding yourself in a room full of people and feeling as though you don't know anyone. It can be very unsettling and lonely. This is often the situation facing our young men and women who choose to begin their studies at our province's two universities or one of its technical schools.

The beginning of the school year is a crucial time for our students, who are discovering exactly who they are and forming their identity for the first time apart from their parents and friends back home. The desire to belong can be overwhelming. We naturally find much of our value in those who know and love us, so the transition to a new social scene can be frightening. This isolation, coupled with the excitement of beginning a new stage in their lives, is often one of the biggest hurdles for new students to overcome.

What if we could change that? For many of our youth who are pro-life, this loneliness is disheartening. In the words of one of our Ottawa trip participants, "Being a pro-lifer can sometimes feel lonely and isolating." (page 14) Yet this doesn't need to be the case! We have two wonderful pro-life clubs on our university campuses in Saskatoon and Regina. Wouldn't it be great if our pro-life students in Saskatchewan could start their first day on campus already knowing or immediately connecting with people who share their pro-life perspective?

National Campus Life Network (NCLN) is a national pro life organization that works to establish, support, and empower the pro-life clubs across our nation's universities and colleges. They do amazing work! Every year they host a conference called the Symposium (page 17) at which they train high school and university students to be effective leaders and activists on their campuses. NCLN also provides support for these students at their local campuses through regional coordinators that visit the clubs and help them to develop effective programs for outreach and activism. This is cutting edge stuff: our local coordinator, Amberlee is excellent.

to make the club effective. We can have a tremendous impact on the activism of a group, if we can help train more of the regular club members to be effective. Consequently, this year we have committed to sending five young people to the Symposium in August. (There are more who would like to go!)

What can you do? Inform the young people that you know about the Symposium and consider helping them (or others) financially. Have them text or call the number above. The Symposium packs a lot of value for a young pro-lifer who is looking to find his or her place in the pro-life moment. Most of the young pro-lifers I know



First, help us connect our young pro-lifers with the campus clubs. Second, help us send students to the NCLN Symposium. They can text CAMPUS to +13069926941 or call this number.



So why am I telling you this? Because there are two significant things that I want you to do. The first is to help us connect our young pro-lifers with the campus clubs. Think of the young pro-lifer that you know who is in high school or heading to university this fall. It might be your son or daughter, your grandchild, a niece or nephew, or a young person from your church or community. Please let them know about our campus clubs. They can text CAMPUS to +13069926941 or call this number. It's important that we connect our students to the campus clubs early in the year. Furthermore, the campus clubs sometimes have training workshops, socials, and movie events that are open to people in the area. These events are the perfect place for you to bring a high school student who is pro-life, connecting them with like minded youth.

working at national organizations and crisis pregnancy centres point to the Symposium as the event that equipped and propelled them toward pro-life activism. Campuses are one of the key areas in our fight for a culture that respects human life at all stages.

Finally, I have been working with our regional coordinator, Amberlee Duteau, and the director of NCLN, Ruth Shaw, to carefully craft, develop, and implement a strategy for engaging these young people, after university graduation, in the work of our organization and local groups. Your investment in the campus pro-life clubs will be an investment in the future leadership of the pro-life movement in Saskatchewan! ♥

Sign the petition to Parliament (saskprolife.com/trostpetition) sponsored by Brad Trost concerning abortion! It closes September 14th.



The second thing I would like you to do is help us send students to the NCLN Symposium. In previous years, we have sent two or three students to the Symposium (usually executive members of the campus clubs). This is well and good, but often these students are the only ones who understand what it takes



Alex Ogrodnick, Director of Sask Pro-Life, and Ruth Shaw, Director of National Campus Life Network at the Ottawa March for Life

EDITORIAL

Introducing...



Hello, kind readers. My name is Mariette Ulrich and I have recently joined the editorial team at Choose Life News. Some of you may know me, if you've

followed my erstwhile writing career. For those who do not... I am a Roman Catholic wife, mother/grandmother, homemaker, homeschooler, and freelance writer/editor. I live in west-central Saskatchewan with my husband Dan and two of our seven daughters.

I hold a Bachelor of Arts degree (with Honours) in English Literature. How I achieved this without being able to define basic concepts of grammar remains a mystery: suffice it to say that some university degrees aren't what they were a century ago. Homeschooling came to my rescue, and thanks to 25 years of teaching my children, I am now tolerably literate.

My life plan was to be an English professor and not a mother. After marriage (1986) and convocation (1987), I was accepted into the M.A. program at the U of S and awarded a full Master's Thesis Scholarship. However, God had other plans: in the months leading up to

the commencement of classes, I discovered that our first child was on the way. It wasn't easy to relinquish my career ambitions (or the scholarship--worth over \$20,000 today), but my choice was clear. I have no regrets about choosing Life and full-time motherhood over academia. (Let's say I received a "Mater's" degree instead—seven times over!) Now that I'm a new grandma, the fun is beginning all over again.

I have been involved in the pro-life movement since childhood, but in the last three decades, my activism has comprised trying to raise a godly family, wading into the culture wars (writing and speaking), and attending pro-life conferences, marches, and other events when possible.

I started freelance writing in the mid-1990's. My columns and articles have appeared in numerous publications in Canada, the U.S., England, and Australia.

- Nazareth: a Catholic Family Journal (Combermere, Ontario)
- Catholic Insight magazine (Toronto)
- Alberta/Western/B.C. Report (Edmonton)
- MercatorNet news "webzine" (Australia)
- The Record (newspaper of the Archdiocese of Perth, Western Australia)
- New Covenant magazine (Ann Arbor, MI)
- The Sower catechetical journal (Diocese of Birmingham, UK)
- Catholic Family newspaper (Buckinghamshire, UK)
- Various newspapers, newsletters and journals on the topics of family

life, faith, homeschooling and pro-life issues.

My work has been reprinted and archived at many Internet sites, such as Crisis, Catholic Exchange, and LifeSite. One of these pieces, "My Master's Degree," was reprinted in a book titled The Wisdom of Nazareth: Stories of Catholic Family Life.

I have worked with superb and demanding editors, and loved every minute of it: you cannot improve your craft unless you are willing to take honest criticism. Readers have responded with bouquets as well as brickbats—the latter with good reason. I regret that in the course of my career I have written the occasional acerbic and uncharitable comment—I regret even more that I will probably continue to do so: but at least I'll recognize it as a fault not a virtue. Sarcasm can be fun and somewhat cathartic, but ultimately, nastiness and name-calling won't win friends or influence people. I invite you to keep me accountable.

I currently homeschool my youngest daughter, volunteer in my parish and local communities (yes, plural), and continue to dabble in writing and editing. My interests include, but are not limited to, education, politics, culture, art, history, music, gardening, antiques, sewing, baking, badminton, and ballroom dancing. I do speaking engagements when time permits. I look forward to working with the wonderful staff and volunteers at Sask Pro-Life in the service of building a culture of Life. ♥

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PRESS RELEASE

CWL Press Release

Dear Members of the Catholic Women's League,

Many of you have been made aware in recent days that a number of bishops in Canada are withholding funds collected for the ShareLent campaign of the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP). The Catholic Women's League of Canada is also withholding member and council collections made to the 1% Program voluntary fund pending further information and advice from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB).

Why has the CWL taken this position?

Some months back, the League received concerns from members regarding the Fanm Deside project in Haiti. The leadership of this volunteer project chosen by the League upon recommendation of the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP) was recently

reported to advocate for reproductive rights for women that would include abortion and sterilization.

The CWL is officially recognized by the CCCB as a national private lay association of the faithful and relies on the expertise and guidance of the CCCB in matters of faith and morals. Consequently, clarification was sought on the Fanm Deside project from both CCODP and the CCCB. CWL members wanted to be assured their donations would be directed to support projects that are consistent with Catholic moral values and teaching. Further, the League urged that a dialogue take place between CCODP and the CCCB, with a request that the outcome be shared with the CWL once an understanding was reached.

What will be the outcome?

Pending a favourable response from the CCCB, the League will release the 1% Program contributions to CCODP. The

board of directors desires to support the CCODP, but only in conformity with the CCCB and in witness to the church's teaching on faith and morals through Catholic social justice tradition. Certainly, the CCODP provides amazing support to developing countries and members will continue to respond to the very real needs of those less fortunate in our world. But it would be inappropriate for the national organization to encourage members to support the voluntary fund for Fanm Deside at this time.

We pray that the Holy Spirit will guide the deliberations of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and that a favourable outcome will allow The Catholic Women's League of Canada to fully support the efforts of the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace in the near future.

Sincerely,
Margaret Ann Jacobs,
National President

The Pro-Life Rose

The rose has always been a symbol of the Pro-Life movement, and Sask Pro-Life has used it for many years. The detail and delicacy of a rose is a reminder of the preciousness of life at every stage.

"The Pro-Life Rose" is hand-crafted by a young, Pro-Life artist who felt inspired to create something that "Wouldn't fade or wither, something that wouldn't lose its value, just like the sanctity of life never loses its value."

The beautifully detailed, all-metal rose is a reminder to witness and pray in our daily lives. It can serve as a visual reminder of the testimony our own lives can be for the protection of every single life.

Sask Pro-Life would like to offer the opportunity for our donors to have this simple and beautiful reminder of the sanctity of life. **By becoming a monthly donor of thirty dollars, you will receive this unique symbol of the Pro-Life movement, and together we can be reminded of our mission to love and pray for the protection of all life.**



Fr. Jeffrey Acceptance Letter

By Father Jeffrey Stephaniuk

"I shall not die, but I shall live: and shall declare the works of the Lord." Psalm (117)
118: 17

Thank you for this recognition as the recipient of the 2018 Dombowsky Award.

If not for my illness, my hope would have been to receive such an award ten or more years from now! During my leave of absence, I have been making an incredible recovery, so thank you for all your prayers. I will reinvent myself, or perhaps a better phrase would be to renew and be renewed in the best of human renaissance and Christian grace, and return to this work in the pro-life movement.

I became the editor of Saskatchewan Choose Life News in 2011, taking over from long-time editor, John Sidloski. Andy Tahn became editor after me and then I returned several editions later. I benefited from the improvements he had made. I have also been a Pasquia Pro-Life representative to Sask Pro-Life. My work with Rachel's Vineyard Saskatchewan has greatly influenced my identity as a pro-life priest; learning principles of human psychology from Rachel's Vineyard has helped me immensely as a husband, and especially as a dad to six girls.

While researching and writing for Saskatchewan Choose Life News, I have come across many inspiring quotations. I'd like to present these as a summary of the development of my thought during my involvement with Sask Pro-Life:

Pope Benedict XVI: "Openness to life is at the centre of true development."
The context is the role of government in creating an environment in which the stress of daily life for ordinary people does not compel them to abort their children for fear of lack of financial resources.

Jerome Lejeune: "If, and I hope God will never permit that – the Pope was saying that abortion was killing nobody, I would stop being a Catholic for scientific reasons, because no moral authority can make me believe that discarding an early human being is not discarding a human being." Dr. Lejeune was speaking at the Trial for Life in Regina in 1983.

This sentiment can be applied to the summer jobs attestation and rephrased: If the federal government was saying that abortion was killing nobody and that participation in Canadian public life is forbidden unless the attestation is made, then I would suspend participation in Canadian life because no political authority in a democracy can make me believe that discarding an early human being is not discarding a human being.



While researching and writing for Saskatchewan Choose Life News, I have come across many inspiring quotations. I'd like to present these as a summary of the development of my thought during my involvement with Sask Pro-Life.

Dr. Theresa Burke (founder of Rachel's Vineyard, and author of *Forbidden Grief: The Unspoken Pain of Abortion*): when a woman regrets her abortion, explains Dr. Burke, rather than being allowed to grieve, she is told, "You want to play in a man's world, then be a man." She writes that women are expected "to put their own moral beliefs about abortion 'on hold' for sake of respecting a 'woman's right to choose'... We have chosen to tolerate the deaths of unborn children for the purpose of improving the lives of women. This moral compromise is disturbed, however, when women speak about their broken hearts after an abortion."

Gregg Cunningham (founder of the Center for Bio-Ethical Reform): "A 'right' to abortion is only possible so long as pregnancy is fraudulently defined," manipulating words like embryo, pre-embryo, product of conception, and the political fiction that pregnancy does

not begin until the implantation of the embryo in its mother's uterus. The goal of this "shrewdly crafted" language, he explains, is meant to "obscure the humanity of the baby and the violence of the procedure."

One title for a newspaper article with which I am particularly happy comes from the Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform: "Abortion hurts women because it intentionally kills an innocent human being." Another potent phrase is: "injustice that is invisible inevitably becomes tolerable." Another title that caught my attention is this one: "A public safety amendment the minister of public safety refused to support."

The context was Molly's Law, championed by Cathay Wagantall, MP for Yorkton-Melville. It became a public safety amendment that Ralph Goodale,

the Minister of Public Safety, refused to support. As Jeff Dunham, Molly's father commented, "Although I appreciate your condolences... I need to hear you say that you will acknowledge my daughter – Molly – as the human being she was. I need you to acknowledge the horrible reality of our law the way it is written."

Finally, by way of conclusion, I return to the first statement, "Openness to life is at the centre of true development." Viktor Frankl, famous for surviving the Nazi concentration camps, says this in his book, *Man's Search for Meaning*: "The religious man experiences his existence, not only as a concrete task, but as a personal mission, which is given to him by a personal Being."

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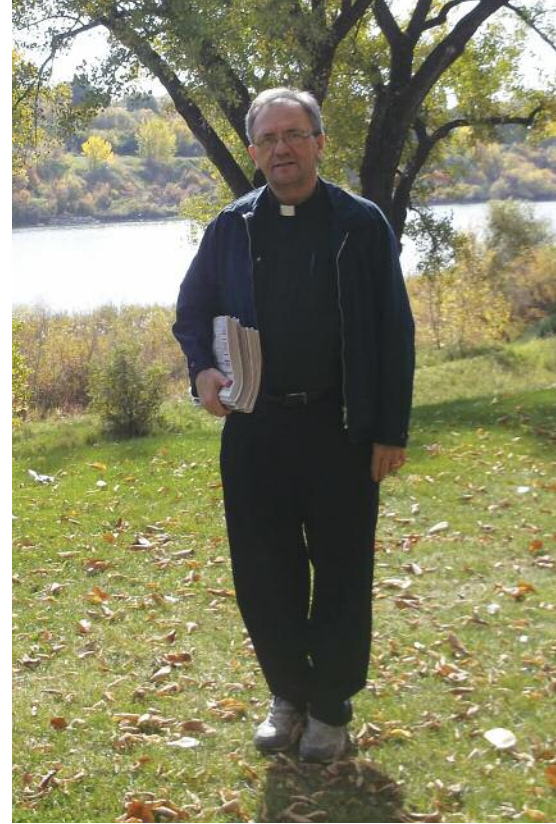
He stresses the essential value of relationship in developing an identity as a mature human individual, experiencing life in a truly human sense, including making use of the rational life of reason and will in our human nature: life of the body, life of the mind, life of the soul. Frankl continues: "Thus he sees his task transparently, namely, in the light of Transcendence; he alone can in spite of all say "yes" to life under all conditions and circumstances – in spite of all, in spite of distress and death."

To my mind, he is describing Simeon, who receives Jesus as a newborn. Simeon exclaims the insight of openness to life that includes seeing life even in his own imminent death from old age. It is a baby whose tangible life in its own body makes possible this abstract insight from the world of ideas, just as true and real as the little infant. Simeon then exclaims: "Now you can release your servant O Lord, according to your word in peace, because my eyes have seen your salvation..."

Openness to life at all times is my theme as a pro-life priest since at least 2015, when I spoke to this idea during a Divine Liturgy at the Saskatchewan Pro-Life Convention held that year at St. Mary's Roman Catholic parish in Saskatoon. If a person is open to life and new life at all times, you can confidently say you are following your conscience and responding to the will of God in your life at this time.

Say "yes" to life; become a person who "in spite of anything that life brings, still faces his existence with a basic conviction in the worthwhileness of life." These quotes have been meaningful to me over the past several years in this context of openness to new life. They are the beginning of an explanation for the nature of the culture wars in which we are engaged, what political philosopher Jacques Maritain writes in the phrase, "All our values depend on the nature of our God."

This recognition means a great deal to me. Thank you.



"Your mercy, O Lord, is better than life itself; in thanksgiving I will praise your name"

Psalms 62 ♥

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Trump is not a Champion for Christians

This letter is being written to refute two previous [editorials] in your paper: "Trump and Pence are ideal government leaders" and "Trump: a champion for Christians." These two statements are just not true. Donald Trump has an endless list of tweets and actions that illustrate he is not a good Christian. Right now, he is married to his third wife. Three mistresses are suing him and fifteen or sixteen others have made sexual claims against him. He said he can grab a woman any place, even [redacted]. Now he says that this is fake news. Any news that does not favour Trump is fake news. Any criticism of Trump is fake or false. He tweets endlessly to reply about statements against him. The White House is in constant movement, advisors being fired or quitting and new ones coming

in. His advisors must be "yes" people doing exactly what Trump wants.

Trump also has a no fly ban against certain Muslim countries and wants to build an expensive wall at the Mexican border. At first, he said that Mexico would pay for it. He lies about everything. Does he even know the difference between the truth and lies? He lied about the [balance] of trade between the U.S. and Canada. The latest lie is that the U.S. justice system broke in and seized Trump's lawyer's papers. The justice system had a warrant from a judge; they did not break in. He keeps making degrading remarks about the U.S. justice system and the FBI. That indicates he has some major plan or design, but only for his own good. Lately, he has tweeted disparagingly about the Washington Post and Amazon. Billions of dollars have been lost on the stock market by these two companies.

Trump praises dictators like Putin from Russia and Duterte from the Philippines. He has said he would not mind being

like them. Donald Trump is a psychopath and dangerous to U.S. democracy and to the world. Trump must go. He is not fit to be president. How is this statement for a president: "Haiti and some other African countries are sh*t-hole countries"? He has claimed high tariffs on steel and aluminum against China and some other countries. There is danger of a trade war. He has stated that if NAFTA is not settled by a certain date, tariffs would also be imposed on Canada and Mexico.

The above letter gives only a few reasons why Trump should not be president. There are many more. There is literally a crisis at the White House. The crises change from week to week, even day to day.

**By George Meyer
Prince Albert, SK**

Law and Culture: Fighting for Truth

By Philip Fourie

Current and ongoing cases regarding freedom of religion/creed and the sanctity of life in Canada

Trinity Western University I was recently involved in the TWU Law School cases as co-counsel for Christian Legal Fellowship (hereafter, CLF). The case involves whether a university can be allowed to define itself as a distinctly Christian university in Canada, especially if it adheres to orthodox Christian views on a number of issues, including sexual conduct and marriage.

The media has wrongly portrayed this issue as being about TWU's code of conduct. However the Law Society of Upper Canada has made it clear that even if the University's code of conduct made no reference to sexual conduct, it would still not approve Trinity's Graduates. According to the Law Society, because the University is "Faith based and maintains a distinctly

all disagreement is discrimination... It is a social and public good to allow diverse faith based organizations to exist in the public square and serve their communities. Allowing people to gather at these institutions although not allowing everyone to do so is not discrimination but association, which is protected by the Charter."

Dichmont v. Newfoundland and Labrador In September 2013, I acted as counsel in a case involving religious freedom and accommodation. At one point, the lawyer for the Government, David Shephard, argued that my client's orthodox Christian views on sexual morality and marriage in particular should not be accommodated as they are against the public interest. The judge then asked him what the legal foundation is for such a position. The government lawyer's response was very telling.

He replied that my client's orthodox Christian beliefs on the subject of sexual

vis-à-vis the state, not individual health care professionals or institutions. The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario has seemingly chosen to take a controversial activist approach to wrongly interpret the Carter decision to require "Effective referral" from the Ontario physicians (which decision is currently under appeal on the grounds of conscience rights).

Very importantly the Supreme Court (Carter) did not disturb a previous finding that the state has an "interest in protecting life" and that legislation should reflect "the policy of the state that human life should not be depreciated by allowing life to be taken."

Government, therefore, must enact all necessary measures to ensure that consent is always properly obtained and recorded and that assisted suicide only takes place in strictly limited circumstances. Every level of government has a duty to protect the vulnerable from abuse or error (e.g. being induced during a time of weakness to commit suicide); uphold the inviolability of life; maintain a medical culture against killing; and preserve societal attitudes against suicide as an appropriate response to suffering.

Lamb v. Canada in British Columbia

Julia Lamb is making a Charter challenge to Canada's existing law which requires that patients' death be "reasonably foreseeable" in order for them to be eligible for euthanasia.

Ms. Lamb, the plaintiff, is 25 years old and has spinal muscular atrophy. It is not a terminal disease. However, she wants to have access to euthanasia because, in her words: "I am terrified that I could be trapped in a state of physical and mental suffering that could last for months, years or even decades. Having to think about this future causes me immense physical distress."

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Should this argument be accepted, the potential ramifications could be devastating to a free and open pluralistic Canadian society.

Christian environment," it would be discriminatory to approve Trinity Graduates because such beliefs have a discriminatory effect on those who do not share them.

In other words despite the fact that TWU was approved by the Federation of Law Societies of Canada to open Canada's first faith-based law school, acknowledging and approving a qualification derived from such a learning institution would be "discriminatory" against those students who are not Christians.

Should this argument be accepted, the potential ramifications could be devastating to a free and open pluralistic Canadian society.

CLF argued "that a truly free Canadian society must accommodate, not extinguish religious difference, and not

expression and marriage were "wrong" and that his client's (The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador) moral beliefs on the subject were "right." In other words, Mr. Shephard's position was that Government can use the Charter as a blunt instrument to expect and enforce moral conformity from its citizens.

Carter v. Canada, 2015 This involved a patient with advanced ALS. The Supreme Court did not conclude that there is a Charter right to physician-assisted suicide; it found only that the prohibition on assisted suicide as set out in the Criminal Code infringed the Charter right to life, liberty, and security of the person.

It should come as no surprise that there is no Charter right to assisted death; however, even if there were, it would be

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We must approach this issue with a posture of compassion, humility, and grace. We can be sympathetic for Ms. Lamb while at the same time questioning whether her desired remedy is really an appropriate solution. If successful, her case could mean that euthanasia would effectively be made available to anyone who determines they no longer wish to live, not just those who are terminally ill or whose medical condition makes death "reasonably foreseeable."

This engages legitimate arguments regarding the need for societal and legal affirmations of the sanctity of life: allowing the disabled and sick to be killed actually denies them equal protection of the law. And, of course, the more widely euthanasia is made available, the greater the risk of vulnerable patients having their lives taken without true, informed consent.

The Calgary Airport Authority v. Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform The airport authority has not allowed pro-life individuals to display signs and distribute material for the past few years. The Centre, represented by two CLF members, is currently seeking an injunction against the Airport.

The Canada Summer Jobs program The government suggests that exclusion of pro-life groups from public programs is actually mandated by the Charter because these groups are fundamentally and explicitly opposed to human rights.

In a recent op-ed Derek Ross pointed out:

"This is a misappropriation of rights language; it is both disingenuous and dangerous. It is disingenuous because those groups targeted by the government are not actually "anti-

” If successful, her case could mean that euthanasia would effectively be made available to anyone who determines they no longer wish to live... ”



human rights." [...] On the contrary, the work of such groups is steeped in, and motivated by, their commitment to human rights. They seek to secure protection of the law - including the right to life and security of the person enshrined in the Charter - for the pre-born. They advocate for freedom of expression, association, and conscience - all Charter guarantees - for those who hold minority viewpoints."

Positive Developments

Although the bombardment against Christian values from the left has been relentless, it has not been all doom and gloom. We have been able to stand firm and make courts aware of the consequences of giving way to ideological tyranny. Some of the good outcomes we have had over the past few years include:

SCC case Loyola High School and John Zucchi v. Attorney General of Québec The Supreme Court affirmed that parents have a legally protected right to pass on their beliefs to their children, whether through instruction in the home or participation in communal institutions.

Trinity Western University v. Nova Scotia Barristers' Society Justice Campbell's decision at the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia clearly stated, "The Charter is not a blueprint for moral conformity. Its purpose is to protect the citizen from the power of the state, not to enforce compliance by citizens or

private institutions with the moral judgments of the state."

The Queen v. Whatcott Justice Jeffrey held that when the university enforced trespass legislation on an individual distributing controversial literature, it violated the 2(b) right to freedom of expression.

Conclusion

Should we become anxious about all these worrying developments in our courts and Government? We must remember the last words of Jesus on the cross: "It is done." The victory has been accomplished. We can stand in that Victory because He has risen. God is in control. We are anchored to the Rock of All Ages, the ultimate objective truth, the person of Jesus Christ.

I pray that we will stand firm and speak up for the truth and, while treating all people, the born and the unborn, as sacred, worthy of dignity and respect, that we will do it with civility. If you and I won't do it, nobody will.

God has placed you purposefully wherever you are for such a time as this. ♥

Philip Fourie is a lawyer with Kirkby, Fourie & Coertze, Prince Albert. This article represents highlights from Philip's talk at the Sask Pro-Life Annual Convention, April, 2018. It has been edited for length.



Friday Night Banquet



Tom Simes, Writer/Director of Because of Gracia



Shawna Arnold, Fountain of Hope



Speaker Discussion panel



Colette Stang, now past-president receives our thanks

PRINCE ALBERT, SASKATCHEWAN

Saskatchewan Pro-Life Convention 2018

The theme of this year's Saskatchewan Pro-Life Convention was "Make Time for Life," and this was the challenge given to everyone who attended the April convention in Prince Albert. With over 150 in attendance, it was a dynamic weekend.

The purpose of the Sask Pro-Life Conventions is to provide pro-lifers with the information and the means to spread the message of life, and to work towards ending abortion and euthanasia in our country.

At this year's convention, there was a broad range of speakers. The topics ranged from freedom of speech, to combatting the rampant growth of physician-assisted suicide, to taking action.

John Carpay, the president of Canadian Justice Centre for Constitutional

Freedoms, and Philip Fourie, both pro-life lawyers, spoke on the importance of being active as pro-lifers. They enlightened us on the many legal battles in which they have participated that involve infringements on freedom of speech and freedom of religion.

Natalie Sonnen spoke on the Dying Healed program from LifeCanada, in which she emphasized the need for a positive approach to death. The Dying Healed program is meant to prepare people to accompany those in palliative care and give them the tools needed to help those making end-of-life decisions. This program has been promoted by Sask Pro-Life and was also piloted in the Saskatoon Diocese.

On the political spectrum, Scott Hayward, co-founder of RightNow, gave concrete answers on how to be politically active: specifically, through

getting Pro-Life politicians into office and identifying pro-life voters. Sask Pro-Life and RightNow continue to work closely in elections throughout the province and the country.

Shawna Arnold shared her moving testimony of her journey and her witness to life. As well, John Fryters talked about his ongoing work with seniors.

Another highlight of the weekend was the chance for attendees to see the new pro-life film *Because of Gracia*.

Through the convention, pro-lifers were able to see that within the Pro-Life movement, there is a place for each of us to "Make time for Life." It was encouraging to see the different Pro-Life entities come together. We all stand for life; now let's make time for life! ♥



Philip Fourie, Christian Legal Fellowship



Scott Hayward, Co-Founder RightNow



John Carpay, President of the Justice Centre



Natalie Sonnen, Executive Director of LifeCanada



Lia Mills, SK March for Life Speaker

REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN SK March for Life 2018

This year the Saskatchewan March for Life was held on May 8, in Regina. Of the more than 200 people at this year's March, nearly thirty-five percent were first time attendees. Lia Mills came as the speaker. Lia has been sharing her testimony since the early age of twelve, when a YouTube video of her presenting a speech about abortion went viral. Since then, she has continued being a voice for the voiceless as well as tackling issues of social justice.

It was a great privilege to have Lia speak at this year's March, where she emphasized the necessity to be pro-life all year round, to take action in your daily life by not being silent about what is right. In addition to speaking at the March, Lia spoke at nine different middle schools in Regina, sharing her story and encouraging the students to find how they are called to stand for life.

Country singer Troy Mac performed two original Pro-Life songs on the steps of

the Saskatchewan Legislative building. Prior to the March, several Pro-Life MLAs came to show their support. There was also a time of silent witness along Albert Street.

This year's Saskatchewan March was organized by the Knights of Columbus, CLC Saskatchewan, and Sask Pro-Life. Thank you to all who showed their support! ♥

We believe in a Saskatchewan where our lawmakers do everything in their power to protect the unborn. Help us continue our witness to the humanity of the preborn child: donate to the annual March to the Legislature. Call our office: (306) 352-3480 or visit: saskprolife.com/supportmarch



Troy Mac, Country Singer



MARCH FOR LIFE AT THE LEGISLATURE Field Trip Report

For my field trip, I went to the March for Life in Regina. The March for Life is a chance to stand for life and let the law makers know that we need a law against abortion. The March was at the historical legislative building in Saskatchewan's capital, Regina. One of the speakers shared how we are a part of an important moment of history. She also said that we must not be silent about standing for what is right. We must be Pro-life in everything we do, like the theme for the March, "Pro-life,

All In." Another speaker spoke about her healing after abortion. She was from Silent No More. Going to the March for Life was important for the history of Saskatchewan and Canada because my generation is the next generation of Pro-life people. It was a good experience for me to make a difference and be Pro-life, all in! ♥

By Felicity, age 10



NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE, OTTAWA

Sask Pro-Life Youth Trip



ZAVIENNE
NORTH BATTLEFORD

"The experience in Ottawa has filled me with so much hope, and I am inspired to help make our world a better place."



HANNA
WILKIE

"I had a life-changing experience at the March for Life in Ottawa. This event has given me stronger faith, new knowledge, and many friends I'll cherish for a long time."



COURTNEY
MACKLIN

"This year was my third time attending the March for Life in Ottawa. As always it was an awesome experience! Being a pro-lifer can sometimes feel lonely and isolating. The Ottawa March for Life trip is a great reminder that you're not alone in this and that there are thousands and thousands of others who feel the same way you do about saving babies' lives! It is awesome meeting so many other young people who are on the same page! #prolifegeneration"



DAYTON
MACKLIN

"The 2018 March For Life in Ottawa was an incredible and unique experience for me. Uniting with thousands of passionate, like-minded people from across the country was very gratifying."



ANTOINE
NIPAWIN

"This year, I attended the National March for Life in Ottawa for the first time. The speakers were inspiring and it was nice to meet so many young people who are motivated and willing to stand up for justice."



JENNIFER
PRINCE ALBERT

"The experience of the March was one filled with hope. There was a great emphasis on the March being a 'pilgrimage of life'. As well, being able to meet several pro-life MPs and advocates was such a positive and encouraging experience."



ALICIA
PRINCE ALBERT

"I was struck by how the March wasn't just a walk down the streets of Ottawa as a witness for the unborn, but was also a vibrant celebration of life. Looking around at the thousands of joyful people gathered together to stand for life gave me such a deep sense of unity and hope for the future."



ISAAC
PRINCE ALBERT

"I was blessed to be a part of the 2018 March for Life and to gather with thousands of individuals upon Parliament Hill, peacefully pleading for a renewed respect of human life. I believe that the most valuable aspect of this experience, was the realization of the importance of courage, surrounding the subject of unborn or vulnerable life, in our contemporary society. Courage, to hold the truth. Courage, to meet conflict with compassionate correction. Courage, most importantly, to stand in the place of those who cannot for themselves yet stand."

The Step-by-Step Abolition of Slavery

By John Carpay

In 1838, Britain became the world's first major power to abolish slavery. The Empire officially freed 800,000 African slaves, who had been re-designated as "apprentices" four years earlier by the Slavery Abolition Act. This was the culmination of more than 50 years of grass-roots activism and perseverance.



Starting with a handful of committed activists, the Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade had been formed in 1787. The odds they faced appeared insurmountable. The biggest obstacle was public opinion, which overwhelmingly accepted slavery as normal, natural, and legitimate. At that time, the majority of the world's population were slaves, or indentured farmers or labourers. Slavery had been the norm throughout human history, from the Roman Empire to the Aztecs and Incas; from prisoners taken in African and North American tribal wars, to serfdom in Russia.

” They succeeded by exposing the horrors of the slave trade, by using visual images in addition to the printed word. ”

A second obstacle was that slavery in the West Indies provided Europeans with affordable sugar, coffee, tobacco, rice, and rum. The slave trade and its secondary industries (e.g. shipbuilding) employed thousands, and generated millions in tax revenues. Europeans enjoyed these products without thinking too much about their cruel and bloody origins.

Another obstacle facing British abolitionists was the predominance in their ranks of an unpopular religious minority. Quakers were pacifist egalitarian democrats who refused military service, and refused to pay taxes or tithes to the Church of England. They rejected music, novels, and the use of tombstones. Unless praying or preaching, Quakers refused to remove their hats, even in the presence of royalty. They would not address anyone as "my Lord". Although Quakers were no longer being persecuted or killed by the 1780s, they were still excluded from political power, influence, and respectability. Few cared about what they had to say.

How did a movement dominated by unpopular religious minorities (Quakers were later joined by evangelical Anglicans like William Wilberforce) succeed in persuading Parliament to end a popular industry that brought so much prosperity to so many people? They succeeded by exposing the horrors of the slave trade, using visual images in addition to the printed word. A diagram of the slave ship *Brookes* showed MPs and the general public how hundreds of Africans were chained side-by-side at the bottom of the ship, in a space only two feet and eight inches high.

Africans sold to the British by other Africans were forced to lie in their own urine, feces and vomit for many weeks before reaching the West Indies. Sick slaves were thrown overboard. In 1782 the slave ship *Zong* threw 130 slaves overboard, and ensuing litigation was concerned uniquely with the legal

” They were incrementalists: while wanting to abolish slavery itself, their initial efforts were centered exclusively on the slave trade. ”


question as to whether the insurance company was required to cover this loss of "property." Those who survived the journey across the Atlantic were branded with a hot iron, sold, and then compelled to spend the rest of their lives growing and harvesting sugar cane and other crops. Labour was compelled by whips, and disobedience punished by various methods of torture. Slaves who dared to revolt were burned alive.

In addition to using visual images, the abolitionists succeeded because they were incrementalists. While wanting to abolish slavery itself, their initial efforts were centered exclusively on abolishing the slave trade. They picked a winnable issue, and rejected the absolutist argument that abolishing the slave trade would constitute an unholy "compromise." Two decades of hard work paid off when Parliament abolished the slave trade in 1807. Only then did the abolitionists commence the next phase of their goal to abolish slavery itself.

Starting with a handful of determined men who met at a print shop in London on May 22, 1787, the abolitionist movement is an example of how evil can only be overcome by determination, perseverance, hard work, and sacrifice. This movement also demonstrates the truth of a popular saying: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." ♥

Calgary lawyer John Carpay is president of the Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms. This article, which originally appeared in the National Post, was the basis for his presentation at the Sask Pro-Life Annual Convention Banquet last April.

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