



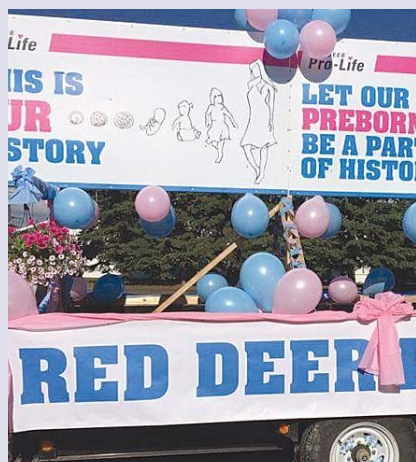
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Saskatchewan pro-life supporters during the provincial March for Life held in Regina on May 11.

CANADA'S ABSENT LEGAL PROTECTION

THE BIG LIE: 'Abortion is a constitutional right'

By Don Hutchinson

Ottawa is facing a flag flap. The National March for Life flag was raised at city hall in the morning on May 11, 2017, and taken down in the afternoon. As Canada's capital city you can easily imagine that Ottawa hosts a number of local, provincial, national and international events. Many are accompanied by the symbolic raising of a flag at city hall. That flag pole has become something of a symbol for free speech.

For the 20th year in a row, thousands of Canadians filled the lawn and sidewalks of Parliament Hill, the seat of our democracy. The past few years, police have erected barricades on Parliament Hill and along the march route. Not to control pro-life participants but to protect them from opponents, who in recent years have engaged in hateful, and harmful, displays such as throwing condoms and other items at marchers, spitting on marchers and other acts designed to provoke a negative response.

Canada's absent legal protection for children prior to birth is an issue of much conversation but little action from the majority of Canadian politicians. The limited action of today's political environment includes Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's edict that those who support protection for children before birth are unwelcome in the political party he leads, and the written demand from several Ottawa city councillors that the flag be taken down. In the process, the Prime Minister and councillors mistakenly assert a "right" to abortion as their rationale.

The matter of unregulated availability of publicly funded abortion in Canada is the result of a Supreme Court of Canada decision made in 1988, and the subsequent failure of Parliament to follow the court's direction to enact suitably constitutional legislation for the protection of children prior to birth.

At issue in the Morgentaler case was a sec-

tion of the Criminal Code that became law in 1969. Section 251 maintained abortion as illegal in Canada, providing exception only for instances of medically therapeutic reasons. The exception to the continuing general prohibition required the abortions to be performed in a hospital following review and approval of the health reasons by a committee of three doctors.

The Prime Minister of the day was the current Prime Minister's father. In regard to the new law, Pierre Trudeau stated, "You know, at some point you are killing life in the foetus in self-defence – of what? Of the

abortion committee.

In a blog from May 27, 2014, I noted:

In speaking to law school students on this case, I conduct a brief show of hands quiz on whether they have been taught in first year constitutional law that there is a right to abortion and whether they have actually read the Morgentaler 1988 decision for themselves. The majority typically say yes to the former and no to the latter.

I encourage those law students, you, and Mr. Trudeau, to read the decision. It's available online. Don't worry about whether you will understand the legalese. Instead, make three columns on a piece of paper. In the first column write the names of the seven judges who decided the case. In the second column put a check mark beside the name of each judge who decided there is a constitutional right to abortion. In the third column put a check mark beside the name of each judge who decided it is the jurisdiction of Parliament to make a law prohibiting or restricting abortion. You'll end up with seven check marks in the third column and none in the second (unless you place one beside Justice Wilson based on a disputed statement; and still, you'll put a check beside her name in column 3). The Supreme Court Justices even offer their opinions on what a constitutionally acceptable abortion law would look like.

The court was unanimous that Parliament has a constitutional interest in the child before birth. In fact, shortly after the decision, a legislative attempt to replace the section struck down in Morgentaler passed the House of Commons, passed two votes in the Senate and then died because of a tie on the final vote. Several Senators were absent for the third vote, and the Speaker of the Senate determined that on a tie vote it was his

See *THE BIG LIE*, page 2

Canada's absent legal protection for children prior to birth is an issue of much conversation but little action from the majority of Canadian politicians.

— Don Hutchinson

mother's health or her happiness or of her social rights or her privilege as a human being? I think she should have to answer for it and explain. Now, whether it should be to three doctors or one doctor or to a priest or a bishop or to her mother-in-law is a question you might want to argue You do have a right over your own body – it is your body. But the foetus is not your body; it's someone else's body. And if you kill it, you'll have to explain." (*Montreal Star*, May 25, 1972)

In 1988, the Supreme Court of Canada found that the requirements to first meet with a therapeutic abortion committee, and then have the medical procedure performed in a hospital, posed a risk to life for women who might qualify for a legal abortion but would experience delays because of their distance from a hospital with a therapeutic

President's Message



By Colette Stang

The last month has been a marathon of life events in Saskatchewan.

On April 11 Mike Schouten, Deina Warren (lawyer), a foster parent and myself met with the Sask. Party Human Services Caucus Committee to discuss the importance of continuing the push for parental consent legislation. A parental consent law would protect minors from coercion, exploitation and their own immaturity, and protect parental rights where parents have the best interest of the minor in mind. Later that evening Mike and I met with the Reverence for Life Committee from the Regina RC Diocese, where we discussed plans for the October Reverence for Life Month.

I attended the SPLA Convention in Moose Jaw from April 27 to 29. The convention was hosted by Moose Jaw Right to Life. Thank you to Jean Landry and all the MJRTL members who worked so hard to put on a wonderful convention with fantastic speakers. The banquet keynote speaker, Jonathan Van Maren, was selling his book the "Culture War." He explained how Christians are often caught off-guard by well-planned and brilliantly executed strategies by ruthless activists who have time and sometimes seemingly endless funds to carry out these plans.

My husband Rob and I attended the Knights of Columbus State banquet on April 29. Thank you to the Knights for always being soldiers in the 'Culture War.'

On May 1, I set up an SPLA table at the CWL Saskatoon Diocesan Convention in Watrous, where I sold many "Euthanasia Deception" DVDs and shared information on the palliative volunteer training program, "Dying Healed," which is currently being piloted in Saskatchewan and Vancouver.

On Thursday, May 11, SPLA, Sask. Knights of Columbus and Campaign Life Coalition Saskatchewan co-hosted the 2017 Saskatchewan March for Life in Regina. The 2017 March for Life planning committee worked very hard organizing this event and plans for the 2018 March for Life are already underway and set for Tuesday, May 8, 2018.

SPLA staff, board and volunteers have limited time and resources, but we do what we can to counter the decline in morality and respect for life in Saskatchewan. Thank you to everyone who helps, your continued participation and financial support are key components in countering this "Culture War" in which we are engulfed.

SPLA continues to stand up for the protection of all life from conception to natural death.

Thank you to everyone for prayers and support. God Bless.



FALSE ASSUMPTIONS

Fake News Leads to Abortion, Euthanasia and Fake Religion



By Tom Schuck

"Trump asked God to "bless America" in his Thanksgiving address last year after it had been omitted eight years in a row by former President Obama.

Last December, he told supporters, "We're gonna start saying 'Merry Christmas' again."

The swearing-in ceremony of Trump's top White House staff in January strongly emphasized God.

Trump concluded his inaugural speech with a reference to God's protection."

All of the above was reported lately in Lifesite News.

Now it has been reported that vice-president Pence and eight other members of Trump's cabinet meet every week for a bible study and prayer.

Pence is an Evangelical, and it is no wonder that Evangelicals continue to increase across North America. They act like God really does exist. I cannot help but ask myself, when will Canada's mainstream religions wake up and act as though there really is a God, waiting for our nation to return to him and ask for His protection.

FAKE NEWS

Our mainstream media elite ("media") prefer to scoff at leaders that exhibit any outward signs of the presence of God in their lives, as though they were the ones that were all knowing. The faith of our leaders in their view is a non-issue, and is to be kept private. That assumption results in much of their reporting as fake. Their news is based upon a false assumption that there is no God, and therefore you are free to kill yourself through euthanasia, or kill your own unborn child as though the child belongs to you. Both euthanasia and abortion is supported by media. However, because there is a God, your life and the life of others belong not yourself, but to Him.

Much of their news is also fake because they start from a premise that it is normal to separate sex from procreation and use sex as one's own personal entertainment center. That is not normal. One of God's purposes for sex is procre-

ation. Sex, however, has been separated from procreation, and as a result sexual deviancy is being promoted by media as if it was normal, and governments are starting to use schools to indoctrinate children to their perverted views.

The assumption by mainstream media that the more government programs for the poor the better, is also fake. Social programs are only sustainable when there are strong families who can sustain the government funding that sustains the programs, and if family life continues to deteriorate, it is inevitable that at some point, the increasing casualties from failing families will make government programs that support the casualties unsustainable.

Many of our mainline faiths have been converted by media. They, too, place their faith in the material benefits of government social programs. They are so influenced by our culture, that even they do not recognize the need of hav-

"Many of our mainline faiths have been converted by media. They, too, place their faith in the material benefits of government social programs. They are so influenced by our culture, that even they do not recognize the need of having godly leaders."

— Tom Schuck

ing godly leaders. It is no wonder political representatives can ignore the great issues afflicting family life, such as improper sexual behavior, and instead support the killing of the unborn and old. During elections, Christian people, led by their spiritual leaders, place a greater emphasis on material things than life itself. It is no wonder that most Christians (other than Evangelicals) vote for political representatives and parties that champion abortion, euthanasia, pornography, gay and transsexual rights, and who appoint judges who share their views.

Mainstream media does indeed deliver fake news. But pathetically, many of our spiritual leaders have been converted to their view that government programs are more important than living decently and life itself, and the assumption that whatever one does sexually with their body is not that important, or worse, is acceptable.

We now have too many fake religions and too many fake spiritual leaders as well.

The Big Lie

(Continued from front page)

responsibility to declare that the proposed legislation had not passed and therefore he voted against it.

Since that time Canada has remained without legal protection for the "someone else's body" identified in the statement made by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau. Distinctly, the only democracy in the world that fails to offer protection even to the medically viable pre-born child.

The March for Life, like similar protests on Parliament Hill, demonstrates that there are Canadians who desire Parliament take political action on an unsettled question, one that is literally a matter of life and death.

The only right at issue in raising and lowering the flag at city hall is the constitutional right to freedom of expression, free speech on whether Parliament will exercise its recognized constitutional authority in the life of yet-to-be-born citizens by providing protection of the law or continue to withhold that protection.

Raise the flag. Let's have the conversation.

Don Hutchinson is a Christian leader and lawyer. He writes at www.donhutchinson.ca

From Darkness into Light:

Finding My Way to the Father's Merciful Love

The story of my journey from abuse and abortion to grace.

by Shawna Arnold

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“We have the truth, and the truth is more powerful than we think.”

*—Jonathon Van Maren,
Canadian Centre
for Bio-Ethical
Reform.*

CANADA AT 150

Common themes at this year’s convention

By Fr. Jeffrey D. Stephaniuk

Moose Jaw Right to Life organized the Saskatchewan Pro-Life Association convention for 2017. The events were hosted at St. Joseph parish, Church of Our Lady parish, and Vanier Collegiate Institute. Although there were various locations for the meetings, banquet, and conference, and although there were several speakers who addressed a variety of topics, a unity of themes emerges when they are considered together. As Jonathon van Maren, Communications Director for the Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform stated at the Friday evening banquet, “We have the truth, and the truth is more powerful than we think.”

Dr. Brett Salkeld, theologian for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Regina, stated this truth in a simple phrase, “It is never okay to kill an innocent person.” In the context of medical aid in dying nightmare unleashed in Canada in the past few months, he explained that “the refusal to kill someone is not the same as keeping people alive at all costs... There is a clear line between killing people and letting them die.” His talk reminded me of the line from St. Thomas Aquinas on love: love means willing the good of the other as other. However, willing the death of another can never be an expression of love.

Similarly, not all claims to compassion are synonymous. When Denaë Pellerin and Kathrina Dixon ended the conference Saturday afternoon with their story about saving a baby from abortion through their volunteer work with the University of Saskatchewan Students For Life, they spoke about learning what it means to be compassionate pro-life. True compassion must be above and beyond discrimination, including the counterfeit argument of making financial poverty a sacrosanct demand and defence for abortion.

Denaë Pellerin explained how she matured in her pro-life thinking, and described the incident through which she, similar to Dr. Salkeld, was able to express the truth about human life in a very succinct statement: “It is objectively true that the pre-born are human beings killed by abortion”. She developed in her own life what Gregg Cunningham explained about why he started Center for Bio-Ethical Reform in the early 1990s: the plight of the mother is compelling and tangible, but the human being in the pre-born time of one’s development can be suspended in a fantasy world of intangibility and abstraction unless the consent of will is added to the work of learning intellectually that a baby is already a baby once fertilization initiates the fire of new life.

Like those who advocate the idea of being spiritual without being religious, there was a time when Denaë says she was “pro-life but didn’t like the pro-life movement.” After meeting a pregnant mom through the pregnancy support table they organized at the University of Saskatchewan, and over the next several months saving that baby from abortion, she realized “the necessity of all the different avenues of the pro-life movement.”

And, in a manner that proves the value of Gregg Cunningham’s insight into willing to work hard intellectually to move from seeing something as intangible to seeing someone that is so palpable that they evoke a desire to protect and defend them, she shared the insights of her transformation about the meaning of true compassion: “This week the injustice of abortion finally makes sense to me,” she wrote in her diary about what it meant to look at life from the point of view of the pre-born child who “has no idea that there is a countdown on her.” She went from once thinking that compassion and empathy meant that abortion must be kept

See CONVENTION, page 7

EDUCATION

Hope Endures: Inaugural Teen-Aid Scholarship

By Shawna Sparrow

For the first time, Teen-Aid Saskatchewan offered a scholarship this year to Grade 12 students across Saskatchewan. Young people who practice chastity deserve to be honored alongside students being celebrated for their achievements in academics and sports. The scholarship entry process involved the submission of a written speech by each applicant. The speech topic was: How has chastity impacted your life and what role can it play in today’s marriages, families and society? In early April, 10 semi-finalists presented their speeches and three finalists were selected to advance. The speech finals were held on April 22 as part of Teen-Aid Saskatoon’s annual fundraising banquet. The winners were:

1st Place: A \$1,000 scholarship was awarded to **Cascilla Christopher** from Bishop James Mahoney High School in Saskatoon.

2nd Place: A \$300 scholarship was awarded to **Mara Teare** from Holy Cross High School in Saskatoon.

3rd Place: A \$200 scholarship was awarded to **Miguel De Los Reyes** from E.D Feehan High School.

The essay entries of all 10 semi-finalists were simply amazing. It is tragic that popular programs such as the Netflix series “13 Reasons Why” portray teens as being immersed in suicide, alcohol and drug use, bullying and sexual abuse. Sadly, these issues do exist, but they do not tell the whole story. There is still light in the hearts and lives of young people. The scholarship contest demonstrated that young people are capable of practicing chastity, even in today’s world, and that they are hungry for the hope it offers. I would like to share the winning speech, with permission from Cascilla Christopher. I can offer no greater testimony to the impact of the Teen-Aid program than to share her inspiring words.

Good evening everyone. My name is Cascilla Christopher – I am here to talk about the impact that chastity has had on my life and how significant of a role it plays in today’s marriages, families, and society.

I first heard about chastity when a representative from Teen Aid visited my classroom way back in elementary school. Although dating was not really on my radar at that point, I knew this

would become relevant to me when I got older. I made a commitment to “save myself for marriage” and believed I had done all that I needed to do and knew all that I needed to know on the subject. As with most things that I thought I had mastered at the ripe old age of 12, my understanding was not complete and, over the years, I have come to know that chastity is not just a commitment we make one day and then forget about it. It’s a commitment we make today and every day that follows. It’s a lifelong promise to myself, my future spouse and to God.

There are two ways to present the idea of chastity - we can either focus on the negative consequences of not choosing chastity or we can focus on the positive possibilities of choosing this path. We can tell people about the many dangers that exist if they do not practice chastity – diseases, failed marriages etc. Although it is important to know those facts it is, in my opinion, better to focus on all the benefits that can be achieved when we choose chastity. Instead of telling people all of the reasons that I don’t want to live an unchaste life, I prefer to tell them about the many reasons that I do. As a young woman I can’t help but think about my future spouse. What will he look like? What kind of laugh will he have? Will he prefer dry popcorn or the really buttery kind? It is fun to try to imagine the person I might marry someday. Knowing that it is my desire to get married one day, it is important for me to take my future spouse into consideration in my day to day life right now. How will my actions today affect my future spouse and my future marriage?

In a sacramental marriage two people stand before God and promise to love and honour each other all the days of their lives. All the days of our lives include the days we are living right now – we need to honor, love, and commit to our spouses at this moment even if we haven’t met them yet. Hopefully we all know the feeling of visiting someone who has been anxiously awaiting and preparing for our arrival. When I go to my grandma’s at Christmas she is super excited when we walk in the door. The house looks festive, she has gifts for us under the tree and she has many of our favorite treats set out for us to enjoy. It is so heartwarming to know that she spent days preparing for our much anticipated arrival. I want my spouse to feel

the same way someday. I want him to know that I have been preparing for his arrival for many years – long before I knew him. I want him to know that I valued myself, him, and our marriage enough to prepare for it in advance. I want him to know that I have prepared myself - mind, body and soul, for the moment we would become husband and wife. One of the best ways to prepare myself for my future spouse is to honour my commitment to chastity.

Making the decision to choose chastity was the easy part – living it out in our society has proven to be more difficult than originally anticipated. I often find myself in uncomfortable situations because most of my friends do not share my views on chastity. I have set my standards extremely high and am often chastised by my peers for “being way too picky” and “never even giving anyone a chance”. Whenever this peer pressure hits and I feel my resolve starting to slip I remind myself why I made this decision in the first place. I don’t think of the STI’s that I am avoiding (although that is a huge bonus), I think of my future spouse and the incredible gift that I will be able to give him on my wedding day because I decided today and every day that I would wait for him. For me, that is the point of Chastity.

Committing to chastity before marriage helps a person grow and get to know themselves better. In turn, this improves the success rate of marriages, encourages positive family dynamics and improves our society in general. Studies show a significant increase in the success of marriages where both parties committed to chastity before marriage. By waiting for marriage, spouses show each other that they value themselves enough to know that they were worth waiting for. What a beautiful gift to give a spouse – the knowledge that you loved them even before you met – enough to save such a special gift for them alone. Starting a marriage on these grounds is a proven method of increasing the chances of a successful fulfilling marriage.

Another thing that I have learned about chastity is that it is just as important within marriage as it is before marriage. Being chaste means to remain pure in mind and spirit. Within marriage it includes the need to be faithful to your spouse as you respect and value them in all aspects. This means abstaining from pornography, and other degrading objects, pictures and online sites. Naturally, following this kind of lifestyle will have positive effects on children and family life. Children will learn how to love authentically and will grow up knowing to love and respect one another completely. They will learn that love requires putting the other person first instead of simply looking at what you can get out of the relationship.

Committing to chastity also benefits families and societies in ways that almost do not seem connected. When we choose chastity before marriage we choose to place our future spouse and our marriage above the desire for immediate satisfaction. Sadly in our society many people struggle with the ability to delay gratification. Families crumble under the weight of increasing

See TEEN-AID, page 6



The very first scholarship winners, left to right: Mara Teare, Cascilla Christopher and Miguel De Los Reyes at the Teen-Aid Saskatoon banquet on April 22.

The articles and opinions expressed in published material in Choose Life News are those of the authors and not necessarily those of Saskatchewan Pro-Life Association Inc. The publication of articles is the sole responsibility of the editor.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OPEN LETTER TO
ALL MEMBERS OF THE ONTARIO
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

We urge you to immediately introduce an amendment to recently enacted Bill 84 (Medical Assistance in Dying Statute Law Amendment Act, 2017) to include a provision for the freedom of conscience guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states in Article 18 "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion..." These were not just empty words but a sturdy foundation for civilized democracy, purchased with blood. It is outrageous to now cast the aside these ideals!

It is not illegal for any citizen to refuse to materially cooperate in procedures to end the life of any human being. It is a violation of citizens' basic freedoms for any governing authority to punish honourable men and women for following their conscience by limiting them or excluding them from full participation in our public medical system, as the College of Physicians and Surgeons proposes to do.

Even during wartime, a time of national crisis when Canada's existence as a nation was threatened and citizens were conscripted into the armed forces, Canadians have been free to claim non-lethal service with conscientious objector status. The freedom to adopt standards of conscience at odds with those of governing authorities is an important component of the freedoms enjoyed in Canada. We are dismayed to find any Canadian citizen being punished by a college of physicians and surgeons for peaceful conscientious objection simply because that conscientious objection dissents from the views of another social group.

True secular equality demands that no social group may impose its standards of conscience upon another or suppress the free conscientious objections of those whose views differ from their own. The honourable men and women who serve us in the medical profession should be free to conclude that materially cooperating in taking the life of any human being violates their conscience and free to conscientiously object to such cooperation.

You need not agree with any specific view about assisted suicide to champion the freedom of conscience for which our forebears sacrificed and fought. That freedom is an important bulwark of democracy because individual conscience permits a focus of loyalty capable of challenging the otherwise supreme power of civil authorities.

Imposing barriers to the practice of their livelihood against honourable men and women simply because their beliefs don't meet with the approval of some other social group contradicts Canadians' hard-won freedom of conscience. Please champion freedom by moving that Bill 84 be amended to guarantee the freedom of medical professionals to conscientiously object to materially cooperating in procedures to end the life of any human being.

—The Democracy Defence Initiative,
Per: Stephen C. Woodworth.

IN DEFENSE OF THE DEFENSELESS

Every Life is Worth the Same

Susan Thompson
cultureshiftforlife.com

At the age of 28, I found out I was pregnant with quintuplets. Immediately, my doctor talked to me about selective reduction. When I said no, he sent me to a specialist who repeatedly asked me to consider reducing my pregnancy to triplets or even twins. This went on for several months. My husband and I never considered this, not for a second. God had given us these tiny children and He would take care of them. 20 years later I look back and can't imagine our lives without any of them. After graduation, three joined the military to serve our country and two are pursuing careers in the medical field. They are all responsible adults who love God and make this world a better place. I chose to save their lives and now they are saving the lives of others.

Training to Kill Human Beings

Incredibly, we've used millions of years of evolutionary gains in intelligence and self-awareness to turn against our own young. This is an image of two human beings, a product of this evolution, studying a book that was researched, printed, and published by other members of our species for the express purpose of killing our own offspring. Not only have we perverted medical science as a way to destroy human life instead of protecting it, we celebrate this 'advancement' as a human right.

Fortunately, there are millions among us who reject the

idea that some lives matter less. Although fewer in number, there are also those who actively fight against this ideology. If you count yourself among those who know that killing prenatal children is wrong, then now is the time to shake off your apathy and take a stand to preserve our collective humanity. Now is the time to turn your anger and disgust into action. How many more must die before all of us realize that killing innocent human beings is wrong, no matter their size, location, or level of dependency?

Speak Up to Stop Pre-Natal Discrimination

Parents not only kill their children in the womb because they are unwanted, they kill them because they are mentally or physically challenged. They kill them because they are the 'wrong' sex and they kill them because they have an imperfection like cleft palate. How much longer before there's a prenatal test for homosexuality? Will this awaken the liberal left to the need to finally speak up in their defense?

If a mother chooses to abort her child only because they are different, not because she doesn't want to be pregnant, why shouldn't she be able to kill that same child after birth for the same reason? After all, it's not really about "her body, her choice" in this case, it's about her child's body. Aborting a child because of their characteristics is the ultimate and most deadly form of discrimination imaginable. The silence is deafening from those who claim to fight for human equality.

VOTING GUIDES

Is Campaign Life Political?



By Tom Schuck

Campaign Life published a voting guide online for the election of the next leader of the Conservative Party of Canada. They refer to themselves as the political arm of the pro-life movement.

They recommended two candidates that promised to open the abortion debate in Parliament, and are solidly pro-life. What was shocking was that they urged their readers not to vote for anyone else on the preferential ballot. As a result, if the two that agreed with their strategy dropped off the preferential ballot, the pro-life people who voted for them would lose all influence in determining the outcome in the leadership of the Conservative Party.

It is the most irrational decision that I have ever heard of, and from a pro-life organization that thinks they are political! Politics is the art of the possible. Do they advise pro-life people not to vote at all in elections where none of the candidates running agree to end all abortion tomorrow?

In this leadership contest, there may indeed be some candidates that are also pro-life, but may just think they have a better chance of winning without the endorsement of Campaign Life ... staying under the radar so to speak. Some people vote against pro-life people, and most people consider financial issues much more important than life issues. Even those who work in my church's social justice programs do not consistently vote for pro-life candidates (some like NDP and Liberal social programs so much they would kill for them). There may also be candidates that will not end all abortion, but may support the end of funding to pro-abortion organizations, like Planned Parenthood, as Harper at one time did. The Harper Conservatives also objected to abortion funding to the third world maternal health programs, without changing any legislation. Is that not an improvement to a diehard abortion rights advocate that refuses to let pro-life people run as a candidate?

Politics is the art of the possible. It is obvious that the reason for not seeking a pro-life person after the two they endorsed is that Campaign Life wants only someone who follows their rule ... a candidate that is prepared to fall on his sword to protect the unborn ... even if it means losing the election. Is it even possible to end all abortion in our culture, a culture where most everyone either had an abortion or knows someone they love that did?

Abortion on demand did not come to Canada in one **swell** swoop. It will not end with one. Politicians must work with the culture, and pro-life politicians can have enormous influence in changing culture ... if elected. Campaign Life is such a clumsy actor within the political scene, it is truly questionable whether their endorsement is helpful or a liability. Some candidates rightfully question the value of their endorsement if they trumpet to the pro-aborts who not to vote for.



Let us then with
CONFIDENCE
draw near
to the
throne of
grace
that we
may receive
mercy & find
grace
to help
in time
of need.
hebrews 4:16

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Mike Schouten spoke at SPLA's annual convention in Moose Jaw and presented his experience in meeting with the Human Services Caucus Committee. -photo Josh Witzaney

GOSPEL OF LIFE

Foster Parent Addresses Human Services Committee

"Do not ignore this current void"

By Fr. Jeffrey D. Stephaniuk

"Tell the government this is not a political risk" to have parental consent for minors, advised Mike Schouten when he made his presentation on the Parental Consent Campaign during the Saskatchewan Pro-Life Association annual convention in Moose Jaw on April 29, 2017. "At that age, they need their parents to guide them."

He spoke about the term civilized democracies, of which Canada is on the outside looking in. We are in the same company as North Korea and China, dictatorships that dispense with the obligation to hold oneself to as high a standard as possible regarding the nature of the human person and the government's role in defending innocent human individuals.

About the three-year parental consent campaign, he reported that there have been three meetings with legislative committees at the Saskatchewan legislature. The most recent meeting was with the Human Services

Caucus Committee that meets to deliberate policy and make recommendations to the government. Since the provincial government receives reports from foster parents about minors in their care, the current gap and void in parental consent for abortion directly affects the provincial government in its own legal responsibility to foster children.

A parental consent law would represent common ground for all residents, those who, as Mike Schouten characterizes the issue, work to see "justice for teenage girls and pre-born children" on the one hand, and those who demand and defend abortion on the other. Since the provincial government has the jurisdiction and responsibility for foster children, a parental consent law could only be of assistance to our government in administering their responsibilities. "My appeal to you as a foster parent is that you do not ignore the current void," stated one of the witnesses who attended the Human Services meeting.

GOSPEL OF LIFE

International Standards Abortion Law and Freedom of Speech

By Fr. Jeffrey D. Stephaniuk

Mr. Schouten, Executive Director at We Need A Law, introduced a project entitled the "International Standards Abortion Law" at the annual convention of the Saskatchewan Pro-Life Association 2017. Among the many complications inherent in the status quo of having no abortion laws is that "Canada is way out of line with our international counterparts when it comes to protecting pre-born human rights," he said, quoting informational material on the campaign. Further, "our laws are not lining up with the reality of what Canadians either believe or want."

The "International Standards Abortion Law" campaign explains that countries such as France, Spain, and Germany uniformly ban abortion after 12 weeks of pre-natal development. This information is insightful for what flag furor in Prince Albert because the protestors held up the United Nations as an authority greater than the local, albeit duly elected governance in a provincial Saskatchewan city. Their argument goes like this: because the United Nations supports abortion, city council is overruled.

However, even though the United Nations advocates for abortion through vari-

ous committees and presentations, in many of its member countries abortion is illegal or restricted. When the argument is made that the United Nations overrules the autonomy of nation states, France, Spain, and Germany become a correction on the laissez faire approach to abortion in Canada, North Korea, and China.

There is also this official statement of the United Nations in its Universal Declaration on Human Rights: "The child by reason of its physical and mental immaturity needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection before as well as after birth." In other words, even the United Nations would support Mayor Greg Dionne of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, in the exercise of his duties as a duly elected official.

"I have only ever turned down one group and that was the Hells Angels," he said. "I am a Canadian and I strongly believe in freedom of speech and freedom of rights," he stated in "Pro-Life flag allowed to fly at city hall" by Jeff Labine for panow.com on April 3, 2017, and updated on April 5, 2017. In an earlier article from 2016, entitled, "P.A. Mayor 'confused and disappointed'"

See INTERNATIONAL, page 7

DEHUMANIZATION

Abortion is Canada's Holodomor

By Fr. Jeffrey D. Stephaniuk

Holodomor means to kill by hunger, or to torture with hunger. It occurred when farmland was collectivized in Ukraine in the 1930s, and the Ukrainian farm family, which had a reputation for having many children, was destroyed.

Lessons learned from the Ukrainian famine are relevant for life in Saskatchewan and Canada today. First, language and law were manipulated to de-humanize the Ukrainian farmer. Once it was declared that they were not human beings, it became possible to justify their murder. This same ideology made the Holocaust possible, through a proclamation that Jews were not human beings. In his novel, *Forever Flowing*, Vasili Grossman speaks about the Holocaust and the Holodomor: "In order to massacre them it was necessary to proclaim that (they) are not human beings."

The authors of *cultureshiftforlife.com* offer these connections between the Nazi ideology in general and abortion: "The Nazis believed that the mentally and physically disabled should be killed because they were a threat to their financial well being and a burden on their society. Abortion groups believe that mothers should be able to kill their mentally or physically disabled children while preborn because they will be a threat to their financial well being and a burden on their family."

Malcolm Muggeridge, writing in *The Humane Holocaust*, had a comment about the Holocaust that similarly explains the evil of the Ukrainian Holodomor and what we are doing in Canada with abortion, namely the denial of morality in favour of an arbitrary practical materialism: "Initially, the Holocaust was aimed, not against Jews or Slavs, but against handicapped Aryan Germans, and was justified, not by racial theories but by Hegelian utilitarianism, whereby whatever is useful is per se good..."

This psychological, legal, and moral technique of de-humanization is used here in Canada to promote abortion, even though a democracy must have a higher standard of definition for human life than that of a totalitarian regime. Other similarities include the authoritarian policy of demanding that all candidates in the federal Liberal Party of Canada be pro-abortion if they want to run for office in a democracy, and the insistence on spending hundreds of millions of dollars on abortion internationally. In a democracy, we must learn and codify a higher anthropology than that followed by totalitarian regimes and dictatorships. The very possibility of democracy depends on an honest definition of what it means to be a human being, on a profound and authentic anthropology

Language and law have been manipulated to de-humanize human beings in the prenatal time of their development, as products

of conception, or denigrated as mere tissue, or assumed to be dead until birth. On the *cultureshift* website these manipulations of language are shown to have a Canadian connection, quoting Joyce Arthur: "A fetus is not a separate individual – it lives inside a pregnant woman and depends on her for its growth. In fact, the biological definition of "parasite" fits the fetal mode of growth precisely..." Then the Nazi German view of life is introduced in a quote from Adolph Hitler: "The Jew was always only a parasite in the body of other peoples." In his work on the psychology of totalitarianism, Dr. Jordan Peterson cites such quotes from Hitler as an indication that disgust and revulsion are a motivation for mass murder.

Statistics bureaus registered deaths during the Holodomor as death by "digestive ailment." Our statistics count late-term abortion as "stillbirth" and those born alive through induced labour abortion are categorized as having received palliative care. After birth, they are starved to death or are allowed to bleed to death.

During the Ukrainian Holodomor (1932-33), the life source of food, so rich and abundant and comforting, was turned into a weapon of mass destruction. Evil strikes at the heart of life. It takes what is good and makes it perverted. Now that the Holodomor education bus has visited Saskatchewan, people will understand the following reference: abortion is Canada's Holodomor.

ABOUT THE HOLODOMOR MOBILE CLASSROOM

An hour-long interactive lesson for the HMC was developed by Valentina Kuryliw, Director of Education for Holodomor Research and Education Consortium, who has more than 30 years of experience teaching history. Students learn to investigate sources and analyze artifacts such as documents, photos, newspaper articles, letters, and survivor accounts through material loaded on individual iPads and displayed on a 28-foot video wall.

It can accommodate up to 33 visitors at a time.

The HMC experience underscores the consequences of hate, oppression and discrimination and the importance of tolerance, human rights and the rule of law.

www.holodomortour.ca



Choose Life News editor Fr. Jeffrey Stephaniuk at the Holodomor: The Ukrainian Genocide National Awareness Tour Bus, which was on tour in April in Wynyard, Sask. The hour-long presentation and displays were sponsored by the Canada Ukraine Foundation.

The Charter Strikes Again



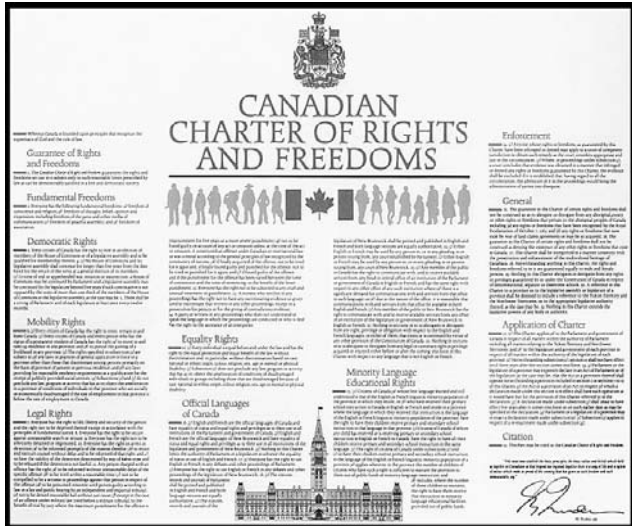
By Shawna Sparrow

If you are a pro-life, pro-family, pro-faith individual, then it is likely that the Charter of Rights and Freedoms is behind many of the court decisions you strongly disagree with.

Abortion is legal in Canada because of the Charter: In *R v Morgentaler*, the Supreme Court held that the lack of access to abortion violated the security of the person protected under s. 7 of the Charter.

Safe-injection sites are legal because of the Charter: In 2011, the Health Minister's decision not to grant an exemption from the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act to Insite, a safe-injection site in downtown Vancouver was held to be contrary to the principles of fundamental justice. The decision to withhold the exemption was found to be arbitrary and grossly disproportionate in relation to its objective. The Supreme Court ruled that the risk of death and disease to injection drug users outweighed any benefit to a prohibition of illegal drugs on Insite's premises, and thus violated section 7. In a shocking move, the Court ordered the exemption be granted (*Canada (AG) v PHS Community Services Society*).

Until the Harper government responded with a new law, prostitution was legal in Canada because of the Charter: In 2013, the Supreme Court struck down three provisions of the Criminal Code related to prostitution (*Canada v Bedford*).



We live in a country where the most important moral and social issues of the day are not being decided by elected officials, but by judges who are free to interpret the Charter as they see fit.

ford). The provisions were held to prevent sex-workers from engaging in a risky, but legal activity from taking steps to protect themselves from risks. Once again, the harm imposed by the prohibition was found to be grossly disproportionate to the provision's object of removing the nuisance of prostitution from the streets. Chief Justice McLachlin compared the prostitution provisions to a law that makes it legal to ride a bike but illegal to wear a helmet.

Medically assisted dying is legal because of the Charter: In the 1993 *Sue Rodriguez* case, the "sanctity of life" was deemed important enough to justify any infringement to Section 7 caused by the prohibition against assisted dying. However, because of changes to the Section 7 analysis, the prohibition was no longer upheld in *Canada v Carter* in 2015. The objective of the prohibition was interpreted as protecting vulnerable people from being pressured into committing suicide. The Court found that because not every person who wishes to commit suicide is vulnerable, the prohibition was overbroad and could not be justified under Section 1 as the total ban was not minimally impairing. The prohibition was also found to infringe upon "the right to life" under s. 7. Some individuals were killing themselves before they wanted to, in the fear that when they were ready to die they would no longer be physically capable of taking their own lives without assistance.

The latest Charter decision to affect people of faith is

the Saskatchewan Court of Queen's Bench ruling that non-Catholic students may no longer be funded to attend Catholic schools. The Charter was front and centre in the decision. Justice Donald Layh held that provincial government funding of non-minority faith students was a violation of the state's duty of religious neutrality. He also stated the funding of these students violates s. 2(a) freedom of religion and s. 15(1) equality rights. Thankfully Brad Wall has decided to invoke the notwithstanding clause in defiance of the court ruling. This is a bold and refreshing move, as the notwithstanding clause is rarely ever used. The ruling would have been a blow to the pro-life movement in Saskatchewan. By attending Catholic schools, thousands of students, who would otherwise never hear a pro-life perspective, are educated about respect for life. In Christian Ethics classes, as well as through Teen-Aid presentations, these same students learn about the benefits of a chaste lifestyle. It is ironic that Justice Layh finds the funding to violate equality rights, because his ruling will result in inequality for non-Catholic parents who want their children to receive faith-based education. The only way for these parents to protect their children from the public school system's harmful messages about sexuality and gender would be to pay over \$10,000 a year either to keep their children in Catholic schools or send them to a private Christian school. The ruling would result in these families being denied equal benefit of the law, which is in itself a violation of s. 15.

Not only does the Charter affront all the values pro-lifers hold dear, it is also rarely of any use to us when we try to benefit from its protections. When someone tries to shut down a pro-life display on university grounds, the pro-life students should be able to depend upon s. 2b of the Charter to protect their freedom of expression. However, the Charter only applies to government action and cases such as *McKinney v University of Guelph* have found that university campuses are not subject to Charter scrutiny under s. 32. The court maintains that the government doesn't exercise enough control over universities for them to be considered government actors. As a result, there is nothing to stop university officials from denying the right to expression.

The same problem may arise when physicians mount a Charter challenge against the policies of various Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons. In Ontario, there is already a policy in place that physicians must refer or in some cases perform procedures regardless of conscience objections. One would hope physician advocacy groups could argue these policies infringe freedom of religion and conscience rights protected under s. 2(a) of the Charter. However, it must first be established that the government exercises enough control over these boards that they can be considered government actors. Otherwise, the Charter will not apply to the decisions of the College of Physicians and Surgeons. Even when the Charter does apply, it often doesn't help us. When Bill Whatcott faced complaints from the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission over flyers he'd distributed in mailboxes, he received no benefit from the right of freedom of expression because two of the pamphlets were deemed to be hate speech.

You would think the words "right to life" in s. 7 would speak directly to the pre-born. Who is more in need to have the right to life protected? Yet when Joseph Borowski tried to raise this issue as a concerned citizen, the Supreme Court dismissed his appeal on the ground of "mootness" in 1988. In the 1989 *Tremblay v Daigle* case, an expectant father looked to the Charter to prevent the mother of his child from obtaining an abortion. He made the case that the fetus should be included in the term "everyone" under s. 7: "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of the person". However, the Supreme Court did not address this issue because, once again, the Charter did not apply. The suit was between two private individuals and there was no government action involved.

It is a cruel irony that the Charter, which is supposed to protect rights and freedoms has resulted in suppressing them. Who would have expected that the constitutional right to life, liberty and the security of the person would result in hundreds of unborn babies losing their lives every single day? Who would have thought that the right to life would somehow end up being used to justify assisted suicide? Or that "freedom of religion" would end up being interpreted as "freedom from religion"? Under Canada's system of constitutional supremacy, the destiny of millions of people hinges on words like "arbitrary", "overbroad" and "grossly disproportionate". We live in a country where the most important moral and social issues of the day are not being decided by elected officials, but by judges who are free to interpret the Charter as they see fit.

Shawna Sparrow is the Provincial Coordinator for Teen-Aid Saskatchewan. She recently completed her first year of law school at the University of Saskatchewan.

Continuity of the Pro-Life Message

By Lynda Millette

I am from Nipawin, and am also a third year College student from Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Academy in Barry's Bay Ontario

And I am 100% pro-life.

My grandparents would have been part of Saskatchewan Pro-life Association when it began about 40 years ago.

The message was clear then: Elect pro-life MLA's and MP's who have integrity. Elect pro-life MLA's and MP's who will act on their convictions and pass pro-life Legislations protecting unborn babies and the vulnerable.

Some years ago, we lost the focus and got busy with many educational projects. It seemed as though political activism took the back pews.

I am determined to bring back our original focus. Working with the Right Now Campaign and other like-minded groups, I plan on spending my summer gathering support of Sask Pro-Life's mission of electing pro-life MLA's and MP's.

The door to door campaign has resulted in huge wins in Ontario. We can and will do the same here.

Please help us move forward and work with us through funding and time. Join SPLA's political committee – we want to have, at least two people per Constituency on our committee.

The four-point mandate is simple:

1. Join a Political Party that allows FREEDOM to vote according to one's conscience.
2. After you join the life-friendly Party, work with a pro-life Candidate to win at the Nomination meeting. That will mean going door-to-door with a simple question: Do you know that babies are killed up to the ninth month in this country? Like in China and North Korea? If they care, they will take out a membership. Most people will do just that. If they do not care, their names will be added to the list for future connections that we give to the Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform.
3. Vote for the pro-life Candidate at the Nomination meeting.
4. Work with that Candidate during the election process.

Do whatever you can but be assured – this will work in garnering pro-life people in this Legislature.



Lynda Millette was one of the speakers featured during the March for Life in Regina

Teen-Aid

continued from page 3

debt that is accumulated because they are told that they can have everything right now – there is no need to put off that holiday or those new clothes because loans are easy to get. Chastity teaches us to see the bigger picture and to focus on the reward that we will achieve by not giving into our current desires. If more people would learn this skill our entire economy would thrive.

I would like to close with one final point. It is never too late to choose chastity. So many young people believe that if they have made mistakes in the past that they are no longer able to make a commitment to chastity. This is untrue. We can always choose to make a commitment to chastity and enjoy the gifts it provides. The past remains in the past – it is what we do now and in the future that really matters. Choosing chastity is always the right choice. We owe it to ourselves, our spouses, our children, and our community. Our lives are infinitely valuable – let's treat them that way.

If you would like to contribute to next year's scholarship fund, please send your donation to:

Teen-Aid SK
535 8th Street East
Saskatoon SK S7H 0P9

Convention

continued from page 3

available to poor mothers “when people have no respect for her body” to respecting and honouring the body of the innocent pre-born human being, realizing now that “abortion is selfish” and disrespectful.

When the real issue is men disrespecting women, what’s needed isn’t abortion, the willful homicide of an already existing human being, and a decision that is beyond one’s jurisdiction and authority. What is needed instead is to communicate with men and society in general about not being disrespectful to women. On this theme, the University of Saskatchewan pro-life group presentation and Jonathon Van Maren’s talk on pornography are interconnected.

Van Maren cited a research paper from the University of Texas entitled, “Pornography and Sexual Violence,” in which there is a statistic that 88% of such material depicts “an explicit aggression against women.” He sees the consequences for the recruitment of new volunteers for the pro-life movement as well: “men who look at porn feel ashamed to be involved in projects such as pro-life because of this activity; it makes it nearly impossible to empathize with those we need to empathize with... Pornography is anti-culture. It saps one’s desire to do good.” I remember a sociology class in university in which the professor spoke of these effects in the context of resistance efforts to the changes that the Nazis were effecting in Germany in the 1930s, how porn disintegrates the unity of the culture and discourages people from finding the moral courage within themselves to work for a common and public cause.

Van Maren’s writing on this topic is found in his book, *The Culture War*, and also in blog entries, such as one he wrote for *lifesitenews* in 2015, entitled “Porn is fueling a new violent sexual ideology in our teens and it has to stop:” “...does nobody think that when we have to teach teens not

“... men who look at porn feel ashamed to be involved in projects such as pro-life because of this activity; it makes it nearly impossible to empathize with those we need to empathize with... Pornography is anti-culture. It saps one’s desire to do good.”

—Jonathon Van Maren

to hurt each other through violent sex acts that we may have done something terribly wrong? I feel pity for those who have reduced sex to “consent.” Humanity once knew that we could transcend mere consent. Consent, yes. But also dignity. Love. Compassion. When we revisit those timeless values, then we will start to recognize our new ideology of sex for the crude and insidious imposter that it is.”

And when “we revisit those times values” of dignity, love, and compassion, we will likewise see that the mere “consent” for abortion is a similar failure and injustice, pretending we have life and death authority over this life that is never ours to decide.

The answer and antidote to such violence, Van Maren said at the pro-life conference in Moose Jaw, is a return to the model of Christ’s self-sacrifice: “Pornography is conveying an ideology that is literally demonic – that reverse of the self-sacrifice model of Christ for his Church.” Healing and true love begin when men imitate the sacrifice of Christ. Women deserve no less.

At the banquet the previous night, he explained that he felt compelled to work full time in the pro-life movement after his first conversation about abortion, in which a young mother asked, “Why didn’t anybody tell me before. My baby paid for that with her life.” Since then he has seen repeatedly how it is that “those girls are just waiting for someone to support them and change their minds.”

GOSPEL OF LIFE

International Standards and Freedom of Speech

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over flag protest,” by Nigel Maxwell, Dionne said, “We’ve never denied a flag. I have denied use of memorial square and that’s because the applicant was a criminal organization, they were a biker gang.”

An objective standard may be elusive, but it exists, as comments on the April 2017 panow story likewise attest: “The municipality must remain a neutral entity. By passing a bylaw that either allows all (with exception for hate/criminal organizations)... When a protestor is so disgusted by the cartoon flag and the politely worded, “Please let me live,” that they make a hand-made sign demanding, “Remove this flag now” and “not acceptable,” they are invoking an authority, namely that they have the authority themselves over this issue, overriding even the premise of duly elected officials legitimately running the city.

What I’ve learned from Dr. Jordan Peterson’s criticism of Bill C-16 is the expectation of self-censorship in these matters of the biology, identity, and expression of sexuality; to be our own judge, jury and executioner over ourselves. And from M-103 there is a corollary, namely that any individual has the authority and jurisdiction to be judge, jury, and executioner over me if they are not satisfied with the either the nature, pace, or tone of my own self-censorship. Even in the case of Conservative Party of Candidate Brad Trost,

the reason he was denied a venue at the Saskatoon Public Library was because the administrators felt they needed to censor themselves about what to do with a social conservative or face the potential of someone else forcing them to censor themselves.

The “remove this flag” protestors are the new sheriffs in town, and the old system of justice, where a legitimate charge must be placed, and the accused is presumed innocent until proven guilty, is no longer a valid protocol of how justice is conducted in Canada. The very being and essence and existence of the child of one’s pregnancy is so repulsive to them, so disgusting, that one person alone has the authority to call for that living being’s execution as their judge, jury, and executioner.

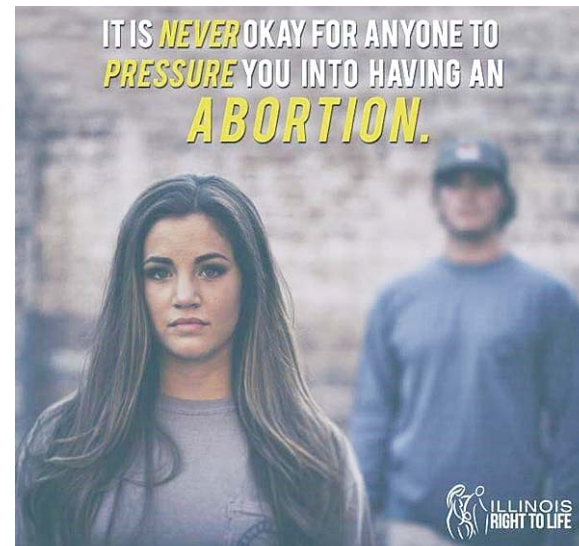
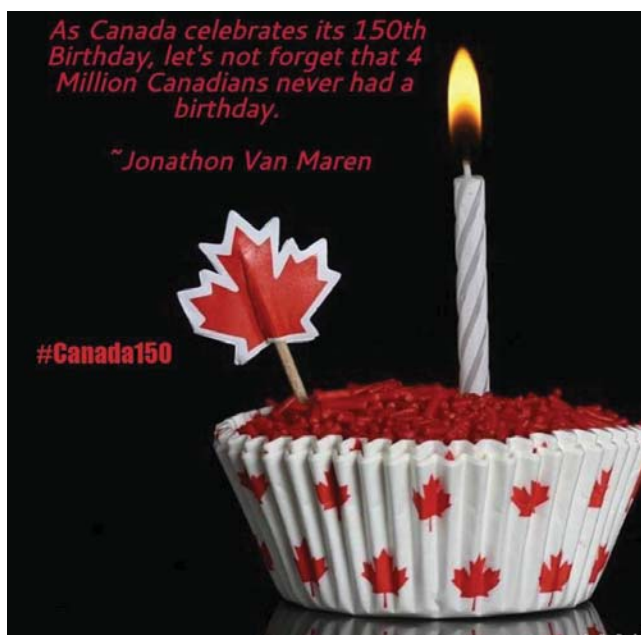
The problem with the accusation of “discrimination against women”, is that like the phrase, one man’s terrorist is another man’s freedom fighter, the line keeps moving. You should see how the violence of abortion is a discrimination against the life of the human being in the pre-born time of one’s life! As Malcolm Muggeridge wrote in his work on the Holocaust and abortion in “The Humane Holocaust:” “Either life is always and in all circumstances sacred, or is intrinsically of no account; it is inconceivable that it should be in some cases the one, and in some the other.”

There is presently a court case in Grand Prairie, Alberta, that is also being watched in Peterborough, Ontario, on the premise that women who have had abortions are an identifiable group that can claim discrimination in the same manner that the first court cases after the introduction of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms in 1982 succeeded in bringing court cases against Holocaust deniers. Problems with the litigation aside, a court case is very different than private individuals insisting on self-censorship of those who sincerely believe and produce scientific evidence that abortion is the willful homicide of a human being.

As Jonathon Van Maren stated during his banquet address at the 2017 SPLA Convention, “Human beings have human rights. Humans have human rights when life begins. Science tells us when life begins.” The scientist, Dr. Jerome Lejeune, accepted by the Saskatchewan Court of Queen’s Bench as an expert witness during a trial on the beginning of human life in Regina in 1983, explains the beginning of that life this way: the life of each individual human being “begins at the instant that all the necessary and sufficient information is combined in order to define the new being. That is right from the beginning.”



Jonathon Van Maren is the communications director Canadian Centre for Bio-ethical Reform.



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SPLA and supporters took to Regina's streets during the annual provincial March for Life held May 11.



Thursday September 14, 2017

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Doors open at 3pm/ Program at 4pm



Featuring Catholic Speaker & Author

Matt Fradd

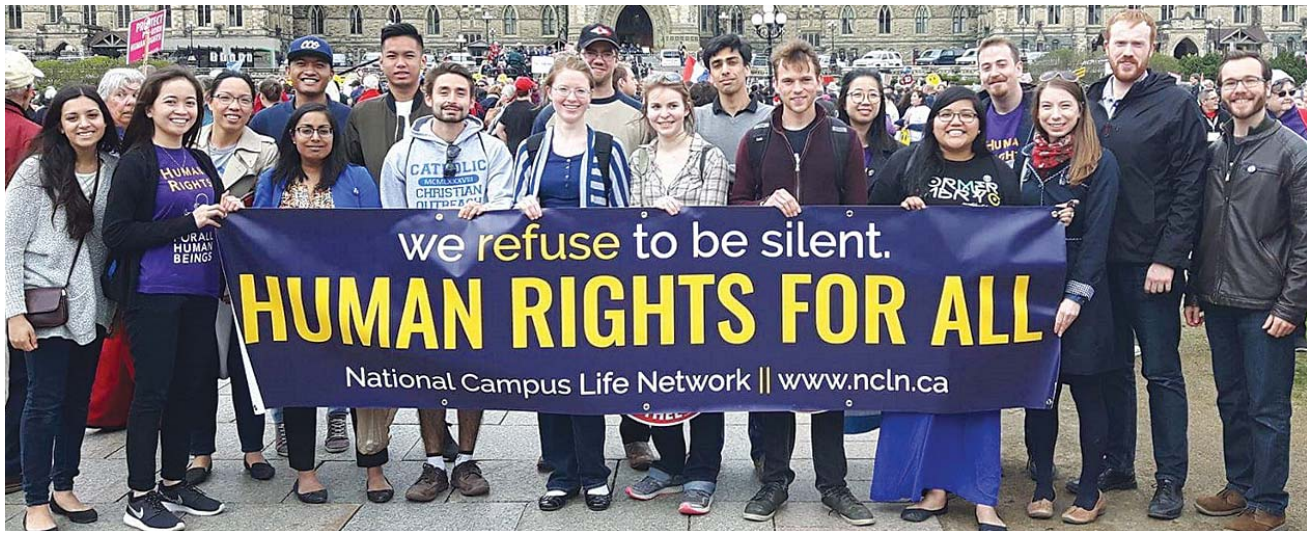
Founder of the 'Porn Effect'

Practical strategies for parents to protect their children from the lies of an over-sexualized culture.

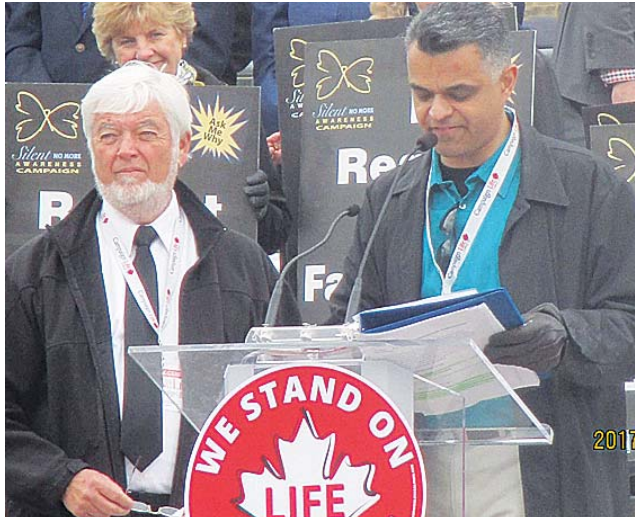
For more information visit:
www.omsoul.ca



Artwork of students from St. Agnes Grade 7 class and Vanier Collegiate Institute Grade 10 students graced the walls at the provincial convention in Moose Jaw.



Ruth Shaw and National Campus Life Network.



Big Blue Wave.



Brad Trost speaks to a reporter on the Hill.



Crowd photos by Neil MacCarthy.



RIGHTS

National March: This is About Life

By Anna Nienhius

On May 11, thousands of anti-abortionists gather in Ottawa for the annual March for Life. Thousands more do the same at local marches around the country. Canada is known around the world for having a high standard of human rights, yet this march remains necessary year after year as more than 100,000 babies continue to be aborted annually.

As we approach our 150th birthday this summer, we shouldn't be resting on the laurels of a renowned human rights record. Instead, we should be engaged in serious reflection and self-examination. How can we do better?

The number one way in which we can do better is in relation to our most vulnerable. Viable pre-born babies continue to be discarded by the tens of thousands every year. Politicians are scared of the topic – Liberals because they could lose their jobs if they talk about it, Conservatives because they're told they may not get the job if they talk too much about it.

In our attempt to maintain our international reputation as tolerant, progressive, and accommodating, we have ended up with special interest rights trumping human rights. We are trying so hard to keep everything free that we are clamping down on freedom of speech. "Reproductive rights" have somehow trumped the right to life, and anyone who claims that human rights should trump women's rights had better stop reading online comment sections and lock their doors.

It is only a matter of time, however, before everyone has to admit that the emperor has no clothes. Science has never been clearer regarding the intricate humanity of life in the womb. The pre-born child is un-

equivocally a separate, living human being. It is dependent on its mother, yes, as is a newborn or toddler. Also like a newborn or toddler, the pre-born child has its own DNA and can even be operated on separately from the mother.

In the blur of plummeting birth rates and newfound sexual freedom that came with widely available birth control, we as women somehow came to believe that we were the masters of conception. Not one of us would ever again have a child against her will; we would decide whether life lived or died within us. This belief led us to fight tooth and nail any suggestion that pregnancy might just be something we couldn't always control, and we've managed to convince a lot of women to cling to that control regardless of the consequences. By doing so, we've also allowed men to step back from responsibility, to expect control, and to turn a blind eye to the consequences.

The rights to life, liberty and security of the person were matters of life and death to our forefathers. They founded our nation on these values because these values mean something. We cannot be casual about these terms or their implications. Human rights trump individual rights. The right to life, the primary human right, is violated every moment that abortion remains legal in Canada. We need to stand up and say this is not about bodily autonomy or fighting patriarchy, this is about life. So women, men and children from all ages and stages of life, all backgrounds, all with their own stories, beliefs, and reasons for being there, will march. They march for, and stand for, the right to life for all members of the human family.

Anna Nienhius is the research and policy coordinator for WeNeedA^{LAW}.ca.

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Catholicism seems to trouble Minister Eggen more than kids exposed to pornography

By John Carpay
www.jccf.ca

Alberta's Education Minister David Eggen claims to be "deeply concerned" about a pro-life presentation made in a Catholic school in Red Deer, which mentioned both abortion and the Holocaust.

Yet Eggen does not seem to be deeply troubled by the sexually graphic material that was provided to K-12 children on his government-funded Alberta GSA Network website, developed by the Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services (ISMSS) under the direction of his friend Kris Wells.

Wells is the professional activist and propagandist who heads the ISMSS. Wells' thoughtful academic scholarship includes tweeting a cartoon comparing Christians to Nazis, and routinely denouncing Albertans as "homophobic" if they dare question progressive sexual orthodoxy. Under the supervision of Wells, the taxpayer-funded GSA website provided children with links to "Super practical sex positions everyone can try at home" and "Eight things they teach you at blow job school."

Eggen is not concerned about Wells supervising a website for children which linked to "Fruit Loop" and graphic

nudity. Eggen apparently wants Alberta teachers to have "resources" like "These kinky sex toys are guaranteed to spice up your bedroom this Valentine's Day." This GSA website had links to introduce children to the "Zebra" sexual alphabet: 'A' is for Auto-fellatio, 'F' is for Felching, 'U' is for Urophilia, 'Y' is for Yellow and Brown Showers. Felching is so revolting (and unhealthy) that no decent website or other publication could even describe this practice; google the term at your own risk.

The public links to these materials were removed from the government's GSA website when Alberta mother and former teacher Theresa Ng blew the whistle on her blog, Informed Albertans. As Ng explains it: "It is true that sexually graphic content is available on the internet and kids could find it anyway. However, using schools to intentionally direct and connect children to community organizations that peddle sexually graphic content is not safe or appropriate. It is dangerous, reckless and wrong."

Ng has been viciously and publicly attacked on Twitter, Facebook and elsewhere, yet our courageous Anti-Bullying Crusader David Eggen has not bothered to denounce the bullying, name-calling and hate that has been directed against Ng.

In spite of Wells knowingly making grossly inappropriate materials available to children, Eggen has kept Wells in charge of this GSA website. Schools across Alberta continue to register with the Alberta GSA Network, and Eggen still allows ISMSS to do "Fyrefly in Schools" presentations to children.

Instead of firing Wells from his position of authority and trust, Eggen has joined the predictable chorus of social justice warriors like Cristina Stasia, who claimed that the pro-life presentation in a Catholic school was "medically inaccurate." Stasia teaches "gender studies" at the University of Alberta and has a Ph.D. in English. Her website lists no medical qualifications. Apart from assuming that her own philosophical beliefs are absolute Truth and beyond debate, Stasia provides no examples of the "incorrect" information that she publicly decries.

What Eggen and Stasia are expressing is naked hostility to the Catholic teaching that human life is as valuable before birth as it is after birth. One does not need to be Catholic to know that the Catholic Church has long taught, rightly or wrongly, that abortion is a grave evil, constituting the deliberate killing of a human being. One can agree or disagree with Catholic teaching, but let's not pretend that this is newsworthy. Yet Alberta's Education Minister denounces as "hateful propaganda" the Catholic Church's opposition to what it considers to be different examples of large-scale killing. Does Eggen not understand that the very purpose of constitutional protection for Catholic schools in Alberta is to allow them to be actually Catholic?

Recent calls for an investigation should be heeded. Why do Kris Wells and his ISMSS, which offered children lessons in BDSM, oral sex and felching, still enjoy the full confidence of David Eggen? Will Eggen remove Wells from his current position of influence over the education of children in Alberta? And why is Eggen "deeply concerned" about Catholic schools teaching what is consistent with Catholic philosophy, while having spent our tax dollars on a website that exposed children to pornography?

Calgary lawyer John Carpay is president of the Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms.



A supporter speaks during the March for Life held in British Columbia on May 11.

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Denae Pellerin, left, and Kathrina Dixon from University of Saskatchewan Students For Life explain "The necessity of all the avenues of the pro-life movement."

Intern Project Garners Almost 1800 Signatures: Schouten



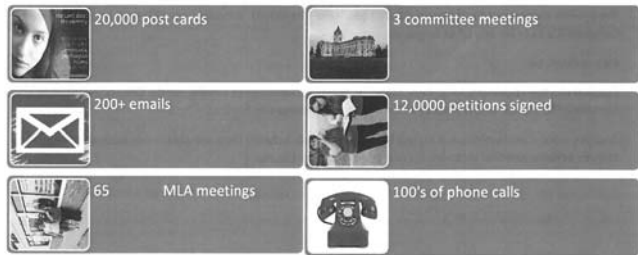
By Mike Schouten

The 2017 Saskatchewan Pro-Life Convention was a great opportunity to update folks on the progress of the Parental Consent campaign.

Admittedly, there is always a temptation to become discouraged. The parental consent campaign is into its third year (yes, it was a cold day in 2014 when we launched this effort on the steps of the Legislature), and Canada as a country is nearing a half-century of legal abortion resulting in the loss of nearly 4 million little boys and girls.

As we experienced through the fellowship and wide variety of presenters, a convention is a great place to encourage each other and spark a renewed energy into persevering in this struggle for human rights.

Grassroots activity has been the strength of the parental consent campaign! Check out some of these statistics of what we've accomplished together!



It was also good to update everyone on the successful summer 2016 intern project. We had six young people dedicate six weeks to gathering petitions in Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, and many other towns. In total the interns had 2596 conversations that resulted in 1791 signatures. That is a whopping 70% conversion rate! They just walked up to people, or knocked on their door and 70% said yes to signing almost immediately. Clearly a parental consent law has support from a majority of the people!



WeNeedALaw intern "Joseph," engaging in one of almost 2600 conversations in the summer of 2016.

Here is a testimony provided by one of the interns: "I was door-knocking in Saskatoon and ran into an East Indian woman getting in her car to go to work. She said she was going to the hospital and that she is a registered practical nurse. I asked if she wanted to sign the petition and she said yes. She agreed with the cause because she sees every day in her work that minors who want to make decisions like this (abortion) don't understand fully what they are doing and rarely think of the consequences. She said that at that age, they need their parents to guide them." – Sam

I was also able to share some information from a recent meeting we had with the Human Services caucus committee. Of note was a presentation made to this committee by a foster parent with more than 20 years of experience. This parent was able to articulate how foster children come from a place of neglect, abuse, and lack of good counsel which makes it all the more necessary that their guardians are involved in reproductive health decisions. She concluded her remarks by saying, "As a biological, adoptive and foster mother, my responsibility to safeguard the kids in my care

Here is a testimony provided by one of the interns:

"I was door-knocking in Saskatoon and ran into an East Indian woman getting in her car to go to work. She said she was going to the hospital and that she is a registered practical nurse.

"I asked if she wanted to sign the petition and she said yes.

"She agreed with the cause because she sees every day in her work that minors who want to make decisions like this (abortion) don't understand fully what they are doing and rarely think of the consequences.

"She said that at that age, they need their parents to guide them."

– Sam



cannot be achieved if my consent is unnecessary during significant times in the lives of these kids. It is my hope and prayer that you will see that a parental consent for abortion law is necessary, not in spite of how it may impact foster children, but because of how foster children are impacted without it."

All the conference attendees were then given a simple action item – place a phone call to the Premier and Minister of Health.

In conclusion, I would like to encourage all those reading this to not give up. Perhaps you've been part of the pro-life movement for decades. Maybe you have just joined. Whether old or young or somewhere between it's easy for any of us to get discouraged.

Please don't be.

Political change requires a long view. Some of us will be involved in sowing seeds. Others in watering a fertilizing the plants. But we won't all be around to witness the harvest.

And yet, your contributions are incredibly valuable – no, actually they are absolutely necessary if we are to ever achieve political victories for our pre-born neighbours.

Whatcott Brings Truth to Campus – All By Himself

By Tom Schuck

For 15 years I have been the legal advisor to Bill Whatcott. I admire his courage, and really appreciate his joyfulness... his *Joi de vive* and unfailing belief in truth and God. His mind quickly recognizes the irrationality of injustice and steps into action with little consideration of the consequences. He sees wrong. He acts.

One of the objects of his scorn has been the hypocrisy of our university elites who ought to be bastions of free speech and liberty, but instead have morphed from clear thinking places of reason and learning to safe places where students are protected from rational views that could hurt their feelings. Some universities can now only issue "trigger warnings" when he approaches their campus. They could have just as easily issued soothers on registration day as added security for their students.

Stories of the intolerance of alternative views on campuses today and what to do about them have frequently appeared on news channels and editorials. But for Whatcott, the solution was simple. He would show up, pass out fliers, get arrested, plead not guilty, get acquitted and then return to the campus.

Whatcott had three cases that he has won against the University of Regina after appealing one of them, before the university finally threw in the towel and allowed Whatcott to not only come onto campus, but rented him a table from which he taught universal Christian truths on abortion and gay sex.

At the University of Calgary, students previously had been prohibited and then disciplined for holding and showing pictures of aborted babies on campus. At this University Whatcott was arrested twice, and won both cases, one of which the University appealed and lost again.

It would be an exaggeration to say that all is now good on the above University Campuses. However, it is marvelous to see what one person can contribute to free speech and religious freedom all by himself. Thanks to Whatcott, the Christian message on sexuality can now be talked about on two University campuses.

Like all universities these days, they promote their own version of a theology of the body in their Gender Studies Program that is contrary to Christian morality except in the dreams of those led astray.

There are several affiliated religious colleges on the campus of University of Regina. I often wonder what it is that Whatcott teaches that the religious colleges do not? Do they support abortion and same sex activities, or do they not? Why would a university hire lawyers several times to keep Whatcott off campus because of his views, and then allow affiliate colleges that share, or ought to share, the same zeal that Whatcott has for the Good News?

Instead of Good News, universities give fake news to students...fake news supported by our newspapers, television and Hollywood. Instead of bread, students are given stones to fill their heads.

For now, we should just rejoice and thank God for giving us one person who can turn irrational University policies on their head.



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Life's Work: A Moral Argument for Choice by Dr. Willie Parker

By Clinton Wilcox, Life Training Institute

Life's Work: A Moral Argument for Choice by Dr. Willie Parker is a new book defending abortion rights by an African-American doctor who is a self-proclaimed "Christian" (the reason for the quotes around Christian will become evident below). For all the lip service Parker says about rationality and wanting to approach the issue rationally, I've rarely read a more irrational defense of abortion rights. Doctor Parker is, having grown up a poor black kid with all the struggles that brings with it, adamant about protecting the rights of women by ensuring that they have the "right to abortion." Unfortunately, what Parker doesn't understand is that by dehumanizing the unborn, he is doing exactly what white people used to do to black slaves, dehumanizing them so that they can justify killing them because they're in the way of what bigger and stronger people want. Arguments from Science

Let's now talk about Parker's pseudo-scientific claims. Parker doesn't believe the fetus is equal to a baby or a child because it can't survive outside the uterus since it can't breathe, nor can it form anything like thoughts. Of course, he never justifies why these things are necessary to be equal to us older people; he just assumes it. The only reason the fetus can't breathe or form thoughts is because it is too young to do so. And of course, the fetus does breathe, it just breathes via the umbilical cord, not through its nose. It is still taking in oxygen. Parker tries to put himself forth as an authority on when life begins, but as an astronomer is not an authority on evolution, nor is a biologist an authority on what the atmosphere of Mars is composed of, Parker is not an authority on whether or not embryos are human beings just because he has scientific training -- embryologists are, and they consistently agree, without significant controversy, that human life begins at fertilization. Parker's a pretty lousy



Clinton Wilcox

doctor if he doesn't even know this basic biological fact. Of course, he dismisses the idea that "life begins at conception" as a "deeply held religious belief" and doesn't even attempt to interact with the scientific arguments pro-life people give for that view. He then appeals to Justice Blackmun's ruling in Roe v. Wade, though, of course, Blackmun's ruling was not scientific in nature -- it was philosophical (and bad philosophy, at that). I bet Parker would not accept as an argument for young-earth creationism that "scientists, philosophers, and theologians all disagree on the age of the earth, so neither should we take any particular stance on what the age of the earth is." But this is exactly the kind of reasoning Blackmun used in Roe, and Parker apparently finds it quite convincing. Parker also repeats the myth that abortion was illegal in common law to protect the life and safety of women. This is a false narrative (though Parker doesn't seem very interested in refuting false narratives if they agree with his). As Joseph Dellapenna showed in his book *Dispelling the Myths of Abortion History*, abortion was illegal in common law to protect the life of the fetus, not to protect the health of the mother. A stark difference is that Dellapenna has provided many, many sources to support his claims, and Parker doesn't offer a single one to support his.

ARGUMENTS FROM SCRIPTURE

Parker reinterprets Martin Luther King, Jr.'s sermon *I've Been to the Mountaintop* and his discussion of the Good Samaritan. This is not unique to Parker; abortion-choice philosopher Judith Jarvis Thomson also abused the Good Samaritan tale to justify her stance on abortion rights. Parker sees himself as the "good Samaritan" in performing abortions on women he thinks are in need of them. In chapter seven, Parker attempts to make a more detailed Biblical case for supporting abortion rights. He argues that the Bible does not contain the word "abortion" in it. Of course, this is just the old argument from silence fallacy. The Bible not expressly condemning it does not mean the Bible condones it. What we do have is one of the earliest Christian documents, *The Didache*, expressly forbidding both abortion and infanticide, so to claim that Christianity is consistent with support for abortion is historically and theologically confused. The Bible also says "you shall not murder" (Ex. 20:13, Deut. 5:17), that child sacrifice had never even entered God's mind to command (Jer. 19:5), and that Jesus had high regard for children (Matt. 18:6, Matt. 19:14). That God would support abortion to make our lives easier is a concept that is foreign to Scripture.

PARKER IS NOT A CHRISTIAN IN ANY MEANINGFUL SENSE

Parker simply worships a god of his own creation. Throughout the book, he uses phrases such as "the god I worship", or "the god I believe in". This is likely because he doesn't believe there is any right interpretation of Scripture (p. 127) and that there is no such thing as absolute morality

HUMAN RIGHTS

Doctors Speak Out Against Wynne's Liberals

On April 10th, Concerned Ontario Doctors and Doctors Ontario held a joint press conference at Queen's Park to speak out against the serious human rights violations of Bills 84 and 87. These Bills imposed by Wynne's Liberal government are unconscionable and unjustly violate 6 Sections of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and 8 Articles of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

"Once Bill 87 passes, the CPSO will publish all patient complaints publicly on their website and will have the ability to both temporarily and permanently revoke a physician's license before a committee hearing ever occurs and before any evidence is ever presented."

Even the worst of offenders are presumed innocent until proven guilty in the court of law. Apparently that does not apply to Ontario's physicians who will lose their presumption of innocence.

For Bill 84, there is nothing that protects a physician's conscience rights in regards to medical assistance in dying (MAID). Those that disobey will be reprimanded by the CPSO and lose their medical license. There is no reason to pit patient access against doctors' conscience rights. Other Canadian provinces have very effectively ensured the preservation of both with a self-referral co-ordinated care model. It strikes the perfect balance of rights and freedoms as envisioned by our Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, "My idea of freedom is that we should protect the rights of people to

believe what their conscience dictates, but fight equally hard to protect people from having the beliefs of others imposed upon them." Ontario stands alone in denying physicians protection of conscience rights.

"None of us ever envisioned whether we took the Hippocratic Oath 40 years ago or 4 years ago, that we would one day be legislated to cooperate in the death of our patients."

The Charter of Rights and Freedoms must not apply to most Canadians. It must apply to all Canadians.

Learn more in the video below. Please share this video and help us share what is happening to Ontario's healthcare...to your healthcare.

UPDATE: A sad time for Ontario- first on April 11, 2017, Wynne's Liberal government voted down the Bill 84 amendment to protect doctors conscience rights; NDP had abstained from the vote. Then on May 9, 2017: ALL Ontario Liberal and NDP MPPs voted to pass Bill 84 --stripping Ontario doctors of their fundamental Human Right of conscience. ALL PC MPPs voted against. Ontario has become the first jurisdiction in the democratic world to strip anyone of their conscience rights. A basic human right protected under both the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Public committee hearings on Bill 87 end on May 10th.

www.carenotcuts.ca

Red Deer Prolife Targeted by Education Minister and Media

By Angela Shaw

Growing up in a conservative Christian home, I have always held the belief that all human life is valuable but it wasn't until I was 16 that I began acting on this belief.

When I was in grade 8, I learned that abortion ended the life of a preborn child in his or her mother's womb and I wrote a paper on how awful it is. When I was 16, I began volunteering with Red Deer and Area Prolife and from there I worked with We Need a Law, Association for Reformed Political Action, and the Canadian Centre for Bioethical Reform. I am a current board member for Red Deer and Area Prolife and I am their education presenter.

I go into any school in the Central Alberta area that will have us and talk to kids about what abortion is and how it affects our society, fetal development, circumstances surrounding a crisis pregnancy, and resources that we can use to help people who have been hurt by or who are faced with abortion.

One of the main schools that I have been going to for the two years is a catholic school in Red Deer. As part of their religion class, grade 10 students are required to learn about the sanctity of life and I have been the one to teach them. I have learned that most kids don't agree with the catholic view that all life is sacred, even though they go to the catholic school, and they certainly don't want to sit through a mandatory class about someone else's opinion.

That is why through one student's actions, the education minister heard my presentation.

When Education Minister David Eggen heard about my presentation, that showed a minute video talking about how the Holocaust and abortion are both mass genocides that have dehumanized a portion of human beings, he was very quick to drop a bomb in the media. As the media usually does, they focused on one tiny part of the presentation in-

This attack by Minister Eggen has very clearly shown how desperately the NDP wants to get rid of the Christian world view and this is not the only assault.

stead of the whole. They took the video that was shown out of proportion, and as a result Red Deer Prolife has suffered being slandered in the media by Miss Cristina Stasia of the AIM foundation (Accessing Information not Myths) and we have been suspended from teaching the students at this catholic high school.

Even though this has happened, it will not stop our efforts to reach the next generation about the truth of abortion.

This attack by Minister Eggen has very clearly shown how desperately the NDP wants to get rid of the Christian world view and this is not the only assault. I find it very disturbing the timing of Minister Eggen's media bomb about a simple prolife presentation. I learned that it was to cover up the fact that Mr. Eggen, along with Dr. Kristopher Wells of the University of Alberta, were exposing students from kindergarten to grade 12 to sexually graphic material that is not suitable for adults let alone children on a school website.

This is just one example of how the NDP government of Alberta is trying to change the education system. A few other ways they are trying is, to get rid of home-schoolers and wholesome Christian education by removing all government funding and taking away the rights of parents to know what their kids are learning in schools. They are rewriting the entire Alberta curriculum without revealing who is contributing to it. As a resident of Alberta, I was very disappointed with the election of an NDP government in my province and after these attacks on our education system that hit very close to home, I believe now is the time to act.

We are talking about the next generation here. If we are teaching kids that you don't need to have accountability to the people who love you the most and that it is okay to watch pornography, which dehumanizes and brutalizes women for enjoyment and kill the most innocent members of the human family, I am afraid of what our future is going to look like when these children become our leaders. We have been given an opportunity to make a difference.

If Christians and proliferers don't act now, there will be no going back and we must not be surprised at the decay if we are sitting idle.

Love, Hope, and an Endless Will to Live: A Pro-Life Message from a Ukrainian Medic

By Yana Zinkevych and Alisa Kotyk

Medical volunteer Yana Zinkevych, aged 21, saved over 200 lives on the frontline in Donbas but nearly lost hers in a car crash. Despite having traumas said to be incompatible with life, she survived, suffering intense spinal, rib, and internal injuries. For two months, Ukrainian and Israeli doctors fought for her life and managed to piece together her spine. It was then when Zinkevych discovered she was pregnant. Doctors told her she would have no chances of carrying out the baby, but despite all odds she gave birth to a daughter.

The young woman was 19 years old and was planning to enter the Medical Faculty of Lviv National University, but the outbreak of the war in Donbas in spring 2014 changed her plans. Instead, Zinkevych left for the front and founded the Hospitaliery medical volunteer battalion, which was soon taken under the auspices of the Volunteer Ukrainian Corps, a part of the Right Sector Organization. Although she had no medical qualifications, she learned how to perform operations and give commands to a battalion of men.

Fate can take your health, rob you of the use of your feet, confine you to a wheelchair. Never, however, will God ever take away from you that which is most precious- your Soul, which He himself presented to you as a gift for all eternity, breathing it into you when you came into existence. Your soul is a part of you, your Wings. God loves you, and His love for you is greater than your love for yourself!

"It is not possible to survive after such an accident;" "No one survives such trauma..." "No one survives..."

Yana Zinkevych has heard all the variations on this theme, and in several languages of the world. She has heard this assessment while in several different stages of



While undergoing treatment after a tragic accident, medical volunteer Yana Zinkevych found out she was pregnant, and doctors warned her it could kill her.

of her doctors) and was informed that her trauma was so severe that they doubted she could ever have children. She was being treated in Israel at this time, and so she visited the Wailing Wall, despondent that perhaps it was true, and she would never have the experience of being a mother.

It was two months later, slowly and surely regaining her strength following the accident, even if by the tiniest of steps forward, she learns that she is pregnant. All the doctors uniformly announced that this pregnancy would kill her, and even if they were wrong about that, she would forfeit her "golden opportunity" to regain her health, and would not be able to carry the baby to term.

Yana found herself once again as she had been so many times in the past when at the front lines. At war she risked her own life to save the wounded, even when under enemy fire. She did not concern herself then with death or anything other than saving someone's life. Now she focused on the life of her pre-born child. Once again she stood at the precipice, the choice between Life or Death.

Yana makes her decision. Not only would aborting her pre-born baby be a sin, but also a mortal sin against God who had given her the chance to fulfill her dreams of hearing herself called "Mother." She resolves to carry her pregnancy to term, or in her case, being in a wheelchair, "to drive" her pregnancy to term, and give birth to her very own child...

Consequently, Yana had to stop any treatment that might harm her child. From that moment on her constant companion would be a steady pain, unrelenting even momentarily. Such was a compromise she willingly made with a nearly unbearable, intense physical suffering.

What followed was her wedding... But then his unfaithfulness... and divorce. Paper can take anything, but there isn't much to say about Yana's marriage and happiness save for an ellipsis.

What she has to show for all this suffering is found in the person of her God-given little girl.

Bohdanka, meaning "God-given." Our "Zefirka," who has such a strong desire to live that her will has an impact on everyone around her, renewing a spontaneous and continuous wonder, faith, hope, and love in one's heart. Yana felt God's providence, marveling at the site of her little child. The baby is at an age now where she grasps tightly with her fingers to her mother's hand!

All the pessimistic conclusions of medical personnel notwithstanding, Yana is alive and more vibrant than ever! She competently conducts the affairs of the medical battalion.

Since the time of its formation, the Hospitaliery have saved the lives of nearly two thousand five hundred Ukrainian soldiers. That's 2,500 human beings.

Yana Zinkevych is a living legend. She is an example of what it means to say "No!" to all those who claim there is no hope.

Here is her reply:

"The fact that you are in a wheelchair only means that you see the world from a different perspective! When I could walk I was never amazed that I could, or ever really

valued it. When they give you a report stating that now you are a person with special needs, this is your call to action, to believe in yourself. It might be elusive and intangible for a medical explanation, but you do have it within yourself to break free of your circle of limitations! I am on a training program, and fully understand that the reason I want to walk again is for the sake of my daughter. My therapy is not easy. It means learning to walk but also to strengthen my spine, and for it to obey my brain.

Perhaps only quadriplegics will understand this statement. It is difficult, but I have already broken through at least one stereotype. What is most important is a desire to live fully. It is your hope and desire and need to live again as you had before the accident: go see a movie, visit with friends, cook and bake; take the dog for a walk, read books, enjoy the beauty and aroma of flowers, listen to the song of the birds; to love and allow yourself to be loved; even the occasional argument. To dream, to make mistakes, and to have expectations! In my case, my life is synonymous with war, war in its most fundamental meaning. I am in complete charge of a battalion and I am in control of everything that happens in it.

There is also the war with myself: suffering, doubts, grieving. It is enough to poison even one's physical health and bring about depression. I know that there are many, many people who are praying for me, and this is a source of strength. I am also aware that people see me and they sincerely believe that my spirit is strong. Being an example to them is another source of my strength.

I do not belong exclusively to myself. I am the first one to go ahead and am the example for others to follow. I must also live up to the noble faith people have entrusted in me, those who have found themselves in similar predicaments. In my life there is my daughter, my parents, my friends, my brothers and sisters in arms. All these individuals help me live a life of complete surrender, as though I were swimming carefree in a river. Recently I did some baking, I was part of a video that will make its premiere soon, I adopted a pet dog from the animal shelter, and I am preparing to enter medical school (a dream of mine, for which I must soon take the proficiency examination).

I am also learning how to drive again, and the independence that this will bring. I am an instructor with the Hospitalier courses and teach young students how to be defenders and

"Yana found herself once again as she had been so many times in the past when at the front lines. At war she risked her own life to save the wounded, even when under enemy fire. She did not concern herself then with death or anything other than saving someone's life. Now she focused on the life of her pre-born child."

patriots, so sometimes I am going from the kindergartens to the front line to supervise the rotations.

I have taken upon myself many responsibilities: the battalion and military affairs. Believe me when I say that no one among the combat commanders or among the ordinary soldiers calls me by that terrible word, "invalid." No one in my close circle of friends feels sorry for me; I don't need pity and tears! I don't feel sorry for myself. You will never be given a heavier cross than the one you have the strength to bear. Live your life! Be strong, and do not be afraid to ask for help. Very often someone is already nearby who is ready and willing to help you.

I have died once... I have witnessed others dying... and rescued them before they perished... I have encountered death many times over the past three and a half years of war, and have even become accustomed to these passing encounters. The road ahead of me is difficult, and some places are off limits to me and my wheelchair. However, we will finish this war, after which I will continue to fight as a professional doctor for health and recovery, for the rights and abilities of all those people who have been made cripples by this war and its fate. People with disabilities do not have limited horizons, but rather they have specific needs. They are people who see the world from a different point of view!"

*Translated from Ukrainian by Fr. Jeffrey D. Stephaniuk
This article was first printed at: www.euromaidanpress.com*

For two months, Ukrainian and Israeli doctors fought for her life and managed to piece together her spine. It was then when Zinkevych discovered she was pregnant. Doctors told her she would have no chances of carrying out the baby,

consciousness: fully conscious, semi-conscious, with a high fever. She heard it on the telephone, through her tears and those of others, and through her relentless, chronic pain...

The dark day when all this began was December 5, 2015. A description of the accident read: "The Commander of the Hospitaliery Battalion, the fighter-volunteer, Yana Zinkevych, was involved in a serious car accident while returning back to base. She broke her spine, L1 and L2 separated 1.5 cm, suffered a punctured chest, broken collarbone, broken ribs, trauma to her heart and lungs and other internal organs, severe blood loss, and she went into a coma.

By morning of the next day, all of Ukraine heard the news and the prognosis, and were shocked by pictures of the crash site, where the vehicle rolled several times, within which was to be found this young woman, someone who has become a symbol of courage and kindness at the front lines of this war. An angel of military field medicine, strong and fearless, she has personally rescued from battlefield over 200 soldiers. She also established and heads the medical battalion, Hospitaliery, and was a medical officer first for Right Sector, and then, since the time she has been in a wheelchair, she has been medical officer for the Ukrainian Volunteer Army. Most recently, she herself has been in need of medical care and our prayers.

Anyone who knows Yana personally, and anyone who has ever heard about this petite but already legendary woman, are all holding their breath and hoping for the best, anxiously hoping for a miracle. At her most desperate moment, it was only God who could breathe new life into her. Into our Yana. It's as if the Creator himself, with a tender hand, rescued her from death. He himself has led her to the most talented surgeons, who seemingly took all these pieces of bones and spine and put them back together within her. God heard her prayers, those of her friends, and those of all the fighters she has rescued, not to mention the prayers of Ukrainians from around the world. He has opened her eyes to a renewed life, and a new identity that includes life in a wheelchair.

The life of Yana is a test of strength and daily challenges. One of her first experiences of insurmountable struggles was when she first regained consciousness (with the assistance

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Undefined 'Autonomy' and the Convoluted MAID Maze

By Fr. Jeffrey D. Stephaniuk

Health Regions within Saskatchewan have begun to make known the number of doctor-assisted suicides in the province. After the first such loss in one region, a health professional writes about the impact of this experience, describing Medical Aid in Dying (MAID) as "problematic ... from the perspective of a health care provider who faces dilemmas."

The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition writes in their "Caring not Killing" educational brochure, that "We oppose euthanasia and assisted suicide" because they "destroy the trust relationship between medical professionals and patients." As indicated in the following first-person account, it can now be further stated that they also destroy the relationship of trust among medical professionals.

An insider's perspective from the front lines of care has led to the following succinct description of what is being experienced: "When the decision is made by the patient and the process begins, there are specific guidelines that must be followed. Two physicians must independently ascertain that the patient has a 'grievous and irremediable condition.' The illness, disease, or disability is an advanced state, is irreversible, and the state of decline causes someone enduring physical or psychological suffering that is intolerable to them. The suffering cannot be relieved under conditions that are acceptable to the patient. Natural death has become reasonably foreseeable. Two independent persons must witness the written request for MAID. There is to be a ten-day cooling off period after the request is made. In some circumstances, the cooling off period can be shortened."

The first threat to the atmosphere of good will and professionalism among staff is the insinuation that one might have a hidden agenda: "When someone has decided to die at a time and place of their own choosing with medical assistance, there is a team designated to facilitate it. Health care providers have a directive to be respectful of a person's autonomy. They are never to impose their own beliefs or morals on the patient."

The writer explains in detail the honest and sincerely held moral conviction about the essence of the problem, and the frustration of being reduced to a bureaucratic functionary: "Herein lies a dilemma for a health care provider who is a conscientious objector. The patient's right to autonomy prevents a health care provider from discussing the issue with the patient and prevents the health care worker from providing their point of view even if this is solicited by the patient. Further, because the patient has the right to privacy and confidentiality, the patient's decision is shared only on a "need to know" basis. Therefore, care is provided by all members of the health care team without many of the care providers being aware of the patient's decision to have MAID."

In an application to the context of health-care of the expression, "silence means approval", the following statement articulates the miscommunication patients can receive when the system soundproofs open dialogue, and the effect of a death on the core of one's humanity: "In the practice of ensuring autonomy and privacy, there is an absence of discussion with care providers. This lack of discussion, where the patient could hear other points of view or objections to MAID, can be regarded by the patient as unanimous support of their decision. Because no one is allowed to voice an objection the patient

can be lead to believe all agree with their decision. Once the MAID act has occurred and knowledge of the death and its manner becomes known to a previously uninformed worker, a conscientious objector feels a sense of hurt and guilt."

As a mature individual who is not content to be a bystander in the living of one's life, and as a writer expressing the modern-day Canadian equivalent of the dilemma faced by those who went through the Nuremberg Trials, whose defence was that 'I was just following orders,' this medical professional shows what it means not to be passive in the face of the cruelty of this government policy on the men and women in healthcare:

"In the course of my work as a healthcare provider, I have frequently heard patients express that they support MAID and would choose if for themselves under certain circumstances. I can tell the patient that I am a conscientious objector and will withdraw from caring for the patient – or can I? Am I still obliged to carry out my work as long as I am not the one that causes the death? Can I truly keep my objections to myself and pretend the decision the patient has made does not affect me? These are questions that will have to be answered as the practice of

"It is my hope that the patient who is suffering would get good palliative care and spiritual ministry so that MAID does not become the only option."

–Healthcare insider

MAID becomes more widespread. Even if I am allowed to withdraw from caring for the patient without losing my job, I am still aware that MAID will happen and there is nothing I can do about it and this is not okay with me. I do not anticipate a reversal of this new legislation. I believe that the numbers of people opting for MAID will increase. At present, I still continue to struggle."

In an insight that exposes the limits of 'privacy' and 'rights', the reader is reminded that our lives are very inter-connected: "The patient might believe that their decision affects only them and their doctor but this is not quite accurate. There are many healthcare providers and workers who are involved with a patient's care – nurses, social workers, pharmacists, therapists, paramedics, housekeeping staff, and others. The action of one person affects many."

The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition provides clearly defined principles on palliative care. Unlike the undefined and ubiquitous word, 'autonomy,' the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care has a specific definition of palliative care, including: "Relief from pain and other distressing symptoms; Neither hastens nor postpones death; Integrates the psychological and spiritual aspects of patient care; Uses a team approach to address the needs of patients and their families."

This definition coincidentally resonates with the concluding thoughts of this Saskatchewan medical professional: "It is my hope that the patient who is suffering would get good palliative care and spiritual ministry so that MAID does not become the only option."

The Saskatchewan Rush Lacrosse Club are excited to announce a new promotion geared towards our youngest fans, on this TD Children's Hospital Game Week.



On behalf of the Rush and TD, every baby born in Saskatoon on a Rush Game Day for the remainder of the 2017 season will receive a free toddler jersey as a way for our organization to usher in new a generation of lacrosse fans.

Families will receive the jerseys via their hospital. "A jersey for every child born on game day is such a fun and special way to welcome Saskatchewan babies into the world," says Brynn Boback-Lane, President and CEO of the Children's Hospital Foundation of Saskatchewan. "We're grateful to the Saskatchewan Rush and TD for helping us usher in the next generation of little sports fans, all while raising awareness as to how everyone can help support the youngest citizens of our province with critically needed medical equipment."

"Our organization as a whole is always striving to create unique experiences for our amazing fans. This jersey initiative will serve as a fantastic platform to welcome in a new generation of Rush fans, while also creating a keepsake item for families to hold onto as their child grows up, creating life-long fans of the Rush"

– Andrea Haughian, Vice President, Marketing & Partnerships

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