

CHOOSE LIFE

NEWS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hope for a Brighter Future



by Valerie
Hettrick

Spring always seems to bring a great sense of hope and inspiration. Personally, that is why I love Lent.

Lent for me is a time of clearing my mind and soul: evaluating my priorities, establishing boundaries that may have slipped during the year, and stepping up for another year of service and commitment. The sign of rebirth that Easter brings is one of new beginnings.

I have the privilege of having seven of my fourteen grandchildren at my home every day, and they constantly inspire me to move forward. I am often amused by their lunchtime conversations. One of their favourite topics is the abortion debate, how evil it is to kill babies and how they are going to stop abortion. My 10-year-old granddaughter is especially passionate about the pro-life movement and I'm looking forward to the day when she takes on the role of SPLA president--at least that is her plan.

Two of my older grandchildren are passionate about politics and pro-life. One grandchild is passionate about hands-on ministries, such as Pregnancy Options; another is passionate about praying for the unborn and the success of the pro-life movement. As for the two little ones, they like making pictures and



signs about babies. These conversations inspire me and give me hope for a brighter future. More and more young people are becoming activists in the pro-life movement. They are zealous, courageous, and ready to do what needs to be done to see an end to abortion.

What are the signs of hope in your life? Where can we bring the joy of Easter to others? In our province and in our country, we have many initiatives to make abortion unthinkable in the minds and hearts of Canadians. I hope that each of you have signed your letter for conscience protection for our health care workers--if not, contact Celeste at the office. I am very excited about the SPLA Annual Convention on April 5 and 6th in Yorkton. The theme is PRO-LIFE 101: Equipped and Ready, where we will learn from the experts how to speak successfully about pro-life issues in a clear and concise way. We will be given the tools and the confidence we need to encounter others with the message of life. Please check the poster for details and make sure you register soon!

The March for Life takes place in Regina on May 9. Be on the lookout for more information on our new website. Two new movies about life issues have been released this year. *Gosnell* is the true story of Kermit Gosnell, arrested and convicted after two decades of committing horrific practices as a late-term abortionist. The second film is about the life and conversion of Abby Johnson, a former director of the largest abortion facility in Texas and author of the book *Unplanned*. Both films give new insights to different aspects of the abortion industry.

I sincerely thank our supporters for your years of commitment and service. We enjoy hearing from you, so contact us for whatever you need. Please continue your prayers and financial support as we continue this battle for life. May the blessing of our Risen Lord be with you and your families during these grace-filled seasons of Lent and Easter! ♥



Calendar of events

MARCH 22: Moose Jaw Right to Life Banquet featuring guest speaker, Natalie Sonnen, Executive Director of LifeCanada. Church of Our Lady Community Hall (566 Vaughn St. SW), 6:00 PM. Phone: 306-694-4111 Email: mjrtl@sasktel.net (SEE PAGE 7)

MARCH 24: Teen-Aid Saskatoon Fundraiser. St. Anne's Parish, Saskatoon Begins at 5:00 PM

APRIL 5-6: Saskatchewan Pro-Life Association Convention & AGM, Yorkton. Do you struggle to defend the pro-life position? This year will feature speakers and workshops designed to equip you to effectively spread the pro-life message. Register online: saskprolife.com/convention Phone: 306-352-3480

OPERATION 50 - Making an Impact in the Pro-Life Movement (See Page 17 for details) April 8 Regina, April 9 Saskatoon, April 10 Meadow Lake

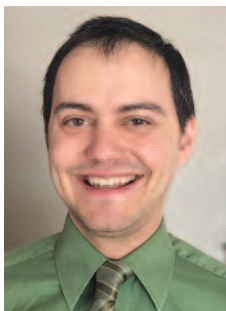
APRIL 26-28: Rachel's Vineyard Retreat - Saskatchewan Suffering after an abortion? Attend a Rachel's Vineyard retreat and find healing. Contact Elaine: (306) 480-8911 or r.vineyardsk@sasktel.net

MAY 5: Battlefords Right to Life Annual Spring Banquet St. Joseph Calasactius Parish, 98th St., North Battleford. Guest speaker Fr. Stefano Penna: Restoring Human Dignity in a Culture of Death

MAY 9: SK March for Life Saskatchewan Legislature, Regina Save the Date! Help us beat our turnout of 200 people last year.

MAY 8-11: National March for Life (SK Youth Trip), Ottawa For details see page 17

Ancient Tools of Modern Spiritual Warfare



By Alex Ogrodnick

And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting. - Mark 9:29

Then came the disciples to Jesus secretly, and said: Why could not we cast him out? Jesus said to them: Because of your unbelief. For, amen I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain: Remove from hence hither, and it shall remove: and nothing shall be impossible to you. But this kind is not cast out but by prayer and fasting. - Matthew 17:18-21

The ancient practice of observing Lent is often summarized in the phrase, “prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.” The early church understood from the words of Jesus how necessary it was to resist the world, the flesh, and the devil. It seems to me that the current state of our society (especially with regards to abortion) is, at least in part, the result of our culture’s throwing aside the ancient observance of Lent. Instead of practices that serve to strengthen us in the face of human weakness and spiritual adversity, our society has embraced the pursuit of pleasure and material satisfaction at all costs. It is unsurprising then that, after having abandoned the tools of Christian spiritual warfare, we find ourselves unable to cast out some of the demonic influences in our country, especially the killing of pre-born children through abortion. How then can the observance of Lent lead to the success of the pro-life movement in Canada?

We who work within the pro-life movement are in need of constant prayer. Gregg Cunningham once said, “There are more people working full-time to kill babies than there are working full-time to save them. That’s because killing babies is very profitable while saving them is very costly.” This is why it is so crucial for us to act in a

powerful, strategic, and coordinated way to stop abortion. There is a tremendous amount to be done, and we face opposition at every step along the way. Without your prayers and support, the pro-life cause will not succeed. I ask you to make a commitment now to pray for the success of the work of Sask Pro-Life, the work of our local pro-life groups, the work of our campus pro-life groups, and the work of our national and provincial partner organizations. We need your prayers!

Furthermore, I have heard many times that “prayer is a call to action.” This means that if God places a particular intention or cause in your heart and moves you to pray, He often wishes for you to realize your part in the solution to the situation that moved you to prayer. It is my fervent hope that through prayer many of you will realize the concrete ways that God desires for you to further the pro-life movement within our province. This work is your work, and it is only due to your past perseverance that we have seen any progress. May your commitment to prayer and fasting for this cause bring it further fruit in the future.

Beyond increased prayer and fasting, Lent also challenges us to adopt the practice of almsgiving, giving to the poor and needy around us. Few people are more needy than a pre-born child in danger of abortion. Other forms of poverty strip a human of his or her material well-being, health, or dignity, yet abortion strips a child of his or her right to life. Without this right, everything else is lost.

If we also consider spiritual poverty, we must think about the words of Mother Teresa: “Any country that accepts abortion is the poorest of the poor.” Our society is quick to pressure women into this spiritual poverty, telling those who find themselves in a crisis pregnancy situation that the best course of action is to end the life of their child. What kind of physical and spiritual poverty could



drive a mother to kill her child? We must commit to providing for and counselling these women to choose life. Yet this is not enough. As you can read in Laura Klassen’s reflection, “In Memory of Baby E.,” all the material support and counselling that a woman could want sometimes is not enough. The poverty of these women and their pre-born children is great. It requires not just a culture supportive of choosing life, but also the legal protection that every human being deserves.

I respectfully ask you to consider making the pro-life movement part of your Lenten almsgiving. Just as this movement needs your prayers and fasting for its success, it also needs your financial generosity. Perhaps you can commit to foregoing regular trips to Starbucks or Tim Hortons; perhaps you could fast from some other small pleasure while donating the savings to advance the protection of pre-born children in our province. However you choose to observe Lent this year, please commit in your own way to fast, pray, and support a reinvigoration of the pro-life movement in Saskatchewan. ♥

Slow Down—and Fast

By *Mariette Ulrich*

In the midst of our busiest days—or decades—how time flies! Yesterday, I was 32, surrounded by tots in diapers. Today, I'm nearing the end of my homeschooling career and embracing grandmotherhood. Tomorrow, it'll be back to diapers again, except this time, I'll be wearing them.

"Stop and smell the roses," we're told. What roses? Some of us never took the time to plant any. I jest, of course; roses are blessings, and we all have them, and we must take the time, not just to count, but to cultivate them.

Change seems to be the only constant, not only in our lives, but in the broader culture. And it's happening with dizzying rapidity. In 1997, Shania Twain's song "Man! I Feel Like a Woman!" was just a goofy country-pop hit; now it's probably illegal 'transphobic' hate speech. How can ordinary folk possibly keep pace? (Funny how the English word "pace" can be associated with speed, but the Latin *pace* actually means "Peace.")

By the time you read this, the Christian season of Lent will be underway. I've always enjoyed word-games, and was somewhat amused to learn that the musical term *Lento* means to play at a slow tempo (as a child, I thought Lent dragged on forever. Forty days of giving up candy felt like forty weeks). Now I'm afraid that Lent, like all the other seasons, goes by too quickly. Ideally, it's a time of peace and introspection, which requires slowing down and taking stock.

I have recently been addressing several health issues, some of which I had been ignoring for years. Part of my healing process has involved the practice of regular fasting. Fasting is not a new thing—far from it—but it's being embraced in a new way by health gurus and some (though not enough) in the medical community. For many people, including yours truly, fasting has contributed to astonishing health

outcomes.

For those who don't know, Catholics in Canada are required to fast twice a year, on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. We are also enjoined to abstain from food and drink (water and meds excluded) for one hour prior to receiving Holy Communion (neither of these fits the definition of therapeutic/medicinal fasting, but that is a separate discussion). In short, the Church has always promoted fasting, and many Christians have never stopped doing it. But too many have, and that has had spiritual and material repercussions.

The West is literally dying, in part because of too much food, and too much bad (or fake) food, and because we can't seem to stop eating it (gee, you'd almost think we're trying to fill some kind of void). I'm old enough to remember the hysteria caused by Paul Ehrlich's book *The Population Bomb*, wherein he predicted global starvation by... (wait for it) the 1970s. The book engendered the myth of "overpopulation," which in turn led to many atrocities—the embracing of abortion as population control to name just one.

I digress; entire books have been written on all these topics. The gist of my message is that fasting is incredibly good for us, mentally, physically and spiritually. I guess that's why Jesus recommends it. He went so far as to declare that we need it for our prayer to be effective: (I paraphrase) some demons can be cast out only by prayer and fasting (Matt 17:21; Mark 9:29).

Do we, or do we not, live in a demonic culture? Recent case in point: a controversial Super Bowl ad for Kraft/Heinz frozen food entrees—the product line is aptly called "Devour." Having been alerted by a pro-life friend, I took the time to watch the ad online (I am not a football fan; I would rather clean my toilet bowl than watch the Super variety).

The Devour ad is horrible on numerous

levels, the worst of which is that it makes fun of porn addiction. Really? Is there not ample evidence how devastating and destructive porn is? And yet Kraft (KRAFT! does anyone else over 50 remember the 1970s ads with the mellow voiceover and the lovely mom-hands making snacks for the kids?) is now saying, "Nudge, wink: Porn! Haha!" The ad treats both Lust and Gluttony (deadly sins in the Bible) as cute little jokes. Sorry, not laughing.

By the way, civilized people don't "devour" things: animals do, and so does Satan—just sayin'.

I do, however, thank the 'Devour' ad campaign for making me more militant against porn, and also for the privilege of henceforth boycotting Kraft and Heinz (most of their 'food' is entirely devoid of nutrition anyway). Sidenote: "One Million Moms" has been running a protest/boycott campaign since July 2018.

But let us not end on a disheartening note. Spring is coming (we hope), and so is Easter (we know). Play the music of your life *Lento*: slow down and fast from superfluous things. Make time to tend your rose garden, whether it be botanical or metaphorical, or both. I wish you a blessed Lenten season and a Happy Eastertide. ♥

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John J. Billesberger, B.A., LL.B.
1017 – 3rd Street
Estevan SK S4A 0R4

Phone 306-637-3710
Fax 306-637-3719

BRANCH OFFICES:
LAMPMAN 215 Main Street 306-487-2880
John J. Billesberger attends every Friday
MIDALE 233 Main Street 306-458-2277
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Convention 2019

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SASKATCHEWAN

PRO  **LIFE**
ASSOCIATION

SASKATCHEWAN EVENTS

Yorkton 2019 Vigil



By Jodi Rosluk

Parkland Right to Life held their annual vigil to bring attention to the infamous Supreme Court of Canada's case *R v Morgentaler* (1988). Canada's abortion law was struck down and instructions were given to develop a new law that would balance the rights of the woman and the "foetus." This year marked the 31st anniversary of that decision and Canadians continue to wait for a law. Currently it is lawful in Canada for a woman to have an abortion for any reason right up to birth.

This year's vigil drew 14 participants who stood in -34C wind-chills; some displayed new signs provided by We Need a Law (weneedalaw.ca), a Canadian pro-life group who advocates for the introduction of an International Standards Abortion Law. Parkland Right to Life's President, Ted Deneschuk, and his wife Emily were present, along with Rev. Ron & Mrs. Ferguson of the Alliance Church, and Rev. & Mrs. Steve Rosluk of First Baptist Church. Ken Grey, the new Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Saskatchewan, drove from Regina to show his support for life; he

later met with participants to discuss life issues and politics. Ken and his wife Jodi are adoptive parents of three special needs children.

The pro-life group experienced several honks of support and waves of encouragement during their one-hour vigil. When Rev. Rosluk was holding an "Adoption is a loving option" sign, people in a minivan stopped, rolled down their window, showed two thumbs up and yelled "Right on! Our child sitting in the back is adopted!" Rev. Rosluk responded with a wave and yelled back, "So is my wife!" The Rosluks encourage people to 'Choose love... Choose life! ♥



MOOSE JAW RIGHT TO LIFE BANQUET

Our culture is dying for lack of love.
Learn about the Dying Healed Program

Friday, March 22nd 2019

Doors Open: 6:00pm

Dinner: 6:30pm

Church of Our Lady Community Centre
566 Vaughn St SW, Moose Jaw



GUEST SPEAKER:

Natalie Sonnen

Executive Director of LifeCanada

FOR TICKETS:

306-694-4111

DINNER CATERED BY:

Charlotte's Catering

Friday, March 22nd 2019

Church of Our Lady Community Centre
566 Vaughn St SW, Moose Jaw

TICKETS:

Adults: **\$20.00**

Students: **\$10.00**

Children 6 - 12: **\$5**

Age 5 and younger: **Free**

LifeCanada presents



The Reason one Teenage Girl Decided to Work in the Pro-Life Movement

By Jonathon Van Maren

Vanessa Otten was fourteen years old when she first realized what abortion really was. The principal of Jordan Christian School in Jordan Station, Ontario, had decided that it was important for his students to understand the issue in greater depth. He had asked a pro-life activist from the Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform (CCBR) to give a presentation, which included a video showing tiny babies killed by abortion.

Vanessa stared at the screen in shock. "As I watched the abortionist wrap up the child who was aborted in her second trimester I almost cried," she remembered. "In that moment, abortion became so real. On the ride home that night the question burned: *What do I do now that I know?*

It didn't take long for the answer to come. That summer of 2013, CCBR launched a campaign called the "Face the Children," which targeted politicians who had voted against protection for pre-born children. Volunteers placed postcards exposing politicians' pro-abortion position in the mailboxes of their home ridings.

Then-MP Rick Dykstra, who had run as a pro-life candidate but promptly voted against opening the abortion debate once he secured his seat in Parliament, was one of the politicians selected. Groups of young volunteers hit the streets of St. Catharines, dropping postcards with photos of aborted babies-- contrasted with Dykstra's voting records-- in every single mailbox. Vanessa joined the volunteers; at that point, she was one of the youngest activists on the street.

She didn't stop there. With the support of her family (Vanessa is the third of five siblings) she joined a new group set up by Tim Sinke, another student who had been inspired by a CCBR high school presentation. The group called themselves Niagara Against Abortion, and they began to do regular outreach throughout the St. Catharines area.

Despite occasionally violent backlash, teams of dedicated pro-life activists of all ages braved the weather and profane abortion supporters several times a month—and saw people change their minds on abortion as a result. Vanessa had no idea that her local activism would eventually lead to working full-time in the pro-life movement.

In November 2015, when she was sixteen, Vanessa did "Choice Chain" for the first time. This project involves trained pro-life apologetics volunteers doing educational outreach with images of abortion victims and babies in the womb. "The location was Jackson Square, downtown Hamilton," she told me.

"So many people saw images of abortion that day. I remember watching people as I mustered up the courage to start a conversation about abortion with a few of them. People's faces displayed shock, horror, anger, and an overall disgust at the images... I could see it was stirring people up, making them uncomfortable. I left activism that day encouraged to continue on in the work, knowing that was making a difference."

In 2017, Vanessa decided to apply for CCBR's two-month summer internship, a pro-life boot camp that puts young people through intensive training and

” *I just can't know what I know and remain silent... It is children's lives on the line.* **”**

puts them on the street to do pro-life activism every day. "One day while I was on the streets of Toronto, a woman approached me and pointed to the abortion victim photo I was holding. She looked upset. To my surprise, she told me to keep doing what I was doing: 'I wish someone had shown me that picture before I did that to my child!'

"She was not the only woman who told me that. Three others told me similar things. One of my best friends was recently in my car and pulled a pro-life pamphlet out of the side door. She opened it, and while staring at the image of a 10-week aborted baby, she told me that she probably would not have aborted her child if she had been shown this image two years before."

Her experiences on the front lines watching people change their minds about abortion convinced Vanessa to apply for CCBR's four month internship in 2018. She soon became known by her fellow interns as the girl who constantly drove everyone to do *more* activism, to have better conversations, to work harder—because pro-life work saves lives. "I love watching as someone's entire perspective on abortion changes," she told me. "Leaving a conversation knowing that the person you just spoke to is much less likely to have an abortion in the future makes it all worth it."

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” *"One day on the streets of Toronto, a woman approached me and pointed to the abortion victim photo I was holding. She looked upset. To my surprise, she told me to keep doing what I was doing: 'I wish someone had shown me that picture before I did that to my child.'"* **”**

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One girl stormed up to Vanessa during activism and angrily asked her why she didn't believe in freedom of choice for women. After Vanessa carefully explained it to her, the girl did an about-face: "Okay, I came here really angry and wanted to just yell the meanest things I could at you, but you are actually really nice and what you are saying totally makes sense! Wow, you really made me rethink this!"

Now nineteen years old and finishing her last semester of social services education with Niagara College, Vanessa has decided to work full-time in the pro-life movement. She once carefully laid out hundreds of postcards of photos of abortion victims, to get a real sense of what **one day of abortion in Canada** would look like: three hundred children lost. Three hundred children killed.

” *She once carefully laid out hundreds of postcards of photos of abortion victims, to get a real sense of what one day of abortion in Canada would look like: three hundred children lost. Three hundred children killed.* ”

I asked her how she decided to make pro-life work her career. "Abortion is something I am passionate about and I know God gave me the passion and the skills to speak to others... I just can't know what I know and remain silent. I can't stop talking about abortion because then other women like my friend will make the same choice that ends the life of their own child. It is real children's lives on the line. This stuff isn't just an interesting debate to me, it's a fight for the lives of tiny children. I can't stop. To stay silent is to let it happen."

Silence, Vanessa says, costs lives. One heartbreaking story: "While I worked in a homeless shelter in Niagara Falls, a client I knew quite well told me about her abortion, which to my shock had taken place earlier that week. I had known her for a few weeks already. I had no idea she was pregnant, and no idea she was going for an abortion until it was too late. Her child, who likely would have had beautiful orange hair and a bubbly personality just like her mother's, was now lying in some medical waste bin as if she was trash. I wish I could have talked with this woman and pleaded for her child's life, but by the time I found out it was too late. Experiences like that make every



effort I put into the pro-life movement worth it. Because maybe, just maybe, I can speak to a mother in time to save her child from death."

Like so many other young people joining the pro-life movement, Vanessa is talented, well-spoken, and passionate. She could do anything with her life, and launch any career. But instead, she has chosen to speak for those who cannot. She has chosen to face the vitriol of the pro-choice public in order to save the lives of children who desperately need our defence. And in doing so, she is proving by her actions that those precious little babies really are worth it. ♥

This article first appeared on Jonathon's blog The Bridgehead (thebridgehead.ca). Reprinted with permission.

Editor's Note: Don't miss your opportunity to meet Vanessa in person! She will be speaking at the Sask Pro-Life Convention in Yorkton in April.

Come to Convention and Meet Vanessa

Vanessa Otten is a pro-life activist who has spoken to hundreds of pro-abortion individuals, successfully changing their opinion from "pro-choice" to pro-life. Through first-hand involvement shifting the culture on the abortion issue, Vanessa has a wealth of knowledge and experience that she uses in her public speaking and training of pro-lifers.

Through Vanessa's efforts, the pro-life movement has grown and the lives of babies who were scheduled to be aborted have been saved. Vanessa is working for the Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform while she finishes her diploma in Social Services from Niagara College. Sask Pro-Life is thrilled to have her as a 2019 Convention speaker. We hope to see you there! ♥



It All Began with a Simple Invitation



By Zavienne Kowalczyk

Being “pro-life” was never at the forefront of my thought growing up, even though I was always strong in my faith. My

pro-life journey began one Sunday morning in March when a member of my parish choir asked me if I would like to attend the March For Life in Ottawa.

I jumped at the opportunity because I truly believed God wanted me to, and, of course, I thought it would be an exciting trip where I could learn about the pro-Life movement and defend this issue I knew so little about.

I didn't realize the significance of the matter, nor did I make any special effort to defend or advocate for the pro-life movement prior to my trip to Ottawa.

The March For Life was a very rewarding, yet heart-rending experience. I learned a lot about the pro-Life movement. Moreover, I realized how strongly compelled the opposing side felt to sway the public and to intimidate pro-lifers. I witnessed firsthand how fanatical the pro-choice movement was, and I was devastated by it. I saw numerous pro-choicers holding up signs with extremely crude remarks, most of which I don't even feel comfortable writing, and I still remember the incessant yelling: “My body, my choice!”

Nevertheless, I was glad about how exuberant the whole pro-life movement vs pro-choice affair was; there were more pro-lifers and pro-choicers than I had imagined, and the intensity of both positions hit me with the reality and urgency of this issue. I came to understand the importance of the pro-life movement, and my commitment to the preciousness of life was emboldened.

I remember listening to a woman expound on the harm caused by both abortion and the morning-after pill. Hearing her speak stirred my soul and broke my heart. I distinctly recall tears running down my face, and I was grateful to be wearing sunglasses at the time. I was completely disgusted and ashamed of the ways our society deals with fear and unwanted pregnancy.

Essentially, I was quite troubled with how selfish and ignorant our nation had become. At that moment I remember knowing that I wanted to make the world a better place and thinking that I could start on my campus at Saint Francis Xavier University in the fall. There was no pro-life club at the university, and after my one year of attending the university, I felt there was a dire need to have one in place.

I had run into Ruth Shaw, Executive Director of National Campus Life Network at the March for Life. She informed me of the upcoming NCLN Symposium in Langley: a conference with the purpose of inspiring students to become pro-life leaders. I was inspired to create my own pro-life society at St. FX and Symposium helped me figure out how.

At the Symposium, I received strategy and apologetics training and was able to meet a lot of other passionate pro-life youth from across the country. At the end of the conference, I was assigned my own pro-life advisor, Florence Lavergne, to help me spread the pro-life message on my campus.

Florence told me the best place to start is recruitment. After some networking, I connected with fourteen pro-life students who became part of my club. We held our first meeting in October, and I shared my goals for the club. However, since I couldn't officially start a society until the new semester in January, we were unsure about what work we could do with our new, unofficial, pro-life club. I was hoping to help any crisis pregnancy centers



I am in awe that we are now able to help this girl who chose to give her baby life.

nearby; unfortunately, there are few crisis pregnancy centers in the province, and the closest one was a couple of hours away.

A few days after our first meeting, I ran into a female student, Robyn, whom I had met before. We were just making small talk when Robyn informed me that she was pregnant and due in May. I congratulated her and was simply relieved she was keeping the baby.

The next morning I did my usual weekly call with Florence, and then the thought occurred to me: I could fundraise for Robyn, rather than the crisis pregnancy centers. When I asked Robyn how she felt about this, she was more than accepting of our offer and so grateful to have the extra support.

We're on a roll with putting everything in place to get our pro-life society in gear next semester. I hope to put forward all our efforts to give Robyn ongoing support through her pregnancy and motherhood.

It feels like more than a coincidence that everything has happened the way it has, and I am in awe that we are now able to help this girl who chose to give her baby life. And this has all happened without official club status yet. I hope that in addition to all this we can teach the students at St. Francis Xavier that all humans have a right to live, and inspire them to do something about that. ♥

Zavienne is from North Battleford, SK. Her leadership role within the pro-life youth movement in our province would not have been possible without your help. Her testimony first appeared on NCLN's blog at ncl.ca/blog

NATIONAL CAMPUS LIFE NETWORK PRESENTS:

momentum



For an **ABORTION-FREE** generation

AUGUST 15 - 18

Empower Young Pro-Life Leaders

Can you help inspire and prepare more youth to become strong pro-life leaders? Sask Pro-Life hopes to send twelves students for training at National Campus Life Network's Symposium this year. Fact: the majority of young

dynamic pro-life leaders currently working in Canada received their training and inspiration at the NCLN Symposium. We are looking for donors willing to assist students with the cost of flights and registration. Will you help recruit and develop tomorrow's pro-life leadership? Donate at saskprolife.com/symposium ♥



EUTHANASIA...OR YOUTH-ANASIA?

Canadian Doctors Propose Assisted Suicide for Teens—Without Parental Knowledge or Consent



By Jonathon Van Maren

Only two years after the legalization of assisted suicide in Canada, the Liberal government is already searching for ways to expand access to these so-called “services.” They have asked the Council of Canadian Academies to create a report detailing a way forward. Three key issues are being considered, including euthanasia for those suffering with mental illness, those who wish to produce an “advanced directive” asking a medical professional to kill them after they have potentially lost the mental capacity to request it themselves, and euthanasia for children—currently being referred to as “mature minors.”

In his “BioEdge” column, Michael Cook (editor at MercatorNet.com) noted that a number of Canadian pediatricians and bioethicists have laid out the case for supporting child euthanasia in the *Journal of Medical Ethics*. They framed Medical Aid in Dying (MAID) as a fundamental part of palliative care, presenting a so-called right to be killed:

it is wrong to force a person to live in circumstances of unendurable and irremediable suffering and ... the

wishes of capable patients should be respected within legal limits, especially in such an intimate matter as how they choose to die. Persons, in other words, have a right to life, not a duty to live ...

Further, Cook notes, several horrifying conclusions are being reached—including assertions that euthanasia should not be treated differently than other medical procedures, but simply accepted as routine. This includes the spectre of children being offered euthanasia—and potentially even euthanized—without parental consent or even parental knowledge.

If MAID is essentially a normal medical procedure, it follows that there is no need for “special procedures for managing communication, confidentiality and capacity assessment.” One consequence of this is that doctors should be proactive in suggesting euthanasia to children for they have an obligation to inform patients of their healthcare options.

What about a young person’s capacity for consent? In Ontario, “young people can be and are found capable of making

their own medical decisions, even when those decisions may result in their death.” This is not universally accepted in Canada, so it may be necessary to tweak the law.

How about the role of parents? What if a young person requests MAID but their parents object? The authors argue that if a young person is capable of making their own medical decisions, there is no reason why parents have to be informed. “If we regard MAID as practically and ethically equivalent to other medical decisions that result in the end of life, then confidentiality regarding MAID should be managed in this same way.”

Essentially, these doctors are claiming that young people, who do not have the right to vote or buy cigarettes, should be given the right to ask a doctor to kill them, because “we regard MAID as practically and ethically equivalent to other medical decisions.” Of course, virtually everyone would agree that assisted suicide—or, more bluntly, suicide—is not like any other “medical decision” for obvious reasons. And the idea that the parents could simply be cut out of the discussion is unbelievable: **what we are discussing is doctors killing a child.**

Even worse, if assisted suicide is expanded in Canada to people suffering from mental illness and to minors, we could face the horrifying spectre of medical professionals who have, by law, an obligation to provide teenagers suffering from depression with a lethal injection—perhaps without the parents of the teenager even being informed. This will lead us to the fundamental question of the assisted suicide debate that my colleague Blaise Alleyne and I laid out in our recent book *A Guide to Discussing Assisted Suicide: Who gets suicide assistance, and who gets suicide prevention? And how do we decide?*

continued on page 13

“Essentially, these doctors are claiming that young people, who do not have the right to vote or buy cigarettes, should be given the right to ask a doctor to kill them...”

continued from page 12

The advocates of euthanasia expansion recognize that the idea of euthanizing children might be hard for a lot of people to swallow, and thus propose a model for reducing “social stigma,” noting that HIV/AIDS treatment once faced stigma, as well:

If we take the HIV model as our strategy for publicly messaging MAID, we would proceed by providing MAID in a matter-of-fact way that may, over time, reduce the social burden both on patients seeking this procedure and clinicians providing it.

“Suicide cannot be considered healthcare without utterly redefining what healthcare and medicine are.”

Again, they ignore the fact that treating HIV/AIDS was an attempt to heal or at least to alleviate suffering, not simply to end the lives of the sufferers. Suicide cannot be considered healthcare without utterly redefining what healthcare and medicine are. Although the majority of Canadians support legal assisted suicide, I suspect that many of them would draw the line at euthanizing children, especially without the consent or consultation of parents.

The proponents of euthanasia expansion get one thing right, and it is the same point that those of us who opposed legalization have been saying from the beginning: once you declare suicide to be a right, it will be very difficult to deny that so-called right to other people who are demanding it.

“Who gets suicide assistance, and who gets suicide prevention? And how do we decide?”

Thus, expansion of “end-of-life care” is almost inevitable. The “safeguards” come down, and the very vulnerable people whom governments promised to protect soon end up demanding and receiving the right to commit suicide in the supposed safety of a hospital room. And once again, we end up killing sufferers rather than suffering. ♥

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MEDICAL PRACTITIONER CONSCIENCE RIGHTS Parliament to Debate David Anderson’s Conscience Rights Bill

By Alex Schadenberg

Last fall, I wrote that Canadian MP, David Anderson [Cypress Hills--Grasslands], sponsored a bill to uphold conscience rights of health care professionals in Canada. Bill C-418 will be debated by parliament in the near future.



Bill C-418, an act to amend the criminal code (medical assistance in dying) makes it an offence to intimidate a medical practitioner, nurse practitioner, pharmacist or any other health care professional for the purpose of compelling them to take part, directly or indirectly, in the provision of medical assistance in dying. The bill also makes it an offence to dismiss from employment

or to refuse to employ a medical practitioner, nurse practitioner, pharmacist or any other health care professional for the reason only that they refuse to take part, directly or indirectly, in the provision of medical assistance in dying.

Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) became legal across Canada in June 2016. Bill C-418 addresses a legislative gap in protecting the right to refuse participation in MAID, which is already guaranteed in the Criminal Code, but which lacks clarity for effective enforcement.

Recently Jeff Blackmer, the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) VP of International Health, in an article designed to hoodwink British physicians into supporting neutrality on assisted suicide, conflated the CMA involvement in protecting conscience rights for

Canadian physicians.

Medical practitioners, nurse practitioners, pharmacists and other health care professionals are being pressured to participate in euthanasia and assisted suicide (MAID) against their strongly held beliefs.

In November 2017, the Manitoba Legislature unanimously passed Bill 34: The Medical Assistance in Dying (Protection for Health Professionals and Others) Act. (Editor’s Note: See the Dec, 2018 issue of CLN “Let’s move to Manitoba”)

Alex Schadenberg is the Executive Director of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition; This article appeared on his blog (alexschadenberg.blogspot.com) Feb. 5, 2019. Reprinted with permission.

“Bill C-418 [...] makes it an offence to intimidate a medical practitioner, nurse practitioner, pharmacist or any other health care professional for the purpose of compelling them to take part, directly or indirectly, in the provision of medical assistance in dying.”

LEGAL STATUS FOR THE PRE-BORN

In Memory of Baby E.



By Laura Klassen

Working in the part of the pro-life movement that supports women facing a crisis pregnancy, I often receive comments like, "This is what the pro-life movement needs – people actually helping women instead of trying to make policies or laws about abortion."

Here's why I think that's wrong.

Though I (obviously) agree that helping women is vital, we do still need a law. You can offer a woman all the help and

” You can offer a woman all the help and support in the world and she can still turn around and abort her baby at any stage ”

support in the world and she can still turn around and abort her baby at any stage, because abortion is always an option. We need actual legal protection for our tiniest members because that's what every human being deserves. A child's right to life shouldn't depend on the circumstances of his or her mother, or the amount of support and help she receives. A child's right to life should be protected by the law because babies in the womb are human beings.

To be honest, I'm writing [while] angry. I'm writing having just found out that a woman I've been in contact with for many weeks decided to go and abort her baby at 16 weeks. I'm angry because the abortion procedure of a second trimester fetus is gory and brutal and unfathomable and I'm just heartbroken

” We need actual legal protection for our tiniest members because that's what every human being deserves. ”

that this little baby met such a gruesome death. I'm angry because this woman was offered all kinds of support to be able to parent her baby: housing needs, clothing, baby equipment, counselling...the list goes on. We had also discussed adoption as an option. But despite all the help and support she was given, she still turned around and had her baby killed.

This is why we need a law.

The 'helping pregnant women' segment of the pro-life movement isn't going to close-up shop when Canada finally introduces an abortion law; we will be more necessary than ever. We will continue to help mothers and fathers and children during pregnancy, and for years after the baby is born. The only difference will be that killing babies won't be an option anymore.

And so, as someone working on the front lines with women in crisis, I stand in full support of the work the political pro-life organizations are doing, because every life should be protected by law.

To 'Baby E,' I'm sorry our legal system failed you. ♥

Laura Klassen is the founder and director of Choice 42. This article originally appeared as a guest post on We Need a Law (<https://weneedalaw.ca>) Reprinted with permission.

” The 'helping pregnant women' segment of the pro-life movement isn't going to close-up shop when Canada finally introduces an abortion law; we will be more necessary than ever. ”

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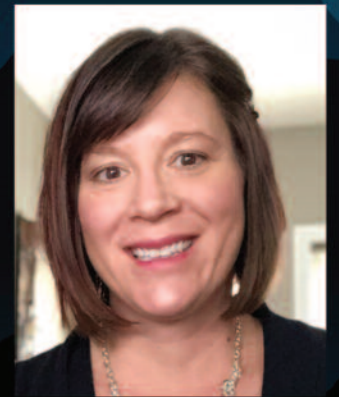
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- 11:15-1:00** REGISTRATION - HOLY ROSARY CATHEDRAL HALL
- 12:30** PRAYER & RALLY - HOLY ROSARY CATHEDRAL HALL
- 1:00** MARCH - HOLY ROSARY CATHEDRAL TO SASK. LEGISLATURE
- 2:00** PRAYER, PROGRAM & PICTURE - SASK. LEGISLATURE
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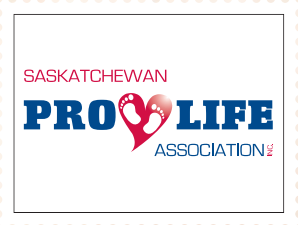
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