

CHOOSE LIFE

NEWS




VOLUME XXXVII | ISSUE #3 | SEPTEMBER 2018

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**PRAY TO
END
ABORTION**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Changing Hearts Through the Beauty of Life



by Valerie
Hettrick

Greetings! This summer, as I sat at the pro-life booth at our local exhibition, I was reminded of how vital it is that we all keep our "boots on the ground." I haven't been able to participate for a few years, so I was actually a bit nervous thinking about it. I took my 13-year-old granddaughter and so we represented an age span of 50 years. We spoke to women and men of all ages to spread the message of life and love. Many of the younger people weren't necessarily interested in the pamphlets and books in our display, but they and the children and young women, especially those expecting their first child, responded very positively to the beauty of the fetal models and our smiling faces.

We have all experienced how the media and the 'powers that be' try to paint us pro-life people with a very black brush and make us seem judgemental and scary. Perhaps we need to up our game and go to the next level, modernizing our displays so that those who see us

feel some kind of a connection with the message we are trying to get across. We would like to hear from you, the members: what things work; what things don't; what your booths look like (send us a picture) and what help we can offer. We can always get great ideas from each other.

Summer has also been a very busy time for us in the Sask Pro-Life office. In this edition of CLN, you will see a number of events that happened over the past few months and those that are planned for the fall. Please try to attend as many of the events that you are able to, especially the Life Chains that are held around the province, the Millennial Cross event at Aberdeen, and the gala and diaper drive in Saskatoon.

Another thought that struck me this summer is how nothing unites or divides as the always heated and emotional abortion debate, especially within the pro-life movement. Much prayer is required in the decisions we make but we must always remember why we do what we do: to save babies' lives and to end the scourge of abortion on our modern civilization. It's about making abortion unthinkable in the hearts and minds of every Canadian citizen. We need to be wise as serpents, but always gentle as doves. Christ is our example and it is to Him we must turn when our hearts burn with anger or indignation. I offer this reflection: "I know.... That the light of God exists, that He is Risen, that His light is stronger than any darkness, that the goodness of God is stronger than any evil in this world. And this helps me to go forward with certainty." (Pope Benedict XVI; Homily on April 16, 2012 on the occasion of his last birthday as Pope)

I would like once again to thank our team of Sask Pro-Life board members and staff, and those who work in the pro-life groups across the province. I am truly grateful for each and every one of you. God bless! ♥



Calendar of events

SEPTEMBER 16: Annual Pilgrimage at the Pro-Life Millennium Cross - Aberdeen, SK, 10 km N.E. of Aberdeen, SK on HWY #41 at 3:00 PM. Join the 19th Annual Pilgrimage! Keynote speaker: Marie-Claire Bissonnette, youth coordinator for CLC. For more information visit: prolifemillenniumcross.ca

SEPTEMBER 19: University of Saskatchewan Students for Life Diaper Drive - UofS Saskatoon, SK
See page 4

SEPTEMBER 26: Dying Healed Workshop - St. Peter's Church Hall (193 5th Ave. W), Unity, SK. \$15 for workbook. Lunch by donation. Contact Yvonne (306-228-7435) or Terri (parish office 306-228-2341)

SEPTEMBER 28: Saskatoon Pregnancy Options Centre Gala - TCU Place (35 22nd St E.), Saskatoon, SK
Doors open 5:30 Dinner at 6:30.
See page 9

SEPTEMBER 30: Life Chain - Your local Community. Most Life Chains start at 2:00 PM.
See page 7 for locations.

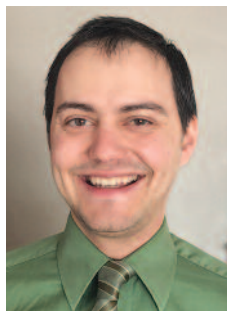
OCTOBER 19-20: Dying Healed Workshop - St. Joseph's Health Centre, Macklin, October 19 7pm-9pm & 20 9 am - 3pm. \$30 includes lunch and workbook. Registration required. Contact: Joanne (306-753-9202) or Val (306-358-4248) maketimeforlife.ca

OCTOBER 19-21: Rachel's Vineyard Retreat
Saskatchewan. Suffering after an abortion? Attend a Rachel's Vineyard retreat and find healing. Contact Elaine: (306) 480-8911 or r.vineyardsk@sasktel.net



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Remember, Support, Witness



By **Alex Ogrodnick**

Life is full of natural rhythms that divide our time. New seasons change our routines and activities.

September and the following months bring many opportunities to remember, support, and witness to the value of life on behalf of pre-born children and their mothers.

Each autumn the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy and the Knights of Columbus have a special event at the Pro-Life Millennium Cross outside of Aberdeen, SK, commemorating the loss of children through abortion, miscarriage, or stillbirth. This year's event will take place on September 16th; see page 16 and prolifemillenniumcross.ca for details. It is well worth attending. Last year Brad Trost, Member of Parliament for Saskatoon-University, led the crowd in a moving reflection on the importance of faith, hope, and love in the life of Christian pro-life people.

The first Sunday of October normally brings the Life Chain to communities across Canada, including 10 in Saskatchewan. (This year the event has been moved forward to September 30th, due to Thanksgiving weekend.) Across Canada thousands gather to hold signs and pray at busy intersections and street corners in peaceful protest against the injustice of abortion and to witness to the value of pre-born life. Please check where your nearest Life Chain is and consider attending this year. See the details on page 7. October also marks Reverence for Life Month for the Diocese of Regina, as well as Down Syndrome Awareness Month, and Pregnancy & Infant Loss Awareness Month. Let's do our best to witness to the value of all human life at all stages, by observing and participating in these important commemorations.

In addition to keeping in mind the pre-born during these last months of the year, pro-life people must also remember and support women facing crisis pregnancies (see "Many American Women Have Felt Pressured into Abortions." Choose Life News, March 2018, pg. 8). The women who end up choosing abortion often do so out of desperation, fear, and the feeling that they have no other options. If we wish to make abortion unthinkable, we need to reach these women with a message of hope and support, providing them with information regarding their options for themselves and their babies. To learn how one organization, Choice42, is doing this in new and innovative ways, see page 12.

Accordingly, there are two important Saskatchewan groups whose events and work we need to support. The first are those crisis centres like Saskatoon Pregnancy Options Centre (SPOC) who reach out to and support women in crisis. They offer a safe and welcoming atmosphere in which these women can calmly consider their options, while discussing their hopes, fears, and worries. This vibrant centre is one of the places that we could call ground zero for pro-lifers. Saskatoon Pregnancy Options Centre has their annual fall Gala on September 28th at TCU place in Saskatoon see page 9. You can read more about SPOC on page 8. Please consider attending or hosting a table at their Gala.

Other Sask organizations that need our support are campus pro-life groups. We know that of all the abortions in Canada, roughly 50% are obtained by university-age women. Our university and college campuses are also ground zero for the pro-life movement! This is where the fight for hearts and minds is happening both inside and outside the classroom. For this reason, we must work to support our pro-life student clubs on campus, like the University of Saskatchewan Students for Life (USSL). One concrete way that we can do this is through participating in the USSL



Diaper Drive. The students are kicking off their year by collecting diapers to support women in crisis pregnancies. Please consider donating so that the members of USSL can powerfully witness to their fellow students that pro-life people care and support women facing difficult situations. A huge pile of diapers would be a visible and striking image! You can drop off diapers at St. Thomas More College on September 19th See pg. 4.

Sask Pro-Life has been working closely with National Campus Life Network (NCLN), the organization that aids and advises campus clubs, to ensure the vitality of the Saskatchewan clubs. In August, we were able to send five students to NCLN's Symposium to receive training on how to be an effective pro-life activist on campus. If you would like to support the work of the campus clubs, or become involved with their work, please let us know. In June, I appealed to you to help us connect young college and high school age pro-lifers with our university clubs. You can still contact us if you know of someone who might be interested (son, daughter, grandchild, niece, nephew, or youth from your church). They can text CAMPUS to +13069926941 or call this number. It is essential for the survival of the pro-life movement in Saskatchewan that we revitalize and get our youth involved. What can you do to help? ♥

The Consequences of Choice



By **Mariette Ulrich**

This month marks a significant anniversary for me—and my husband, of course, since it wouldn't have happened without him. It's not our

wedding anniversary, although that is also coming up in a few weeks' time. September 2018 is our 30th anniversary of (legal) parenthood. I say legal because according to our Canadian parliament and judiciary, our daughter was not a 'Person Under the Law' until she was born. According to everything else that really matters (Biology, Philosophy, Theology, and garden-variety common sense), she began to exist as a fully human entity at the moment of her conception. Nevertheless, here we are: thirty years of parenthood. I don't know where all that time went—I guess it was (and continues to be) taken up by our baby and the six siblings who followed.

We attended my daughter's birthday dinner, and she was queen of the day, surrounded by many who love her: parents, husband, sisters, in-laws, and her own children, an 18-month-old daughter, and an unborn baby due later this year. Having experienced the labour involved with bringing children into the

world, I often joke that it's the mother who should be celebrated on her children's birthdays. Being born is not an achievement. But of course that's not the point; we celebrate people on their birthdays, not because they have accomplished anything, but because they ARE. We are simply thrilled to have them in our life, and we let them know about it once a year (well, more often than that, I hope).

Thus it feels strange and egotistical to discuss this birthday/anniversary as if it's 'about me' in any way. And yet it was "my choice" that allowed it to happen. Having the power to give or destroy life: it's all rather sobering when you think about it. And one MUST think about it, from every angle. When it comes to crisis pregnancy situations, pro-life advocates are often accused of being focussed solely on achieving the birth of the baby. Nothing could be further from the truth. It is the pro-life community who (almost exclusively) provides support for women in crisis before, during and after the arrival of their babies, as well as providing access to post-abortion counselling and healing.

In this issue of CLN, we feature a new Canadian pro-life organization called Choice42. The point of their name is that when a woman becomes pregnant, she must be aware that she is making a choice "for two." Yes and no. In reality it affects far more than two. It will affect

the father of the baby, and possibly other siblings; it will affect four grandparents. Same goes for aunts, uncles, cousins, and even the unborn child's future classmates and friends. Births affect population trends, which in turn affect society, the economy, nation states, and indeed history itself.




Of course, this is a 'Big Picture' narrative; it's not helpful to put extra pressure on individual women in crisis pregnancy situations. When her life has been turned upside down, the last thing you tell her is, "The future of civilization is at stake!" (even though it well may be). Instead, you engage on a personal level and build relationships. Choice42 is a welcome pro-life voice dedicated to building a culture of life and love; I encourage you to support them.

Looking back on three decades of parenthood gives one pause: what could/should I have done differently? What am I most proud of? In what ways could I have been a better mom? What kind of mother and grandmother will I choose to be in the future?

While our vision may be all-encompassing, our focus must always remain narrow and specific. What can I do right now? How can I touch someone today? That is how battles, large and small, are won. ♥

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN STUDENTS FOR LIFE DIAPER DRIVE

Help us kick off the year by donating a massive pile of diapers to the Saskatoon Pregnancy Options Centre!

-  **1 Buy a box of diapers**
-  **2 Take a picture and post it to social media with the hashtags #usask #supportmoms**
-  **3 Drop off diapers**

Drop them off in the STM Lobby on the UofS Campus from noon to 4pm on September 19th.



PRESS RELEASE

From the Office of Kelly Block, MP

Editor's Note: In the June Issue of Choose Life News we published excerpts from a talk given by lawyer Philip Fourie. Fourie was awaiting the outcome of the Trinity Western case with much concern. Below are MP Kelly Block's thoughts regarding the unfortunate decision of the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court ruled that law societies throughout Canada can discriminate against graduates of Trinity Western University's proposed law school due to the University's religious covenant, agreed to by all students. Trinity Western is a private Christian university in British Columbia. The covenant states that students are expected to live in accordance with Christian values regarding, among other issues, sexual morality.

The decision by the Supreme Court against Trinity Western University is very disappointing and concerning. The Supreme Court failed to acknowledge Section 2 of the Charter, which lies

under the heading "Fundamental Freedoms." In fact, the freedom of conscience and religion is the very first right delineated in the Charter.

I am concerned that this ruling will set an unwelcome precedent wherein the courts determine that religious convictions can only be lived out in private, and must have no bearing on public life.

I lean heavily on the comments from the dissenting opinions of Justices Côté and Brown in clearly laying out the problems with this decision:

"The decision not to approve the TWU's proposed law faculty [...] is a profound interference with religious freedom. (Law Society of British Columbia v. Trinity Western University, p. 268, Côté and Brown JJ.)

"The LSBC [Law Society of British Columbia] has purported to act in the cause of the ensuring equal access to the profession, it has effectively denied that access to a segment of Canadian society. (Law Society of British Columbia v. Trinity Western University, p. 261, Côté and Brown JJ.)

Given that Law Societies in six other provincial jurisdictions came to a different conclusion I would assume that this issue will be debated for some time to come.

I am proud of the Law Society of Saskatchewan for granting accreditation to Trinity Western University, and I call on law societies throughout the country to admit students who exercise their Charter rights to freedom of religion, expression, and opinion. ♥

The Pro-Life Rose

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

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

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

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

To become a rose donor visit saskprolife.com/rose or call our office.



University of Sask Students for Life



By Jolene Gruber

The U of S Students for Life (USSL) campus club defends the right to life. Speaking for those who can't speak for themselves is never an easy mission; that's why the USSL works as a team to keep the pro-life movement alive in the hearts and minds of the next generation.

The club is made up of young men and women who attend the university. These students have the opportunity to become involved in the pro-life movement in various ways. For instance, the club associates closely with the Saskatoon Pregnancy Options Centre (SPOC), a safe, confidential, and free facility that offers education and supplies to parents facing unplanned pregnancies. Regularly, the USSL organizes a table on university grounds to support the centre, as well as to inform students about the resources SPOC has to offer. This demonstrates



It is vital that young pro-lifers are educated and given the opportunity to discuss these matters in a thoughtful, confident manner. There is no better way to gain experience than by reaching out to other young, intellectually engaged students on campus.

that abortion is not the only option, and reaffirms that pro-lifers love both women and their babies.

Members of the USSL also set up tables in the Arts Tunnel on campus to promote the club. This often sparks dialogue sessions with other students regarding abortion, euthanasia, sex-selective abortion, law, and various other important life-issues. It is vital that young pro-lifers are educated and given the opportunity to discuss these matters in a thoughtful, confident manner. There is no better way to gain experience than by reaching out to other young, intellectually engaged students on campus.

Besides organizing tables on campus, the USSL puts on various events throughout the school term. All of these are open to the public and free of charge. Some of the events that the club organized in the 2017-2018 school year included documentary screenings of *HUSH* and *It's a Girl*. These incredible films spread the message of why the club's mission is so important. Snacks and drinks were provided and the group members were delighted to see so many people of all ages come out.

Last year, the Students for Life group invited women from Silent No More to share their personal testimonies about post-abortion suffering and healing. At another event, the club invited a representative from the Pregnancy Options Centre to a pizza night to educate individuals on what the centre offers. Along with this, the club set up a playpen for attendees to drop off diaper donations. Additionally, members of the USSL ran a euthanasia dialogue training session for anybody who wanted to learn more about how to discuss the issue. They saw a great turnout and discussed many interesting questions with those who attended.



Jolene Gruber, USSL President 2018.

The USSL eagerly anticipates the 2018-2019 academic year. We are always looking for new, enthusiastic people to help tackle the challenges that pro-lifers on campus are facing. If you would like to learn more about the campus club, or want details regarding upcoming events, you can find us on Facebook: [facebook.com/uofsstudentsforlife](https://www.facebook.com/uofsstudentsforlife) or Instagram: [instagram.com/uofsstudents4life](https://www.instagram.com/uofsstudents4life). We would also love to hear from you by email at students.for.life@usask.ca. Help us in our mission to speak for the vulnerable and the voiceless! ♥

Jolene Gruber is the President of the University of Saskatchewan Students for Life for this academic year. Sask Pro-Life recently sponsored her and four other young people so that they could attend National Campus Life Network's Symposium, where they learned how to be effective Pro-Life advocates on campus.



If you would like to stay informed about USSL and its schedule of events

you can follow them on social media or Text UEVENTS to 1-306-992-6941.

CAMPAIGN LIFE COALITION PRESENTS

SK LIFE CHAIN

SAVING LIVES FROM COAST TO COAST

JOIN THOUSANDS ACROSS CANADA STANDING UP AGAINST ABORTION IN THIS PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION!



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

2-3^{PM}

SASKATCHEWAN LOCATIONS

Humboldt*, Civic Park, 2:00–3:00 pm

Langenburg*, in front of 106 Stoney Rd, 2:00–3:00 pm

Moose Jaw, Main St N at Caribou St, 2:00–3:00 pm

Prince Albert, 2nd Ave W at 22nd St W, 1:45–3:00 pm

Regina, Albert St & College Ave, 2:00–3:00 pm

Saskatoon, 22nd St at Idylwyld Ave, 2:00–3:00 pm

Shaunavon, Hwy 37 at Government Rd (10th Ave N),
3:00–4:00 pm

Swift Current, South Service Rd for Trans Canada Hwy
No 1 at No 4 Hwy, 2:00–3:00 pm

Unity, Hwy 21 at 1 Ave East, in front of the Armada
Motel Restaurant, 2:00–3:00 pm

Yorkton, Gladstone Ave at Broadway Ave, 2:00–3:00 pm

*Note: As of the publication of this list Langenburg and Humboldt had not confirmed their details. Please contact your local group if you have questions.

WWW.CAMPAIGNLIFECOALITION.COM/LIFECCHAIN



CLC@CLIFE.CA



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LOVE IN ACTION

Bear With Me



By Cathy LaFleche

This was a reading recently at church that spoke directly to me. It is something I've heard a hundred times but suddenly I had the ears to hear it.

Ephesians 4:1-6 As a prisoner for the LORD, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one LORD, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.



A young mom who just received a new baby gift bag from the centre. In it was this lovely quilt, made by one of our precious donors. The young mom was so amazed and grateful she wanted to thank whoever it was who made it.

I've thought a lot about my calling lately. How to discover what it is, how to be content with it and to live it to the best of my ability. We all share the call to love God and our neighbour, and as simple as that sounds, how difficult we find it! Numerous false gods, like ego and comfort, spring up to distract and tempt us away from our true calling. Selfishness and self-consciousness prevent us from truly "bearing with" the humanity that irks and disturbs our own ideas of peace.

My idea of peace is to be left alone: to live in a world of ease and tranquility, doing exactly what I want, when I want, surrounded by people who agree with me, think like me, look like me, and act like me. It would seem then, that the way to peace is to eliminate anyone from my life who disagrees with me, acts differently, looks and thinks differently. Surrounded by clones I would be completely happy and the world would be a perfect place. It would be much easier to bear with everybody then.

The temptation is to abandon relationships with people we find difficult. Don't we see that happening time and time again? Divorce, family members not speaking to each other for decades, feuds, inter-cultural violence and suspicion, neglected teens and children. We live in a throw-away culture and it has infected our dealings with others. Too many humans are considered disposable, burdensome, or hard to bear. That is the opposite of "bearing with," and completely contrary to the command of Our Lord.

When I'm interested in the state of my own soul, I ask myself: "How are my relationships?" If I'm looking at cutting someone out of my life, or steaming with rage at a family member, I'm probably not doing as well as I thought I was.

This is not to say that we should stay with people who abuse us. We need to protect our own safety and dignity and

that of our children. Peace at any cost is no peace at all. It must be tempered by prudence, wisdom and justice.



At Saskatoon Pregnancy Options Centre (SPOC) we have people of all faiths, cultures, philosophies, lifestyles, habits, addictions, colours, and nationalities. We don't agree with everything our clients say or do. We don't have to. We are only called to love. We share two major things in common with them: the first is that we all belong to the family of humanity created by our One God; the second, we all have a great respect for the terrifying responsibility of pregnancy and parenting.

This makes us one body, with one spirit, and contributes to a bond of peace and unity despite our differences. Those bonds are necessary for us to work together for the good of everyone, especially mothers and babies. Pregnancy and Parenting are the most awesome and important roles in life. But make no mistake about it: as wonderful and empowering as it is to grow a child in your body and feed and care for it completely, it is an act that requires significant dying to self-- one's comfort, and personal plans. It means truly living and dying for others. It involves great power--and great pain. The act closely resembles Christ's dying on the cross so that we might live. It is a Holy and Human act of heroic sacrifice. It is never easy and it requires a community of love to support the woman who undertakes this tremendous feat of strength.

Too many women are left to do this alone, and some are burdened with additional health or addiction issues.

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SPOC strives to be a community of love. All who donate, volunteer, pray, work, and offer support out of love for humanity, with special recognition for the unique needs of pregnant and parenting moms, are part of this community of love.

How are you called to give? What gifts do you have to share?

If you are called to donate, do so generously. It is a sign of great love and trust. If you have a heart for these families, come and be a friend with a listening ear. All of our clients need to know they are valued and heard. Leave behind judgment and advice, but bring your talents, vulnerability and joy. We are all in this together. ♥

Donations In Memoriam 2018

Donations were made in memory of the following persons:

- Dawn & Darla Mahan
- Bill Hilbig
- Margaret Yakimowski
- Fernand Blerot

If you would like to make a donation in memory of someone, go to saskprolife.com/memoriam. ♥



Our Centre's Growth:

	2016	2017	2018 (as of Aug 1)
Client visits	826	1280	811
New clients	129	198	143
Material goods provided	3560	6420	5149
Babies born	56	74	37
Came for post-abortion support	3	17	20
Came for options counselling	19	31	30



Cathy LaFleche is the Executive Director of the Saskatoon Pregnancy Options Centre. The Centre is located at 1006 8th Street East, Suite 23, Saskatoon, SK S7H 0S1. (Although they will be moving soon!) You can contact the Centre by phone: 306-665-7550, text: 306-261-2760, or email: s poc@sasktel.net.



It is a Holy and Human act of heroic sacrifice. It is never easy and it requires a community of love to support the woman who undertakes this tremendous feat of strength.



Lessons from Ontario: Being ‘Pro-Life’ is not Political Suicide



June 7, 2018 was an historic provincial election in Ontario. For the first time in over 20 years, the Progressive Conservative Party under leader Doug Ford won a majority in the provincial legislature. This was the first election in which RightNow* was involved since its creation in 2016. Let’s examine the PC victory through a pro-life lens...

The Ontario PCs won 61% of the seats in the Legislative Assembly based on just over 40% of the popular vote. The NDP won 32% of the seats (33.5% of the popular vote), forming the largest Official Opposition (in terms of proportion of seats) to a majority government since the 1999 election. The Liberals won just over 6% of the seats (based on less than 20% of the popular vote).

This was the lowest share of the popular vote for the Liberals since Ontario entered Confederation in 1867. It is also the lowest share of the seats in the Legislative Assembly for the Liberals since Confederation. In fact, for the first time ever, they have lost official party status in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. Since the 1960s, the Standing Orders have stated that in order for a caucus to be recognized as an official party, they must win at least eight seats. On June 7, the Liberals won seven. Barely.

This means that the Liberal caucus will not get daily time in Question Period to

ask the government questions. The Liberal caucus will not be represented on every committee of the Legislative Assembly, nor will they receive taxpayer funds for staffing, research, and other materials.

No party that has lost official party status has come back to win government. Ever.

There are now more pro-life MPPs than Liberal MPPs in the provincial legislature—in fact, almost double: 17 pro-life PC candidates ran for election; 11 won their seats. That is a win rate of 65%. When pro-lifers won on June 7, they won by a larger margin than average and when they lost, they lost by a smaller margin than average. Translation: on the whole, pro-life candidates were more winnable than non pro-life candidates.

But why were there only 17 pro-life candidates out of 124 PC candidates? The answer lies with PC leadership. Former leader Patrick Brown and his team began to disqualify nomination candidates, including many pro-life ones, purely because they were not Brown’s candidate of choice. In one instance, a candidate was disqualified the night before his nomination race, despite selling three times more memberships than his opponent. In other cases, people would show up at nomination races for the Patrick Brown-favoured candidate with hundreds of people who were not actually members of the Party, and even worse, cases where Party staffers would stuff ballot boxes to favour Patrick Brown’s candidate.

In early 2017 we noticed the NDP picking up steam in southwestern Ontario. Given the way that nominations races were going, and the serious lack of volunteer support that a lot of PC candidates were facing, RightNow made the strategic decision to focus on other provinces, and be

ready to fight an Ontario leadership race if and when Patrick Brown was defeated on election day.

That all changed in January, 2018, when Patrick Brown was forced out by his own caucus amid sexual misconduct allegations. One of the shortest leadership races in the province was underway, where pro-life voters were instrumental in not only choosing the new leader of the Party, but ultimately the new Premier.

However, the issue of candidacies could not be resolved at that time. Over 75% of the candidates had already been nominated by the time Doug Ford won the leadership. While there was a smattering of pro-lifers, most were not pro-life or were unknown to the movement.

“ No party that has lost official party status has come back to win government. Ever. ”

It’s for exactly this reason that having a sympathetic leader who is open to having pro-life members of caucus, and who will not stifle pro-life candidates from running in nominations or from bringing forward legislation is so incredibly key—even if that leader is not strongly pro-life him/herself. The pro-life movement cannot let ‘perfect’ be the enemy of ‘good.’ If we can elect a supportable leader, this will allow us to elect a pro-life caucus. That’s where real change happens.

How does this translate federally?

In Ontario, the majority of the 124 provincial ridings share the same boundaries as the 121 federal ridings in the province. The three exceptions are additional provincial seats in the northern part of the province.

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The conservative brands are strong and growing in Ontario. According to most polls, the federal Conservatives are leading in Ontario, particularly in seat-rich areas around the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). At this rate, give the current polls and the results from June's election, it looks as though the federal Conservatives are poised to win a number of seats in the next federal election.

We want to make sure that well-rounded, pro-life candidates win the Conservative Party of Canada nominations in those key ridings.

The importance of volunteers cannot be overstated: pro-lifers don't magically win nominations and elections. It takes a lot of precise, intelligent effort to earn key wins.

The next time that you receive a call from a RightNow volunteer asking for you to invest time in a pro-life candidate, say yes. If you are working, if you are looking after young children, if you are not physically able to get around easily, don't worry. There is something for everyone to do and there is always time to do it. We will provide all the training and tools necessary to help you realize pro-life political success. But we need you to say yes.

The pro-life movement is winning. We have won pro-life leadership contests in the Conservative Party of Canada, the United Conservative Party of Alberta, the Saskatchewan Party, and the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario.

We have won nominations and by-elections, electing young, talented, well-rounded pro-lifers to office. The youngest female in the Conservative Party of Canada caucus is pro-life. The youngest person elected to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario in history is pro-life. All the female pro-life candidates that ran in Ontario's election are now MPPs.

We have increased the number of pro-life MPPs in Ontario from four to at least



The importance of volunteers cannot be overstated: pro-lifers don't magically win nominations and elections. It takes a lot of precise, intelligent effort to earn key wins.

eleven, with a Premier who is on record saying that he is supportive and open to pro-life provincial legislation being introduced and passed in Canada's most populous province.

We have two historic elections for the pro-life movement on our doorstep. Albertans will be going to the polls on May 31, 2019 to elect a new government. The United Conservative Party of Alberta (UCP) is projected to win one of the largest majorities in the history of the province. In their provincial legislature, 44 seats are needed to form a majority. So far, RightNow has identified 48 well-rounded, pro-life candidates to run for UCP nominations. Should these candidates win their nominations and their seats, the pro-life movement will have won the first parliamentary pro-life majority in decades across Canada. The ability to pass pro-life legislation to protect women and their unborn children is unprecedented.

RightNow is targeting 50 winnable seats across Canada for the next federal election. Thus far, we have identified well-rounded, pro-life candidates to run for the Conservative Party of Canada nominations in over half of these seats.

Pro-lifers winning these seats will be instrumental in the pro-life movement building toward a pro-life majority of seats in the House of Commons.

Pro-life political wins don't just happen. There is no magic and there is no luck. Pro-life political wins can only come when pro-lifers invest their time, talent, and treasure in the most effective and efficient method possible.

We need pro-life legislation to help women and save children. To get pro-life legislation, we need an elected pro-life majority. To get an elected pro-life majority, we need pro-lifers to win nominations. To get pro-lifers to win nominations, we need pro-lifers to volunteer: selling memberships, phone calling, door-knocking, hosting coffee parties, and conducting petitions drives.

Political pro-life victories start and end with pro-life volunteers. Will you join us, right now? ♥

This article is abridged from the online article "More pro-life MPPs than Liberals? Yes please," by Scott Hayward (www.itstartsrighnow.ca)



**RightNow exists to nominate and elect pro-life politicians by mobilizing Canadians on the ground level to vote at local*

nomination meetings, and provide training to volunteers across the country to create effective campaign teams in every riding across Canada.



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Choice42: Reaching and Supporting Women

By *Mariette Ulrich*

It is ironic that abortion advocates rally behind the term “choice,” since they don’t really seem to believe in it. Legislatively, they favour —nay demand—only one position: unrestricted abortion, for any reason (or no reason), up to the moment of birth. When approached by women experiencing crisis pregnancies, Planned Parenthood and their ilk promote only one option: abortion—no waiting, no counselling, no alternatives, and (most crucially) no accurate information about fetal development or the possibility of post-abortion suffering.

Far too many post-abortive women speak of their experience in terms of pressure, coercion, or even intimidation: “I felt I had no choice.”

It is therefore appropriate, logical—and rather clever—that one of the newest pro-life organizations in Canada is called Choice42 (pronounced ‘choice for two,’ not ‘choice forty-two’). Choice42 was founded in 2015 by Laura Klassen, a young pro-life activist with an arts and performance background (she is the actress who appears in Choice42’s YouTube videos). Choice42 is based in Ajax, Ontario and participates in local events, but has a global outreach thanks to the Internet, particularly social media.

Their goals, as well as their approaches, are multi-faceted. Choice42 is a grassroots, non-profit organization whose aims are more socio-cultural and educational than political, but they nevertheless seek to bring attention to the legal/political status of the unborn to a generation that has grown up in a society with no abortion law on the books.

Their mission statement reads:

CHOICE42 is pro-woman, pro-baby, and pro-life. Our main objectives are to create awareness about the humanity of pre-born children, and to provide support to women who are facing unplanned pregnancy or

dealing with post-abortion problems. Our website is supportive, information based, and includes Canada’s largest nation-wide database of pregnancy help resources. CHOICE42 encourages women to be fully educated about their options and to realize that though it is their choice, they are making a choice for two.

Their slogan encourages women in crisis pregnancies to “Make a choice you can both live with.”

The headings on their website **choice42.com** offer a succinct summary of the information and support available to women. These include:

I’m Pregnant: offering immediate reassurance (“You are not Alone”) as well as advice and information for women facing crisis pregnancies. This includes material on parenting, adoption, and abortion.

Life Inside: information, photographs and videos about fetal development.

Resource Database: the largest and most comprehensive in Canada. Choice42 is not affiliated with any other program, ministry, or agency; they simply want women to have the widest possible access to information and assistance. Links are included to pregnancy centres, crisis lines, maternity homes, adoption agencies (private and public), and post-abortion counselling and organizations.

Abortion Recovery merits a heading of its own, since many women discover Choice42 only after the fact, and they are in need of healing and support that they won’t find among abortion

advocates and organizations.

By this point (especially if you are ‘of a certain age,’ like yours truly), you may be thinking: *So they give out information; what’s new about that?* You might say, “I was manning tables and handing out pro-life pamphlets way back in the olden days when the Inclusive Language Police hadn’t yet made it immoral to say ‘manning tables.’”

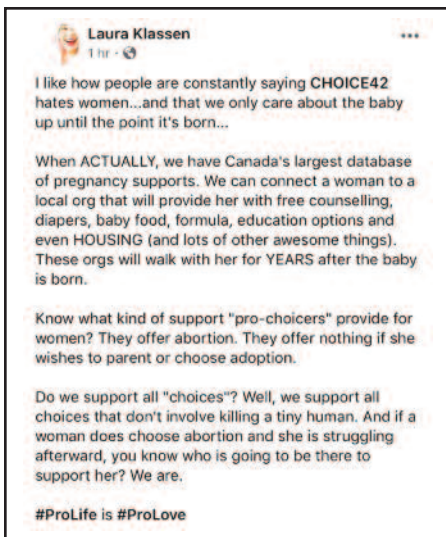
I’ll reply in one word: “Interception” (and no, it’s not the title of a Christopher Nolan movie, but it could be). It’s how internet-savvy pro-life advocates are using online technology and algorithms to serve the cause of Life. To quote the Choice42 website “Projects” page (a sub-heading under **About Us**):

These days when a woman first discovers she is pregnant, she goes online for information about her options. Very often she is met initially with information about abortion clinics. Our goal is to intercept these women and present them with LIFE-affirming options. Using **Search Engine Ad Words** we target Canadians searching for abortion clinics online. Our ad links to our website where we offer options information, prenatal development information, and true stories about other women who have experienced a crisis pregnancy. Women are then able to look up their free and local pregnancy support organizations via our database.

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The above two picture frames are from YouTube video that can be found at saskprolife.com/magical



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The 'Interception' initiative is Choice42's newest project and they are still in need of help to reach their funding targets. Consider making a contribution to this worthy organization. Your donation is tax-deductible and will help support women and save lives.

Another way Choice42 uses the Internet to reach out is by building communities and starting conversations on social media. They maintain an active presence on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and Pinterest. Through these sites and apps, they engage with people from all over Canada and the world, sometimes via videos and messages, but also in real time. They discuss individual opinions about abortion, while always striving to remain calm and respectful—which is no minor feat, given how polarizing this issue is, and how angry and malicious people can be online, especially when interacting or commenting anonymously.

Choice42 has created a number of short videos that appear on YouTube and other websites, including (of course) choice42.com. The first videos they produced were part of the "Choose Life Series" and feature the testimonies of women, both birth mothers and adoptive mothers. The series was created to assure women in crisis pregnancies that they are not alone, and that they have the strength to choose life, no matter how difficult the circumstances. These videos are

effective; Choice42 has received many messages from women who have seen the videos and changed their minds about abortion.

A second series, titled "#Just Saying," uses humour and satire to educate and inform people about life issues, and sometimes to lampoon popular attitudes or the legal status quo. In an interview with Anna Reynolds of LiveAction.org, Laura Klassen explained their motives:

We wanted to create videos that would catch people's attention and hopefully make them re-think some of the issues surrounding abortion and the humanity of babies in the womb. Abortion is a human rights violation and the horror of it is hidden behind slick euphemisms – we want to bring that to light.

The videos are well written, professionally produced, and very entertaining. "Body Inside My Body" challenges the 'My Body, My Choice' argument. "No Uterus No Say" mocks the feminist trope that men—lacking female reproductive apparatus—shouldn't be allowed an opinion on the abortion issue (good luck with that argument when the transgender lobby weighs in). "The Magical Birth Canal," satirizing Canada's ludicrous 'born alive' personhood law, went viral, racking up over 100,000 views since its release last June. The videos have garnered Choice42 fans and supporters—as well as detractors—from around the world. The Choice42 team has received threats of violence in response to at least one of their videos, so all is not fun and games. Keep them in your prayers.

Choice42 also uses traditional methods of outreach, all of which are accessible and available on their website. They include visual advertising (billboards, bus stop ads, vehicle wraps—such as those you see on a city bus or transport truck); custom-designed T-shirts; printed "resource cards," which look like small business cards and can be ordered in bulk and handed out anytime, anywhere, by anyone; articles and media interviews; and yes, even manning pro-life tables at conferences



and community events.

As Laura Klassen says: "Our goal is to reach every Canadian woman considering abortion with life-saving options before the abortion clinic reaches her."

Amen to that!

Choice42.com: Look them up, visit their website and social media pages, "Like and Follow," buy their stuff, participate in their events, watch and share their videos, and support them financially if you can. They are yet another indication that the future of the pro-life movement in Canada is in good hands. ♥

Sources for this article: Choice42.com, LiveAction.org, Choice 42's Facebook page, Laura Klassen



Victory in Argentina: How We Defeated the International Abortion Lobby and Protected the Right to Life



By Dr. Carlos Beltramo

On August 9, 2018, pro-lifers in Argentina won a great victory, not just for Argentinians, but for the entire world. That country's Senate voted down a bill to legalize abortion.

It was a close run. The bill had already passed the Argentinian lower house, called the Chamber of Deputies, and seemed unstoppable. Just two months ago, it did not seem possible to stop the bill in the Senate. But over the last few weeks pro-lifers organized, demonstrated, and began to put real pressure on their elected representatives. The result was a victory for the right to life for the unborn child.

The Chamber of Deputies approved the pro-abortion bill on June 23, after a long day of fractious debate. Three lawmakers who had earlier said they would vote against abortion strangely changed their minds at the last minute. They instead voted to legalize the death of unborn babies.

Many in Argentina were outraged by

this betrayal of the country's longstanding pro-life principles. Argentine politicians were quickly to learn just how dangerous it can be to their political careers when they bring upon themselves the wrath of the voters.

In order to become law, both chambers of the Argentinian parliament must approve it. So the battle for life, though lost in the House, could still be won in the Chamber of Senators.

The Argentinian parliament, with its upper and lower houses, is modeled upon the American Congress. Much like the U.S. House of Representatives, the number of lawmakers representing each province in the Argentinian Chamber of Deputies are elected according to number of people living in each territory. For example, the Province of Buenos Aires has 35 representatives while Tucumán, one of the smallest in the country, has only 9. In contrast, much like the U.S. Senate, each Argentinian province has the same number of senators. Thus, Buenos Aires and Tucumán have 3 senators each.

With the battle moving to the Chamber of Senators, pro-lifers were faced with a challenge: to convince a majority of the 72 senators to reject the bill. At the outset, this appeared to be nearly impossible. But then something never before seen in Argentina began to develop: a mass movement in favor of Life.

A lawyer, Martín Zeballos, coined a phrase in an article he wrote for the newspaper Clarín. "Argentina had a sleeping giant that has awoken," Zeballos wrote, "and he has a sky-blue neckerchief." Zeballos was referring to the sky-blue neckerchief that has become the symbol of those who defend the right to life. This is a symbol



The sleeping giant had awoken. Pro-lifers began to visit their senators and say bluntly: 'If you vote for abortion, I will not vote for you in the next election.'

which recalls the sky-blue of Argentinian flag, and so the love of the unborn became synonymous with love of country.

On the other hand, pro-abortion activists wear green neckerchiefs. This color—the color of a dollar bill—quickly became identified with the international financial pressure on Argentina to legalize abortion. This "color blindness" turned out to be a major strategic blunder on the part of the pro-aborts.

Pro-lifers also won the messaging campaign, adopting a great slogan: "Let us save 2 lives." This referred to saving both the child's life and the mother's, and helped to rally support to the pro-life cause.

Pro-lifers also suddenly woke up to the fact that they needed to become politically active. They realized that their senators were very attentive to pressure from the voters, and were acutely aware of the number of votes they need to get re-elected.

Originally, many pro-lifers thought that convincing lawmakers that abortion is a moral evil or medically unnecessary was the path to victory. That is, they thought that they needed to argue that life begins at conception and that laws must protect the right to life as a matter of science and morality.

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More than 400 lawyers, doctors, biologists and even journalists testified before Congress in defense of the right to life in the various committees where the abortion bill was being considered. The lawmakers were unmoved. It soon became evident to pro-lifers that the legislators were not basing their vote on moral or scientific considerations, but solely on political considerations.

The sleeping giant had awoken. Pro-lifers began to visit their senators and say bluntly: 'If you vote for abortion, I will not vote for you in the next election.' This strategy paid immediate dividends, especially since the next elections are in 2019. Those lawmakers who wanted to be re-elected again as senators began to pay attention to the concerns of pro-lifers. And pro-lifers, for their part, began to realize that political activism, previously nonexistent among pro-lifers, can make a real difference.

One by one, senators began expressing their "concern" that the abortion bill was "poorly drafted" and stating that they would be voting against it. The wave of political momentum to keep abortion illegal in Argentina started growing. By the time of the vote, even the country's most important newspapers, Clarín and La Nación, recognized that the abortion bill would be defeated.

The miracle was the result of a lot of pro-life work, a lot of mobilization from normal, everyday people. But more than anything, it was the result of citizens realizing the power they have to act in a democratic society. Argentinian pro-lifers realized that this power needs to be exercised not through timid pleas, but by demanding that rights be respected.

In the weeks leading up to the vote, the streets were no longer a place for left-wing activists. But rather, pro-lifers occupied this space, to civilly demand that there can be no law to legalize

abortion in Argentina. And pro-lifers achieved their goal.

After the hard defeat in the Irish abortion referendum, Argentina has now changed the axis of the abortion debate. Argentina has provided Latin America and the world with a good example of how people can stop the global anti-life tsunami. Pro-lifers can stop anti-life legislation even with only a small amount of funding, so long as they advance their cause with great passion and a clear focus.

The pro-life Argentine "sleeping giant" will stay awake and active. There are many people now who are engaged in the important political battles going forward. Groups that were formed to lobby against the abortion bill are already studying how to change other anti-life laws.

“ They realized that their senators were very attentive to pressure from the voters, and were acutely aware of the number of votes they need to get re-elected. ”

The next challenge for pro-lifers will be a bill that will revise the Criminal Code, which will be voted on soon. But they will be talking to politicians who will listen. And they will be telling them: "We will be paying attention to how you'll be voting on this bill, and we ourselves will only vote for politicians who will say not only promise to defend life, but actually fulfill their promises."

The Argentinian political landscape has changed forever. Pro-life issues will no longer be a minor issue. And soon we will see more and more pro-life senators and deputies. Some will be pro-life as a matter of principal. Others will be pro-life out of political prudence. But both of these groups will vote the right way. Because pro-lifers will be watching.

This victory sends very clear message to



the rest of Latin America. Pro-life movements in other Latin American countries were closely following the situation in Argentina in solidarity with Argentine pro-lifers. And now, they know what pro-life people are able to accomplish when they set their minds to it.

Population Research Institute (PRI) has played an active role throughout this process of organizing and encouraging the Argentinian pro-life movement. PRI's offices in Latin America and Europe, and particularly PRI's newest division, RELEASE, have been read and studied by those involved in the pro-life battle in Argentina. Many groups and people in Argentina found our advice and analysis key to building the way for this successful campaign.

PRI is now committed to advancing this winning model elsewhere. For this great victory in Argentina must breathe new life into all those who defend life and family. Pro-lifers should be encouraged to raise their voices. Do not be afraid of those who want to impose the culture of political correctness. Fight back.

The Argentine nation has won a great victory for life and for the family. And we at PRI were proud to have played a part. Thank you, Argentina. ♥

Dr. Carlos Beltramo is the Director of Population Research Institute's European Office and a native of Argentina. This article originally appeared on PRI's website <https://www.pop.org/victory-in-argentina-how-we-defeated-the-international-abortion-lobby-and-protected-the-right-to-life/>

“ Just two months ago, it did not seem possible to stop the bill in the Senate. But over the last few weeks pro-lifers organized, demonstrated, and began to put real pressure on their elected representatives. ”

Pro-Life Booth at P.A. Exhibition



“ *Having the opportunity to sit at the Pro-Life booth at the Prince Albert Exhibition helped us to realize the importance of sending the Pro-Life message to the youth. It was inspiring to see how the kids and young moms who passed by were excited to stop to see the life-size models of the pre-born baby and ask questions.*
- Alexei, age 17 and Curtis, age 21

“ *I enjoyed being at the Pro-Life booth, because I liked having the opportunity to show kids my age that the Pro-Life message is important to them.*
- Melena, age 13



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Weyburn and District Pro-Life's Board of Directors for 2018



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Front row: Tristin Crooks, Stan Ganczar, and president John Sidloski. Missing: Eileen Ganczar.

The Board approved a number of policies that would make Weyburn and District Pro-Life bigger and stronger. Weyburn Pro-Life now has over 100 billboards in Saskatchewan and 20 in Manitoba. They plan to raise funds to support the Choose Life News and also promote traditional family values in education. ♥

FILM REVIEW

Because of Grácia Movie Review

by Jennifer Hettrick

Genre: Romance/Comedy/Christian

Because of Grácia, written and directed by Tom Simes of Saskatoon, is the story of two teenagers, Grácia and Chase. As these characters are introduced, the audience enters into the reality of contemporary high school life. As the relationship between Grácia and Chase develops, and other characters, such as Bobbi, come into the story, the film draws a parallel between different choices of the characters regarding friendship and dating. Some choices lead to freedom and authenticity, while other choices lead to crisis.

The film does not shy away from additional topics about which youth frequently have questions and discussions. The characters face difficulties with family relationships, abortion, faith, school, and freedom of speech. The film presents these struggles and decisions in a way that feels familiar, reminding the audience of their own experiences. The acting and directing bring depth and realism to the characters. For example, we learn that the seemingly perfect character of Grácia has made mistakes in her past, and has had to move on from them. These experiences now help her to understand many of the other characters in the story. Meanwhile, the character of Chase transforms from being a “do whatever is easiest” teenager who has hilarious,

elaborate daydreams, to a young man who seizes the moment with courage and finally takes a stand for his faith.

Because of Grácia is a pointedly pro-life movie, so this topic is central. The movie shows the genuine emotional struggle that comes with an unplanned pregnancy. It gives a face to those young girls who are experiencing a crisis pregnancy and are confronted with the question, “What do I do now?” I think it shows a side of the pro-life movement that is so very important: compassionate accompaniment. The character of Grácia exemplifies this as she befriends and supports Bobbi in her difficult time, being there when it matters most.

The film is not overly predictable or cliché, and does a good job of touching upon many issues while remaining focused on the main plot. The screenplay provides much food for thought, and because of this, the film can be watched more than once, giving the audience the opportunity to notice new things and go deeper into the message with each viewing.

Because of Grácia is a movie that I would recommend to teens and adults of all ages, as it approaches difficult topics well, while at the same time reminding the audience of the realities of being a teenager in today’s society. ♥



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