

CHOOSE LIFE NEWS

VOLUME XL | ISSUE #1 | SPRING 2021



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Even Darkness Must Pass



By Valerie
Hettrick

What brings a person back to some semblance of reality? A birth, a death, or perhaps a family wedding? 2020

was most definitely a year of ups, downs, and reality checks.

In my own family, we had the sadness of losing my Dad in September. Yet we were blessed to be able to gather as a family to celebrate his life. Just recently my dear Auntie also passed away; because of the restrictions we were very limited in our numbers, which brought us great sadness. I am thankful that I was able to finish 2020 by experiencing the joy of our new granddaughter. As I said, a year of ups and downs.

Many people have experienced unfortunate repercussions because of the "Wuhan Flu" as well as other frightening events around the world. We can see this in every aspect of life, from the neglect of the elderly in nursing homes to abortion/euthanasia advocates pushing the culture of death. Certain groups of people, such as the Uyghurs, are being persecuted and imprisoned by Communist China because they are Muslim. The world at times seems to have gone entirely mad.

However, looking back at history, we see that there have been many times of utter madness. The question is: is there still hope? Many civilizations, ours included, were founded on principles based on the laws of God. When a society becomes stronger and more independent, it may begin to believe it no longer needs God. What follows is total civilizational collapse, all because of pride.

Are we, as a society, at that point? Perhaps! Only God knows the answer to that question. We have hope because God is our hope, and He will never

forsake us. The human spirit is strong and there will always be those who fight for what is right, who fight so that the next generation can live in a God-fearing society.

There is a new documentary produced by Peter Jackson (director of *The Lord of the Rings*) titled, *They Shall Not Grow Old*. It is about soldiers in World War I and it shows us the strength of the human spirit, which can bring order out of chaos, good out of evil, and faith out of despair. Being a fan of J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*, I cannot help but recall this quotation: "**For even darkness must pass; a new day will come and when the sun shines, it will shine out the clearer.**"

Yes, we live in a fallen world, and we must be aware of the many pitfalls of that sinful world, but we must also remember that this is God's world, the world into which he sent his only Son. God is our hope.

This coming year, *Choose Life News* will be focussing on the many ministries and organizations that are keeping the faith and carrying on the pro-life, pro-family mission set before them. One of these is Teen-Aid, an organization that gives youth a healthy foundation in life. Last fall, we were approached by Teen-Aid and asked if we could distribute this Parent Guide to our members and we are happy to do so. We encourage you to share this booklet with your children, grandchildren, or anyone in your life who could benefit from it.

My prayer is that this issue of CLN will renew your hope as we prepare for Lent. As always, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your constant prayers and support. God bless you and your families, and let us continue to lift each other up in prayer especially during this Lenten season. ♥



Calendar of events

PLEASE BE ADVISED that in-person events are subject to COVID restrictions. For more information, contact the organizations involved, or consult the Sask Pro-Life website events page:

<https://www.saskprolife.com/events>

FEBRUARY 17 - MARCH 28: 40

Hours for Life, Regina General Hospital, 14th Ave. Every day 4:30-5:30 PM. Organized by Regina Pro-Life Association. Email: rpla@sasktel.net Phone: (306) 569-1985

APRIL 10: Annual Sask Pro-Life VIRTUAL Convention and AGM.

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Join us online for a day of inspiration and encouragement. Make your voice heard at the AGM. (See ad, page 9) To register: saskprolife.com/agm or call (306) 992-6941

SATURDAY MAY 8TH: SK March for Life: begins with a "Witness for Life" on Albert Street. Further details will be announced closer to the actual date. See ad page 16.

MAY 13: National March for Life, Ottawa: For more information, visit Campaign Life Coalition's March for Life webpage: marchforlife.ca

OCTOBER 3: Life Chain, held in more than 200 locations across Canada each year. For more information, contact your local pro-life group or visit campaignlifecoalition.com/life-chain

OCTOBER 22-24: Rachel's Vineyard Retreat. Suffering after an abortion? Attend a Rachel's Vineyard retreat and find healing. For information or to register, call Elaine (306) 480-8911 or email r.vineyardsk@sasktel.net

Forty and Counting: an 'XL' Vision



By Mariette Ulrich

Have you ever noticed the Roman numeral 'Volume' designation on our front cover? Last year it was "XXXIX" (39). With

this first issue of 2021, *Choose Life News* marks "XL" or 40 years of publication. "XL" has other familiar uses too: it denotes size for things like clothing and pizza.

Forty years is quite a milestone, for which we can be grateful: the past decades have seen the demise of many print publications, large and small. Some have moved online, but Sask Pro-Life acknowledges that many of our members do not (and never will) use the internet. This magazine exists for you.

Milestones are not ends unto themselves, however. They are markers on a path, which means we must be going somewhere, and for some purpose. Sask Pro-Life has laboured, not without adversity, as it strives to discern and follow a path, not only for CLN, but in the greater battle for Life. SPLA committees, staff, and board members greatly appreciate your feedback, prayers, and support as we seek to clarify our vision.

Last year, I expected to see an overuse of the cliché "20-20 vision" in the journalism world. Most people's plans and visions for 2020 went spectacularly off the rails when the pandemic hit, with its attendant fear, projections, predictions, and yes, even hysteria (on both sides of the debate). Many 'expert' diktats have engendered bizarre contradictions, for which no one holding power and authority will answer (see Jonathon's piece on page 10 for one such example).

Here are more: why must airline travellers line up six feet apart to check in, but once inside the plane, they can

squeeze in like sardines? Also, why are abortions "essential" but cancer testing isn't? Why are riots permitted, but outdoor skating will get you tasered? I could go on. It's all so that we can "stay safe"—whatever that means. Staying home or wearing masks might—*maybe*—prevent you from catching COVID, but it cannot keep you safe from cancer, liver failure, heart disease, loneliness, depression, or (God forbid) suicide.

It takes a special sort of depraved hypocrisy for a government to blather about "saving lives" while **simultaneously** expanding assisted suicide, making it quicker and easier for a locked-down grandma to kill herself from sheer despair. Bill C-7 passed in the House of Commons on Dec. 10; by the time you read this, it may have passed in the Senate too. Then there's the cognitive dissonance of a prime minister who dares to utter sentiments about "protecting the most vulnerable," while aggressively promoting abortion home and abroad. Part of the Liberals' COVID foreign aid includes funding abortion in developing countries. Some black lives matter less than others, apparently.

A lot of us have clouded vision, and it's not all due to binge-watching Netflix and consuming too much sugar. Postmodern society has turned its back on God; too many of our institutions (politics, courts, media, academia) have become untrustworthy, since their focus is often agenda-driven, rooted in the pursuit of wealth or power, rather than in seeking truth or the common good.

The arrival of COVID vaccines has added still more layers of confusion and contention. New visions have arisen: some naively optimistic; others dark and dystopian. Many of us are suffering COVID fatigue and (dis)information overload. We need to step back: COVID-19 isn't the whole story and it isn't the only story. We must question, in a calm and rational manner, those in power and authority. When consuming

information, keep the salt shaker handy: there is always a happy medium between gullibility and paranoid scepticism.

It is called discernment. We need to be grounded in prayer, Scripture and most of all, trust in God. I'll segue to Mother Teresa, who had a bit of practice in that discipline. She was often asked for wisdom and advice about 'how to save the world.' Many of her replies were variations on a theme: Do small things with great love; Go home and love your family; Deal with what is at your feet. Performing small acts of love and service to the people closest to you is sometimes the most practical, productive, and world-changing thing we can do.

While our vision must be focussed, it can never be narrow. Like our hearts, our vision must be "XL," always mindful of the long view and the big picture. And we must hold fast to the conviction that God is in control of both the canvas and the brush—even when the colours are too dark for our taste.

Will we 'defeat' COVID? Will life ever return to normal? Will *Choose Life News*—or Sask Pro-Life—last for another 40 years? (Or one year?) We don't know what the future will bring, but neither should we fear it. We are in God's good hands; count on Him. ♥

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Trudeau Government Must Ensure PPE is Not Made by Chinese Slave Labour



Dear Friends,
Would you trust a politician found guilty of an ethics violation to self-certify that they're ethical? What about a banker convicted of a Ponzi scheme to self-certify that they're investing your money in your best interest?

Of course not. Relying on the word of those who have proven they are untrustworthy defies any logic.

Yet the Canadian government relies on Chinese manufacturers to self-certify that they are not using forced labour of Uyghurs to manufacture the mask you might be wearing right now.

The Communist Chinese government is currently engaged in what has been described by many experts as a genocide of the Uyghur people, a largely Muslim ethnic minority in Northwest China. Intelligence agencies have authenticated videos of Uyghurs chained together, with black hoods over their heads, being loaded into trains, likely headed for one of the many so-called "re-education camps" built by the Communists.

In the last few years, over 1 million Uyghurs have been detained by the Chinese government and placed in these camps, many for no other reason than their religious beliefs. After being detained, many Uyghurs are transferred to factories where they are forced to work in horrible conditions.

As Uyghur women face forced sterilization and their pregnancies are forcefully aborted, birth rates have fallen dramatically in only 4 years. Many of the children who are born are removed from their parents to be raised by the State.

And we now know, thanks to a New York Times report, Uyghur forced labour is being used by at least 17 companies to manufacture personal protective equipment (PPE). These horrifying reports should raise alarms for the Canadian government, which has signed dozens of contracts worth tens of millions of dollars with Chinese companies to manufacture PPE.

Public Services and Procurement Minister Anita Anand, the Minister responsible for purchasing PPE for the Federal government, should be asking hard questions of these companies and demanding independent reviews of their factories and supply chains to ensure that we are not financially supporting slavery.

Instead, departmental officials testified in committee that our primary guard against purchasing PPE made with forced labour is a policy requiring "self-certification" by primary and first-tier subcontracts.

By failing to take this seriously, the government may have made each of us complicit in the continuation of the slavery of the Uyghur people.

This state of affairs is entirely avoidable. Canada should prioritize the purchase of PPE manufactured by free and democratic countries over those made in totalitarian states.

If we absolutely must purchase masks from China to meet the very real need to protect our citizens, we should be demanding independent reviews of every supplier within the supply chain. The government has already hired

independent investigators for quality checks of the PPE we order. Why do we not have independent investigators for human rights checks?

We are left to surmise that this government either wants to maintain plausible deniability or is completely disinterested in the plight of the Uyghur people.

Neither of those meet the standard Canadians expect from a government that promised their foreign policy would "take action when injustices occur." Canadians deserve better. And more importantly, so do Uyghurs.

Sincerely,
Kelly Block, MP

Editor's note: ACTION ITEMS

1. Write or call your Member of Parliament with your concerns about this situation.
<http://www.ourcommons.ca/Parliamentarians/en/members>
2. Write the Prime Minister and request that Canada would take appropriate action towards the Chinese government.
Email: justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Regular mail (no postage required):
Rt.Hon. Justin Trudeau
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
Canada K1A 0A6
3. Contact Kelly and thank her for her work. It is important that we support and encourage our pro-life MPs and politicians.
<http://www.kellyblockmp.ca/>

ETHICAL RESEARCH

Children of God for Life Expands Pro-Life Efforts

By CoG for Life staff

Children of God for Life, Inc. is announcing relocation of Corporate operations and changes in leadership, including the Board of Directors, effective immediately. The organization is also announcing an expansion of its pro-life work and its mission from a focus on vaccines to a broader effort to end the use of aborted children in scientific research.

Children of God for Life, Inc. was originally established in Clearwater, Florida in 1999 by founder and Executive Director, Debra Vinnedge. Debra Vinnedge is the woman who requested and received the 2005 document from the Pontifical Academy for Life, "Moral Reflections on Vaccines Prepared from Cells Derived from Aborted Human Foetuses."



"We are absolutely thrilled to announce the broadening of our pro-life efforts in fighting against the use of tissues from electively aborted children in vaccines. The organization will also focus on ending the exploitation and abuse of the unborn, seeking to end the immoral use of aborted fetal tissue in research, development, and commerce," stated Mrs. Vinnedge, who is retiring after two decades of service.

The organization's path forward will be led by Drs. Jose and Stacy Trasancos. Stacy Trasancos will assume the role of Chief Research Officer and serve as a Board Director. Jose Trasancos will assume the role of Chief Executive Officer and will serve as Chairman of the Board. Children of God for Life, Inc. is delighted to announce the election of

Most Reverend Bishop Joseph Strickland to the Board of Directors, where he will serve as Spiritual Director. Mrs. Vinnedge will remain on the Board of Directors and continue to support and assist the organization in an advisory capacity. Vinnedge said it has been her life-long dream to be able to help parents, physicians, and other pro-life organizations. With the addition of the new Board members and expanded scope of Children of God for Life, Inc., that dream may soon be realized.

In recent weeks, Dr. Stacy Trasancos has published guidance on the use of aborted fetal material in biomedical research from both a science and moral perspective. Stacy was a senior research scientist at DuPont and has advanced degrees in both chemistry and dogmatic theology. Jose had a successful career as a senior executive in the auto insurance industry with advanced degrees in political science and applied mathematics. Together they will lead a fight against the exploitation of unborn, unwanted children killed by abortion.

"We never expected to do something like this, but we are first children of God and parents to the gifts of children God entrusted to us. When the COVID-19 vaccine was accepted — even though it was produced using an abortion-derived cell line — we realized that the Christian voice for human dignity is needed now more than ever. It is time to mobilize. We have the skills to unite people of good will and fight these practices, so we can leave a better civilization for our children." For more information visit their website at www.cogforlife.org.

This article was originally published on CoG for Life's website cogforlife.org January 4, 2021. Used with permission. ♥



Pandemic Perspective

Perhaps the most ironic thing about the global response to COVID-19 (worldwide panic, lockdown, economic collapse) is that the 2020 death toll from the virus, as tragic as it was, came **nowhere near the death toll from abortion**. As the clock turned over to 2021, these were the respective numbers:

Deaths from COVID-19: 1.8 million
Deaths from Abortion: 42.7 MILLION

According to the World Health Organization, every year in the world there are an estimated 40-50 million abortions. This corresponds to approximately 125,000 abortions per day, or **87 abortions per minute**.

Every death is a tragedy...but where is the real pandemic? ♥

Source:
www.worldometers.info/abortions



CPC Policy Work: A Pro-Life Perspective

By Jodi Rosluk

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."
Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV)

In early 2017 I attended my first Conservative Party of Canada (CPC) Electoral District Association (EDA) Annual General Meeting (AGM). I was there to promote a meet-and-greet event I had volunteered to host for CPC leadership candidate Pierre Lemieux. I had recently signed up to be a CPC member for the first time because I wanted to be part of the process to elect a Christian Prime Minister who was boldly pro-life and pro-Israel (Genesis 12:1-3). I knew I had to begin by helping to elect a new leader for the CPC who could one day be the God-honouring Prime Minister I believed Canada needed.

As I awaited my turn to promote Pierre's meet-and-greet, the CPC's Saskatchewan Policy Rep took the podium and started discussing the party's policy process. He talked about how policy development and voting had been unorganized in the past, and that better communication and cooperation were needed to avoid policy duplication. He stressed that to pass good policies, more Conservative members needed to be involved with the 'grassroots' policy process. I sensed that many in the room were not interested in what he had to say, but he definitely had my full attention.

It was all new to me and I found the CPC Saskatchewan Policy Rep's presentation fascinating. I felt like Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* when the curtain is pulled aside to reveal a great mystery. And then it was as if the Holy Spirit spoke to my heart saying, "This is what you need to do!" A thought was placed in my

mind: "Help inform and organize people who love God to pass policies that honour Him." I thought this was one way we could have our pro-life voices heard! This was one way that Christians in Canada could stand up to defend against being shut down! We needed to work within the CPC to reform and incrementally shift it in the right direction – but it would take numbers, time, and a coordinated effort. I was inspired and ready to get to work!

When I was ready in early 2018 to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, doors began to open. First, I was blessed to be mentored by Pierre Lemieux who taught me how the CPC was organized, and how my husband and I could become EDA Board members and delegates at policy conventions. My husband and I met with the Saskatchewan Policy Rep and learned how policies were written and how they were passed. We were acclaimed to our Conservative EDA Board of Directors and I became Secretary/CEO. We were also selected as delegates to the 2018 Saskatchewan Policy Meetings in Kenaston, and delegates to the 2018 Policy Convention in Halifax. Other doors opened after that, including becoming members of Sask Pro-Life's Board of Directors.

In October 2018 my husband and I flew to Halifax to attend our first CPC Policy Convention, and we were also joined by several Sask Pro-Life members. **Our main mission: to delete or change policy #65 which stated: "A Conservative Government will not support any legislation to regulate abortion."** My husband and I had informed the pro-life political group RightNow that we would be delegates and we signed up for instructions via text on how to vote when each policy came up. It was very important to vote YES for the policies that had been pre-determined by a pro-life think-tank as supportable, and to vote NO on all the others, even if some of them were very good policies. It was difficult to vote NO, but it was necessary to make sure that

the most important policies with the highest probability of success passed to the final plenary.

The policies had been divided between three rooms, and pro-life delegates were in the room where social and health policies were being voted on. Only ten policies from that room would be permitted to advance so we had to get it right. The pro-life think-tank had determined that the "Delete #65" policy submitted by Newfoundland and Labrador would have more support at the final plenary than the "Replace #65" policy submitted by Saskatchewan, and that only the "Delete #65" should advance. It was heartbreaking for those of us from Saskatchewan who had worked hard to get the cleverly written pro-life policy to Halifax. Unfortunately this proved to be a divisive decision that not all supported, while others understood it as necessary. Thanks to RightNow's coordination efforts, every policy that the pro-life think-tank determined was supportable passed to the final plenary. Many of us left the room feeling as though we had won the first battle and had really accomplished something.

“Many of these professionals are young, intelligent, energetic and committed – they are the pro-life generation – and they need our help and support.”

That feeling of victory dissipated the next day at the final plenary when the motion to "Delete #65" was narrowly defeated, 53% to 47%. We had come so close! **We had needed only 107 more pro-life delegates to successfully delete policy #65!** Even though we failed to "Delete #65" we successfully passed other pro-life policies, as well as policies that strengthened CPC support for rights and freedom in the public square, including access to government funding.

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The most recent door to open in 2020 was the opportunity to serve as Chair for Sask Pro-Life Association's (SPLA) Political Committee, and to represent SPLA at the national level on the pro-life political steering committee (think-tank) that is responsible for developing strategy to elect pro-life politicians and to pass pro-life policies that will eventually become laws. Working with these professionals has given me hope for pro-life's future in Canada. Many of these professionals are young, intelligent, energetic and committed – they are the pro-life generation – and they need our help and support.

It's been almost four years since that commission was first placed on my heart for political policy work and electing pro-life politicians. God has opened many doors since, and out of obedience I walked through them. I have had the privilege of meeting and working with some really amazing people who love God, respect life, and understand the direction our country is heading if we refuse to do something about it.

A quote often credited to Edmund Burke has become like a creed for my husband and me: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." It complements the scripture passage I shared at the start of this article. Too many Christians live in fear, or have become discouraged or apathetic, choosing to hide their lights when it comes to pro-life politics in Canada – actually politics in general. When the light is covered, darkness takes over as people's hearts are hardened and consciences seared. We are then left with a culture of death as our country turns further away from God. The darkness in this world rejects God because God is light, God is love, and God is life.

” Too many Christians live in fear, or have become discouraged or apathetic, choosing to hide their lights when it comes to pro-life politics in Canada. ”

CHOOSE LIFE NEWS



Photo Credit: Students for Life of America/SFLAction; used with permission

I share my experience to encourage others, and to show how a willingness to serve and to follow God will lead to open doors if only you say "yes" to the opportunities presented. By the world's standards I'm no one special – a mother and a housewife – but because I'm a child of God willing to be obedient to His leading, He has equipped me. As I obediently followed, God continued to trust me with more responsibilities (Luke 12:48b).

Finally, I was not alone on this journey. Others allowed Jesus' light to shine, following God's lead in their roles to open those doors. For example it was Pierre Lemieux running for the leadership of the CPC that first brought to my attention that Canada has no abortion law. From there I sought to learn more about pro-life in our province and discovered Sask Pro-Life Association. The staff of SPLA introduced me to my local pro-life group where I met a Sask Pro-Life Board member who nominated me to the Yorkton-Melville Conservative EDA Board of Directors working to elect MP Cathay Wagantall. He also nominated me to the SPLA Board of Directors.

Without the obedience of others, and members' continued financial support for Sask Pro-Life's mission, I likely would not be sharing my experience with you now and encouraging you to be obedient to God's call to shine the "light

of life." John 8:12 says: *When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* (NIV)

If you feel God is leading you to walk through some doors or to help open doors for others in regards to pro-life politics, please flip the page to learn more about an opportunity that now exists to help with pro-life policy work within the CPC.

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Ottawa welcomes you!

Join pro-lifers from across Canada for the
NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE:
MAY 13, 2021



For more information, visit Campaign Life Coalition's March for Life webpage:
marchforlife.ca

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2021 CPC Virtual Convention

From March 18-20, members of the Conservative Party of Canada (CPC) will meet online for the 2021 Convention to vote on policy resolutions and constitution amendments. They will also elect a new National Council, which is the governing body of the party. Many pro-life CPC members have registered as delegates and will be working together to help make the CPC even more pro-life.

The deadline to register as a voting delegate has come and gone, but some electoral districts may be holding Delegate Selection Meetings (DSMs) until the end of February if they have more registrants than the permitted 10. **It's important that pro-life CPC members participate in these DSMs to help elect registered pro-life delegates.**

To learn more about the Convention or to register as a Member Observer visit: cpc21.ca. Participating as a Member Observer is an option to consider if you would like to pray in real time for our pro-life delegates and the policies being voted on, or if you would like to learn more to prepare for the 2023 Policy Convention.

Policy work is the foundation upon which political parties build election platforms. It also forms the basis for bills presented in the House of Commons, and some become law. Most laws in recent history likely have been rooted in party policy. It is important to pass good policies and to defeat bad ones like *J) HEALTH, 70. Abortion Legislation which states: A Conservative Government will*

not support any legislation to regulate abortion. A great example of a Conservative pro-life policy is *K) SOCIAL POLICY, 81. Women which states: We condemn discrimination against girls through gender selection abortions.* Policy #81 strengthens MP Cathay Wagantall's Private Member's Bill "Sex Selective Abortion Act" (Bill C-233), which has helped to increase public awareness through events like pink flag displays sponsored by pro-life groups. If voting delegates at the Convention can successfully delete Policy #70, it will greatly strengthen Bill C-233 and draw valuable media attention to this issue.

ATTENTION: If you are a CPC member or a registered delegate please notify the pro-life political group RightNow to receive important action items and updates. It's important that we coordinate our efforts for optimal results. Email: info@itstartsrighnow.ca or call: 1-587-435-0166. ♥



Canadian Party Comparison on the Sanctity of Human Life

Conservative

- Official policy declaration explicitly condemns sex-selective abortions
- Party policy declaration supports a Born Alive Infant Protection Act that would require life-saving medical care be given to babies who survive abortion
- Party is open to pro-life candidates and to allowing the introduction of pro-life private members bills
- A conflict exists between the Policy Platform and the Party Constitution, with respect to an abortion law. The Constitution (good) describes as a guiding principle of the party: "A belief in the value and dignity of all human life," whereas the policy declaration (bad) states that "A Conservative Government will not support any legislation to regulate abortion."

Liberal

- Supports abortion-on-demand throughout all 9 months of pregnancy, up to the moment of birth
- Bans pro-life Canadians from running as Party candidates

Green

NDP

- Supports abortion-on-demand throughout all 9 months of pregnancy, up to the moment of birth
- Would withhold federal healthcare funding for any province that dares to implement any kind of regulatory barrier to abortion
- Bans pro-life Canadians from running as NDP candidates

People's Party

- No official policy statement on abortion
- Open to pro-life candidates and to allow pro-life private members bills to be put forward

Source: voteprolife.ca/party-policy-comparison

Moose Jaw — Lake Centre — Lanigan: Preparedness Alert!

As of press time, it has been rumoured that Conservative MP Tom Lukiwski will announce his retirement in 2021. Pro-life people in this electoral district should be prepared to help nominate and elect a pro-life candidate. To sign-up or renew CPC party membership visit: donate.conservative.ca/membership/ or call CPC headquarters: 1-866-808-8407. Please let us know at Sask Pro-Life if you are a CPC member and are ready to help a pro-life candidate represent you. E-blasts will provide further updates.

ASSISTED SUICIDE

Faith Leaders Decry MAiD Expansion

By Peter Stockland

More than 50 faith leaders warn that the Liberal government's changes to Medical Aid in Dying legislation will pressure vulnerable Canadians to opt for "lethal procedures" over living with illness or disability.

Equally alarming, says the [Oct 14] letter, the alterations contained in Bill C-7 will undermine the "creativity and resolve" needed to confront complex medical challenges and to ensure access to palliative care is a top priority. "We are, in effect, imposing the intentional taking of human life as a solution to human suffering. This is not just deeply troubling; it is unacceptable for a civilized society," the letter says.

It is signed by more than 35 Protestant leaders, six Rabbis, the President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, the President of the Canadian Council of Imams, an Anglican Archbishop, a representative of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Canada, the Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church, the Primate of the Armenian Prelacy as

well as Mormon and Mennonite senior figures.

Their most critical objection to the re-introduced bill is the dropping of language that requires a person's death to be "foreseeable" before MAiD can be offered. While most of the signatories vehemently opposed the original MAiD legislation in 2016, the "foreseeable death" provision was seen as at least a safeguard against Canada falling into euthanasia on demand.

The faith leaders note that MAiD "is **more accurately, and tragically, nothing less than murder**, as was recognized by the Criminal Code of Canada prior to the passing of (MAiD) legislation in June 2016." They urge government to "press hard on the pause button" with C-7's proposed amendments to avoid falling even deeper into the "moral abyss" of free-for-all medical killing.

"Offering euthanasia or assisted suicide to those living with a disability or chronic illness, but who are not dying, suggests that living with a disability or

illness is a fate worse than death. This is not what we, as Canadians, have in mind when thinking of ourselves as a caring, compassionate and inclusive society."

In place of expanding MAiD, they argue, the Trudeau government should commit itself fully to providing Canadians with "palliative care administered with unwavering compassion, generosity and skill [expressing] the best of who we are."

Signatories to the letter ground their appeal in their experience as leaders who have developed their "moral vision" of human dignity and equality by "sitting at the bedsides of the sick and dying" as well as through the "crucible of history" found in humanity's sacred traditions. And they warn darkly that history cannot be ignored if we forget the lessons of the sins of the past.

Peter Stockland is Editor at convivium.ca. Reprinted with permission; edited for length. ♥

THE COUNTDOWN IS ON! Virtual Convention & AGM: April 10, 2021

SASKATCHEWAN

PRO LIFE
ASSOCIATION INC.

Due to ever-changing COVID restrictions, we have decided to host our Convention and Annual General Meeting online. While nothing compares to an in-person event, we acknowledge that this format allows people to participate who would otherwise be unable to travel and attend.

This year we are running a FULL DAY Conference and AGM with a Keynote Speaker (to be announced) in the morning. We will take a "screen break" for lunch, and will resume with an

online worship service in the afternoon. We will finish with our AGM business and a closing devotion.

Date: **Saturday, April 10, 2021**

Time: **10 AM to 4 PM**



All attendees **MUST REGISTER**. You can do so online at saskprolife.com/agm or by calling Sask Pro-Life office at

(306) 992-6941. Closer to the date, you will receive materials and the meeting link via email. **Only registrants will receive the link to the meeting so don't forget to register!**

Please note: there are 12 Pro-Life Regions in Saskatchewan and each region is allowed two votes at the AGM. If you wish to represent your region as a voting delegate please contact your local pro-life group. Group location and information can be found at saskprolife.com/groups.

If you are not a voting delegate we still encourage you to attend. We want to hear from all our members! Remember, the AGM is vital to our life-saving mission: your attendance/vote literally saves lives. Please join us! ♥

How the COVID-19 Pandemic Killed the “My Body, My Choice” Mantra

By Jonathon Van Maren

Abortion supporters have many arguments they utilize to defend feticide, ranging from difficult and traumatic circumstances to disproven and unscientific babble about the child in the womb being a “clump of cells” rather than a human being (something no credible scientist in the field believes). But the primary argument used to defend the destruction of pre-born human beings in the womb is that of personal autonomy: The child is totally dependent on the body of the mother, at least until viability, and thus it should be the mother’s decision as to whether the child lives or dies.

I’ve noted before that I actually believe that the argument for bodily autonomy based on the dependence of the pre-born child on his or her mother makes the pro-life case rather than the pro-abortion one. After all, our society generally recognizes that the weakness, vulnerability, and youth of a human being heightens our responsibility rather than lessens it. There are entire legal frameworks that exist for the sole purpose of protecting those members of the human family classified as “dependents,” and we collectively recognize that this dependence demands specific sacrifice and protection from the rest of us. In short, the strong have a unique obligation to the weak.

The governmental response to the COVID-19 pandemic around the world has provided the pro-life movement with another unique opportunity to highlight this fact. Regardless of your political opinion on the lockdowns, mandatory masks, and business shutdowns, these actions highlight a

principle utterly at odds with the fundamental arguments put forward by the abortion “rights” movement: That our society should be ready to make tremendous sacrifices on behalf of the weaker and more vulnerable in order to ensure that they remain healthy and stay alive.

To reiterate: I am not saying that the lockdowns, or mask laws, or shutdowns are genuinely effective measures. The shameful death rates among nursing home residents and the discovery of the appalling conditions of many long-term care facilities are an indication that our societies are failing miserably at the principles currently being preached with great ardour. But the point stands: Our leaders, and progressive people generally, are currently urging—and in many cases, requiring—great sacrifice from the population with the justification that these measures are necessary and these sacrifices merited in order to save vulnerable people.

Suddenly, “my body, my choice” is being characterized as a selfish argument only utilized by people who care nothing for the vulnerable in society. Suddenly “bodily autonomy” is a cheap excuse to live as you please while others suffer so that you can exercise your freedom while you neglect your responsibilities to those around you. Suddenly, no price is too high to save the lives of those who cannot save themselves. Financial considerations, restrictions on bodily autonomy, personal liberty—all must be sacrificed to protect the weak. At least, those are the lines we’re being given.

I know that consistency is far too much to ask, but I still think that pro-life activists should take advantage of this shift in rhetoric to point out that we’ve



“Suddenly, no price is too high to save the lives of those who cannot save themselves.”

been saying this sort of thing for decades. We believe that a human being’s right to life trumps the right to bodily autonomy, trumps financial considerations, and places a solemn responsibility on all of us. Children in the womb are one of us and must be treated as one of us. They are owed not only the right to life, but also the right to our defence. And yes, “my body, my choice” is not only an unscientific and rather stupid slogan, it is also an ugly and selfish defense of a horrific and violent action.

Now more than ever, as our society suddenly dispenses with arguments they have used to defend the killing of pre-born children for half a century, we should challenge our culture to live up to the principles they are currently appealing to.

Source: Jonathon’s blog “The Bridgehead” <https://thebridgehead.ca>; Used with permission. ♥

“There are entire legal frameworks that exist for the sole purpose of protecting those members of the human family classified as “dependents,” and we collectively recognize that this dependence demands specific sacrifice and protection from the rest of us. In short, the strong have a unique obligation to the weak.”

Geneva Consensus Declaration on Promoting Women's Health and Strengthening the Family



Compiled by CLN staff

On October 22, 2020, the governments of Brazil, Egypt, Hungary, Indonesia, Uganda, and the United States co-sponsored a virtual gathering in Washington, DC. The occasion was a multinational (32 countries) ceremonial signing of the **Geneva Consensus Declaration**. It was originally to have been signed in Geneva, Switzerland, at the World Health Assembly, but the meeting was postponed due to COVID-19.

The Consensus Declaration strengthens the pro-life and pro-family coalitions working at the UN to achieve these four goals: (1) better health for women; (2) the preservation of human life; (3) strengthening the family as the foundational unit of society; and (4) protecting every nation's national sovereignty in global politics. For example, it is the sovereign right of every nation to make its own laws in regard to abortion, absent external pressure.

In an email to supporters (October 23), Campaign Life Coalition National President, Jeff Gunnarson described the signing of this document as historic, and a "huge win for the global pro-life movement." He added:

This joint agreement... reaffirms that every human being has the inherent right to life and that the natural family, as the fundamental unit of society, must be protected. It re-emphasized "that there is no international right to abortion, nor any international obligation on the part of states to finance or facilitate abortion."

” *The Geneva Consensus shows that there is still a strong coalition of pro-life voices on the international stage.* **”**



The Geneva Consensus shows that there is still a strong coalition of pro-life voices on the international stage. The pro-abortion, anti-family forces at the UN are loud and have billions of dollars backing their agendas. To our nation's shame, Canada is counted among those anti-life voices. As Gunnarson points out:

Under Justin Trudeau's Liberal government, Canada is not aligning itself with the member states who are signing the Geneva Consensus Declaration.... The Canadian government has spent millions of taxpayer dollars to promote the killing of unborn children around the world. Just recently, it committed \$700M per year, until 2030, earmarked specifically for the funding and promotion of abortion, sterilization programs, and age-inappropriate education for children. One of the disturbing parts is that Trudeau likes to dress up the scheme with a smiling face and taglines about "empowering women" and "reproductive rights."

However, the Geneva Declaration affirms that **there is no universal right to abortion**. It further declares that countries offering aid should not use

coercive measures to push anti-family agendas, which are simply not wanted by many developing nations.

Though this ceremony took place last year, the Declaration remains open for additional signatures. Please consider signing the petition requesting that the Canadian government sign the Declaration:

<https://www.campaignlifecoalition.com/petition?id=46>

Also contact your Members of Parliament and ask them to make their voices heard in support of this Declaration.

To see the complete list of signatories or to read the Geneva Consensus document, visit this link: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/agencies/oga/global-health-diplomacy/protecting-life-global-health-policy/geneva-declaration.html>

Sources: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services webpage; Jeff Gunnarson email to CLC supporters. Used in accordance with the Fair Use and Fair Dealing Exemptions of the Canadian Copyright Act, for the purposes of research and education. ♥

SASKATCHEWAN ACTIVISM

Life Chain 2020

On the first Sunday of October, the pro-life movement across Canada gathers for an hour 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. ♥

REGINA PRO-LIFE ASSOCIATION - About 210 people



PRO-LIFE ESTEVAN - 25 people



UNITY LIFE ASSOC. - 29 people



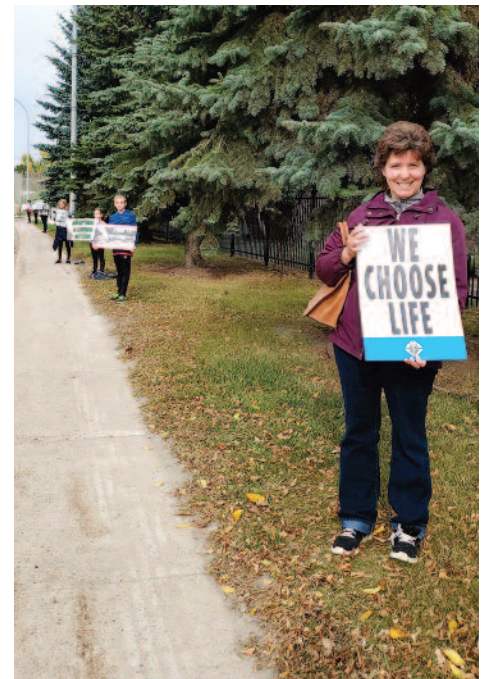
CARLTON TRAIL PRO-LIFE: HUMBOLDT - About 70 people



SWIFT CURRENT & DISTRICT PRO LIFE - About 25 people



PRINCE ALBERT RIGHT TO LIFE ASSOC. - Over 50 participants



SEX-SELECTIVE ABORTION

Regina Pro-Life Pink Flag Display

Globally, 100 million girls are 'missing' due to sex-selective abortion. This barbaric practice is happening in Canada (*Canadian Medical Assoc. Journal*). Pink flag displays draw attention to this injustice. On October 4, 2020, in conjunction with Life Chain, Regina Pro-Life Association held a pink flag display, witnessing to the tragedy of sex-selective abortion and commemorating the victims. (More info: DefendGirls.com)





Thank You from Regina Youth Group

Thank you so much to Sask Pro-Life for the generous donation to produce 5000 postcards. We are so grateful to have this opportunity to reach Regina with the pro-life message. With COVID, it was quite difficult to get the group started last summer, but we've met together in the fall and plan to continue as long as the weather allows, and also after winter. We gathered a group of nine people on September 19, 2020, and reached over 800 houses in parts of the Arcola East neighbourhood.

Thanks so much,

Elizabeth Booker
Regina Against Abortion



Statement re: Vaccines

We have had inquiries about COVID-19 vaccines: specifically those that are in some way connected (via production, testing, or research) to the use of cell lines from aborted fetal tissue. We recommend that you visit the website of Children of God for Life (cogforlife.org) for information.

We encourage you to have meaningful and informed conversations with your pharmacists, doctors, health board reps, pastors, and elected officials about the use of aborted fetal cell lines in the production of vaccines, or ANY pharmaceutical product or medical research. Continue to ask for ethical options.

It is not within Sask Pro-Life's mandate to provide medical advice, or to convince anyone whether or not to receive any particular vaccine.



Choose Life News is YOUR magazine! Whether it's a Letter to the Editor, a promotion for an upcoming pro-life event, a story reporting on your local group's project or activity, or an idea for a feature article... we want to hear from you!

Write, call, or email the Sask Pro-Life office or contact our editor, Mariette, directly at ladywriter.ulrich@gmail.com. Our next issue, "Summer" is scheduled to be published in early June, 2021. **The submission deadline for the Summer issue is APRIL 30, 2021.**



Calling all Prayer Warriors

A Note from 40 Days for Life: Knowing that "with God, all things are possible," people of faith and conscience unite in 40 days of prayer and fasting. Christ told us some demons can only be driven out by prayer and fasting. The two go hand in hand. Prayer keeps us rooted in the fact that it is our desire to carry out God's will. Fasting is a sacrifice that helps us reach beyond our own limitations with God's help.



Sask Pro-Life invites you to join in spirit all those who are praying at 40 Days for Life vigils or other pro-life events happening now.

*Dear Father in Heaven,
I thank you today for the gift of life. Every human being at every stage of development is created in your image and likeness, made "a little less than the angels" and "crowned...with glory and honour" (Psalm 8:5). In our country and around the the world, this great gift is being thrown away. I pray in repentance for the sin of abortion. I ask you to convert the workers involved in abortion and to heal those who have suffered the trauma of abortion. And I beg you to spare all abortion-bound moms and babies in special need of your love and mercy this day.*

*I Jesus' Name I pray,
Amen.*

Access daily devotions at: www.40daysforlife.com

SK March for Life: Save the Date!

YES! We are planning an in-person March for Life in Regina, **Saturday May 8th**. At the very least we will hold a **Witness for Life** on Albert Street. Plans are still in progress and will be finalized closer to the date, subject to the level of COVID restrictions. Regina Pro-Life Association will host events leading up to the day (banquet and/or other fundraiser), and will participate in the Sask March for Life event. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**, and watch social media for updates. SPLA will also send out email blasts as plans develop. Please call or email for more information.



Sask Pro-Life office:
(306) 992-6941
Email: spla@sasktel.net

Regina Pro-Life:
Patti (306) 569-1985 or
Terri (306) 586-3473

Spread the word!
We hope to see you in Regina in May!

Donations In Memoriam

Donations were made in memory of the following persons:

- Bernard Cey
- Tim Hudec
- John Marjerison
- Brian McLane
- Helen Schwitzer

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



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40 HOURS FOR LIFE

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107 abortion centers closed

206 abortion workers quit



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