

ST. CATHARINES RIGHT TO LIFE NEWSLETTER



November 2016

National Adoption Awareness Month

Each year, November is recognized as National Adoption Awareness Month. In Canada, support for adoption is quite high---88% have a favourable view of adoption. But that doesn't translate into placements. Less than 2% of single women facing an unplanned pregnancy choose adoption. 38% abort, and 60% become single parents. It is estimated that for every adoption, there are 250 abortions; the added tragedy is that there are approximately 15,000 couples waiting to adopt.

AdoptioninCanada.ca



Canada Continues to Deny Protection for Unborn Victims of Violence

Cassie and Molly's Law, the Bill that would have made it a crime to kill an unborn child while assaulting the mother, was defeated in Parliament October 19 by a 209-76 vote. No Liberal, NDP, Bloc or Green MP voted for Bill C-225, also known as Protection of Pregnant Women and their Pre-born Children Act. Cassie and Molly's Law, sponsored by Saskatchewan Conservative MP Cathay Wagantall, was named after Cassandra Kaake and her unborn daughter Molly, both slain in a horrendous assault two years ago.

During debate on the bill, Tory MP Harold Albrecht emphasized the vulnerability of pregnant women, relating that "over 63,000 pregnant Canadian women were victims of spousal violence between 2004 and 2009. Since 2000, 24 pregnant women have been murdered."

Canada is the only country in the western world with no legal protection for children before they are born.

"Nancy, Cassie's mother, and I put together what money we could to come to Ottawa to meet with Liberal MPs in an effort to build a dialogue and show them why this bill was needed. It was profoundly difficult. There are families who had to do this before us, and it is disturbing to imagine that now there will be others who will have to do it again. The outcome has disappointed us beyond words."

Jeff Durham, founder of Molly Matters, father of Molly

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**"Stop Censorship" Tour Event:
Hosted by St. Catharines Right to Life
Thursday, January 12, 2017 @ 7:30 p.m.
Everyone invited.**

Vineland Free Reformed Church
3685 King St., Vineland

Join us for coffee, tea and refreshments and learn about the secrecy surrounding abortion and what's being done to end the censorship.

Speakers:

John Sikkema,

Legal Counsel for ARPA Canada

Mike Schouten,

Director of WeNeedALaw

*For more information on local pro-life events,
visit ChooseLife.ca's Events Page.*

President's Message



As I write, our new law permitting assisted suicide has been in place for several months. How many deaths have occurred under this law we do not know, though we can hope – can only hope – that the Government’s promise to monitor the operation of that law will be kept. What we may never know is how often that law results in implicit coercion on the vulnerable and the choice of death rather than palliative care. One of the speakers at our workshop, a defender of the vulnerable and disabled, and who has a degenerative muscular condition, called this the myth of autonomy. Nor do we know yet whether the conscience rights of nurses and doctors will be protected in Ontario as the College of Physicians attempts to force all to participate in assisted suicide.

And, of course, the death of the unborn through abortion goes on. And in this case, we have at present no way of knowing the extent of this toll where we have no legal restrictions on abortion and a law that prevents us from obtaining statistics on the procedure. On January 12th we will welcome speakers from ARPA who are on a tour to promote a change in the law.

Against these forces of darkness, the work of St. Catharines Right to Life and of others dedicated to the cause of life continues. In this newsletter you will read an account of our Fourth Annual Pro-Life Speakers’ Workshop. Throughout the city and surrounding area you will see our many billboards and bus-shelter ads promoting the cause of life.

Again, I thank all of you who have contributed to our work and our cause by your generous donations, by participating in Life Chain, and by attending our Workshop and fundraisers. I thank those who have worked so hard to prepare our billboards and other ads. I thank the volunteers who have assembled our newsletters, and those who have helped us to distribute it in our churches. I thank Welland-Port Colborne Pro-life and St. Ignatius of Antioch Orthodox Church for arranging public showings of the film, *The Euthanasia Deception*, and Lutherans for Life for their Convocation on Assisted Suicide. And, above all, I thank you for your continued prayers.
William Mathie

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St. Catharines Right to Life is a registered non-profit organization providing educational material on abortion and euthanasia, and promoting respect for human life from conception to natural death. We support only peaceful means to promote our aims.

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This billboard posted in Thorold at Pine and Lynden Streets, one of the “20 billboard campaign 2016” messages circulating throughout Niagara, informs passers-by of another prenatal fact—that an unborn child is already kicking at seven weeks. (His mom won’t feel those movements until between 14 and 18 weeks.)

Also at this early 7 week stage, tendons attach leg muscles to bones, knee joints appear, the hands can be brought together, and the embryo will jump if startled.

The Value of Life Workshop: Abortion and Medically Assisted Suicide

How should we respond when a friend at work confides that she thinks she is pregnant and is considering abortion? How do we best demonstrate that the unborn are living human beings? How should I respond at Life Chain when a passing driver asks if I believe what my sign says, "Abortion Kills Children"? What can we say when we tell someone that our cancer-afflicted dog will have to be put down, and he replies that he is glad that our law will now permit us to do the same for suffering relatives?



The fifty present at the Fourth Annual Right to Life Speakers' Workshop at St.

Alfred's Church on October 22nd heard from three speakers prior to breaking into six groups to discuss how we might best deal with such challenges. One main theme that emerged from these many conversations was the importance of listening carefully and compassionately to the person challenging us and searching for common ground.

Nicole Bakker who counsels those facing unplanned pregnancy for Welland's Elisha House began our day by considering *How to be Pro-Life in a Pro-Choice World*. She stressed that we should ask not how to change the young woman considering abortion, but how to change ourselves to overcome whatever it may be about pro-lifers that makes it so hard to see us as potential friends and helpers.

Polly Corso, a nurse in the Niagara Health System, spoke of her lengthy experience dealing with women after their abortions. Polly told of how she prayed to become "the eyes, ears and hands of Jesus" treating these patients with compassion, loving and not judging them.

Our third speaker was Pieter Harsevoort, a teacher who has Spinal Muscular Atrophy, a degenerative condition. Pieter had testified before Parliament's Justice Committee in the deliberations that led to the unfortunate passing of Bill C-14, which authorizes "medical assistance in dying." Pieter warned that it is a mistake to use such euphemisms, instead of what it actually is, suicide. The assistance needed by those dying and vulnerable is palliative care, not euthanasia. Pieter reported that in countries that have legalized assisted suicide, a great number of deaths have occurred without explicit consent. He explained how such laws implicitly devalue the lives of the disabled, tempting those like himself to see themselves as burdens on society and on those who care for them. The "autonomous choice" these laws claim to provide is a myth, he concluded, when the alternative of palliative care is not made available.

William Mathie

Euthanasia and the Ethics of Conscientious Objection

Does a physician have the right to deny treatment to a patient who has requested a legal, professionally accepted and otherwise available medical service? This was the subject of a talk given by Toronto physiologist Dr. Ewan Goligher at the annual deVeber Institute lecture October 27. Dr. Goligher's comments were aimed at addressing issues arising out of the federal government's legalization of physician-assisted suicide.

What is conscientious objection?

A conscientious objection arises when a physician refuses treatment based on her judgement that the treatment desired by the patient is technically attainable, but morally unacceptable.

Is it ethical?

The Supreme Court has ruled that euthanasia ought not to be legally prohibited, but it cannot define whether it is ethical for doctors to intentionally cause death. In their decision on legality, the Supreme Court Justices stated that nothing in this decision would compel physicians to provide assistance in dying.

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St. Catharines Right To Life Benefit Concert

The benefit concert held October 1, 2016 at Heritage Reformed Church delighted hundreds who attended and raised close to \$5,000 for St. Catharines Right To Life. Our sincere thanks to all the businesses who sponsored this event because they support our work promoting the sanctity of life in Niagara:

Ramy Properties
 Mulch 2 You
 Van Belle Consulting
 Helen Mancini, Primerica
 Oosterhof Concrete Forming
 Tice Tables
 Hilltop Mechanical
 Dezigzn by Liz
 De Lier Holdings
 Oxford Pallet & Recyclers
 Overbeeke Construction
 Fairhaven Gardens
 Back Country Excavating

Berry Fresh Farms
 Vermeer's Garden Centre
 Edward Van Der Koi,
 Investment Planning
 Counsel
 Henk Vanden Beukel,
 Royal LePage
 Jonathan Brouwer,
 Investors Group
 Pro Seal Waterproofing &
 Contracting
 Jessica DeHaan
 Cleaning Services



Dutch Christian Male Choir Director Marco Hoorn, Oxford Reformed Christian School Chamber Choir Director Johann VanIttersum, St. Catharines Right to Life President William Mathie and Concert organizer Jackie Sinke.



This ad could be seen on a transit shelter near Brock University this fall.

Join our Eblast list and encourage your friends and family to join too. Receive occasional emails updating you on local pro-life news and events, and vote in on-line polls on life issues.

Email us at info@chooselife.ca

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Faulty Assumptions

Advocates for euthanasia contend that death should be used to treat suffering because for some patients, death is better than life. This assumes some notion of what it is like to be dead. Yet the medical profession has no idea what it is like to be dead. The case for euthanasia also assumes that respect for the patient's wishes, rather than respect for the patient as a whole, is the foundational value of medical ethics. However, valuing these wishes above the patient herself would prevent doctors from ever refusing any patient request, even if it would clearly harm her. Intentionally causing death would require us to render valueless that which is of essential value: the patient.

Strengthening the Moral Covenant of Trust

The relationship between doctor and patient is not a contract. It is instead a moral **covenant of trust**, in which both partners are equal. Patients entrust themselves to their doctors, and doctors must be worthy of this trust. A doctor's conscience enables her to counter the whims of constantly evolving social conventions. Thus, respect for conscientious objection should be viewed as an important public good that upholds the quality of medical care.

The Way Forward

Dr. Goligher concludes that the solution lies in mutual consent and shared decision-making. An objection must be delivered humbly, respectfully and with a full explanation of reasons. In this way, patient and doctor stand side by side in the quest for well-being.

Wayne Shepard