

ST. CATHARINES RIGHT TO LIFE NEWSLETTER



January 2017



This Ad Under Fire

For the past few years much of the educational effort of our Association has been through advertising on billboards and bus shelter ads. Our ad campaign has received strong financial support. We think it is very effective. And maybe this is proof.

On November 15th we were informed by Advertising Standards Canada (ASC) that a formal complaint had been filed to ASC about the ad pictured above. ASC is “the national self-regulatory body... that adjudicates and reports on consumers' complaints about advertising.” The complaint was that our ad was inaccurate because it claimed that the child in the woman’s womb was a person but our Criminal Code denies this, and that the ad condoned “discrimination and violence against women.” The complaint was to be judged by a five-member panel and we were given the

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Ontario’s Doctors Face Moral Dilemma

When Canada’s assisted suicide law was passed last June, it left each province to determine how the “service” would be provided to patients. It did not specifically guarantee conscience rights for health care workers and health institutions.

In Ontario, policy set by the College of Physicians and Surgeons (CPSO) requires doctors who object to abortion and euthanasia to refer patients to willing colleagues. Premier Kathleen Wynne’s Liberal government is backing the College. It has intervened on behalf of the CPSO in a court challenge launched by five Christian doctors who argue that the CPSO policy violates their Charter rights to freedom of religion and freedom from discrimination. The doctors are co-plaintiffs with the Christian Medical and Dental Society of Canada (CMDS), the Canadian Physicians for Life, and the Canadian Federation of Catholic Physicians’ Societies.

Larry Worthen, executive director of CMDS, told LifeSiteNews, “People’s careers are on the line. I don’t think it’s too dramatic to say the future of Christian healthcare is on the line. The college could discipline people for following their consciences, and the end result is that Christians would be forced to change

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Please join us

St. Catharines Right to Life Dinner Saturday, February 25, 2017

@

Holiday Inn and Suites
Parkway Conference Centre
327 Ontario Street, St. Catharines

Speaker: Stephanie Gray

International pro-life speaker
and author of “Love Unleashes
Life”



See insert for details.

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President's Message



In early December I wrote you urging your support of our annual Christmas appeal. Your response left all of us – our Board, our office staff, and me – overwhelmed. You donated more, far more, than ever before. Your generosity and the evidence this gives of your commitment to the cause we share, brings us new hope that we are not alone in the struggle to protect all human life, that of the unborn and vulnerable, and it challenges us to live up to the trust you have placed in us to increase our efforts to make the culture of life a powerful reality in the St. Catharines area.

There will always be those who oppose our message such as the two vandals who struck our office on Christmas Eve, displaying vulgar graffiti. In this newsletter you will also read of a complaint about one of our bus shelter ads that is now being judged by a national organization that deals with such complaints. In fact, your wonderful response to our Christmas appeal became known to us in the midst of these new challenges. So we thank you again.

You will also learn of some important events to take place in the next few months. Stephanie Gray, an outstanding pro-life speaker, will appear at our annual banquet on February 25th and she will also speak at several local high schools. In May we will again take a bus load of young people to the Annual March for Life in Ottawa. We are beginning to plan another of our Pro-life Coffee Houses. Our billboard and bus shelter ad campaigns will continue, and our own fine speakers will defend life wherever and whenever we can.

As always, we ask for your continued prayers for life and for our work.

William Mathie

Would you or someone you know be willing to be a
Life Rep
 for your church or community group?
 Contact **St. Catharines Right to Life** for more information:
905-684-7505 info@chooselife.ca

(AD CHALLENGE continued from page 1)

opportunity to reply to the complaint. If the complaint were upheld, we would be asked to remove or amend our ad.

At our request, the Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedom agreed to represent us at no cost to the Association. The Centre, based in Calgary, is made up of a team of lawyers headed up by John Carpay, and includes Marty Moore who has argued our case. The Centre is dedicated to championing freedom of speech, and, often, the rights of groups like ours.

At its hearing in December, the ASC panel upheld the complaint that our ad was inaccurate while dismissing the claim that the ad condoned violence against women. We were given an opportunity to appeal against this decision to a second panel that would meet in January. Our Board decided unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Justice Centre that we appeal the first panel's decision.

The Justice Centre has argued on our behalf that the ASC's initial decision was "incorrect and unreasonable": the decision denied our Freedom of Expression as guaranteed by Canada's Charter, restricted our right to advance a minority or progressive viewpoint, and imposed an inappropriate, narrow and questionable legalistic interpretation to suppress our claim that the unborn foetus is a person.

At this moment we are waiting to hear the result of our appeal.

William Mathie

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 NEWSLETTER**
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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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Stop Censorship Tour

The Ontario government's censorship of abortion information is about to be challenged in court. At the *Stop Censorship Tour Coffeehouse*, hosted by St. Catharines Right to Life at Vineland Free Reformed Church on January 12, speakers Mike Schouten and John Sikkema explained why we can't get accurate abortion data, why that information is vital for the pro-life cause, and what they're doing to end the censorship. Schouten is the Director of *We Need a Law* and Sikkema is the legal counsel for *ARPA (Association for Reformed Political Action)*.

So much of what we need to know about abortion is being hidden from us because in 2012, the provincial government surreptitiously passed an amendment to the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act (FIPPA) that stopped access to abortion data. Schouten told the coffeehouse crowd of 120, "There have been many cases where pro-lifers have been censored, but now the government is guilty of it." He added, "We cannot have a meaningful debate or scrutinize abortion practices in Ontario without accurate information." As an example, he noted that it has become easy for abortion advocates to make statements that aren't true, such as the claim that there are no late-term abortions in Ontario, because we don't have the data to prove them wrong. The government does not hide non-identifying information about any other medical procedure that is paid for by OHIP, only abortion.

The *Stop Censorship Tour*, which offered presentations in nine Ontario cities, was coordinated by *We Need A Law*, an organization dedicated to mobilizing Canadians and persuading political leaders to pass laws that protect children before birth. Those who attended the tour events were encouraged to contact their MPP about the censorship issue prior to the court date of February 1, 2017.

In his concluding remarks, Schouten stated that this case is so crucial because "It's about government transparency and accountability. But more importantly, this case is about justice, because it's a scientific fact that every abortion takes the life of a human being, and even if we live in a country where many people accept it, they cannot ignore this fact." He added that the way to deal with this is not to censor information, but rather to let the truth be known so a national conversation can take place to address the injustice of abortion.

Marlene Tersigni



President William Mathie and Executive Director Marlene Tersigni of St. Catharines Right to Life with ARPA lawyer John Sikkema and We Need A Law Director Mike Schouten.



Our Christmas billboard: one of the 20 that could be seen throughout Niagara in our fall "20 billboard" campaign.

An Exciting First for Niagara - 40 Days for Life

'40 Days for Life' is an international campaign to save babies from abortion by Prayer, Fasting, and Community Outreach through a Peaceful Vigil, holding signs "Pray to End Abortion - 40 Days for Life." Organizers of 40 Days for Life know of 12,668 babies saved, 141 abortion workers who quit and 75 abortion centres that have closed to date.

For the first time in Niagara Ontario, a local vigil will be held every day from 8 am to 8 pm, March 1 to April 9, at Niagara Falls General Hospital, 5546 Portage Road, Niagara Falls.

To join in this life-saving effort, you can sign up for your preferred times at www.wpcprolife.com. If you are not able to be there in person, please consider taking part by your prayers and fasting.

Nancy Winslow

Students Challenged to Bring Pro-life Message in Creative Ways



Fr. Thomas Lynch, President of Priests for Life Canada was the keynote speaker at the Niagara District Catholic School Board Culture of Life Symposium held in November.

When the term "sanctity of life" comes up, most of us immediately connect it to abortion. But students attending the Niagara Catholic School Board Culture of Life symposium at Mount Carmel on November 24 were told the issue goes well beyond abortion. While speaking to the 100 young people present, Father Tom Lynch, President of Priests for Life Canada, touched on new scientific discoveries which create new concerns. Father Lynch cited the example of "selective reduction" abortion where multiple embryos are inserted into a mother's womb with the expectation that only one or two will implant. When triplets or quadruplets result, the extra unborn children are aborted. Fr. Lynch said about 100 of these type of abortions take place in Toronto every year.

Regarding mercy killing, students heard that since the new euthanasia law came into effect in June, 350 people have had their lives terminated. Father Lynch said that eligibility for the procedure could widen further as nine cases challenging restrictions in the law make their way to the Supreme Court.

Father Lynch encouraged the youth to use their gifts to share the pro-life message in new and creative ways, using social media. He reminded them that the culture needs to hear the truth about the value of human life. "None of us are accidents. We are people who are made in the image and likeness of God."

Marlene Tersigni

Attention Students!

**Join us at the
March for Life in Ottawa
May 11 & 12, 2017**

Cost: \$95

**- includes transportation, banquet,
accommodation
and youth conference**

**Contact
St. Catharines Right to Life:**

**905-684-7505
info@chooselife.ca**

(ASSISTED SUICIDE IN ONTARIO *continued from page 1)*

their practice or vacate medicine altogether."

Provincial legislation tabled in December to clarify assisted suicide practices in Ontario does nothing to protect health institutions and professionals who oppose killing their patients.

The Coalition for HealthCARE and Conscience, a national association of health care, Catholic and Christian organizations including the three groups involved in the lawsuit, is urging people to protest and to donate in support of the court case, said Worthen, who is also a spokesperson for the Coalition. "People need to know this is a very serious situation and the time has come to assist us," he said.

For more information, visit:
CanadiansforConscience.ca .

Source: LifeSiteNews.com