

# ST. CATHARINES RIGHT TO LIFE NEWSLETTER



September 2017

## One Year Later: The Aftermath of Assisted Suicide in Canada

Since so-called medical assistance in dying (MAID) was legalized in June 2016 (Bill C-14), over 1,300 people have died by assisted suicide in Canada. A Summer Symposium presented by the deVeber Institute for Bioethics and Social Research in Toronto on July 28 gave those who attended up-to-date information on the far-reaching effects of the new law.

One of the speakers was Alberto Polizogopoulos, the lawyer who has been representing Christian medical practitioners in Ontario in their legal fight to defend conscience rights. They are challenging the policy passed by the Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons and supported by the Liberal government that requires medical practitioners who object to abortion and euthanasia to refer patients to willing colleagues. He said that no other jurisdiction in the world requires this. He knows of numerous doctors who have left Ontario, changed their practice, or retired to avoid involvement in assisted suicide. So far, he has not heard of any medical professionals who have been disciplined by the College for refusing to offer a referral to a patient requesting MAID.

(MAID Continued on page 3)

## Flag Display Draws Attention to Abortion's Devastation in Canada

A stunning visual display of 10,000 small pink and blue flags on the lawn at St. Catharines City Hall June 10 brought attention to the momentous impact that abortion has on our community and our nation. Each flag represented 10 unborn children who die by abortion each year in Canada, a total of 100,000 unborn babies annually. That is the equivalent of about 5,000 classrooms filled with children.

The display was mounted by a team of 30 volunteers from the Niagara chapter of *ARPA (Association for Reformed Political Action)* and *We Need A Law*.

During the event, they spoke with local residents walking by, answering their questions and educating them about abortion. Heather Werkman of ARPA Niagara says the display was a positive event. "We had a few people opposed to it but most passers-by didn't realize Canada has no laws protecting the unborn." Canada is the only democracy in the world that does not have an abortion law. It is legal to abort an unborn child right up until the moment of birth.

Since 2014, the 10,000 flag display has been seen in 64 locations across Canada and a large-scale display using 100,000 flags has been set up 5 times.



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**Pro-Life Speakers Workshop**  
**Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017**  
**9:00 am to 1:00 pm**  
**St. Alfred's Parish Hall**  
**272 Vine St., St. Catharines**  
**Guest Speaker: MPP Sam Oosterhoff**  
*see insert for details*

## President's Message



Dear Pro-Life Friends,

Since our last newsletter much has happened that affects the cause we share, some good, and some bad. The effort of our friends in ARPA and pro-life blogger Patricia Maloney to force the Ontario government to provide abortion statistics (the subject of our January workshop) has succeeded. Ontario's Superior Court ruled that the "freedom of expression" guaranteed by Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms extends to the statistical information that is necessary

for a meaningful discussion of abortion, as a publicly funded service provided by the Government. We have learned that the Government will not appeal this decision. The bad news: in arguing unsuccessfully against ARPA and Maloney, the Government admitted that the actual number of abortions in Ontario was almost double previous estimates.

And, as I write, our pro-life billboards in St. Catharines and surrounding area are more numerous than ever. Seven are up now, and another thirty will appear between now and the end of this year. We thank all of you that make this campaign possible.

On October 28, we will host our fifth Speakers' Workshop at St. Alfred Church. The keynote speaker for this event is Sam Oosterhoff who was recently elected as the youngest Ontario MPP. Four of our own student pro-lifers will lead off the discussion at this event. Please make every effort to join us. Council 1394 of the Knights of Columbus will once again furnish a free lunch prepared by one of our members.

So thanks again to all of you who support the struggle to defend human life from conception to natural death by your participation, your donations, and above all by your prayers.

*William Mathie*

### Join Life Chain Sunday, October 1

1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Main St. & Christie St., Grimsby  
3:00 to 4:00 p.m. Lundy's Lane, Niagara Falls

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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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Visit [ChooseLife.ca](http://ChooseLife.ca)  
for more information on upcoming events.

Our Canadian Criminal Code may not recognize unborn children as legal persons, but we know the truth... That a child in the womb is the same human being before and after birth, and should be protected. This billboard is one of 40 being posted throughout Niagara from July to December. Thank you for your ongoing support that makes it possible to bring these and more life affirming messages to our community.





St. Catharines Right to Life group of chaperones and students carries our new "The World Needs More Canadians" banner and signs on Parliament Hill at the March for Life.

(MAID Continued from page 1)

Polizogopoulos pointed out that MAID requires the direct involvement of physicians, nurse practitioners and pharmacists, but anybody within the healthcare system may have to work in a setting where euthanasia takes place. Other professions may be affected, e.g., attorneys who object to euthanasia may be asked to include the “service” in a client’s advanced directive. Polizogopoulos expects the case for conscience rights will go all the way to the Supreme Court, which means it will likely take at least five years for a decision.

Filmmaker Kevin Dunn spoke about the need for films that advance social change on life issues. His documentary, *The Euthanasia Deception*, has been seen by thousands of viewers around the world. He is working on a new film called *Death Wish* which will focus on euthanasia in the Netherlands and *Fatal Flaw*, a film about legalizing assisted death in America.

Toronto bioethicist Bob Parke spoke about the need for palliative care. He said that ideally there should be 5.1 to 6.8 hospice beds per 100,000 people. At these levels, Ontario requires 1100 beds, but only 260 exist.

Foremost expert on euthanasia Alex Schadenberg pointed out the flaws in Bill C-14 which make it so vague that it “basically provides blanket exemption to anyone who participates in committing euthanasia.” Schadenberg reported on the findings of a University of Toronto study that showed the reason people ask for euthanasia is because they’ve lost hope and meaning in life. “They are going through a difficult, very low time in their life. The only way to stop euthanasia now is by loving people. Start visiting,” he suggested.

Marlene Tersigni



Nurse Rebecca LaRocca gives her presentation about embryology, sharing facts about the amazing way babies grow inside the womb, to a class at Jordan Christian School. To book Rebecca’s presentation for your school or youth group, please contact St. Catharines Right to Life at 905-684-7505.



St. Catharines Right to Life Board member Nancy Winslow with Alex Schadenberg of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition behind the St. Catharines Right to Life display at the CWL Diocesan Convention held in May.

## Reaching Out to Abortion-Vulnerable Women

Since St. Catharines Right to Life introduced its Coffeehouse events last year, a variety of topics have been covered, ranging from pro-life work on university campuses, to censorship of abortion statistics, to legalized assisted suicide in Canada. The last Coffeehouse, held on June 1 at St. John Ukrainian Catholic Church Hall in St. Catharines with over 70 people present, focused on compassionate outreach to abortion vulnerable women.

Nurse Polly Corso described the challenge of working in the recovery room on days when an assembly line of women, about 15 per day, were having abortions. A new case would arrive in recovery every 20 minutes. Polly's struggle not to judge these women was made all the more difficult because of infertility issues she had faced. It was after she turned to God in prayer that she was able to lovingly care for them and understand "I have not walked a mile in their shoes."

Sr. John Mary of the Sisters of Life in Toronto, a religious community founded to promote the sacredness of human life, explained why abortion is a compelling choice for women facing unplanned pregnancies. "Abortion becomes a means of self preservation. When we understand this, we can see into the heart of a pregnant woman." In the midst of the chaos around her and the voices pressuring her to abort, the Sisters of Life offer her a place of peace and understanding. "When a woman feels understood, she can increase her capacity to accept the gift of life. It is so good to hear a woman say, 'This child has brought so much love out of me that I never knew I had,' "said Sr. John Mary.

As the Sisters of Life carry out their mission teaching about the dignity of life, helping women who are vulnerable to abortion, and walking with those who have had an abortion, there have been so many stories of grace. The Sisters and their team of close to 1,000 volunteers have touched the lives of approximately 800 women over the past eight years in Toronto. In a culture so oppressive to life, Sr. John Mary said the best way we can assist them is to help spread the word about their pregnancy services and to pray for their work.

No doubt every person who attended the June Coffeehouse was not only educated, but also inspired by what they heard. An added bonus was the opportunity to enjoy coffee and refreshments with people, young and old, who share concern for the most vulnerable among us.

*Marlene Tersigni*



*Sister John Mary and nurse Polly Corso were guest speakers at the St. Catharines Right to Life Coffeehouse June 1st.*

## Canadian Abortion Statistics 2015

According to statistics released by the Canadian Institute for Health Information, there were 100,104 abortions across Canada in 2015. That means one out of every five unborn children in Canada is killed by abortion. Only 2% of abortions are reported to be carried out on teenagers under the age of 18.

Detailed records are not available for the majority of abortions, but the data that is available from hospitals except for those in Québec shows that at least 2.5% of abortions (approximately 2,500) are done on babies at the gestational age of 21 weeks or older.

## Abortion Pills Are Now Free In Ontario

Since August 10, the province of Ontario has been paying for abortion pills known as Mifegymiso, or RU-486, for any woman with a valid health card and prescription from her doctor or nurse practitioner.

As reported by the CBC, the health ministry says the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada has trained some 150 provincial healthcare providers who can prescribe the abortion pill. Taxpayer dollars will cover the \$337.25 cost for each prescription.

Mifegymiso, or RU-486, is a two-drug combination of Mifepristone, which blocks progesterone, essentially starving the baby to death in utero, and Misoprostol, taken 24 to 48 hours later to induce labour to expel the dead baby. RU-486 not only kills unborn children but also carries serious risks for pregnant women. Johanne Brownrigg of Campaign Life Coalition said everyone should be concerned about a process which sees women "expelling their unborn children's bodies in a toilet or a bathtub where they will see it."

*Source: LifeSiteNews*