

ST. CATHARINES RIGHT TO LIFE NEWSLETTER



June, 2019

Health Care and Conscience

Should doctors be forced to kill their patient on the patient's request even if they think killing is something a doctor should never do? The Carter decision of 2015 that held that our Criminal Code could no longer forbid euthanasia and assisted suicide, and Bill C14, the law passed by Parliament in 2016 to regulate both, insisted that no doctors or other medical caregivers would be forced to participate in either.

Yet in Ontario, the body that regulates the medical profession, the Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons, has insisted that doctors must provide assistance in dying (and abortion) on request, or send their patient to someone who will fulfill the request. The College calls this *Effective Referral*. Many—possibly a majority of doctors in Ontario—object to this policy. Some of them have taken their objection to court. Last year a

Divisional Ontario court rejected their case. On May 15, the Ontario Court of Appeals denied the doctors' appeal against this decision. The Court admitted that making doctors perform euthanasia, or send their patient to a doctor who will do it, restricts conscience and religious freedom as guaranteed by our Charter of Rights, but said that this restriction is necessary to guarantee access to the “medical service” of euthanasia. The Court ignored the doctors' insistence that information is readily available to anyone who wants euthanasia and it gave no evidence that anyone had actually been deprived of access to it.



Our spring billboard campaign featured 20 billboards, one of which was inspired by a courageous young woman who chose adoption for her baby, with the support of the National Campus Life Network (NCLN). Please consider donating towards our Fall billboard campaign to again spread life-affirming messages throughout Niagara!



On May 29, Canada's parliament devoted an hour to debating Bill C418, a Private Member's Bill proposed by Saskatchewan MP David Anderson, that would make it a criminal offence to force a doctor to either participate in euthanasia or send a patient to someone willing to do so, or to fire a doctor who will not do so. He observed that his law would give legal protection for doctors who believe that it cannot be the work of their profession to kill their patients. On September 17, the House of Commons will devote another hour to this debate, if the House has not been dissolved pending October's federal election.

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What can we do?

- **Write your MP or sign the E-petition on David Anderson's website.**
- **Write your MPP urging a law in Ontario that would protect doctors' conscience rights.**
- **Fill out the insert in this newsletter and send it to MP Brad Trost.**

William Mathie



President's Message

Dear Friends,

In the past few months, there has been intense debate on the abortion issue here in Canada and south of the border. The backlash against those who stand for life is often hurtful, but how wonderful it is that the discussion has been reopened on social media and the news. May we all be bold in bringing the truth to our culture with love.

I'm excited to announce that we have partnered with National Campus Life Network. Our representative, Alexandra, will train and work alongside students in bringing pro-life conversation to the Brock and Niagara College campuses.

We also warmly welcome Nikki Bakker whom we have hired to work one day a week in our office as Community Outreach Coordinator. We know her expertise and energy will be a great asset to our team!

We recently found out that our application for a Canada Summer Job grant was ignored. We were not given the courtesy of a response to our application, and the federal government did not even include our association's name on the list of applicants sent for consideration to our MP. This is another example of how desperately our culture is trying to shut down the pro-life voice on every side.

But by God's grace we will persevere, and we trust that you will too, wherever God has placed you.

May you all have a wonderful summer!

Mandy Overbeeke

The theme of the 2019 March for Life was 50YearsTooMany, reminding Canadians of the countless lives that have been lost to abortion since it was legalized 50 years ago in Canada.

As the group brought by St. Catharines Right to Life marched with thousands in Ottawa, students experienced the reality that when they stand for life, they are not standing alone.



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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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More than 30 people took part in *Dying Healed*, a course offered by St. Catharines Right to Life in February this year, to learn how best to reach out to the elderly, ill, disabled and dying---those who are most susceptible to the negative influences of legalized euthanasia in Canada. The course discussed issues surrounding palliative care, euthanasia, the meaning of human suffering and how the power of human presence can bring love, hope and a sense of belonging to those who suffer.



On March 25th Bishop Bergie celebrated the annual Respect Life Mass at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria on the Solemnity of the Annunciation. Bishop Bergie spoke of the Angel Gabriel’s words of reassurance to Mary who asked how she, a virgin, could conceive the Lord: “...*nothing will be impossible for God.*”

The same message, he said, should bring hope to all those defending the lives of the unborn and vulnerable against the threat of abortion and euthanasia in our society, as it seems increasingly to accept the culture of death.



Jordan Christian School students at Halton Alive’s *Life Talks* conference in March.

They learned about the work being done to promote the value of all human life and about the help available to pregnant women in crisis.

“We were challenged to be bold in our community about being pro-life and to show grace when facing those who disagree with us.”

Garnett Genuis was the speaker at the 2019 St. Catharines Right to Life Annual Dinner March 2nd.

Elected as a Member of Parliament in 2015, Genuis was an eloquent critic of the 2016 Canadian law allowing euthanasia and assisted suicide.

He has also led in the fight against the government’s policy of making organizations seeking student job grants attest their support for unlimited abortion.

Genuis urged the 400 supporters of life at the dinner to join in the effort to nominate and elect pro-life MPs.



Gosnell: The trial of America's Biggest Serial Killer

Gosnell is a “must-see” film no matter one’s personal stance on abortion. In 93 minutes, *Gosnell* tells the story of the 2010 police prescription-drug raid of a Philadelphia abortuary that escalates to the arrest, trial and first-degree murder convictions of abortion provider Kermit Gosnell in May 2013.

True to the movie’s opening disclaimer, “*most incidents portrayed are exact representations of court transcripts, police interviews or eyewitness accounts.*” Most realistic are the scenes depicting the sickening sewer-like conditions of Dr. Gosnell’s cat and mouse infested abortion and pill mill and the jaw-dropping testimonies during the trial.

Gosnell’s cast members are convincing and well directed. Dean Cain plays Philadelphia Police detective James ‘Woody’ Wood, an undercover officer who doggedly pursues his intuition that homicide had been committed. Sarah Jane Morris is Assistant District Attorney Alexis “Lexy” McGuire, a wife and mother of five, who prosecutes the case and is purported to be pro-choice.

Veteran actor Earl Billings brings the villainous Dr. Gosnell to the screen, providing an Oscar-worthy stellar performance. But he won’t be honoured by the Academy, as this movie was not made in Hollywood, even though the production quality and storyline are both outstanding.

Although this film deals with emotionally draining horrific issues, director Nick Searcy, who also plays Gosnell’s lawyer, tells the story with tact and decorum while inserting moments of genuine human tenderness.

For pro-lifers, *Gosnell* will reaffirm their conviction that abortion savagely ends the life of the unborn. For adamant abortion supporters, the horrific and scandalous reality of what they condone is shamefully exposed. And for those on the fence, the fence will likely disappear in favour of protecting innocent life. Only the heartless will not be moved by the experience of viewing *Gosnell*.

Rated PG-13, families with mature teenagers can view *Gosnell* together.

Douglas Martin, Subdeacon

You can borrow the Gosnell DVD from the St. Catharines public library or the St. Catharines Right to Life office.



Unplanned: A Movie Changing Hearts & Minds

On opening weekend, my husband and I headed to Buffalo to catch the latest pro-life release: *Unplanned*. Having been involved in the pro-life movement for many years, I often find myself desensitized to the reality of abortion. *Unplanned* put a stop to that.

In the very first scene, you find yourself on the inside of a procedure room as you see an abortion take place. From there, the movie backtracks to tell the story of Abby Johnson.

Unplanned didn’t sensationalize abortion or those who work in the industry. In fact, it was quite the opposite. *Unplanned* told the story of an average woman, raised by pro-life parents and married to a pro-life man, who found herself pulled into the grasp of Planned Parenthood. Scouted out by Planned Parenthood during a university vendor event, Abby began volunteering outside the clinic, helping to “protect” women from the pro-life people outside the gate who were pleading for the patient to reconsider abortion. Her participation quickly led to a position on staff, which morphed into leadership as Planned Parenthood’s youngest director.

As her story unravels, it exposes the heart of Planned Parenthood as an income-producing abortion industry, while simultaneously portraying the workers with compassion rather than judgement.

Since leaving the industry, Abby began an organization called *And Then There Were None (ATTWN)*, which helps abortion workers get out of the industry. It provides counselling, assistance with employment as well as financial and legal support. Early in May, Abby reported that their organization was helping one, sometimes two, workers *per day*, leave the abortion industry. To date, ATTWN has helped over 500 workers quit their jobs in abortion centres.

Unplanned has carefully weaved together the story of Abby Johnson in a way that is changing hearts and lives. The film leaves you convinced of the power of a persistent, grace-filled pro-life movement.

Nikki Bakker

For updates on *Unplanned* coming to Canada, visit www.canadawantsunplanned.ca.

