

Introducing



President's Message

New Name, New Logo, New Look

The stark reality of our current culture makes it painfully clear that the dignity of the human person is increasingly under attack. Yet, with so much work to be done this is no time to despair, become despondent or worse, complacent with the status quo. Like the emboldened Apostles at Pentecost, we are called to witness openly and fearlessly to our community that is in desperate need of our life-giving message. In response to the challenges of our times we are striking out in a new direction that will more aptly advance our pro-life mission.

After months of working with a professional marketing specialist, we are pleased to officially introduce Choose Life Niagara. "Choose Life" has always been at the heart of our message. As our operating name, it will better align us with our mission to promote respect for life from conception to natural death. We believe our updated look will appeal to a wider audience, creating even more growth and greater support for our cause. Thank you for continuing to partner with us as we help build a culture of life.

Yours in life,
Amanda Hendriks



New Outreach

Choose Hope Niagara

With the onset of Covid-19, we felt the need to share messages of hope. While many necessary surgeries were being cancelled, abortions continued, along with the push for euthanasia and assisted suicide. The idea for a "ChooseHope" outreach was conceived to provide encouragement, support and resources with a special concern for the vulnerable. This new campaign will concentrate on messages of hope that can lead to an understanding of life as valuable and meaningful. Explore Choose2Hope.ca and find ways to inspire hope!

Social Media

Building a Pro-life Presence Online

Like and follow us on Facebook and Instagram. By engaging online you can stay up to date on current issues and help us build a culture of life online! Find us [@ChooseLife Niagara](https://www.facebook.com/ChooseLifeNiagara) and [@ChooseHopeNiagara](https://www.instagram.com/ChooseHopeNiagara)



Logo

What could represent our association better than a heart! The timeless red heart represents a truth that is unchanging; that life is precious. The heart, vital to life as it beats steadily from 3 weeks after conception, also symbolizes love, the motivation for all we do at Choose Life Niagara. Hearts soften our image around critical life issues and make us relatable, inviting and compassionate while reminding us that we are a group of many hearts working together because of love and most importantly with love. Choices can be hard. We hope our forward facing flower will stand out as a bright beacon of faith, hope and love in difficult times.



Abortions Continue During Pandemic

A study released in mid-May by COVIDSurg Collaborative has projected that nearly 400,000 elective surgeries across Canada, including cancer surgeries, will have been cancelled or delayed by mid-June due to the coronavirus, leading to unnecessary deaths, deteriorating health and a huge backlog of people waiting for their operations. And yet, abortions in Canada have continued unimpeded.

On March 26, CTV News reported that all ten Canadian provinces and three territories, when asked about abortion access during COVID-19, responded that despite placing restrictions on elective surgeries, abortions were being carried out regardless. Abortion has been consuming critical resources such as masks, gloves and protective gear.

Pregnant women worried about the virus can be encouraged by data so far that indicates they do not appear to be at higher risk of COVID-19 compared to non-pregnant adults. Also, mother-to-child transmission of the coronavirus during pregnancy is unlikely.



Choose Life Niagara board members and staff continue to meet regularly via Zoom as the pro-life work of our association continues amidst COVID-19. Make sure to visit ChooseLife.ca, follow Choose Life Niagara on Facebook, and sign up for our Eblasts for information on our activities!

Abortion and Euthanasia Statistics

- 42,853 unborn babies were aborted in Ontario over a one year period from 2017 to 2018. That's a staggering number, but is 6% less than three years ago. These numbers are based on OHIP billings and considered accurate.
- There have been more than 13,500 euthanasia deaths in Canada from the time it became legal in June 2016 until December 31, 2019. More than 5,400 of those occurred in 2019 alone.

Mandy Overbeeke, Past President of Choose Life Niagara, with guest speaker Amy Ford and Bishop Bergie.

Over 430 people attended our 2020 AGM dinner where Amy spoke about her teen pregnancy, and how that led to *Embrace Grace*, a mission that helps churches become places of support, love and belonging for women facing unplanned pregnancies.



Choose Life Youth Retreat



Close to 50 youth and their chaperones combined pro-life learning and fun for a successful first ever Choose Life Retreat at the Circle Square Ranch in Brantford. Sessions focused on the value of every human life, pro-life 101 and how to engage well with people on the topic of abortion.

Sex Selective Abortion Act

MP Cathay Wagantall has introduced a Private Members Bill to ban sex selection abortion. Bill C-233 would create a new penalty for medical practitioners who knowingly perform an abortion when the sole reason is the genetic sex of the pre-born child.

"In a country which seeks to foster equality between men and women, using abortion for sex selection needs to be prohibited," said Wagantall. "Eighty-four percent of Canadians are against sex selective abortion." Wagantall says the Canadian Medical Association has come out saying sex selection abortion is a growing problem in Canada.

Contact your MP's office to let them know you support Bill C-233.