

# ST. CATHARINES RIGHT TO LIFE NEWSLETTER



January, 2019

## Government Backs Down on Abortion Attestation

After an outcry from faith-based groups and others across Canada, the government has changed the rule it adopted last year that required applicants for Canada Summer Student Job grants to attest that they supported the government's policy in favour of unlimited abortion. Last year, 1,559 applicants were rejected for refusing to check the attestation box on the application form.

*"By removing the requirement that applicants for Canada Summer Jobs agree with a particular position on abortion, the 2019 attestation appears to be a significant improvement. The 2018 attestation prevented thousands of Canadian businesses from providing employment opportunities for young people this past summer,"* states Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedom president John Carpay.

Toronto Right to Life President Blaise Alleyne writes on the association's website, *"This is a victory for the Rule of Law and freedom of expression for all Canadians. It is a victory for all those who stood against the government's unconstitutional incursion into the beliefs and opinions of Canadians."*

The 2019 application form's new attestation asks employers to sign that any funding under the summer jobs program *"will not be used to undermine or restrict the exercise of rights legally protected in Canada."* Abortion is not a legally protected right in Canada. Though the Supreme Court struck down the Canadian abortion law in 1988, it never declared abortion a constitutional right.

The Summer Jobs application guide describes projects and job activities that would be considered ineligible, including those that would *"actively work to undermine or restrict a woman's access to sexual and*



Our Christmas billboard was posted in 10 different Niagara locations over the Christmas season to wrap up our Fall Campaign. 70 billboards bringing messages of life and hope were posted throughout 2018.

*reproductive health services."* It remains to be seen how this clause will be interpreted.

St. Catharines Right to Life, along with Toronto Right to Life and others, has applied for a summer job grant. Our organization does not undermine or restrict access to abortion. Rather, we promote the sanctity of life by providing vital scientific facts about life in the womb as well as support for women and information about alternatives to abortion. We share this vital information with the general public in the hopes that people facing difficult pregnancy situations will choose life for their children and avoid the trauma of abortion.

*Marlene Tersigni*

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*Please join us at the*  
**St. Catharines Right to Life Dinner**  
**March 2, 2019, Holiday Inn Parkway**  
**327 Ontario St., St. Catharines**  
**Guest Speaker: Garnett Genuis**  
**(see insert for details)**

## President's Message



Dear Friends,  
On behalf of St. Catharines Right to Life, I would like to wish you and your families a truly blessed New Year. We would also like to thank you as our supporters for the overwhelming response to our Christmas appeal - your generous donations far exceeded our expectations!

We look forward to seeing many of you at our annual dinner on March 2 to learn from MP Garnett Genuis about being pro-life in the public square. We so enjoy the fellowship we have with you each year as we unite together and learn more as a pro-life people.

As we begin a new year, I ask you to regularly pray for the end of abortion and euthanasia in our nation. It's easy to think our nation is too far gone. But we are not beyond the reach of the powerful God who created the universe with all of its galaxies. Nor are we beyond the love of the Father who gave His very Son, that sinners may be saved. Our God is both ultimate Power and perfect Love. So beg Him to change the laws of our nation. Plead with Him for leaders who uphold the value of life in all of its stages. Pray that He will change hearts within our society and let us offer ourselves to be tools for this change.

He may not answer in our time or in our way, but let us experience the peace of having laid these petitions before God who is Power, who is Love, and who does all things well.

*Mandy Overbeeke*

## Halton Gala Dinner

St. Catharines Right to Life Board member Rob vanderZalm with Faytene Kryskow-Grasseschi, guest speaker at the Fall Halton Alive Gala October 19, 2018.

Faytene, a best-selling Canadian author, speaker and advocacy worker, spoke about why the work of promoting life in Canada matters.

She said it matters to women who often become victims of abortion because of being pressured and bullied into having one. In a report featured in the *Medical Science Monitor*, 64% of American women reported that they felt pressured by others to have an abortion.

It matters to men who struggle with guilt over abortion. It matters to society because over 100,000 babies a year in Canada are aborted. "We will never know what they could have been," said Faytene.

Faytene reminded her audience of the vital need for ongoing pro-life education because change begins with awareness. She added that along with education, we must continue to provide love, compassion and support to women facing unplanned pregnancies.

*Julie vanderZalm*



## Dying Healed program

St. Catharines Right to Life will be offering the *Dying Healed* program this winter for anyone who would like to be better equipped to visit the elderly, ill, disabled and dying, those most vulnerable to the negative influences of Canada's euthanasia law.

The program will run Fridays Feb. 15 and Feb. 22 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Sts Cyril & Methodius School, 1 Currie Street in St. Catharines, which has generously offered the use of its hall.

To register for the course, or for more information:

Call: 905-684-7505

Email: [info@chooselife.ca](mailto:info@chooselife.ca)

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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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Monday To Friday**



## Travelling Light at Christmas Concert

The Travelling Light was one of five musical groups and soloists who shared their gift of song at the St. Catharines Right to Life Christmas Concert “A Child is Born,” held on November 24, 2018. The variety of music and the joyful atmosphere, followed by fellowship and a dessert social, combined for an uplifting and inspiring evening.

St. Catharines Right to Life is so thankful for the generosity of those in attendance, who donated over \$9,000 in the concert’s freewill offering for the association’s work promoting the sanctity of life. Many thanks to Heritage Reformed Church for so graciously providing the venue for the concert, to all the volunteers, young and old, who organized the concert, and to all the bakers who put on a sweets table second to none.

## Safe Families Niagara



Pro-life people are often accused of caring about babies only until they are born. A new program coming to Niagara called *Safe Families* is just one more proof how untrue that claim is.

*Safe Families* is an organization that offers support to parents in crisis who have no one to turn to when they need temporary help in caring for their children. Its website describes it “as a movement of compassion involving collaboration between area churches, volunteers and Christian organizations in order to support at-risk children and parents in need. *Safe Families* volunteers open their homes to children whose parents are experiencing a short-term emergency, such as hospitalization, or a longer-term crisis, such as drug abuse. Designed to extend and strengthen the community safety net for at-risk families, *Safe Families* is a positive prevention program allowing parents to work out their problems without having to worry about losing custody of their children.”

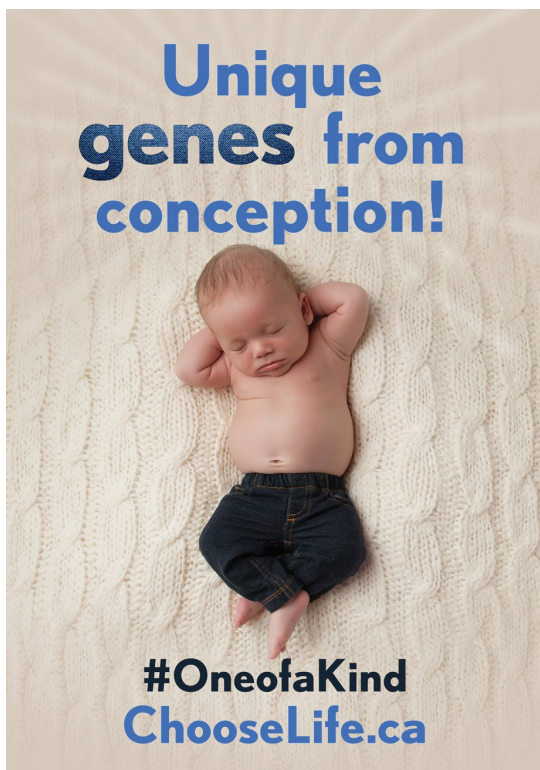
There are various ways to volunteer for *Safe Families*. **Host Families** host children in their homes temporarily, most often on a short-term basis between one day to three months. **Family Friends** support and seek to build a relationship with the parent requesting help. **Resource Friends** provide goods and services to the family in need. **Family Coaches** work as a liaison between the Host Family and the parent.

*Safe Families* has been operating since 2003 and now has 4,500 participating churches. 25,000 volunteers are signed up and, through the years, have provided 40,000 hostings. 93% of the children who have been temporarily housed by *Safe Families* have been reunited with their families.

To launch a Niagara branch, *Safe Families* requires a team of volunteers and needs to raise \$32,500. More than anything, they covet your prayers that in all of this, God would be glorified.

Mandy Overbeeke

For more information, email: [info@safefamilies.ca](mailto:info@safefamilies.ca), phone: 647-784-7161 or visit [safefamilies.ca](http://safefamilies.ca). To give directly to the Niagara branch, please be sure to write “Niagara” on the memo line when making your donation.



Watch for me soon!

## Speakers Workshop 2018

Abortion supporters often say that abortion needs to be available to women because of the very difficult circumstances they face. At St. Catharines Right to Life's recent Fall Speakers Workshop, Choice 42 ambassador and guest speaker Felicia Simard challenged that perception, sharing that in "choosing life, her life began!" She had come from a place of brokenness to a place of "not just surviving, but thriving." Felicia highlighted the importance of the support and resources offered to her, and told her story hoping to change the misconception that women need abortion.

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***"Being open, listening well and showing compassion in our conversations can go a long way to breaking down barriers with those who disagree or are misinformed."***

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Speakers Bernadette James, Kyle St. Aubin, Ian Hauber, William Mathie and Wayne Shepard offered information and suggestions to equip those attending the workshop to have more positive and meaningful conversations about abortion, euthanasia and assisted suicide. During breakout sessions, participants considered ways to reach out to vulnerable women to present accurate pro-life answers with kindness and patience, and to stand alongside those who are lonely and dying. During her presentation, Bernadette noted that life issues can be emotional and even painful. She suggested using a sensitive approach, "Being open, listening well and showing compassion in our conversations can go a long way to breaking down barriers with those who disagree or are misinformed."

St. Catharines Right to Life hopes to bring Felicia Simard back to Niagara soon to give more people a chance to hear her life-affirming message.

*Joan Webb*



*Guest speaker Felicia Simard with members of the St. Catharines Right to Life Speakers Committee who helped organize last year's Fall Speakers Workshop. Left to right: Bernadette James, Kyle St. Aubin, Ian Hauber, Felicia Simard, Marlene Tersigni, William Mathie and Wayne Shepard.*

## Upcoming Events

For more information on all upcoming pro-life events, please visit the Events Page on ChooseLife.ca.

### St. Catharines Right to Life Dinner

March 2, 2019,  
Holiday Inn Parkway  
327 Ontario St., St. Catharines  
Guest Speaker: Garnett Genuis



### 40 Days for Life

March 6 – April 14  
Outside the Greater  
Niagara General Hospital  
For info and to sign up for an hour  
of prayer,  
Visit: [wpcprolife.com](http://wpcprolife.com)

### Respect for Life Mass

Monday, March 25, 2019  
@ 7:00 PM  
St. Catherine Cathedral  
67 Church Street

### March for Life 2019

Two-day trip to Ottawa  
May 9 & 10  
Students & Chaperones: \$95  
(includes coach, accommodation,  
conference, banquet)  
Visit [ChooseLife.ca](http://ChooseLife.ca) or  
call 905-684-7505 to register.