

ST. CATHARINES RIGHT TO LIFE NEWSLETTER



June 2018

Backlash Over Abortion Attestation

1,559 applicants have been rejected for Canada Summer Student Job grants because they refused to comply with the new attestation supporting legal abortion now required by the federal government.

Starting in 2018, if a charity or business hoped to access grants to hire summer students, they had to check a box on the application form to express their agreement with the Liberal government's view that abortion be legal and a Charter right. Despite an outpouring of protest from Canadians, especially faith-based communities, the federal government has refused to change its mind on the attestation.

A small irrigation company in Alberta is filing a Charter challenge over the attestation with the help of the Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms. As well, Brian Platt reports in the National Post that the Canadian Council of Christian Charities has stated they have twenty plus charities wanting to join a legal challenge.

Earlier this year, Toronto Right to Life launched a lawsuit based on the grounds that the attestation violates their Charter rights to freedom of conscience, expression, and to be treated equally under the law. On its website, the pro-life organization writes: "Pro-life Canadians cannot afford to let this discrimination go unanswered. In order to continue to be a voice for voiceless pre-born children we must be willing to fight to defend our own rights."

An Angus Reid poll conducted in early May concludes that Canadians are evenly split in their opinion on the fairness of the attestation rule. The poll also found that 41 percent of voters in Trudeau's own Liberal Party agree that the attestation is unfair, and even 36 percent of "strong pro-choice" advocates think it goes too far.

(Continued on page 2)



Watch for our "Why Can't We Love Them Both?" billboard circulating throughout Niagara this spring.

Euthanasia Lobby Plans to Open Clinic in Toronto

The euthanasia lobby is planning to open a euthanasia clinic in Toronto and they have asked the Ministry of Health to provide the funding.

In an article by Kelly Grant published in the Globe and Mail, Shanaaz Gokool, the chief executive officer of the advocacy group Dying With Dignity Canada, and a member of MAIDHouse's startup board of directors, states: "It's a unique project. It's the only one of its kind in the country."

Thomas Foreman, executive director of MAIDhouse, told The Globe he hopes the province can be persuaded to finance the project because of the money and space it might save the Greater Toronto Area's chronically overcrowded hospitals. "Providing MAID in hospital is very expensive, very inefficient and not entirely patient- and family-friendly[.]"

According to the Globe and Mail report, between June 2016 and January 2018 the Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario said that there were 1,146 assisted deaths completed in Ontario with 52 per cent taking place in hospital. (Of the total assisted deaths, 224 were in Toronto.)

Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition

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President's Message



As many of you already know, Prime Minister Trudeau has taken a big step to silence pro-life Canadians. Any organization or business owner who applied for a Canada Summer Student Job grant this year had to “attest” that they support legal abortion in order to have their application approved. In fact, Trudeau and the Labour Minister are openly stating that “*We’re telling you that (the attestation) is only*

intended for pro-life groups, so if you’re not a pro-life group, you can just go ahead and sign it.” This action threatening freedom of conscience and expression is very frightening to Christian and pro-life people, and to all who believe in equal treatment under the law.

And yet, the battle is not over. We do not know what the near future holds, but we do know how the story ends. Our Lord and Saviour has already won the victory. And so we press on. We continue to spread the pro-life message on social media and on billboards, praying that hearts and minds will be changed. We continue to bring students to the March for Life and the youth conference in Ottawa to enable and encourage them to take a stance for life. We continue to bring the pro-life message into schools and to offer courses and workshops to equip those whose hearts are already changed.

Please keep us in your prayers and stand for life, wherever God has placed you. Together we will continue, not in our own strength, but because “He who calls us is faithful” (1 Thess. 5:24).

Mandy Overbeeke



St. Catharines Right to Life board member Nancy Winslow with Catholic Women’s League Diocesan President Frances Murdaca at the Right to Life information table display at the 60th Annual Diocesan CWL convention held May 23 in the Parkway Holiday Inn Conference Centre in St. Catharines.

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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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(Abortion Attestation: continued from page 1)

Another poll commissioned by the Connecticut-based International Headquarters of the Knights of Columbus shows a majority of Canadians believe the abortion attestation is “unfair.” The Knights’ poll also found that a disturbing 66% of the poll respondents were not even aware of the attestation rule. While most identify as “pro-choice,” two out of three Canadians believe abortion should be restricted after the first three months of pregnancy.

Sources: National Post, LifeSiteNews

Josh Brahm: Speaking Tour



Past-President of St. Catharines Right to Life William Mathie, speaker Josh Brahm and Niagara Catholic District School Board Director of Education John Crocco at the Right to Life dinner February 24.

Pro-life apologist and founder of the *Equal Rights Institute* (ERI) Josh Brahm presented his arguments in defence of life to a variety of audiences during his four-day speaking tour in Niagara February 21-24, 2018. He spoke at three Catholic high schools, Blessed Trinity, Denis Morris and Notre Dame, as well as Smithville Christian High school and Concordia Lutheran Seminary on Brock University's campus.

Local participants in ERI's *Equipped for Life* course, offered by St. Catharines Right to Life early this year, had the opportunity to personally interact with Josh during his visit. Josh also made a stop at the *40 Days for Life* prayer campaign outside the Niagara Falls Hospital where all Niagara abortions take place. The Josh Brahm speaking tour was capped with a powerful presentation at the St. Catharines Right to Life dinner February 24 in which Josh equipped those present with tips for having conversations with their pro-choice family and friends.



Josh and his colleagues at ERI have dialogued about abortion with thousands of pro-choice people which has enabled them to discern the most effective responses to pro-choice arguments. He tells people, "I'm pro-life because it is the most rational argument out there. I have not heard a good reason to discriminate against the unborn."

St. Catharines Right to Life is planning to offer the *Equipped for Life* course again. If you are interested in learning more about how to talk about abortion with pro-choice people, contact our office: 905-684-7505 • info@chooselife.ca.
Marlene Tersigni

Adult vs Embryonic Stem Cell Research: An Update

Over 1 ½ million people have been helped through the use of adult stem cells, according to expert Dr. David Prentice, Senior Fellow for Life Sciences at Family Research Council and Adjunct Professor of Molecular Genetics at the John Paul II Institute, Catholic University of America.

"Embryonic stem cells, derived from the destruction of young human lives, haven't really helped a single person," he said. "Adult stem cells can be taken from your own bone marrow, from umbilical cord blood, and from other parts of the body where you don't have to destroy the donor."

During an interview on the March 12, 2018 broadcast of *Wallbuilders Live*, Dr. Prentice reported there are now over 100 diseases and conditions that can be treated using adult stem cells, including cancer, spinal cord injuries, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, auto-immune diseases, heart and blood conditions and limb gangrene.

The stories of lives changed through adult stem cell treatments are numerous. For example, adult stem cells were able to help babies born with a type of cataract that would normally mean they would be blind or have very limited sight. They used the babies' own adult stem cells to grow new lenses so they could see perfectly.

A woman who had a stroke that affected movement in her arms and legs as well as her speech, was so self-conscious that she didn't want to marry her boyfriend. But after being treated with her own adult stem cells, she was able to regain much of her mobility and speech. She married her fiancé and they now have a baby.

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St. Catharines Right to Life Trip to the 2018 March for Life

The day began with a downpour as students and chaperones from Niagara loaded their luggage and boarded the bus, but by the time the group of 48 reached Parliament Hill, the skies had cleared in time for the annual March for Life in Ottawa. This year's route had to be redirected to steer clear of Ottawa's abortion clinic due to the new provincial "bubble zone" law and to avoid any clashes with the small group of pro-abortion protesters who usually show up, about 150 or so. The change in route did nothing to dampen the joy and enthusiasm of the 15,000 participants witnessing to the sanctity of life in the nation's capital.



After the March for Life, the St. Catharines Right to Life group attended the youth banquet and conference to hear presentations covering a wide range of topics, including chastity, how to be defenders of life, the needs of women contemplating abortion, conscience rights and euthanasia.

"I learned practical ways to address individuals with pro-abortion views," said Josiah, one of the students in our group. Another student, Jesse, commented after the trip that he "loved the unity we have standing for life because our voices need to be heard for the sake of the voiceless."

Both students and chaperones arrived back in Niagara more knowledgeable about pro-life issues and recharged to defend the right to life of all human beings, before and after birth.

Marlene Tersigni



Spike for Life Volleyball Tournament

A very energetic group of young adults gathered for a pro-life volleyball tournament at Heritage Christian School on April 14. The amazing response to this first volleyball tournament hosted by St. Catharines Right to Life was 100 participants and over \$1,600 raised. It was encouraging to see so many enthusiastic young people supporting the pro-life cause and hopefully, this will be the first of many such tournaments. Many thanks go to Jonathan Brouwer and Rebecca Beeke for their hard work in making this event such a success!

Julie Van der Zalm

(Stem Cells: continued from page 3)

Since it has become clear that embryonic stem cells do not hold promise for real cures, money for that research is being diverted to adult stem cell research. But Dr. David Prentice is concerned that there are still people who want to clone humans, create genetically engineered babies, and human animal hybrids called chimera. He warns against this "weird science."

Instead he urges scientists to "use the resources of our own bodies that God's given us so you can come up with treatments and cures and you don't need to create and destroy human life."

For more information, visit: StemCellResearchFacts.org