

ST. CATHARINES RIGHT TO LIFE NEWSLETTER



February 2018



Our Billboards are Being Noticed

Last fall, St. Catharines Right to Life mounted our largest billboard campaign ever, posting 40 life-affirming messages throughout the Niagara Region. Through the years, we have seen the effectiveness of this strategy based on regular feedback and contact from those seeking help because of unplanned pregnancies.

More proof of their impact became evident this month when a pro-choice group began crowd-funding for their own billboards after, as *Niagara This Week* reported, they noticed “billboards dotting the landscape projecting the message that pro-life is the right choice – with things reaching a fever pitch last fall.” The pro-choice group’s online moderator noted in the article, that there has “been much discussion in the online group about the abundance of (what they call) ‘anti-choice’ messaging around Niagara.” Two of our billboards are featured on their webpage.

St. Catharines Right to Life welcomes honest discussion on abortion, and appreciates that, unlike

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Jobs for Students: Pro-lifers Need Not Apply

Is Canada’s unrestricted right of abortion a good or bad thing? Public opinion on abortion is divided. Should we be allowed to talk about it? Our Provincial and Federal Governments want to forbid those who think abortion wrong – or even sometimes wrong – from saying so.

Ontario’s government tried to stop us from knowing how many abortions are performed here until last year when an Ontario Superior Court said that this violated the freedom of expression guaranteed by Canada’s Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Ontario’s new Bubble Zone law forbids trying to persuade anyone against abortion in the vicinity of an abortion clinic.

Federally, the attempt to prevent any discussion of abortion has gone a big step further. Having forbidden pro-lifers from seeking office in the Liberal Party when he became its leader, Justin Trudeau, now wants all organizations – including churches and non-profit groups -- who apply under Canada’s Summer Jobs program to “attest” their agreement with the government’s policy of unlimited support of abortion. So even silence is no longer enough. Organizations whose “core mandate” objects in any way to unlimited abortion will be ineligible to apply for any of the 70,000 jobs for students available under the program supported by our tax dollars.

Trudeau’s response to the fire-storm his policy has ignited – he calls it a “kerfuffle” – is to say that organizations and churches will be eligible so long as “their core mandate agrees with those hard won rights and freedoms” to which his government is committed. Trudeau and his Employment Minister have tried to put out the fire they started. His Minister suggested that applicants for job

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You are Invited!
St. Catharines Right to Life Dinner
Saturday, February 24, 2018

@ Holiday Inn and Suites
Parkway Conference Centre
327 Ontario Street, St. Catharines

Details on page 3

President's Message



**“The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in Thee tonight.”**

Dear Pro-life Friends,

We are a few weeks into the new year, 2018, but the words of my favourite Christmas carol are still in my head as I write to you.

There is much to fear as abortion continues to take the lives of the unborn and blight the lives of their mothers and fathers. The legalization of assisted suicide has brought over 2,000 deaths in its first year of operation. We can only guess how much additional harm this causes the vulnerable as they are exposed to implicit coercion to remove the burden they impose on their families. The Ontario College of Physicians is demanding that all doctors participate in abortions and euthanasia, or refer their patients to someone who will. And now our provincial and federal governments seem determined to stop all discussion of abortion, and to make organizations that want to give students summer jobs say that they approve unlimited abortion.

So where do we find hope? Your support, your prayers and your dollars, your wonderful response to our Christmas appeal, all bring us hope. We are encouraged, too, by the response to our billboard campaign from the many who have told us that they liked our message, from those facing crisis pregnancies who have looked for help and support, and even from those who want to erect billboards intended to counter our message.

Above all, we find hope in knowing that our work is the Lord's, begun 2,000 years ago in Bethlehem.

William Mathie

**ST. CATHARINES
RIGHT TO LIFE
NEWSLETTER
is published by
THE ST. CATHARINES
RIGHT TO LIFE
ASSOCIATION INC.**

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St. Catharines, Ontario,
L2R 3G8**

**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**

Attention Youth!

Join us at:

“Spike for Life” Volleyball Tournament

Saturday, April 14, 2018, 9:00 a.m.

@ Heritage Christian School
2850 Fourth Ave, Jordan Station

Cost: \$120 per team Proceeds for St. Catharines Right to Life
To register, contact: jonathanbro94@gmail.com

March for Life Bus Trip to Ottawa

Thurs., May 10 and Fri. May 11, 2018

Accommodations: Marriott Ottawa East

Fee: \$95 includes transportation, accommodation, conference,
banquet & lunch

Email: info@chooselife.ca to reserve your spot!

40 Days for Life

Beginning Soon in Niagara Falls

This peaceful campaign of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion is being held for the second year outside the Niagara Falls Hospital on Portage Street during Lent February 14 to March 25. Organizers are asking churches to adopt one full day each, from 8 AM to 8 PM, encouraging their members to participate in one or two hours of public witness and prayer so that every time slot is filled. Individuals can sign up by going to the Welland/Port Colborne Pro-life website wpcprolife.com, or by contacting Angela: angelabraun@live.com or Annette: loeffenlife@gmail.com or phone 905-931-0363.

St. Catharines Right to Life Dinner

Saturday, February 24, 2018

4:30 p.m. Business Meeting ❖ Reception: 5:00 p.m. ❖ Dinner: 6:00 p.m.

Holiday Inn and Suites Parkway Conference Centre

327 Ontario Street, St. Catharines, Ontario

Guest Speaker: Josh Brahm

- Founder of the Equal Rights Institute
- Radio/TV/podcast host, author and blogger
- Has debated leaders from Planned Parenthood and the National Abortion Rights Action League
- Is transforming the way pro-life people talk about the abortion issue



Tickets: \$50 Adults, \$25 Students

Please purchase or reserve tickets by February 16, 2018

For information or tickets, contact:

St. Catharines Right to Life: 905-684-7505 ❖ info@chooselife.ca

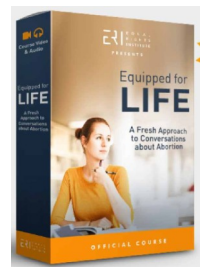
Equipped for Life

How can pro-life people communicate our message in the most effective way possible? What are some of our bad habits that inhibit good and respectful dialogue with pro-choice people? What can we say when people challenge our pro-life view? Over 20 participants in the new *Equipped for Life* course being offered by St. Catharines Right to Life are getting answers to these questions as they meet together Wednesday nights to watch the course videos and have discussion afterward. They're learning helpful tips such as:

- Listen to understand where the person you're talking with is coming from, not just to refute.
- Watch your body language.
- Look for genuine common ground.
- Your aim is not to win a debate but to start a conversation.

The videos feature founder of the Equal Rights Institute Josh Brahm, who is our dinner speaker this year, and his brother Tim. They bring a fresh approach to engaging people on the sensitive topic of abortion. We will be sure to provide a more detailed report in our next newsletter, after the course is concluded. Based on the enthusiasm of those attending and the positive feedback so far, St. Catharines Right to Life will likely be offering the course again in the not-too-distant future.

Marlene Tersigni



ANNUAL DIOCESAN
RESPECT FOR LIFE MASS

will be celebrated by
Most Rev. Gerard Paul Bergie
Bishop of St. Catharines

on
The Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord
Monday, April 9, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

at
The Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria
67 Church Street, St. Catharines

Let us pray together

- for the protection of life in all its stages.
- for greater respect for God's gift of life.
- for those wounded by abortion.

Reception to follow

All welcome

For more information, contact
Martina Flatman 289-686-6122



(Jobs for Students: continued from page 1)

grants could check off the box and ignore it. But this was too much for Trudeau. The Minister then tried to “clarify” the requirement but has so far failed to satisfy church and pro-life groups outraged by the new policy. And the result has been a re-opening of the question of abortion and our law.

Abortion is not “a hard won right.” The Supreme Court threw out our existing law 30 years ago. Though Parliament has failed to enact a new law on abortion, the Court did not say that Parliament could not do so. Nor did the Court declare that abortion was a right under our Charter. But freedom of expression is.

William Mathie

(Billboards: Continued from page 1)

some pro-choice groups, this one is not going the route of attempting to damage our billboards or rob us of our free speech by seeking to remove the ads. Our hope is that discussion leads to more education and ultimately to the discovery that abortion kills living, growing human babies in the womb and leaves untold heartbreak in the lives of countless women, men and families. As hearts and minds change, we have seen the evidence that lives are saved. We want to continue this successful outreach with more billboard campaigns. With the continued prayerful and financial support of people like you, we will.

Marlene Tersigni

**MPP Sam Oosterhoff
Introduces Bill 182 to
Improve Palliative Care
In Ontario**

The Canadian Palliative Care Association estimates that only 30% of Canadians have access to good palliative care. Seeking to improve the situation in Ontario, Niagara-West Glanbrook MPP Sam Oosterhoff, introduced the *Compassionate Care Act*, his first Private Members Bill, in November last year. Bill 182 will ensure that the government develops “a provincial framework designed to support improved access to hospice palliative care, provided through hospitals, home care, long-term care homes and hospices.” Bill 182 passed Second Reading unanimously and has now been referred to the Standing Committee on General Government. It is widely supported in the medical community.

More information about the *Compassionate Care Act* and the need for palliative care can be found at ontariopalliativecare.ca. The website states that “**Ontario needs 1,300 hospice and palliative care beds**, but currently has **only 341** available in the entire province,” and urges Ontarians to contact their MPPs to support Bill 182.

St. Catharines Right to Life, along with all those concerned about the rising rates of euthanasia in Canada, commend and thank MPP Oosterhoff for his work on Bill 182 to improve palliative care in Ontario. “Bill 182 is a step in the right direction in order to mitigate the damage that legalized euthanasia and assisted-suicide is spreading across our nation,” says Jim Hughes, national president of Campaign Life Coalition.

“Proper palliative care is vital in providing the type of compassionate care that those who suffer deserve. It acknowledges their inherent dignity and value as human beings.”

Source:

*Lifesitenews.com and
ontariopalliativecare.ca*

