

January 25, 2008

## Media Release

### Campaign Life Coalition's Response to the 1988 Supreme Court Decision

Campaign Life Coalition reminds Canadians that in the 1988 *Morgentaler* decision, the Supreme Court of Canada did not declare abortion a right. Rather, they threw out the existing law that required women to get permission from therapeutic abortion committees that all too often rubber stamped the approval for a doctor's request to kill an unborn child.

The Supreme Court urged Parliament to pass new abortion legislation. Sadly, twenty years later, Canada still operates in a legal vacuum when it comes to abortion as Parliament has ignored its responsibility to pass another abortion law. Only one justice, Bertha Wilson, in a concurring opinion, declared abortion a right, but even she recognized that abortion could be regulated by Parliament.

"There is a lot of misunderstanding about the *Morgentaler* decision," said Mary Ellen Douglas, national organizer of Campaign Life Coalition (CLC). "Too many Canadians, including too many Canadian politicians are in the mistaken belief that abortion was declared a right. The Supreme Court struck down the existing abortion law on narrow grounds and never ruled that abortion was a woman's right."

In fact, the January 28, 1988 decision is not the most important date in Canada's abortion history. CLC recognizes the passage of Pierre Trudeau's Omnibus Bill in 1969 as the birthdate, so to speak, of Canada's permissiveness on abortion. "Since that date, May 14, 1969, 3.5 million babies have been killed," said Douglas.

Campaign Life Coalition calls on Parliament to enact legislation to once again recognize the humanity of all children in their mothers' wombs.

A media spokesperson will be available at the CLC Toronto office for interviews from Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. until Tuesday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at noon.

#### **Media Contact:**

Mary Ellen Douglas, CLC National Organizer, Kingston ON 613-389-4472  
Campaign Life Coalition, Toronto 416-204-9749

-30-

***Fighting for Truth and Justice***  
***Campaign Life Coalition is a National Pro-Life Organization***  
***representing over 100,000 families across Canada***