

Dear Pro-life, Pro-family friend:

2007 LifeChain a huge success



St. Timothy Parish pro-life group at Don Mills and Sheppard in Toronto

This year's *LifeChain* was a huge success. Many of the 187 locations across the country reported higher than usual participation and some places had so many more people than expected that they ran out of signs (A great problem to have). There were several new *LifeChains* in communities that had never had them before, such as in Russell (near Ottawa) and Dunnville (near Hamilton), with more than 100 participants. Other places, including several around Toronto, reported a 50% increase in attendance. We have also received news that many locations saw an influx of youth and families that had never before participated in *LifeChains*. From British Columbia to Newfoundland, pro-lifers report that *LifeChains* are getting bigger every year as more Canadians are willing to take a stand for life. More Canadians are ready to speak out against the injustice of abortion and in defense of unborn babies and vulnerable women. One reason is that many priests and pastors are raising the issue from the pulpit. While we are thankful for any promotion of *LifeChain*, from posters displayed at the back of churches to announcements at church, nothing activates congregations as much as hearing the priest or pastor speak out against abortion from the pulpit. Many clergy strongly urge the faithful to take part in *LifeChain* as part of their Christian responsibilities. From what we hear, more religious leaders are doing this, and are also participating in the *LifeChain*, and therefore making a big difference.

This year, CLC National President **Jim Hughes** drove Fr. Ted Colleton around to six *LifeChain* locations in Toronto. Fr. Ted, who is waiting to move to the Spiritan retirement home in Ireland, pending the availability of space, has been involved with *LifeChain* since the beginning. He wasn't about to miss one now. At the first stop, Fr. Ted wanted to talk to every person participating,

so subsequent visits were nothing more than stopping the van at the curbside for a quick hello. The visits lifted the spirits of those Fr. Ted greeted and he was likewise inspired by those he met. Fr. Ted wants us to know he continues pray-



Merivale and Meadowlands, Ottawa

ing for us and the unborn and that he regrets that he couldn't get to more *LifeChain* locations on September 30 to greet everyone.

With nearly 200 locations across Canada and thousands of passers-by at each intersection at which we were witnessing, millions of Canadians were exposed to the pro-life messages: Abortion Kills Children, Abortion Harms Women and Adoption the Loving Option. As has been the trend in recent years, there were many more expressions of agreement and approval (honks of support, thumbs up) than censure and disapproval. There was more media coverage outside the big cities and this coverage was fairly balanced and often featured photos of our signs, thus delivering the pro-life message to even more Canadians. At a time when few politicians want to raise the issue and the mainstream media enforce a code of silence around abortion, *LifeChain* is one of the most visible and effective ways to get Canadians to think about the issue.

We thank everyone who participated and came out for one hour of peaceful, prayerful witness, and especially the *LifeChain* organizers in their communities. May God bless each and every one of you for your courageous stand for unborn children.



Fr. Ted at Victoria Park and Danforth in Toronto, one of six LifeChains he attended.

Urgent need for Unborn Victims of Violence protection

In recent weeks, two news stories once again demonstrate that Canada needs laws that recognize unborn babies as victims of crime when their pregnant mothers are assaulted or killed hit the pages of the country's papers. In Toronto, 25-year-old Aysun Sesen and her seven-month unborn child were killed by Sesen's boyfriend, Turan Coceli after he stabbed her numerous times. Doctors performed an emergency caesarean section but were unable to save the baby. The *Toronto Sun* reported that if Sesen's daughter had drawn a breath outside her mother's womb, she would have been declared a human being and a second murder charge could have been laid against Coceli. The *Sun* and CTV news have both reported that Sesen's family has asked for a meeting with the Prime Minister with the goal being a change in the law to recognize unborn victims of violence. (Global News interviewed a CLC Toronto representative but has declined to run the story pending receipt of confirmation from CLC on the *Sun* and CTV reports.)

The *Winnipeg Free Press* reports on a similarly horrifying story in which an unidentified 17-year-old Winnipeg teen pleaded guilty to the first degree murder of 24-year-old Roxanne Fernando. Fernando and the teen had previously dated and he admits to killing her *because she refused to have an abortion*; two others have also been charged in her murder. The *Free Press* reports that the death of the unborn child will "not result

in an additional murder charge because Canadian law, unlike the United States and other countries, doesn't recognize the fetus as a living being."

These tragic incidents are not as isolated as one might expect. In August, police in Dartmouth, N.S., initially charged Alan Bryan with two assaults when he attacked, with a sword, Charlene Marie Knapps, 28, who was four months pregnant. The police dropped the second charge, stating that under the Criminal Code, Section 223, subsections 1 and 2, an unborn child is not a human being until it has proceeded from the body of the mother and drawn a breath.

Last year, Conservative MP Leon Benoit put forward a Private Member's Bill protecting Unborn Victims of Violence that was deemed non-votable by the standing committee on procedural and house affairs in May 2006. Benoit had pushed the bill because of two 2005 cases of pregnant Edmonton women being killed – Liana White, 29, and Olivia Marie Talbot, 19. The families both decried the fact there was no recourse to any justice for their unborn grandchildren they had lost. Benoit appealed the committee's decision and CLC discovered that the Prime Minister's Office sent a memo to the committee declaring that the bill was unconstitutional because it would infringe upon a woman's abortion right. This is illogical, but the committee buckled to the political manipulation and voted 7-1, with four abstentions, to uphold its original decision.

CLC supports Unborn Victims of Violence legislation because it is common sense legislation that polls show is popular across the political spectrum, even among abortion supporters. Stephen Harper, the PMO and the government should support laws that protect the unborn victims of violence, not prevent them from being debated and voted upon. Studies have shown that pregnant women are more likely to be victims of abuse, violence and murder than women who are not pregnant, and are indeed targeted precisely because they are expecting. They and their unborn children both deserve greater protection in law. In no way would this legislation infringe on a woman's ability to obtain an abortion; in fact it reinforces a woman's right to bring her unborn child to term, and could act as a deterrent to those considering injuring or killing the mother and/or unborn child. It is simple justice for victims of violence, including tiny, unborn victims, and their grieving families.

**Action Item: Contact the Prime Minister's Office and urgently request that he enact legislation to protect the mothers and their unborn children. You can send your comments by e-mail to pm@pm.gc.ca or write or fax the Prime Minister's office at: Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street, Ottawa K1A 0A2
Fax: 613-941-6900**

Ontario provincial election – holding steady

It would be easy to look at the Ontario election campaign and results and be disheartened. None of the leaders of the three main provincial parties is pro-life; there was only a handful of pro-life candidates in each of the Liberal and Conservative parties and none in the NDP and Green parties; and the only pro-life party, the Family Coalition Party (FCP), won less than 1% of the vote. The issue of abortion was not raised on the campaign trail by the main party leaders or the media and only came up minimally at the local level. Even some FCP candidates – running in the party that was created to raise awareness of the issue and to give pro-life voters an ethical choice in ridings without other pro-life candidates – were loathe to raise the issue, if they were campaigning at all. (See FCP story below.) But we can take heart. Campaign Life Coalition was prepared for the election. We were able to contact most candidates about

our questionnaire and provide other useful information on numerous candidates. Not including incumbents, we were able to identify about a dozen candidates who were pro-life, and we worked with them before and throughout the campaign. We also discovered two incumbents who were pro-life who had not answered previous questionnaires but did reply this time. Only one pro-life incumbent lost (Liberal cabinet minister Caroline Di Cocco in Samia-Lambton) and she lost to another pro-life candidate, Progressive Conservative Bob Bailey. So at the very least, the pro-life contingent held its own, with both the Liberal and PC parties having five MPPs who we qualified as pro-life or pro-life with exceptions. However, there are many MPPs who have been identified as people we can work with or educate on the issues. Unfortunately, there were many candidates who held to the party line on abortion, although they were personally appalled by abortion (not merely opposed, but appalled). It is always very sad to see so many candidates cowardly bury their personal principles to ingratiate themselves with party leaders. Interestingly, few of these people were elected, so their unprincipled, opportunistic stand did not prove to be a successful tactic.

Now our attention turns to lobbying the MPPs. Campaign Life Coalition, Ontario, will be strategizing in the upcoming months on how to best bring the pro-life issues to Queen's Park, just as all the other provincial CLC organizations are engaging members of their provincial legislatures. We know that organ donation will be back on the agenda, so we are planning to utilize experts to reinforce the truth for MPPs, the media and the public that some types of organ donation kill the donor patient. We will encourage efforts that promote the ethical donation of organs (kidneys, liver grafts) from live donors.

We are also told that Conservative MPP John O'Toole (Durham) will re-introduce his Private Member's Bill prohibiting the display of pornography within the view of children; we will, of course, support such legislation, and other pro-family legislation that is introduced.

An important issue will be education, including the defense of Catholic schools. On election night, former Tory leader Ernie Eves said that the Liberals have a mandate to eliminate the separate school system. We will encourage politicians and the public to support genuine educational choice so parents can educate their children as they see fit. The logic of the secularist arguments made against John Tory's (flawed) plan to fund faith-based schools would have led to the elimination of religious teaching and lessons that respect traditional morality.

We will continue to take a strong position on the protection of the rights of parents and religious schools. This is extremely important, not only for the purpose of ensuring religious and moral teaching, but also because of all the pro-life education undertaken, and the work that pro-life teachers and principals at Catholic and Christian schools have done in setting up pro-life clubs, encouraging students to volunteer with pro-life groups and, most importantly, getting thousands of students actively involved in pro-life activities such as the annual March for Life. All of this is threatened if schools are forced to be secularized under one public system.

We are very happy with the result of the referendum on electoral reform. Mixed member proportional representation (MMP) would have empowered the party elite, and the new system would have been exploited by special interest groups including pro-abortionists and homosexual activists. We hope that the political parties understand that voters are not happy with the way politics is done now and that they will move to free elected representatives to better represent the interests of



**Tory MPP John
O'Toole (Durham)**

constituents rather than those of party strategists. There must be more real debate and free votes on all issues. The party establishments must loosen the reins to let MPPs speak out about the vital issues of the day, especially the moral issues.

Family Coalition Party misses the mark

In 1987, the Family Coalition Party was created by CLC after much discussion at three strategy meetings as a vehicle to raise awareness about abortion, ensure that it was not ignored during the election campaigns, and to re-enfranchise pro-life voters without pro-life candidates in their ridings. The FCP was never expected to run candidates in every riding, especially when voters had a pro-life candidate to vote for from one of the major parties. Success for the FCP is not marked by a candidate being elected (a very remote possibility) or even total votes, but by its ability to persistently and effectively raise the abortion and other life issues during elections. That's why we think the party leadership has abandoned its roots and gone wayward in its strident, very high priority emphasis on Mixed Member Proportional representation (MMP). By focusing on getting MMP passed and the long-shot possibility of getting representation in provincial parliament, the FCP has been less effective in its primary role.

In the November *Interim*, Paul Tuns examines the Family Coalition Party's performance in this and recent elections and concludes that it does best when it has candidates actively raising the abortion issue during all-candidates meetings (such as Jim Enos in Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale), putting up clearly pro-life election signs and distributing explicitly and predominantly pro-life literature (like John Pacheco in Ottawa-West Nepean) while raising the issue in innovative ways in newspaper articles and the campaign trail (such as David MacDonald in Ottawa South). Where candidates spoke out on abortion, the FCP did well; in many ridings, however, there was only a name on a ballot and the candidate received much less than 1% of the vote. When the FCP neglects to run on its own mandate, it marginalizes the pro-life movement.

In 1990, the FCP vigorously campaigned on the abortion issue and did extremely well, garnering 10% of the vote in some ridings and getting the attention of the Progressive Conservative Party. PC strategist Tom Long called then leader Don Pennell to ask what it would take to get the FCP on-side. Nothing formal came of it, but party leader Mike Harris felt the need to promise something to pro-lifers in the 1995 campaign (no new free-standing abortion facilities, on which he later backtracked).

Now the three major parties look at the very dismal results of the FCP and figure they can ignore the pro-life vote. Since

1990, the FCP has focused on electoral reform rather than abortion, but the fact is, the only way the party will energize most pro-life Ontario voters is by boldly addressing the abortion issue during and between elections. It is time for the FCP to drop its misplaced, intense emphasis on proportional representation and apologize for its *leaders'* shockingly harsh condemnation and mean spirited, false accusations towards CLC, REAL Women and others for merely having a sincere, alternative view on this political strategy issue. The FCP should also stop running paper candidates and focus on key ridings where they are likely to make a significant impact on the abortion and other life issues.

Having said all that, most of the individuals who ran as FCP candidates were indeed solid pro-lifers for whom the life issues were a first priority. Unfortunately, FCP candidates have not been getting the direction and resources from the party to help them effectively inject that pro-life priority into their local campaigns. We are aware of at least one candidate who was even told to substantially tone it down. Given its mandate, we are surprised that the FCP has repeatedly given such a low priority to making sure all its candidates immediately fill out and return the CLC election questionnaire. A few days before the election, the FCP gave us their own questionnaire with which every candidate had to agree. We were basically told to accept that as the FCP response even though all the issues in our questionnaire were not in the FCP document. Nevertheless, all Ontario pro-life voters should express a huge thank you to all those who put their names forward as FCP candidates in order to raise awareness of the abortion issue and give pro-life Ontario voters an opportunity to cast an ethical vote.

Newfoundland, Saskatchewan and Alberta elections

On October 9, the Progressive Conservative Party in Newfoundland and Labrador steam-rolled the opposition and won re-election (43 of 48 seats) under the immensely popular Premier Danny Williams. Because the election was never close, many candidates chose to ignore questionnaires. But the process was still an important one for CLC Newfoundland and Labrador. CLC Newfoundland President Margaret Hynes says they increased their contact list which will be useful for both, educating MHAs and pushing for pro-life legislation over the next session of Provincial Parliament, as well as activating pro-lifers for the next federal election.

In Saskatchewan, NDP Premier Lorne Calvert called an election for November 7. We are hard at work qualifying candidates but, unfortunately, the party elite are trying to prevent candidates from letting grassroots supporters know where they stand on life issues. This is a tragic mistake because by trying to avoid "controversial" or "divisive" issues, the candidates are failing to reach the entire pro-life community which would like to support pro-life candidates. In a 1990 plebiscite, Saskatchewan voted in favour of de-funding abortion, but the newly elected NDP government of Roy Romanow ignored the results. No doubt many people in the province would like to see abortion tackled forthrightly by politicians of conviction.

Also, we are getting ready in Alberta where there are a few reports that Premier Ed Stelmach is talking about an election before Christmas. Our CLC Alberta office moved and re-organized in the Summer and it is better prepared to educate voters on the candidates in the upcoming elections. Of course, CLC Alberta is now run by former provincial MLA Julius Yankowsky.

In all provinces, our local organizations need your financial support and volunteer services. Please contact them to see how you can help, especially during elections when the pace and amount of activities increases. Thank you for your continued support and assistance.



Jim Hughes (right) spoke at the Tri-City Pro-Vie/Right to Life (north of North Bay). He is pictured here with (from left) Linda Whitehouse, Joanne Blewett, Jacqui and Denis DeGrace, Cathie and Jim Garahan, and Fr. John Lemire.

Federal election seems more likely than ever

There is a high stakes game of political poker being played on Parliament Hill. The Harper government upped the ante by delivering a Throne Speech that contained many policies that the opposition parties are reluctant to support. There are political machinations going on in Ottawa and the Liberals appear ready to prop up the government for the time being, but some pundits and websites are putting the odds of an election at 80%. We are hearing from insiders on the Hill that all the parties are preparing for an election (just in case) and it is quite possible that something as simple as a numbers count for a vote will be mistaken (like Joe Clark's ill-fated government in 1979) and we could be headed toward an election.

So, hot on the heels of provincial elections in Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario and Saskatchewan, we are preparing for a possible federal election. For the past 18 months we have worked with candidates seeking nominations and have been sending out questionnaires. But unlike the last federal election which was an unexpectedly long eight weeks, many predict that Prime Minister Stephen Harper will call for a shorter five-week election, forcing us to act quickly and hampering our ability to activate our supporters. We encourage you to follow events regularly online at www.lifesitenews.com to remain abreast of the most recent news, especially if a federal election is called. When it is called, there will be an elections page with election news and the candidate questionnaires which will be updated as they are received.

Action Item: Please send information regarding your candidates and their stands on the issues, including newspaper stories and copies of correspondence with them. Send them to Jeff Gunnarson by email to jeff@lifesite.net, fax at (416) 204-1027 or mail them to Campaign Life Coalition, 3rd Floor, 104 Bond Street, Toronto, Ont., M5B 1X9.

First international euthanasia conference in Toronto

The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition is co-sponsoring Current Issues, Future Directions, the First International Symposium on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide, at the Four Points Sheraton (near Pearson International Airport) in Toronto, November 30-December 1. This ground-breaking symposium will be co-sponsored by the Compassionate Care Network, Not Dead Yet, Physicians for Compassionate Care, the Vermont Alliance for Ethical Care, Care Not Killing Alliance and No Less Human. There is a diverse and expert roster of speakers including Canada's Margaret Sommerville of McGill University, English physician Peter Saunders, and US disabilities activist Diane Coleman, among many others. Many will deliver the strong pro-life message that mercy killing is a lethal threat to people with disabilities and other vulnerable individuals. Register before November 15. For \$189 (or just \$100 for students and those with disabilities), you'll get two days of informative presentations, lunch and dinner on the Friday and lunch on Saturday. For more information, contact Alex Schadenberg at 1-877-439-3348 or email info@epcc.ca.

Fundraising activities

Agenda For Life

The Interim has published a beautiful and useful day planner, the 2008 Agenda for Life. Use it to organize your life, make plans, and remember important dates such as birthdays and anniversaries, not to mention the annual March for Life and *LifeChain*. With 14 months of daily entries, you don't need to wait until the New Year to begin using it. It also has fun features such as trivia and inspirational quotes. Like the previous *Interim* day planner, the 2008 edition features a history of abortion in Canada, useful metric conversion information and delicious recipes. These visually attractive, full colour, easy-to-use day planners with a difference cost just \$10.95 plus postage (\$2.55). They make great Christmas and birthday gifts and would be a nice gift to give to clients and your children's teachers. Church, school, youth and pro-life groups can sell them as fundraisers. To order your Agenda for Life or to inquire about discount bulk rates that start at five orders, please contact **Dan Di Rocco** at (416) 204-1687 or 1-800-730-5358.

Christmas cakes and Christmas CDs

Don't wait too long to order your moist and aged-to-perfection Christmas fruitcakes. These exquisite fruitcakes are a must for every family at Christmas time. They make wonderful gifts and the deluxe 2.5 lb cake comes in a beautiful decorative tin. The deluxe is only \$25, the regular 1.7 lb bar cake is just \$15. Postage varies depending on destination. Call (416) 204-9749 or



1-800-730-5358 to order today. Another Christmas treat is 'Gloria in Excelsis Deo', a Christmas CD with some of the finest songs and music celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, featuring Fr. Louis Di Rocco. There are beautifully arranged English, French, Italian and German sacred songs including Joy to the World, Silent Night, Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, and O Holy Night. In total there are 17 songs including two original compositions. These CDs, unavailable in any stores, were created especially for CLC by Fr. Louis and they are a steal at just \$15 plus shipping and handling. Call us at (416) 204-9749 or 1-800-730-5358 to order today, well in advance of the Christmas season, so you can enjoy this beautiful sacred music leading up to the holidays.

Pilgrimage Tour to Mexico

CLC Catholic is examining the feasibility of a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico in February 2008. If you are at all interested, let Yoli Singson know by mid-November. Call Yoli at (426) 204-9749 or 1-800-730-5358. These are great spiritual get-aways for Catholics that raise money for the pro-life cause, so if you are interested, call today so that the planning can proceed immediately.

Yours for Life,

Jim Hughes
CLC National President

As you can see from this newsletter, there are many issues that Campaign Life Coalition must address and on so many fronts. Please use the card and envelope enclosed in this package to financially support your local CLC organization. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

If you do not wish to be on our mailing list, please contact us at the address below.

Published by **Campaign Life Coalition Canada**,
104 Bond Street, Suite 300, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5B 1X9
phone: (416) 204-9749 fax: (416) 204-1027 email: clc@lifesite.net website: www.lifesite.net
Please forward any questions or comments about *CLC National News* to Paul Tuns at the above address.