

JULY  
2012

# CLC NATIONAL NEWS

CAMPAIGN LIFE COALITION CANADA

## Message from the President

Following such an inspiring and hopeful June newsletter in which we covered many highlights from the National March for Life and other provincial marches across Canada, this month our focus switches to several disheartening decisions made by our governments at all levels. These decisions include the passing of Bill 13, Bill C-279 (second reading), Bill 33, and the legal outcomes for prolific heroines and prisoners of conscience Linda Gibbons and Mary Wagner to name a few. Although these are large setbacks for us, we cannot lose hope, but we must carry on and persevere. An example of this was the annual CLC Toronto Forum that brought together people from all over the GTA who were ready to get involved and join the battle against the constant threats to life and the family. With the summer months ahead of us, I encourage you to get involved in whichever way you can in restoring a culture of life. Never underestimate your skills and talents that you can offer up for the prolife cause, and most importantly please continue to pray.

Yours for Life,



Jim Hughes  
CLC National President



## CLC reiterates position on incrementalism

While everyone in the pro-life movement in Canada is united in their commitment to gaining protection for the unborn child in the womb, unfortunately the movement has not always been united when it comes to strategies. Campaign Life Coalition has always supported any legal and moral pro-life initiative, tactic, or strategy that raises the abortion issue and seeks to bring protection to the unborn, as long it does not compromise the principle that the life of every unborn child has the natural and fundamental right to protection in law.

CLC has been attacked from a few quarters with false claims that we are 'all or nothing' in our approach. This criticism is based on ignorance and is totally inaccurate. We have always supported incremental measures that have not compromised the principle of the equal value of every unborn life. We therefore cannot support just *any* law that *ostensibly* limits abortion at some arbitrary developmental stage, although we will support certain laws that restrict the abortion license in just ways. In 2003, when speaking in opposition to Bill C-13 (a stem cell bill), the Most Reverend Adam Exner OMI, former Archbishop of Vancouver stated that "there is a moral difference between diminishing the evil in an already existing unjust law and positively to create such an injustice in law by the passage of an unjust law when no law had previously existed." This is our belief as well.

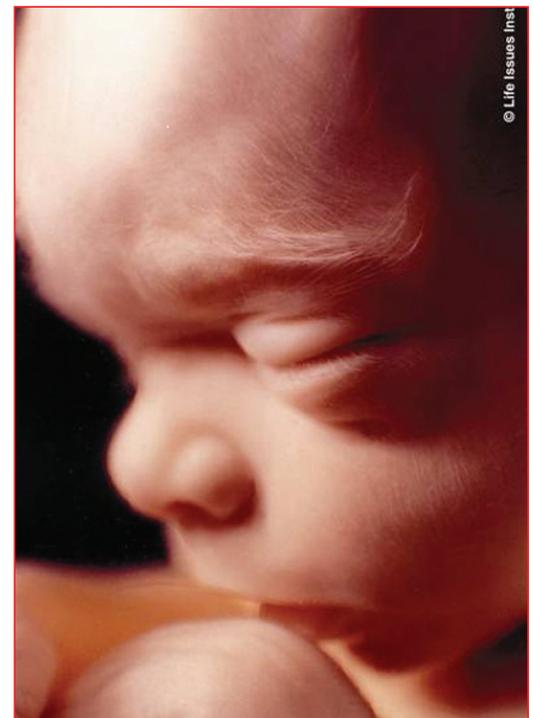
Campaign Life was founded at a meeting in Winnipeg on May 25, 1978. In 1986, Campaign Life and the Coalition for the Protection of Human Life merged, mostly after those who supported a compromise position had left the Coalition. It is counterproductive and wrong to promote or accept abortion legislation that arbitrarily divides humans into protected and unprotected classes. Therefore, measures that create exceptions to abortion (rape, incest, health of the mother, genetic defects, and

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gestational) should be avoided. We know how many of these supposedly defined exceptions have been interpreted in the widest possible manner in the past to rubber stamp practically every request for abortion.

Currently, there is no Canadian law prohibiting abortion and therefore it is legally tolerated without being officially sanctioned by the law. If new abortion legislation said that abortion is permitted under certain circumstances and prohibited under others, then that legislation would be codifying in law permission to abort, that currently does not exist. The pro-life movement cannot propose or accept such legislation. However, incremental measures that would lessen the harm of abortion by reducing its incidence and protecting health care workers (such as defunding abortion or conscience legislation), but which are not arbitrary nor legitimize or legalize abortion, are supportable. We have always supported such measures and always will – with the proviso that we will continue to work for an outright ban.



© Life Issues Inst

Unfortunately, we face a difficult challenge. There is a growing movement, perhaps born in desperation, amongst some pro-lifers to promote a gestational approach to limiting abortion. Generally, gestational approaches seek to prohibit or severely restrict abortion in the third trimester, but allow it to be broadly available for the first six months; other “gestational” approaches limit abortion after a certain point in time of the pregnancy, such as 12 or 20 or 24 weeks. We have talked to international experts on this issue, and pro-life groups in countries that adopt such an approach say these phony restrictions do not stop abortions because unscrupulous abortionists simply lie about either the age of the unborn child or the reason for the abortion if there are exemptions to abortions after a certain point.

CLC has been criticized recently for opposing a gestational approach, and unfortunately even blamed for the lack of abortion law because we opposed (along with the rest of the pro-life movement at the time) the seriously flawed Mulroney abortion bill C-43 in 1989-1990. We knew at that time that due to its very broad health-of-the-mother exceptions (including “psychological health”) and for other reasons, Bill C-43 would not have restricted abortion in any meaningful way. The restrictions on Bill C-43 did not stop then Justice Minister Kim Campbell from declaring abortion an “entitlement” and “woman’s right” – hardly concepts that would restrict abortion.

It would be worthwhile for pro-lifers to read the unacceptable law passed through a 1969 Omnibus Bill that pro-lifers worked for almost 20 years to amend or have thrown out. In 1979, The Life Ethics Centre (then in Edmonton, Alberta) produced a pamphlet by Alphonse de Valk called “The Worst Law Ever” referring to the 1969 amendment to the Criminal Code legalizing abortion.

Lately, there have been very popular efforts involving petitions and online activism that call for politicians to enact limits to the “greatest extent possible” and others are calling for the “best law possible.” Of course that is the goal, but a fundamentally flawed bill is not the “best possible” law and a problematic law that legitimizes some abortions while appearing to limit others is not one that restricts to the “greatest extent possible.”

We are not condemning efforts to bring abortion back into political debate, but we worry about wording that might be used to endorse or support counter-productive or fundamentally flawed legislation. We need just laws that prohibit the killing of children before birth, and not *any* law that will make us feel good for *appearing* to do *something*.

We and our many allies have been publicly condemned by an outspoken few – both directly and indirectly – for not giving this approach our full support. However, with more than 30 years’ experience in this battle to protect human life, we have learned a thing or two and we know that the desperate “any law” approach has serious fundamental flaws. Experience has been that we need to be specific and must demand real, effective life-protecting measures, not just any sort of law that provides loop-holes with paper limits that will likely not save one unborn child.

Sometimes the best intentions can set us backwards. Campaign

Life Coalition has supported and promoted many incremental measures when it has been prudent to do so, and we will continue to do so. But we also feel a deep responsibility to not propose or support false hope, feel-good, do-nothing legislation. The last several years of major growth in the National March for Life, for example, is setting the stage for the pro-life movement to be taken far more seriously again. That in turn bodes well for significant, gradual advancements of the pro-life cause in Parliament and the provinces. The large numbers of youth of all ages, from high school to university ages, now involved in the movement is building a powerhouse that would be foolishly wasted on less than genuine abortion legislative proposals for ALL unborn children.

We pray for unity within the pro-life movement, but we do not seek unity at the cost of principle. We pray for charity in dealing with each other and understanding and love in working for our common goal. But Campaign Life Coalition believes that it cannot sacrifice core principles to win a shaky unity of convenience. We will continue to work to enact life-affirming legislation that protects all children in the womb. At the same time, we will support laws that effectively chip away at the abortion license and we will continue to work with all pro-life groups and individuals that share these goals.

## **Update on M312 – When is a child a human being?**

Due to an illness in the family, MP Stephen Woodworth (CPC, Kitchener-Center) traded down his Private Member’s bill position. His motion, M-312, will now be up for another hour of debate and vote in the Fall. If passed, M-312 will require Parliament to form a special committee to look at the medical and scientific evidence to determine whether the child in the womb is a human being and what, if any, human rights ramifications there might be regarding those findings. Section 223 of the Criminal Code is based on a four-centuries old legal tradition of not recognizing the preborn child as a human being, although prior to 1969, the same legal tradition accorded some protection to the unborn child (“child” is the word that the Criminal Code uses for a “human being” before birth). Sadly, Woodworth’s mother Olga has been ill and he could not give the motion the time and attention it deserves, so he traded with another MP to have M-312 considered after the summer break. Please pray for Olga and for Stephen and his family.

Unfortunately, reports in the *Globe and Mail* and Sun News Network indicated that Prime Minister Stephen Harper is pressuring Conservative MPs to oppose the motion. The *Globe* indicated the pressure was “unofficial” but the *Sun* suggested it was a full-court press, with officials from the PMO incredibly saying a vote for M-312 and the discussion of strictly scientific evidence that it proposes, was a vote against Harper’s leadership. We note that while Harper campaigned on a promise not to re-open the abortion issue, he never stated that individual elected MPs would be prohibited from doing so. Furthermore, both he and party policy have affirmed that moral issues should be matters of free votes. While Harper has not whipped the vote, the sort of heavy intimi-

dation campaign the PMO is reported to be undertaking can have the same effect. We call upon the Prime Minister to stop these constant autocratic suppressions of his caucus members' right and duty to represent the public and their personal principles in the House and to allow free votes on all conscience issues.

CLC National President Jim Hughes said that Harper has always been pro-abortion and has always been afraid to address the issue. "He's never been in favour of the pro-life side," Hughes said. "He doesn't want to discuss the abortion issue and he doesn't want any of his members of Parliament to discuss it either." At some point, however, the government must allow this debate to occur. Harper cannot continue this blatant abuse of Prime Ministerial privilege year after year without eventual serious political repercussions.

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**Action Item: Make an appointment with your MP during the summer and insist that he or she support pro-life policies and legislation for the long-term good of our nation. Insist that the eventual outlawing of all abortion is a matter of justice that can no longer be shoved aside as a false non-issue.**

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## Ontario Government Bullying: Bill 13 passed

For the last few years CLC has organized and/or joined parents and religious rights groups battling Dalton McGuinty's Liberal government as it tried to impose a radical anti-family agenda. McGuinty tried to impose a disgusting and permissive school sex-ed agenda that he was forced to back down on – it was never implemented. But the Ministry of Education has it on the backburner and will no doubt bring it back as soon as it can. Then they began implementing the Inclusivity and Equity strategy, a set of regulations with the ostensible goal of eliminating inequality, but which was really a trojan horse to impose a left-wing social agenda, including a radically pro-gay agenda. In the past year, the Ontario government has sought to impose Gay-Straight Alliances and other pro-homosexual elements on the province's schools under the guise of combatting bullying in the *Safer Schools Act*, Bill 13. Unfortunately, McGuinty and his Education Minister Laurel Broten are not just pushing a gay agenda; they are imposing on all schools, including the separate Catholic system, an overall sexual radicalization and anti-Christian morality agenda.

Despite repeated protests, including one of more than 2000 in front of Queen's Park in March, another demonstration of 700 in June, and smaller demonstrations at constituency offices, the government rammed the legislation through committee and the legislature in a 65-36 vote with the assistance of the NDP. The Progressive Conservative Party opposed Bill 13. Campaign Life Catholics exposed the fact that the so-called anti-bullying bill was really a cover for an activist social agenda and not designed to prevent bullying, because while it had numerous items that addressed so-called homophobia, it did not mention the most common reasons for bullying, namely body shape and size. Mary Ellen

Douglas, president of CLC Ontario, warned that other provinces will follow Ontario's lead and introduce similar measures across the country.

Now we pray that the bishops are emboldened and inspired to take the actions of: 1) confidently invoking Section 93 of the Constitution Act which guarantees the denominational rights of Catholic schools and urge defiance of the government order where it violates faith considerations, 2) suing the government to protect the conscience rights of parents, 3) leading their flocks against this unjust and immoral law, 4) working closely together with the various organizations and other denomination leaders who have been actively opposing the legislation, 5) placing moral and spiritual needs of all Ontario citizens (not just Catholics) above the legal and financial cautions of advisors who do not comprehend that those cannot be the first considerations of Catholic shepherds of souls.

At the moment it does not appear that the religious leadership in Ontario is planning to do any of this, so please contact your bishop and urge him to stand up for Catholic education. This, however, is not just a Catholic issue. The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada has noted that many non-Catholic Christians send their children to Catholic schools to escape the relativist morality taught at public schools. And homeschooling families and parents that send their children to independent schools might not be immune as Barbara Hall, chair of the Ontario Human Rights Commission, said the measures in Bill 13 might be applicable to private schools and homeschoolers.

We must fight for the right of parents to be the primary educators of their children and stand up for common-sense morality in the schools. We will continue to resist morally confusing, ideological, child abuse agendas deceitfully camouflaged as safety measures imposed on our schools and children. We must demand that our politicians protect our rights and we must do more to hold them accountable for any abuses of the power given to them in trust by the electorate and our parliamentary, democratic traditions. We have no choice but to act strongly on this now. If we do not,



**700 people protesting Bill 13 march over to Queen's Park.**

we are certain to embolden them to take away even more of our rights. That is where we are in Canadian history now. The time for pretending that this will not seriously affect you, or your relatives or your community is long over. It has to be stopped.

## Pro-Life Forum

We had a great Toronto Pro-Life Forum on June 15-16. The capacity crowd for the banquet on Friday was treated to an inspirational speech from Damian Goddard, the sports broadcaster fired from Rogers SportsNet for tweeting his support for traditional marriage. (Tweeting is a way to communicate online in a social media forum that stresses brevity – 140 characters or less.) Goddard’s message was that we must all be prepared to fight for truth – and not our truth but the truth of Jesus Christ. That might mean, he said, talking openly and candidly about abortion and marriage. The theme of his speech was punctuated with his leading the crowd in a rendition of the hymn “Be Not Afraid.”

On Saturday, the lineup of speakers addressed euthanasia, 40 Days for Life, freedom in an age of human rights commissions, the anti-life agenda of the United Nations, and the gay agenda being

foisted on Ontario schools. As CLC Ontario President Mary Ellen Douglas said from the microphone on the floor during a time for questions, the speakers comments “are frightening.” But it wasn’t gloom and doom because there was a great sense of hope expressed by the same speakers saying that we had the power to make politicians, schools, church leaders, and our fellow Canadians take notice of the killing of babies, the threats against the vulnerable, the assault on religion and conscience. The message was clear: it is up to grassroots individuals such as yourselves to force the issues onto the agenda, to hold politicians to account, and to pressure leaders to take up the cause of life and family.

Mary Wagner, who has been repeatedly jailed for her pro-life witnessing and trying to convince women to change their minds about abortion, gave an inspirational and faith-filled talk about the grace she is given when doing the Lord’s work of saving babies. While her story sounds extraordinary, the fact is that we all have the ability to be pro-life heroes. We may not all be called to sidewalk counsel, but we can all start conversations with friends and families, contact our elected officials, and vote pro-life.

The purpose of the regional/provincial conferences and forums



**CLC’s Jack Fonseca speaking on Bill 13 and its threat on parental rights.**



**More than 120 pro-lifers participated in the CLC Toronto Forum.**



**Members of CLC Youth with Andrea and Damian Goddard (centre)**



**Damian Goddard delivering his keynote speech at the Banquet**

is to provide the information and inspiration for grassroots supporters to do more for pro-life. There are more conferences scheduled this Fall (see side bar for a complete list of cities and dates). Please plan to attend one of these very worthwhile educational and uplifting conferences, and contact us if you would like to organize or have us organize a forum in your area.

## Linda Gibbons loses at Supreme Court

On June 8, the Supreme Court of Canada dismissed the appeal of Linda Gibbons as she sought to overturn the 18-year “temporary” injunction prohibiting free speech rights in bubble zones around abortion facilities. Gibbons has been in and out of jail for nearly two decades as she witnesses against abortion to women entering abortuaries. She is never charged with violating the injunction (which would allow her to challenge the constitutionality of the injunction) but rather “disobeying a court order” and tried in criminal court. Her lawyer, Daniel Santoro, argued that she must be tried in civil courts because it is a civil injunction. The Supreme Court ruled 8-1 that the Crown can proceed in criminal court. In his dissent, Morris Fish said that because there are civil procedures to be followed for a civil injunction, the Crown is incorrect in pursuing criminal charges.

Gibbons’ criminal charge was quashed by a lower court in January 2009 because the judge ruled the matter was improperly heard in a criminal court. The Ontario Court of Appeal overturned that ruling and reinstated the criminal conviction. The case was appealed to the Supreme Court and in December it heard arguments that the justices ultimately rejected.

The injunction was instituted at the request of Bob Rae’s NDP government in 1994 during its legal war with the pro-life movement and after a fire and explosion at Morgentaler’s abortuary (charges were never laid but the prime suspect was not a pro-life activist but rather the father of a child killed at the abortuary). While many in the pro-life movement have learned to work around the injunction, it continues to violate the free speech rights of Ontario pro-life citizens. (A similar law is in place in British Columbia and in parts of Quebec.) Pro-lifers such as Linda Gibbons and Mary Wagner can-

not countenance the injustice of the injunction in their pro-life witness. We would like to challenge the constitutionality of the injunction, but with last month’s Supreme Court decision, it appears the abuse of the criminal courts will continue, leaving the injunction legally unchallengeable.

## Judge says ‘God is wrong’



**Mary Wagner at the recent CLC banquet**

When Mary Wagner was sentenced on March 21 after being found guilty for mischief and breach of probation, Justice S.F. Clements of the Ontario Court of Justice criticized the pro-life activists witnessing against abortion inside an abortuary and said “you are wrong, and your God is wrong.” It is unusual for a judge to converse with a defendant during sentencing, but Clements comments betray a bias. That’s why Wagner’s appellate lawyer Peter Boushy is appealing the sentence. Boushy says that “the justice’s conditional attack on the Christian God, along with the tenor and content of his other comments that day, gives rise to a reasonable apprehension – and I stress the word ‘apprehension’ – of bias by” the judge.

According to court transcripts, Justice Clements started with an exchange of comments with a supporter of Mary Wagner’s that was in the audience, before the judge castigated Wagner for her religious beliefs and statement against God. He said her beliefs did not give her “some higher moral authority” to disobey the “rule of law.” While the Crown and defense agreed to time served as punishment, Justice Clement over-ruled the joint sentencing agreement and imposed an additional three months in jail. Wagner was found guilty of mischief after an incident on Nov. 8, 2011 at the Bloor West Village Women’s Clinic in which she

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## Announcements

### Golf tournament

**Business for Life & Derrydale Golf Course** are once again proud to present the **Rita Holmes Memorial Ladies Golf Classic** which will take place **September 13, 2012**. All proceeds go to the life-saving work of **Campaign Life Coalition**. To register please call the CLC head office at 416-204-9749 or toll free at 1-800-730-5358

### Upcoming pro-life Forums

**Kitchener: Sept. 15**

**Ajax-Pickering: Sept.22**

**Sudbury: October 13**

**Peterborough October 20**

**National Pro-life Conference: ‘Transforming Our Culture’ Toronto Oct. 25–27**

### Other events:

**LifeChain Sept. 30**

**For more information contact CLC head office**

approached women seeking abortions inside the abortion mill, refusing to leave when abortuary staff asked her to, and allegedly attempting to open a door closed by staff that separates the waiting room and the rest of the abortion facility. Clements said time served was “not substantial enough” because he deemed she would continue visiting the abortion mill. The appeal is not expected to be heard until this Fall.

## Federal “Bathroom” bill heads to committee

On June 6, Bill C-279, a private member’s bill that would amend the Canadian Human Rights Act and Criminal Code by adding “gender expression” and “gender identity” (transgender and transsexual) to human rights and hate speech laws providing special protection for certain classes of people, passed second reading. CLC opposes the bill, introduced by Randall Garrison (NDP MP, Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca), which goes to committee for hearing now that it passed second reading by a 150-132 vote. Many political observers assumed that with the Conservative majority, the bill wouldn’t go anywhere. The previous incarnation of the “Bathroom Bill” – so named because it would give cross-dressing men access to women’s washrooms and change rooms – died on the Senate floor last year when the federal election was called after passing the House of Commons when a handful of Conservative MPs joined the opposition parties. On June 6, 15 Conservative MPs voted to help pass Bill C-279. The 15 were Chris Alexander (Ajax-Pickering), Michael Chong (Wellington-Halton Hills), John Duncan (Vancouver Island North), Kerry-Lynne D. Findlay (Delta-Richmond East), Jim Flaherty (Whitby-Oshawa), Shelly Glover (Saint Boniface), Laurie Hawn (Edmonton Centre), Gerald Keddy (South Shore-St. Margaret’s), Cathy McLeod (Kamloops-Thompson-Cariboo), Lisa Raitt (Halton), Michelle Rempel (Calgary Centre-North), Bruce Stanton (Simcoe North), Bernard Trottier (Etobicoke-Lakeshore), Bernard Valcourt (Madawaska-Restigouche), and David Wilks (Kootenay-Columbia). The bill will now go to the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights before returning to the house for a third vote sometime later this year. Subsequently, a similar bill enshrining gender identity and gender expression into the Ontario’s Human Rights Code passed the Ontario legislature on June 13. Bill 33 was voted in by all three provincial parties.

Many politicians mistakenly vote for legislation which may affect relatives and friends as a sign of support for their lifestyles.

Such misplaced “support” hurts everyone in the long run.

**Action Item: Contact your MPs and urge them to vote against C-279.**

**Mail may be sent postage-free to any Member of Parliament at the following address:**

**Name of Member of Parliament  
House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada, K1A 0A6**

## Bill C-304 passes House – A claw back of democratic rights



**MP Brian Storseth**

Bill C-304, “An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act,” a private member’s bill passed the House of Commons on June 6 in a 153-136 vote on third reading. Brian Storseth’s (CPC, Westlock-St. Paul) bill would rescind Section 13 of the hate crimes provision of the Human Rights Act. Section 13 has been used against publications and individuals that deviate from the officially accepted politically

correct views on certain issues (including homosexuality) and tangling in costly proceedings, to punish them for their views. In recent years, homosexual activists have harassed Fr. Alphonse de Valk and *Catholic Insight*, and Islamic activists sought to censure Mark Steyn and *Macleans*. We have always opposed these so-called thought crimes and supported Storseth’s bill. We are saddened to see a nearly party-line vote (all Conservatives present voted for C-304 along with a single member of the opposition, Scott Simms (Lib, Bonavista-Gander-Grand Falls) joining them. Storseth said that real hate speech that presents a clear danger to people can be dealt with by “real police officers” with “real lawyers and judges presiding over these cases.” As it is at the moment, a quasi-judicial body that presumes guilt unless an individual can prove their innocence – and truth is not a valid defense – oversees and prosecutes human rights hate crime cases. The system is stacked against those brought before these pretend courts and normal rules of evidence do not apply. C-304 must now pass in the Senate and we hope that senators join their parliamentary colleagues in defending freedom of expression.

**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 response 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.**



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