

APRIL
2013

CLC NATIONAL NEWS

CAMPAIGN LIFE COALITION CANADA

Message from the President

Dear Pro-lifer,

In addition to the ongoing preparation for the national and regional marches for life across Canada, the month of March was truly 'March Madness'. Our CLC Youth representatives had just returned from an eye-opening experience at the UN only to jump right back into preparing for the Defund Abortion Rally that quickly followed. The day after the rally, the House of Commons voted yes on the controversial Bill C-279, and just as this newsletter was about to go to press, the PMO once again derailed the debate by deeming Motion 408 non-votable. We've been stretching our resources in every direction and in times like these I am always humbled by the army of volunteers and faithful supporters across this country who go above and beyond to offer us their moral, spiritual and financial support. There is truly no other movement that is as dedicated as the pro-life movement.

Yours for life,

Jim Hughes

Jim Hughes,
CLC National President



Hundreds rallied to defund abortion at the Ontario Legislature

National March for Life

The annual National March for Life will take place May 9 in the nation's capital. On that same day and other days in May, provincial marches for life will be taking place across the country. We hope you join the Canadian pro-life movement for this exciting witness to the Canadian public, the media, and, most importantly, the MPs and members of the provincial legislatures. Your presence is needed to let everyone know that there is a large and determined population of Canadians who will not tolerate the killing of children in the womb.

The theme of the 16th annual National March for Life, is "End Female Gendercide: 'It's a girl' should not be a death sentence."

On May 8, pro-lifers will gather at the Canadian Tribute to Human Rights Monument at Elgin and Lisgar Streets for a Candlelight Vigil that begins at 9 pm. This vigil, on the eve of the march, serves as a powerful way to tie the struggle for protection for the unborn to the great human rights causes of the past.

On Thursday, May 9, following various church services across Ottawa, marchers will begin gathering on Parliament Hill at noon to hear speeches from pro-life leaders, parliamentarians, and religious leaders. The march through downtown Ottawa begins at 1:30pm.



Following the march through downtown Ottawa, marchers are encouraged to return to the Hill to listen to the powerful testimonies of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign. Over the years, their stories have changed many lives.

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The program on the Hill will wrap up with a closing prayer service by the Eastern Catholic Chaplaincy of Ottawa at 4 pm.

At 6 pm, those attending the Rose Dinner will hear keynote speaker Reggie Littlejohn of Women's Rights Without Frontiers, a group that exposes coercive abortion, gendercide, and sexual slavery. The keynote speaker for the Youth Banquet (also at 6 pm) is movie producer and pro-life activist Jason Jones (producer of the movie *Bella* and co-producer of the short film *Crescendo* about Ludwig van Beethoven). On Friday May 10, there is a full-day youth conference filled with a roster of pro-life speakers and workshops. All of the events are held at the Hampton Inn, 200 Coventry Rd. To reserve tickets or for more information on the National March for Life and regional marches for life, call 1-800-730-5358.

Regional Marches for Life

British Columbia, Victoria, May 9 @ 2 pm: Marching from Centennial Square to the Legislature

Alberta, Edmonton, May 9 @ 12:15 pm: Marching from the Legislature to Sir Winston Churchill Square and back

Saskatchewan, Regina, May 9 @ 1 pm: Marching from the Legislature to Victoria Avenue and back

Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, May 12 @ 2:30 pm: Marching along College Drive

Manitoba, Winnipeg, May 9 @ 6 pm: Marching from the Forks historical site to the Legislature

New Brunswick, Fredericton: TBD

Nova Scotia, Halifax, May 9 @ 12 noon: Province House on Granville Street

Newfoundland and Labrador, St. John's: TBD

Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown: TBD

M-408 deemed non-votable

On March 21, Motion 408 (introduced by Mark Warawa MP, Langley) which calls on parliament to condemn the discrimination against girls through sex-selective abortions, was deemed non-votable by a sub-committee on Private Members' Business.

At the sub-committee, members claimed that last year's common sense motion M-312 (on when human life begins) and M-408 were both on abortion and as a result M-408 shouldn't be taken up again even though it followed all the criteria and House rules.

Campaign Life Coalition quickly slammed this sub-committee vote (which was instigated by the Prime Minister's Office as a way to snub the motion entirely) by issuing a media release criticizing the government for attacking private members' freedom to bring forward motions to the House of Commons. **Jim Hughes, President of Campaign Life Coalition** said that this move was "anti-democratic and a violation of MPs rights to be heard in parliament."

That same day, Warawa appealed the decision claiming that members of the sub-committee broke the rules. Warawa's appeal will first go to the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs, and if it fails there, he will take it to the House of Commons for a secret ballot. Canada prides itself on being a leader in human rights here and around the world and yet our own MPs are not free to bring forward private members motions without being censured by their own Parliament. The motion was scheduled to be debated in the House of Commons on April 15, 2013, but following this shocking announcement, the future of the motion remains unknown.

'Transgender' Bill C-279 passes

On March 20, the House of Commons passed the controversial Bill C-279 (labeled the 'bathroom bill') with a vote of 149 to 137. Under the proposed legislation, male and female is determined subjectively by an individual's "inner feelings" and "experiences". The bill also seeks to change the Criminal Code so that speech critical of the transgender lifestyle/ideology could potentially be classified as "hate speech".

The NDP, Liberals and Bloc voted unanimously in support and although most Conservatives voted against the radical proposed legislation, 17 Conservative MPs including 4 Cabinet Ministers supported it. Bill C-279 now moves to three readings in the Senate and if passed there, will enshrine in Canada's laws a radical redefinition of gender.

Campaign Life Coalition and other pro-family organizations have been lobbying to defeat C-279 for months. We worked to expose the societal and individual harms of this bill, understanding that it would grant biological males the legal "right" to enter female washrooms and change rooms.

Even though most voted in favor, compared with the 2nd reading vote of 150 to 132, our lobbying and public education did have a positive effect, moving 8 votes to the NO camp. We thank you, our faithful supporters, for phoning, writing and visiting your MPs over the past several months. Unfortunately, political correctness and an emotionally-charged propaganda campaign prevailed.

CLC's National Organizer, Mary Ellen Douglas, has noted that the Prime Minister publicly urged his caucus to vote against Stephen Woodworth's common sense Motion 312 and Mark Warawa's anti-gendercide Motion 408, and yet, has remained silent on the controversial 'bathroom bill', however he did vote against it.

Action Item: Please contact your Senator and urge them to vote against Bill C-279. To find your senator, please call 1-800-730-5358 or go to www.campaignlifecoalition.com

CLC Youth take a stand at the UN



Group-shot of our youth at the UN: (from left to right) Sharon-Rose Milan, Emilia Demska, Natalia Gdula, Patrick Wilson, Alissa Golob, Matthew Wojciechowski, Emma Coates, Clara Fox, Mitch Gunnarson, Marie-Claire Bissonnette, Meaghan Hale, Cassie Farrell

From March 4-8, 2013, Campaign Life Coalition was able to send a dozen young adults to New York to attend the first week of the fifty-seventh Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (thank you for your generous donations that made this trip possible). The commission's priority theme was "The prevention and elimination of violence against women". The young and dynamic group of CLC representatives put in long hours every day assisting the pro-life coalition comprised of various pro-life NGO's from around the world. They attended dozens of UN sponsored events and side events, built relationships with like-minded people, engaged in conversations with delegates and representatives from all over the world, handed out fact sheets, educational materials and most importantly asked challenging questions at most events (much to the dismay of the panelists and organizers). Their courage and boldness in exposing the truth about abortion as the greatest form of violence against women was instrumental in adding a much needed alternative voice to the meetings. There are 200 million girls missing in the world because of abortion and infanticide and not only did the majority of NGO's, UN Agencies and several delegations (including the Canadian Delegation) avoid addressing this issue, they called for more bloodshed under the guise of 'reproductive rights.' Although the term 'reproductive rights' has not been clearly defined, these so-called 'rights' include abortion and contraception on demand.

The genuine needs and demands of women from the developing world were completely overshadowed by a constant cry for 'legal abortion' as the only solution to ending violence against women. Some extreme feminist, pro-abortion NGO's, with their so called "experts" and "advisors", went as far as to claim that the "denial, obstruction and withdrawal of access to 'reproductive rights' and 'legal' abortion is in itself a form of violence against women".

On the last day of negotiations, there was still no consensus, and as is usually the case at the UN, a Chairman's text (highly influenced by the pro-abortion camp) magically appeared that evening, bringing the commission to an end. Although some delegations were able to remove controversial terms from the resolution document during negotiations (such as sexual orientation and gender identity),

the inclusion of 'reproductive rights' and other problematic terms in the final outcome document has set a precedent that will further diminish the inherent dignity of every human life and the family. What's even more shocking is that in a document that purportedly focuses on ending discrimination and violence against women, it had no references to the term 'family' and 'father' and only one reference to 'mother'.

The agreed conclusions are not international law and have no binding affect. However, they are often referred to and misused by liberal and socialist activists and politicians pushing for their radical anti-life, anti-family agenda in various socially conservative countries around the world, with the African continent being the main target.

Please pray for the pro-life delegations and NGO's that work tirelessly at the UN to uphold the sanctity of life.



CLC's Alissa Golob, Sharon-Rose Milan and Matt Wojciechowski with Jeanne Head from Manhattan Right to Life (USA) and Peter Smith from the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (UK)

Life and Family Week

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) announced that May 12-19 would be National Week for Life and Family and it would have the theme, "The Family: Facing Life's Challenges Together With Christ." In addition to providing resources such as posters and prayer cards, the CCCC is encouraging dioceses across the country to promote the week in their parishes. The bishops also called for the May 9 National March for Life to be promoted, as well as the regional marches for life. Of course, all people of faith should witness to the injustice of abortion, but we are especially thankful for the strong encouragement of the CCCC.

Mother's day walk for life

The 35th annual International Mother's Day Walk For Life on Sunday May 12 will reunite pro-lifers

on both sides of the American and Canadian divide to witness on behalf of the innocent victims of abortion. The Canadian and American groups will start to walk through the streets of Niagara Falls, ON and the city of Niagara Falls, NY at 1 pm respectively (call Niagara Region Right to Life at 905-481-0510 for meeting locations). At 1:30 pm each group will make its way to the halfway point of the Rainbow Bridge overlooking Niagara Falls. There, a beautiful ceremony will occur which involves dropping a dozen red roses off the bridge into the powerful Niagara River below representing the millions of children whose lives were ended through abortion. Fr. Paul McDonald, pastor of St. Catherine of Alexandria Cathedral in St. Catharines, is the keynote speaker for the event. The gathering will wrap up at 2:45 pm following a prayer service.

Defund Abortion Rally

On Tuesday March 19th, the youth division of Campaign Life Coalition (CLCY) organized the second annual Defund Abortion Rally at Queen's Park. The message was clear: Taxpayers should not be forced to pay for a medically unnecessary procedure that kills a human being, hurts women and is a financial drain on our health care system. With snow blanketing the city and difficult driving conditions around the GTA, approximately 350 concerned Ontarians from all over the province (Peterborough, Chatham, Sudbury, Cambridge, St. Catharines, Sarnia, to name a few cities) managed to brave the weather and stand up for their rights as taxpayers and the rights of the unborn.

The energy and enthusiasm of the diverse crowd was very high, with chants of "Defund, Defund" and "Not from my wallet" erupting every few minutes. At the start of the rally, CLC project manager Jack Fonseca presented a defund abortion petition (consisting of 560 signatures from his constituents) to Liberal MPP Joe Dickson (Ajax-Pickering). MPP Dixon pledged to present them to the legislature and said a few words to congratulate the spirited crowd on their efforts.

CLC's Youth Coordinator and the Master of Ceremonies for the event, Alissa Golob stated that "Millions of dollars every single year are taken from our pockets and are being used to dismember, decapitate and disembowel children in the womb not only across this province, but across this country and we are here to say enough is enough!"

CLC's Matthew Wojciechowski referred to a recent Angus Reid poll which revealed that 51 per cent of Ontarians oppose the status quo on abortion funding, while an Abacus Data survey deemed it higher at 61 per cent. He made the connection that the issue of defunding abortion has more support from Ontarians than any one political party.

Rev. Rondo Thomas, vice-president of Canada

Announcements

Election of Pope Francis

On March 13, 2013, Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio was elected Pope. The world's media intensely covered this historic event for many days before and after the announcement. The Catholic Church, because of its huge size and its influence as a nation state is very active at the United Nations and in frequent consultation with political leaders around the world and plays what is often seen as the leading role on the international level in defence of life and family. Many leaders of various Christian and non-Christian faiths have depended upon the leadership and cooperation of recent Catholic Popes to strengthen their own efforts to restore a Culture of Life in their nations. We are happy to relay that Cardinal Bergoglio, now Pope Francis, has been an outspoken defender of life and family as were his predecessors.



The blizzard and high winds didn't stop these concerned Ontarians from rallying against the taxpayer funding of abortion.

Christian College and one of several clergy present at the rally criticized the government for its attack on religious freedom. "Funding abortion is against my religious convictions and is against my rights and freedoms. We should not have to be paying for what we don't believe in," he added.

Speaking on post-abortion trauma, CLC's Sharon-Rose Milan encouraged the crowd "to stand for the women of Ontario who are being abused by our provincial government that is victimizing them with a service that physically, mentally and psychologically harms them."

In addition to other speakers which also included Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform's Jonathon Van Maren and Sun TV reporter Faith Goldy, a personal message of support from federal MP Garry Breitkreuz (Yorkton-Melville) was read out to everyone. His message to supporters stated that "10 years ago I introduced a private members motion that sought to determine whether or not abortion is a medically necessary procedure. Unfortunately, while



Mary Ellen Douglas, Ontario President of CLC encouraged the crowd to take the message back to their constituencies.

my motion did not pass, I'm encouraged to know that Ontario taxpayers are taking up this cause." The Saskatchewan MP was invited to speak at the rally, but was unable to attend.

Mary Ellen Douglas, Ontario President for Campaign Life Coalition, wrapped up the rally by encouraging supporters to continue the campaign to defund abortion by engaging MPPs at the constituency level. She also encouraged everyone to keep praying for the conversion of Henry Morgentaler (whose birthday was on that same day).

Like all of our demonstrations, politicians had no choice but to hear the forceful message that abortions should not be paid from our wallets. Following the rally, members of CLCY dropped off more than 20,000 signatures at the Ontario Legislature directed to individual MPPs. Since the launch of the petition campaign, more than 25,000 signatures have been collected from across the province (from all 107 ridings). Thank you to all who came out (especially those who drove in from afar) and to all who supported us through their prayers.



MPP Joe Dickson, Ajax-Pickering, offered words of support to the crowd after receiving the defund abortion petition containing 560 signatures from his constituents.



CLC's Sharon-Rose Milan addressed the energetic crowd, encouraging them to stand up for women who are also victims of this corrupt health care system.

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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