

FEBRUARY
2017

CLC NATIONAL NEWS

C A M P A I G N L I F E C O A L I T I O N C A N A D A

Message from the Vice-President

Dear Pro-lifer,

Prolifers in Canada often say “wouldn’t it be refreshing to hear candidates vying for election speak out in favour of the unborn the way American politicians do?”. We heard lots of talk from Trump and Clinton about what they would do about abortion. And as I write this, Trump has just signed off on returning the Mexico City Policy, banning federal aid money from being used for abortion abroad. Most candidates running for office are told to stay quiet or go with the status quo on life and family. You will lose votes, they say. Not so judging from our experience. In fact, our evidence shows a candidate has better results when he or she is upfront about their pro-life views and doesn’t back away when challenged.

CPC leadership candidates Pierre Lemieux and Brad Trost are those types of candidates. They have been upfront about their support for the right to life, and haven’t shied away from their convictions.

Now this is what we’re talking about!

Yours for life,



Jeff Gunnarson,
CLC Vice-President



CLC Announces theme for the 20th anniversary of the National March for Life, see page 3.

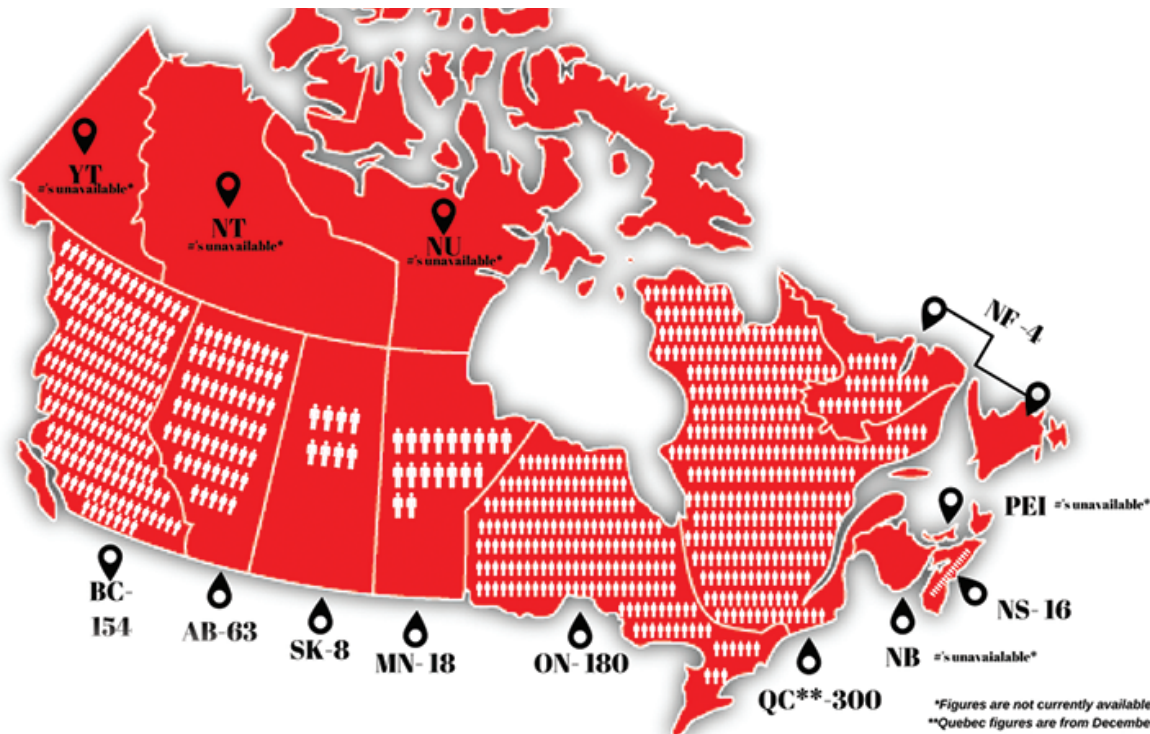
Euthanasia numbers in Canada

CTV reported that 744 people have been killed by euthanasia in Canada since it was legalized on June 17, 2016. That was in six months, and doesn’t include those who received permission from a court to be killed by a medical professional before euthanasia and doctor-assisted suicide were legalized. About 40% of the deaths were in Quebec, which permitted the procedure six months earlier. Alex Schadenberg, executive director of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (EPC) says those numbers are surely under-estimating the scope of the mass killing by euthanasia because CTV admits the data upon which its report was based is incomplete and that there is a good chance there is under-reporting of the practice. The EPC’s Amy Hasbrouck says that Quebec euthanasia commission numbers indicate that 14% of medically induced killings by

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physicians or other “healthcare workers” are not in compliance with the province’s laws regulating the practice. The EPC also has reports of unintended victims of euthanasia. University of Toronto law professor, Trudo Lemmens, told CTV that the provinces should be releasing more data to protect patients from possible abuse, arguing that more information could protect the vulnerable: “There is a concern that people who are vulnerable or who find themselves in a situation of vulnerability may be pressured consciously or unconsciously to opt for medical assistance in dying either because of financial circumstances or because the medical help that they need is not necessarily available.” Lemmens argues that the current data being collected – the medical condition, the age, the gender – are submitted by the medical practitioner who carries out the death. This is insufficient, Lemmens says, and calls for health ministries to collect information from family members and friends of the deceased to better shine a light on the practice. One euthanasia death is

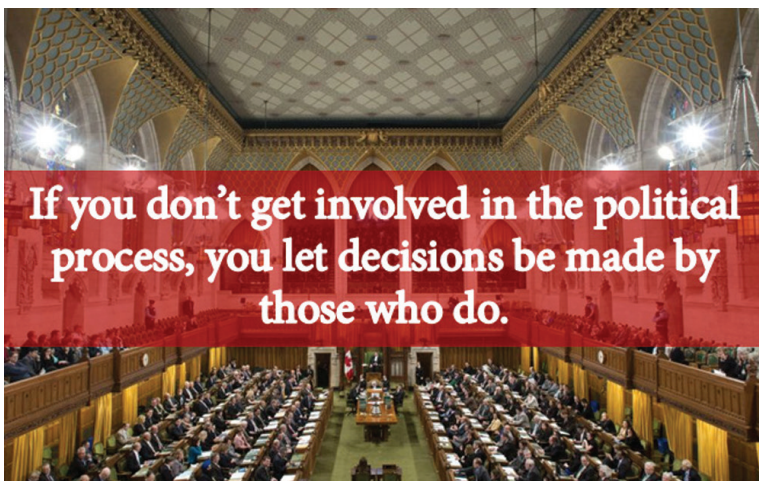


too many, but we are very disturbed by the extent that Canadians have accepted euthanasia as legitimate health care. As time goes on and euthanasia is normalized in the culture, we can expect these numbers to dramatically increase. In the Netherlands and Belgium, which have similar laws governing euthanasia and assisted-suicide, about 5% of all deaths are aided by health professionals under the guise of compassion and mercy. If similar rates were applied to Canada's roughly 250,000 annual deaths, we would expect euthanasia deaths to total 12,500 annually in a few years. Unless the public and politicians wake up, and the culture changes, that is very likely to happen.

CPC leadership update – We need you!

The Conservative Party of Canada will soon be choosing its leader and we need you to be part of this process. To vote in the mail-in preferential ballot in May, one must be a member by March 24. Because there are two principled pro-lifers in the race and we have been reassured by both of them that they will remain in the race, we are encouraging our supporters to sign up as members as soon as possible. Don't wait until the last minute – so many things can go wrong (problems with the internet, getting busy and forgetting, etc). Both Saskatoon MP Brad Trost and former Ottawa-area MP Pierre Lemieux deserve our support because they have been raising the life issues on the campaign trail and neither have apologized for their pro-life voting record and views. Trost has raised conscience rights and traditional marriage while Lemieux said if he was elected prime minister, he would do something about sex-selective abortions. (This *CLC National News* includes a CPC membership form for Pierre Lemieux paid for by his campaign. If you haven't yet bought your membership, please do so today.)

To vote in this leadership race is simple. It's a mail-in ballot, so there is no expensive convention to attend. You can vote for as many supportable candidates as there are running with the preferential ballot. We encourage everyone to take out a \$15 membership in order to vote for the pro-life candidates; while we hope one of them wins, a loss with sufficient support sends a strong signal to the party, the media, and the public that social conservatives are an important constituency that cannot be ignored. There may be other candidates that we cannot endorse but which you might determine are worth putting lower on their preferential ballot.



If you don't get involved in the political process, you let decisions be made by those who do.

Last month, Milton MP Lisa Raitt was interviewed by CTV's Don Martin and was asked about abortion. She said: "My mother had me and was going to give me up for adoption. She chose not to have an abortion, so I have some really personal views about it." The leadership contender added, "I think it's a decision that is a tough decision for any woman to make, but I would never bring in legislation to make it illegal, ever." Raitt obviously raised some doubts about abortion ("a tough decision") and implies she could just as easily have been aborted had she been conceived a year later (she was born in 1968). That makes her refusal to ever make it illegal that much more baffling. CLC has given Raitt a red-light on its ratings because she is unsupportable. She voted against the 2012 Stephen Woodworth motion to study when human life begins and supported other socially liberal bills.

With the exception of the Raitt interview, social issues have not really been an issue during the Conservative leadership campaign over the past month. It is too early for such considerations but we are examining each candidate's voting record, public statements, and positions on issues such as free votes to determine which ones a pro-lifer could make a prudential vote for and which ones are completely disqualified from pro-life support. We will provide this information as the leadership election gets close.

Action Item: If you haven't already, please consider taking out a membership with the Conservative Party of Canada in order to be eligible to vote for both Brad Trost and Pierre Lemieux.

Third-party calls

You may receive a call from a third-party enquiring about your Conservative or Progressive Conservative membership status and to urge you to vote for a leadership or local candidate. Some of you have contacted us concerned about these calls, whether or not they are really from Campaign Life Coalition. From time to time we must contract a call centre to make a large number of calls on our behalf to encourage people to get involved in specific political strategies. Some of you raised the concern that the calls were for Brad Trost and not Trost and Pierre Lemieux, considering that CLC is promoting both of them. Indeed, a series of calls were made on behalf of only one candidate because it was their campaign that took out an advertisement in *The Interim* with follow-up calls. We regret if this caused you concern. Your names are not being sold to third parties and are not being shared with the candidates without your consent. The call centres acting on our behalf follow stringent rules to ensure the privacy of the information. We do this to provide information about pro-life candidates and ensure that action can be taken swiftly. This is doubly true in local nomination races, which are often called just a few weeks before nomination meetings, and it often isn't possible to communicate this effectively through the mail and *CLC National News*.

Radical sex-ed through a Catholic lens?

When the Ontario Liberal government's controversial 2015 Health & Physical Education curriculum came out, amidst protests and province-wide parental opposition, parents with children in the

Catholic school system were reassured by bishops, trustees, and educational leaders that the document's learning expectations would be taught successfully in Catholic schools through the perspective of a 'Catholic lens'. The Institute for Catholic Education (ICE) was handed the responsibility to come up with an appropriate curriculum guideline for Catholic schools.

One must remember that the successful delivery of all curricula ultimately is contingent on the abilities, professionalism and commitment of the classroom teacher. In this particular case, faithful implementation depends on the proper faith formation, effective understanding and personal comfort level of the individual teacher, given the delicate nature of the curriculum material.

As expected, there are several problems with the ICE document. In general, the flaws of the document include the following: acceptance of a too secular/humanist view of the human person; uncritical acceptance of the language and uncorroborated assumptions regarding gender theories as found in the provincial HPE document; limited respect for parental rights in the introduction of some sensitive themes or notions; a limited sense

of social justice issues; apparent willingness to place sensitive topics at age-inappropriate grade levels (along with too graphic aspects of certain explanations); key church teachings compromised by the context and demands of the HPE curriculum. In the Appendix, the writers of the document make a strange recommendation of resources that teachers could consult and could direct their students to go look at to obtain information about certain organizations that are trying to "improve the quality of life" across the planet. We were shocked to see International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), the world's largest promoter of abortion and so called 'sexual rights' for young people, among recommended organizations. Either the writers are ignorant about the full scope of the activities and policies supported and promoted by these organizations or they deliberately are intent on sowing more confusion and legitimizing questionable conduct contrary to Catholic teaching. Sadly organizations such as Well's for Life, Canadian Food for Children, MaterCare etc were omitted. Is this really what the bishops had in mind when they reassured parents of a 'Catholic lens'?

And the 2017 National March for Life theme is... 'Life, We Stand On Guard For Thee'

2017 is a very special year for Canadians as Canada is celebrating its sesquicentennial year and 150th anniversary of Confederation. For Campaign Life Coalition, this year will also mark the 20th time that pro-life Canadians gather in our nation's capital for the National March for Life. Tying together both milestones, the March for Life committee decided to go with the theme "Life, we stand on guard for thee". This theme which uses words from our national anthem aims to remind Canadians that respecting and valuing life at all its stages is and has always been part of our Canadian identity. It is the basic human right upon which all other rights depend on. Our very first Prime Minister Sir John A. MacDonald said that abortion "saps the life blood of a nation", and 150 years later, it's our duty as pro-life Canadians to continue reminding our current Prime Minister, his administration and many other politicians that we will always stand on guard for the most



The 2017 National March for Life theme

innocent and vulnerable of our society, even if they have been completely abandoned by the current law or lack of.

This year, the National March for Life will be held in Ottawa May 11 beginning with a rally on the Hill at 12 noon and the March at 1:30, followed by the Rose Dinner and Youth Banquet in the evening (Keynote speakers will be announced soon). The Candlelight Vigil will be held the evening before, on May 10 (see candlelight pledge form insert), and the Youth Conference will be held the day after on May 12. The National March for Life is the year's biggest national pro-life event, with thousands of people giving witness to the injustice of abortion. They are joined by

many thousands more in provincial capitals across the country. Please consider attending this monumental pro-life witness as well as the many events that take place from May 10-12, 2017. If you are unable to attend please pray for the success of the March and, if you can, please help cover the costs of students who are going to the March.

Announcements

March for Life program

If you are interested in sponsoring a business advertisement or placing an 'In Memoriam' ad for a loved one into the official National March for Life program, please contact Leeda Crawford at 416-538-1390 or toll free at 1-800-730-5358. You can also email her at leedac@rogers.com. Every year the programs are sold at the National March for Life in Ottawa and are offered to Rose Dinner attendees. They are a great keepsake and souvenir from the National March for Life experience. Your generosity helps with the enormous costs of putting on this important witness in the nation's capital. The cut-off date to place an ad is April 22, 2017.

Rose Dinner tickets

If you are planning on attending this year's 20th anniversary National March for Life, please consider purchasing tickets for the Rose Dinner or Youth Banquet as soon as possible (as well as accommodation) as they tend to sell out quickly and we don't want you to be disappointed. To purchase tickets or for more information, please call CLC National Office at 416-204-9749 or toll free at 1-800-730-5358 or the Ottawa office at 613-729-0379.

Clarification

In an April 2016 press release we stated we look forward to a bill that would outlaw sex selective abortion. We neglected to clarify that any such bill would have to explicitly indicate that it should be illegal to discriminate based on the sex of the baby without implying or supporting the notion that other reasons for abortion are licit.

Quebec couple aborts late term baby because of disability

Dr. Yves Robert, secretary of the Quebec College of Physicians, told reporters just before Christmas that women should “have access to it without real problems.” The “it” Robert was referring to was late term abortions. His comments came after a media-fury that a woman was refused a 30-week abortion at two Montreal hospitals before a third finally agreed to commit the late-term abortion at 35 weeks. On paper, the College restricts abortion to 23 weeks but gives abortionists permission for “exceptional” cases such as “serious congenital anomalies” in the preborn. The problem, of course, is that almost all late term abortions are for the “exceptional” circumstances. Few people choose to kill their preborn children in the third trimester unless there is a reason: the health of the mother, the health of the child, the future health of the child.

The unidentified woman told a Montreal newspaper she had to “fight” to get an abortion after she and her partner discovered “abnormalities” with the preborn child. She said, she “didn’t want my child to suffer their whole life [sic].” McGill sent the issue to an executive committee, which refused the woman’s request. Another hospital refused and after the parents got their lawyer involved, a third hospital eventually killed their child at 35 weeks. The lawyer, Jean-Pierre Menard, went to the press to complain: “The decision to continue or interrupt a pregnancy belongs only to the woman. No committee, no outside authority.” As a matter of law and medical ethics, this is simply not true. Putting aside (for a moment) the killing of the child, doctors can make medical judgments and decide that a certain procedure is not in the best health interest of the patient or that he or she might not want to be involved. Years ago, Henry Morgentaler told journalists he doesn’t do late-term abortions because at that point, it was killing a child. Media reports suggested that all women seeking late-term abortions in Quebec and Ontario were sent to the United States. Provincial health plans paid for the procedure even though no Canadian doctor would do them. This is not necessarily a moral position, but a medical liability issue. As a pregnancy progresses, the health risks such as hemorrhaging and infection increase.

Parental rights battle continues in Ontario

If you read the newspapers or watch your local TV news, you may think that the opposition to Kathleen Wynne’s radical sex-education curriculum has come to an end, but the truth is, parents are still fighting this social engineering campaign by the current Liberal government. If anything, CLC together with thousands of parents across the province are even more upset, now that horror stories from classrooms across the province are



On January 17, CLC Ottawa hosted a clergy luncheon in Nepean, ON at St. John the Apostle Church, the first such event in the Ottawa area in many years. A few dozen clergy members from various faith communities were in attendance including his excellency Christian Riesbeck, Auxiliary Bishop of Ottawa. The clergy luncheon gave CLC staffers an opportunity to inform our spiritual leaders of the work CLC is doing and to offer them support as they continue to serve their communities.

starting to pop up. In addition to ongoing parental protests that are taking place at MPP constituency offices, and CLC’s ongoing efforts to nominate and elect candidates who oppose Wynne’s sex-ed, the Canadian Families Alliance (of which CLC is a partner) will soon be launching a postcard campaign targeting households in specific ridings with the goal of educating tens of thousands of parents who are blissfully unaware of what’s actually in the curriculum, nor of the involvement of a sexual predator in its writing. As we have reported previously, Ben Levin, the former deputy education minister, is currently serving a 3 year prison sentence for child porn and pedophilia-related crimes. CLC is also supporting an appeal to a higher Ontario Court by the Hamilton father who sued his public schoolboard for the right to withdraw his children from radical sex-ed lessons. After Wynne re-introduced the despised curriculum in 2015, she and her then Education Minister attempted to pacify outraged parents and quell the growing opposition by repeatedly promising “If you don’t agree with some element of the new sex ed, you can opt your child out of that class”. However, once implemented, Wynne reneged on that promise and actually sent government lawyers to argue in court that the Hamilton father should not have the right to withdraw his kids, nor even to be told in advance what they would be taught. Her lawyers convinced the lower court judge, but we’re helping the father to keep fighting until victorious. If you would like to get involved on this particular file, please email jack@campaignlifecoalition.com or call 1-800-730-5358.

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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Dear Jim,

Please keep up the fight for Culture of Life. I want to help CLC continue to be a pro-life witness with my donation of:

☐ \$10, ☐ \$30, ☐ \$50, ☐ \$100, ☐ \$250, ☐ \$500, ☐ \$1,000, ☐ \$5,000, ☐ \$10,000, ☐ Other \$ _____

Any amount would be greatly appreciated!

- ☐ I would like to volunteer with Campaign Life Coalition.
- ☐ I will take out a Conservative Party of Canada membership and will vote for the 2 pro-life candidates who are running.
- ☐ I wish to allocate, annually, \$20 of my donation to a subscription for *The Interim*.
(*See over)
- ☐ I plan on attending the National March for Life in Ottawa.
- ☐ I would like to receive an acknowledgement of my contribution

N1702

E-mail: _____

In providing my e-mail address I am giving permission to receive e-mails from CLC

Donate online at: www.campaignlifecoalition.com

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