



# JOIN THE NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE MAY 9, 2024



For full schedule and more details, visit [marchforlife.ca](https://marchforlife.ca)





# 2024 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## MAY 7 - 10



**LIFE ON FILM SERIES**  
**SELECT SUNDAYS**  
**8 PM ET**

Watch screenings on [youtube.com/MarchForLifeCanada](https://youtube.com/MarchForLifeCanada)  
Sunday May 5 – *Roe Canada* – In Conversation

**SONGS FOR LIFE**  
**COFFEE HOUSE**  
**TUESDAY, MAY 7**  
**7 PM**

St Mary's Church Hall  
100 Young St, Ottawa  
Free Admission + Baby Item Drive For Birthright Ottawa/  
Free Will Offering

***UNTHINKABLE***  
**SCREENING**  
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 8**  
**4 PM**

In-Person Screening with Abby Johnson  
and Director Drew Martin  
Location TBD

**CANDLELIGHT**  
**VIGIL**  
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 8**  
**9 PM**

Human Rights Monument – corner of Lisgar and Elgin Streets  
Mass at 7:30 pm (St. Theresa Church, 95 Somerset St W)  
followed by a candlelight procession to the monument  
Holy Hour 10–11 pm (St. Theresa Church)

**MASSES &**  
**PRAYER SERVICES**  
**THURSDAY, MAY 9**  
**10 AM**

National Mass for Life – Notre Dame Cathedral –  
Bilingual (385 Sussex Dr)  
St. Patrick's Basilica – English (220 Kent St)  
St. Clement – Latin (528 Old St. Patrick St)

**NATIONAL**  
**MARCH FOR LIFE**  
**RALLY & MARCH**  
**THURSDAY, MAY 9**

12:30 pm - Rally on Parliament Hill  
1:30 pm - March downtown Ottawa  
2:30 pm - Silent No More Awareness Campaign Testimonies  
3:00 pm - Closing Prayer Service: Metropolitan Andrey  
Sheptytsky Institute

**NEW**

**PRO-LIFE EXPO\***  
**MAY 9 - 10 AM TO 10 PM**  
**& MAY 10 - 8 AM TO 3 PM**

The pro-life expo is an opportunity for attendees to connect  
with pro-life organizations & ministries.  
FREE to attend

**ROSE DINNER**  
**GALA\***  
**THURSDAY, MAY 9**  
**Reception 5:00 PM**  
**Dinner 6:30 PM**

**TICKETS:** \$150/person | Early Bird \$125 ends April 8th  
Youth 18 and younger - \$75

**SPEAKERS:**

**ABBY JOHNSON:** Former Planned Parenthood Clinic  
Director & Founder of And Then There Were None  
**SHAWN CARNEY:** Co-founder & CEO of 40 Days  
for Life



**LIVE ON**  
**YOUTH SUMMIT\***  
**FRIDAY, MAY 10**  
**8 AM TO 3 PM**

Sponsored by Niagara Region Right to Life and  
Campaign Life Coalition Youth

**TICKETS:** \$75 Youth\*\* | \$80 General Admission

**SPEAKERS:**

**ABBY JOHNSON:** Former Planned Parenthood Clinic  
Director & Founder of And Then There Were None  
**DR. JOHN T. BRUCHALSKI:** Former abortionist and  
President of Divine Mercy Care  
**MARY WAGNER:** Pro-life Prisoner of Conscience



\*Ottawa Conference & Event Centre, 200 Coventry Rd., Ottawa

\*\*Group discounts available



Organized by

**Campaign Life**  
Coalition

## **It's time to unite in defence of preborn at National March for Life**

By Jeff Gunnarson, CLC National President

May 9, 2024

Every life is truly a masterpiece created in the image of God. Every beating heart symbolizes the essence of life itself, a pulsating reminder of the miracle of existence and the intrinsic worth of every individual. On May 9, our nation's capital will resonate with the powerful rhythm of life as thousands of pro-life supporters from across the country converge in Ottawa for the [National March for Life](#).

This year's theme, "I Will Never Forget You," proclaims the profound truth that every life is precious, from conception to natural death.

This theme is a call for each one of us to witness to the dignity of each human person. Just as God has promised us through the prophet Isaiah that he will "never forget" his people, this theme is a call to us to never forget the child in the womb, along with the sick and the elderly. This theme is a call to action, a declaration of unwavering commitment to defending the most vulnerable among us.

May 14, 1969, stands as a dark day in Canadian history. On this day of infamy, Parliament shamefully sanctioned the brutal destruction of preborn infants. Before this, the killing of babies in the womb was a criminal act. However, then-Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau callously disregarded the inherent worth of preborn children, permitting their mothers the morally repugnant "choice" to determine the fate of these precious lives.

Since this time, the voices of the preborn have been silenced, their fundamental rights disregarded, and their existence diminished to being someone else's "choice" as to whether they live or die. But on May 9, we in the formidable pro-life movement have the opportunity to stand united in the conviction that every life deserves protection, and that every preborn child has the God-given right to live.

To those who have grown weary or apathetic in the battle to bring justice to the preborn, I urge you to rouse yourself for the sake of these defenceless ones and join us on Parliament Hill for this historic event. Your presence is not just a symbol; it's a statement—a declaration to the world that we in the pro-life movement refuse to remain indifferent in the face of the horrific genocide taking place against the preborn where over four million have been killed by abortion over the past 55 years.

Each step we take at the march through the streets of Ottawa, each word spoken at the rally on the Hill, is a collective testimony to our commitment to building a culture of life where every individual is cherished and valued.

At a time when the number of abortions has dramatically increased due to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau pouring millions of dollars into the abortion industry, now it is more important than ever to stand in solidarity with the preborn. Now, in the face of provinces like Manitoba and in Ontario cities like London, Burlington, and St. Catharines pushing laws that try to muzzle the pro-life voice, it's more important than ever to go into the public square and boldly be a voice for those preborn children targeted for abortion who have no voice.

It's easy to feel overwhelmed by the magnitude of the challenges we face. But, we must always remember that we have forces for change on our side that those in the culture of death do not enjoy. First and foremost, we are on God's side. When God is for us, who can stand against us? (Romans 8:31) Secondly, we have truth on our side, the truth that life begins at conception and that every newly conceived life is a human being with certain inalienable rights, the first of which is the right to life.

As you boldly and courageously march through the streets of Ottawa, remember that we stand with God and truth. Remember the preborn who cannot speak for themselves and whose lives hang in the balance. They are counting on you to be their voice, their advocate, their defender.

The National March for Life is more than just a gathering; it's an unstoppable movement—a movement fuelled by love, compassion, and the steadfast belief in the inherent dignity of every human life. By participating in this event, you become part of something greater than yourself. You become part of the change that will one day see an end to abortion and the right to life of preborn children secured in the laws that govern our great country.

I understand that life is busy and countless demands are vying for your attention. I implore you, however, to set aside this one day to stand in solidarity with the most vulnerable members of our society. Your presence matters. Your voice matters. Your feet on the streets of Ottawa matter. United together in Ottawa on May 9, we have the power to change the course of history.

Together, let us send a powerful message to our lawmakers, our communities, and the whole country that we will never forget the precious preborn and that we will work tirelessly to ensure their right to life.

Join us on May 9 as we rally with conviction, march boldly, and defend zealously the preborn. Together, let us create a future in Canada where every life is valued, cherished, and protected.

P.S. Visit [Marchforlife.ca](http://Marchforlife.ca) for an entire list of events surrounding the National March for Life.

*Jeff Gunnarson is the National President of Campaign Life Coalition. He lives near Cambridge, Ontario with his wife Camilla.*

## **Backgrounder: Questions and answers about abortion in Canada**

### **Does a woman have the right to choose abortion in Canada?**

No, there exists no court-defined or Charter right to abortion in Canada. Abortion was first decriminalized in 1969. Prior to this, committing an abortion was a crime (homicide) under the Criminal Code. In *R. v. Morgentaler*, 1988, the Supreme Court of Canada made its landmark decision to throw out the 1969 abortion law on the basis that it was “unconstitutional,” ruling that the law’s detailed criteria for obtaining an abortion violated a woman’s Charter right to “security of the person.”

Neither the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms nor the Supreme Court of Canada established a right to abortion. The Supreme Court tasked Parliament in 1988 with creating a new law. This never happened, though an attempt was made in 1989 with the flawed Bill C-43 (An Act respecting abortion). Abortion in Canada still persists in a legal vacuum to this day, leaving the pre-born with no legal protection.

### **Is there such a thing as a “safe” abortion in Canada?**

No, abortion results in the death of the child inside his or her mother’s womb. Abortion is never safe for the pre-born baby and poses serious risks to the woman’s physical and/or psychological well-being.

### **Is it only the woman’s body that matters when it comes to abortion?**

No, there is also the body of the pre-born child that has DNA, brainwaves, and a heartbeat separate from the mother. If the child is male, he also has male testicles. His male organ cannot be part of the “woman’s body.” A new unique human life begins at conception, when sperm meets egg. The newly conceived human being needs only time and space for the miracle of his or her life to unfold. If a woman aborted her own body, she would be dead.

### **Should preborn children be protected in Canada?**

The Charter of Rights and Freedoms states that “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of the person.” Canadian law deliberately excludes humans in the womb, stating that a child only “becomes a human being” when it has “completely proceeded [...] from the body of its mother.” This legal fiction is not only bad science, but it blatantly denies humanity to the pre-born, stripping them of their right to life. This is discrimination based on age and based on location. It is unjust. It is wrong. Because of this legal definition, abortion is permitted throughout all 9 months of pregnancy, for any reason or no reason whatsoever, up to the moment of birth.

### **Are there alternatives to abortion in Canada?**

Yes, there is the option of adoption and there is also the option of parenting. There are about 150 pregnancy care centres across Canada to help women in numerous ways, including providing diapers, baby clothes, food items, housing, and a community that supports them. These groups exist to help meet pregnant women’s physical, emotional, legal, and spiritual needs throughout their pregnancy and following the birth of their child. They are a wonderful and needed resource in our country. Prime Minister Trudeau is moving to remove charitable status from these organization which could cripple many of them.

### **Do some women regret abortion?**

Yes, there are groups such as [Silent No More Awareness](#) which provides a space where women who have had abortions tell their real-life stories about how it negatively impacted them. Numerous post-abortive women make clear the devastation that abortion brings to both women and men. There are many pro-life groups that seek to bring healing to post-abortive women who want help, such as [Rachel’s Vineyard](#) along with [Silent No More Awareness](#). Medical research organizations such as the [deVeber Institute](#) collect and publish information on the negative impact of abortion. Dismissing abortion regret is to ignore the lived experience of numerous hurting women.

Please check out Campaign Life Coalition’s Canadian Facts about Abortion webpage [here](#).