Federally funded abortion group attacks March for Life

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Celebrities say the funniest things about abortion

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\$5.00





# Black Lives Matter and abortion & LGBTQ

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# Taxpayer-funded abortion group suggests banning National March for Life

**Paul Tuns** 

The federally funded Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights has hinted it is time to shut down Campaign Life Coalition's annual National March for

Sandeep Prasad, executive director of Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights, and Rev. Alba Onofrio, director of Soulforce, co-wrote at rabble.ca, a left-wing website that the National March for Life is "the largest demonstration against the right to choose," and that though this year's actual march in the nation's capital was cancelled, they wondered, "what will it take to cancel the 'March for Life' for

Matthew Wojciechowski, vice president of Campaign Life Coalition, told The Interim, that while not specifically calling upon the government to ban the National March for Life, "it is clear the authors are saying that the March for Life is dangerous and should be stopped."

Saying that they were "confident abortion is not under threat in Canada," Prasad and Onofrio said that abortion opponents also oppose LGBTQ+ rights, including same-sex "marriage" and bans on socalled conversion therapy, and "the right to die" and promiscuous sex-ed curricula.

Onofrio, in his work with the Texas-based LGBTQ+ advocacy group Soulforce, has campaigned against so-called Christian supremacy "that is used to harm marginalized peoples," including campaigning against abortion. Onofrio says that "anti-choice" support-

ers are more concerned about "controlling bodies by punishing people who step out of line with patriarchy," than they are Christianity.

Prasad and Onofrio then note that several U.S. states and the Trump administration have been "rolling back (abortion) rights" and therefore there is no such thing "just a harmless march." authors add that Canada is "far from immune to misogyny, homophobia, and transphobia," before quoting domestic violence statistics.

They call for people to support "reproductive and sexual health care, including abortion," "bubble zone laws in your area," and urge MPs to "protect human rights."

Patricia Maloney, who operates the Run With Life blog, wondered: "Should a charity that receives millions of dollars in taxpayer funded grants be in the business of advocating for the repeal of Charter rights of pro-life organizations?"

said Wojciechowski that Action Canada which should not be confused with the pro-life Action4Canada - "used to be a collection of fringe groups ... ignored by Canadians," but "today, they are given millions of taxpayer dollars by Justin Trudeau." The funding, Wojciechowski explained, "gives them influence in Canada and at the United Nations," that they would not have otherwise. The financial support from Ottawa allows Action Canada to "rub shoulders with other globalists and cultural Marxists at our

Wojciechowski said it is typical for abortion

advocates to "suppress the voice of the pro-life movement," citing their support for anti-free speech bubble laws, harassment of prolife supporters who demonstrate, and dismissing pro-life arguments as mere religious opinion. "They see the March for Life as a threat and since they can't deny what science says about the humanity of children in the womb, and the inalienable right to life that all human beings possess, they go after the religious beliefs of those who oppose abortion."

Wojciechowski whereas the pro-life movement relies on grassroots supporters, pro-abortion NGOs like Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights rely on government largesse. Action Canada was formed in 2014 with the merger of the Canadian Federation for Sexual Health (formerly Planned Parenthood Federation of Canada), Canadians for Choice (formerly the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League), and Action Canada for Population and Development.

While Action Canada is a registered charity, it gets most of its funds from government. As Maloney has discovered, the NGO is earmarked to receive \$14 million by 2024 from Trudeau Liberals. Specifically, it received \$232,834 in April 2017 from the Public Health Agency of Canada to support community-based projects "which address the root causes of health inequalities;" \$3,101,379 over five years beginning in March 2018 from the Public Health Agency of Canada for a "social marketing campaign to increase STTI testing among marginalized youth;" \$22,000 on October 11, 2018, from Status of Women Canada to lobby "to advance the rights of women and girls" at the International Parliamentarians' Conference on 'Implementation the International Conference on Population Development;" \$10,887,328 over five years beginning in January 2020 from Global Affairs Canada for an international project called "Rights From the Start" that pushes for legal abortion and "the fulfillment of sexual and reproductive rights in targeted districts" in Bolivia,

Ecuador, Guyana and Peru. According to Revenue Canada, Action Canada had total expenses of \$783,000 in 2015 and seven employees (four full-time, three part-time, with no one making more than \$80,000). By 2018, Action Canada had 18 fulltime and 10 part-time staff (with five of them earning at least \$120,000), as it was collecting nearly \$344,000 in government funding. By comparison, they raise about \$349,000 in receipted donations.

In 2019, the most recent year for which data is available. Action Canada reported government funding of \$980,419 or about 27.8 per cent of its revenue, and iust \$282,509 in receipteddonations, or about eight per cent of revenues.

But as Maloney has found, according to the Government of Canada Grants and Contribution database, Ottawa has given Action Canada more than \$14 million in grants, including a single contribution of \$3.1 million in March 2018, a year in which it reported

just \$344,000 in government funding. Maloney observed "the large discrepancy between what the government reports as grants to them vs. what they reported to the CRA."

Action Canada is not only a registered charity, it is a registered lobbyist in

Action Canada is heavily involved in lobbying at the United Nations for global access to abortion - including maintaining an office in Geneva - and it also turns around and advises Global Affairs Canada, providing input on international development and population policies abroad. It has helped develop Justin Trudeau's feminist foreign policy and urged increases in foreign funding of abortion after Donald Trump signed the Mexico City memorandum outlawing funding of global organizations that promote or commit abortions.

Furthermore, Action Canada's 2019 annual report featured a picture of then minister for women and gender equality Maryam Monsef speaking at one of their meet-

Wojciechowski says the taxpayer bankrolling of Action Canada has to stop. "The Trudeau government is using millions of Canadian tax dollars to fund an organization that in turn uses those funds to lobby that same government. Trudeau doesn't need convincing on these issues," he told LifeSiteNews. "This group should be completely defunded. Defund Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights - has a nice ring to it. Perhaps we should start a hashtag and a campaign."

life, without apology." He

stressed that, "Abortion is

not health care," noting, "It

destroys lives, dreams, and

happiness. It portrays preg-

nancy as a hopeless situa-

tion. It offers the death of

a child as the path to free-

dom." Sloan then said talk

## Trudeau government adjusts COVID-19 relief loan eligibility

Lianne Laurence Special to The Interim

The Trudeau government updated eligibility requirements for a COVID-19 emergency relief business loan to explicitly recognize the legal rights of religious groups after LifeSiteNews reported on the matter and 5,082 people signed a LifeSiteNews petition requesting what the government ended up doing.

LifeSiteNews reported in April that Canada's Liberal government was forcing businesses, non-profits, and registered charities that applied for the Canada **Business** Emergency Account (CEBA) to confirm they did not "discriminate" on the basis of "gender," "sexual orientation," and "religion," among other things, in order to receive financial help. Applicants who didn't confirm the "non-discrimination" clause were not eligible to receive the CEBA, an interest-free loan of up to \$40,000 that is part of the Liberal economic relief package for Canadians suffering hardship due to coronavirus pandemic shutdowns.

A CEBA applicant was originally asked to confirm that "it does not promote violence, incite hatred or discriminate on the basis of sex, gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion, culture, religion, education, age or mental or physical disability."

LifeSiteNews launched a petition asking the Trudeau government to add the phrase "contrary to applicable laws" to the clause, based on an analysis by Marty Moore, a lawyer for the Calgary-based Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms (JCCF). This proviso is crucial to recognizing freedom of religion and conscience in this case, Moore told LifeSiteNews at the time. "A religious organization has a legal right to hire those who align with its beliefs to carry out its religious purposes," he pointed out. "The law permits that."

If the Liberals added "the appropriate caveat 'contrary to applicable laws' ... in the fourth attestation, that would provide the correct legal standard, and theoretically allow non-discriminatory access to the CEBA," Moore observed.

But without that explicit acknowledgment, "a religious organization that hires in accordance with its religious beliefs may be precluded from agreeing to this attestation," he said.

"Some religious organizations are very scrupulous as to what they sign, we all learnt that from the summer jobs program; it's possible they'll self-select out."

An alert reader informed LifeSiteNews in an email

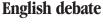
See, 'Liberals' p. 10

# CPC leadership news roundup

## French debate

the June 17 French-language debate, Conservative Party leadership contender Erin O'Toole said, "As a prime minister, I will defend the rights of people including women to choose for themselves when it comes to abortion. And if you hear anything to the contrary tonight, it will be a lie." Puzzlingly, this answer came in response to a question about national defense. Earlier, Peter MacKay said to O'Toole: "Your whole campaign is based on lies. Are you pro-choice or what? Tell us, tell us." O'Toole calls himself a "True Blue Conservative" and has said all types of conservatives, including social conservatives, would be welcome as supporters of the Conservatives. Before the debate, O'Toole had pitched himself as the "second choice" of social conservatives according to a video leaked to the media. Derek Sloan and Leslyn Lewis deemed the only supportable candidates by Campaign Life Coalition -- are pro-life, while MacKay is pro-abortion. MacKay said during the French debate: "I'm pro-

riage. I can win in Ontario and Atlantic Canada, and I can strengthen our base in the West. That's what we have to do. We have to take a position where we welcome everybody." Campaign Life Coalition national president told *The Interim*: "There is no position that 'welcomes everybody' when it comes to abortion and same-sex 'marriage'." CLC tweeted that "no self-respecting prolife Conservative should rank O'Toole on the ballot." Sloan addressed abortion during his opening remarks, saying, "Pregnancy is not a disease; abortion cannot be health care. As prime minister, I would prevent Canada from funding abortions internationally and encourage debate." During a scrum after the debate, O'Toole reiterated, "I am pro-choice" and "I've always said I will defend all rights, including rights for women, that's a pro-choice position. It's their decision, not mine, and I will defend their right to make that decision." Lewis did not mention abortion during the debate but did say more needed to be done to protect the elderly and that





During the Englishlanguage debate, Derek Sloan provided some details of his 12-point pro-life plan.

The second question of the June 18 English debate came from a grassroots member who asked about the role of social conservatives in the CPC, and it was given to Sloan and Lewis during their head-to-head exchange. Sloan said "we cannot be

choice. I agree with gay mar-family is the "cornerstone of afraid to talk about values," and "cannot ignore division," because "the Liberals run divisive campaigns." He insisted that "social conservatives can win with principled stands." He added that it is not right that Canada has no abortion law and said that the situation "puts us out of whack with most of the developed world." Lewis said "social conservatism is a very, very important part of our party" and "traditional and religious values are important to our democracy." Throughout the evening, Lewis said government should do more to promote family as "the bedrock of our society," and committed to enacting legislation to protect parental rights. Erin O'Toole and Peter MacKay talked about social conservatives when discussing party unity and conceded that social conservatives have a place in their party while offering no policy to attract social conservative support.

## Sloan says 'no right' to abortion

On June 3, Derek Sloan sent an email to supporters that began: "I am proabout the right to abortion is a "lie" because "there is no legal 'right' to abortion in Canada, no matter how many times certain politicians lie and say that there is." He explained that Canada has no law after the Supreme Court struck down Canada's permissive abortion law in 1988. Noting the Court "called on Parliament to put in place new laws," he said "so far, Parliament has abdicated its responsibility to do so." Sloan said that abortion would likely never be a settled issue and that he promises to not only permit, but encourage discussion about the issue and would vote for pro-life measures brought before Parliament, including Cathay Wagantall's private member's bill outlawing sex-selective abortion. Sloan noted he is offering the "clearest and

See, 'Sloan' p. 3

## Over one third of Ontario's English Catholic school boards support 'Pride Month'

**Lianne Laurence** Special to The Interim

Eleven of Ontario's 29 English Catholic school boards explicitly acknowledged June as "Pride Month," even though "Pride" events are known for celebrating homosexuality, transsexualism, and other sexually deviant behaviors.

The Catholic boards acknowledged "Pride Month" in the context of assurances that Catholic schools are inclusive and welcoming to all and often used the tagline: "We are all wonderfully made," with an illustration incorporating the rainbow, the symbol of homosexual activism.

While the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that unjust discrimination toward persons with same-sex inclinations can never be condoned, it also teaches that homosexual acts are gravely evil and that the same-sex inclination itself is objectively disordered.

unbelievable. "It's This heresy has spread faster than the Wuhan virus, infecting one-third of Ontario's so-called 'Catholic' school boards with a spiritually deadly disease," commented Jack Fonseca, director of political operations for Campaign Life Coalition. "I'm sad to say it, but those boards can no longer be considered truly Catholic. They've moved into a different realm of spiritual belief, I'm not sure what, maybe pagan," he told LifeSiteNews.

"All of the trustees and administration staff in those boards who were involved in approving this celebration of homosexual sin need to go to confession and then make reparations by recanting this anti-Christian stance.'

LifeSiteNews has reported that Ottawa, Waterloo, Algonquin/Lakeshore, and Thunder Bay acknowledge June as "Pride Month," with Toronto making a nod to it as the month that "mani-

fests pride" for "those in our community who identify as LGBTQ+" in a reference to June as the month devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Kenora, Now the Simcoe-Muskoka, Clair, Niagara, York, and Wellington Catholic school boards have acknowledged "Pride Month" either on social media or their websites. Dufferin-Peel and Northwest Catholic school boards also posted messages strongly signaling acknowledgement of "Pride Month" but stopped short of explicitly doing so.

Catholic The York School Board District tweeted message a Thursday repeating almost verbatim the statement Toronto's Catholic board: "June is traditionally devoted to the sacred heart of Jesus which is a symbol of God's boundless [love] for all. June is also #PrideMonth."

that it was not flying the rainbow flag.

WCDSB's schools will still display the "Catholic Pride" flag in entrances in the coming year, while the board consults with "the LGBTQ community" about next year, it said at that time. WCDSB's director of education, Loretta Notten, told local media the flag was one of a number of options designed by the Institute of Catholic Education.

The Kenora Catholic District School Board announced on its website and Facebook that it "recognizes Pride Month," along with a photo of the rainbow flag. "While the global pandemic means things will look different this year, the month of June continues to be celebrated as PRIDE month in Kenora. This month, and each and every month, our Catholic

schools are committed to nurturing safe and inclu-

This is the image on the flag Waterloo Catholic District School Board (WCDSB) announced would fly at all schools during June.

WE ARE ALL WONDERFULLY MADE

We love because he first loved us. 11 John 4:19)

The Niagara Catholic school board tweeted that it was "pleased to recognize Pride Month in Ontario. We love and celebrate our students, staff and families for the uniqueness of who they are." The illustration it used depicts Jesus with His arms outstretched over an array of rainbow-colored figures and the words "We are all wonderfully made."

However, the board changed its mind after backlash from pro-family groups as well as LGBT activists, who were upset sive learning environments where every student and every member of the community is welcomed, valued, and respected," KCDSB stated on Facebook.

The Simcoe-Muskoka Catholic District School Board both tweeted and posted on Facebook on June 3: "June is #PrideMonth across Canada. As Catholics, we believe that we are wonderfully made in the image & likeness of God, who loves us unconditionally just as we are. We're com-

social distancing that keep

mitted to nurturing safe & inclusive learning environments where everyone is welcome, valued & respected.'

The Ottawa Catholic School Board tweeted: "June is Pride Month! We continue to honour the dignity of every person, embracing diversity and creating welcoming places for all. We are all wonderfully made. We love because he first loved us. (1 John 4:19)."

Dufferin-Peel The Catholic District School headquartered Board, in Mississauga, tweeted an image of the rainbow with a message that LGBT students face discrimination and Catholic schools should be welcoming to all: "Students who identify as LGBTQ+ often face discrimination. We are all created in the image and likeness of God, deserving of dignity and respect. Discrimination undermines the dignity of indi-

CLC's Fonseca called on the bishops of every "affected diocese" to "publicly condemn this counter-witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, while also speaking to the Board of Trustees behind the scenes to demand that they renounce their support for homosexual Pride celebrations." If the bishops do not act, faithful Catholic parents should "meet, in person, with their child's teacher and school principal" in September "to express their expectation that their children will not be exposed to Gay Pride flags nor other Gay Pride Month celebrations, even if that it is requested by the administration," he said. "If teachers and principals are forced to meet face to face with enough parents, hopefully they will ignore the heretical demands of dissident school board trustees and directors of

A version of this article originally appeared June 5 at LifeSiteNews.com and is reprinted with permission.

# Fads, fallacies, and flags



Commentary **Donald DeMarco** 

St. Jerome's University, in Waterloo, Ont., and purportedly a Catholic institution, has decided to fly the LGBTQ flag on its campus to celebrate "Pride" month. Interim President Scott Kline, whose term began on July 1, 2019, defended the action as a way of sending the message that "all are welcome in this place." The immediate reaction to the move has shown significant evidence of outrage and division. Catholics do not believe that we can serve God and mammon at the same time.

It is an odd thing for a university to "welcome" everyone since not everyone who applies is admitted. Sexual lifestyle does not qualify anyone for admission. Therefore, those who are not admitted are not welcomed "in this place." "Welcome" is a politically correct buzzword that is intended to make everyone feel comfortable. But in the world of academe, rejection, firings, dismissals, and failures, are a daily occurrence.

I taught at St. Jerome's for 30 years. Logic was the one subject I taught most often. I recall explaining the "fallacy of accent" to my students. I used the example of "Today the captain is sober," which places the accent on "today" and suggests that the captain is not sober on other days. In selecting the LGBTQ consortium to offer a sign of welcome may lead one to infer that other groups are not welcome. What about that much maligned group that identifies itself as "pro-life"? Where is their flag? And what about plumbers, carpenters, masons, handy-men, and construction workers? To single out one group and reject all the rest does not serve the purpose of welcom-

The Catholic Church teaches that it is an insult to anyone to be identified according to his sexual preference. It can serve as a stigma. Being called "illegitimate," thankfully, is a stigma that we have pretty much expelled from our day-to-day vocabulary. The Catholic Church welcomes sinners, but only because She is confident, given the possibility of grace and forgiveness, that being a sinner is not a permanent condition. The Church welcomes everyone, but She does not have admission require-

Kline has made an egregious misstep which is not only inconsistent with Catholic tradition, but with common sense. Whether he realizes it or not, he is giving approval to lifestyles that are injurious to families and incompatible with so fundamental a value as personal health. His interim term should soon come to an end. He has brought disgrace to a long-standing Catholic institution. By his own actions, he appears to be more committed to fads than to Catholic teaching.

From a personal point of view, Kline has made me feel decidedly unwelcomed. I will not set foot on SJU soil as long as that flag is flapping in the breeze.

Professor Donald DeMarco, a regular contributor to The Interim, is professor emeritus at St. Jerome's University, adjunct professor at Holy Apostles College and Seminary, a regular columnist for the St. Austin Review, and author of numerous books including How to Navigate Through Life and Apostles of the Culture of Life. His next book is Reflections on the COVID-19 Virus: A Search for Meaning, which is in production.



Caleb, 10, of Russell, Ont., constructed a Lego March for Life, using 80 mini-figures and hand-made pro-life

## Sloan highlights social issues Continued from p. 2

strongest pro-life policies of all the CPC leadership candidates," with a comprehensive 12-point pro-life plan. He added that "two candidates, Peter Mackay and Erin O'Toole, offer nothing for pro-lifers in their campaign platforms," and that he hoped "they smarten up, get with the times, and accept the science that life begins at conception."

## Sloan vows to defund pro-abortion groups

In early June when "Defund the Police" was a popular slogan with Black Lives Matter protests in Canada and the United States, Sloan committed to supporting the police but wondered what else might be defunded. He reiterated that he would

defund abortion at home and abroad, including the pro-abortion World Health Organization, International Planned Parenthood, and Pride parades. Sloan once again said "Abortion is not healthcare," and that Justin Trudeau's agenda of "promoting abortion in other countries is just a new cultural colonialism."m."

#### Sloan stands up for churches

Derek Sloan said in a late-May email to supporters that "God matters to a lot of people." Sloan said, "during this unprecedented and trying time, we have found ways for people to get their groceries, to get their alcohol, to get their marijuana, and to get their takeout food, all the while observing the protocols of

us safe," but not churches. "We could - and we should be allowing religious congregations to use their buildings in the same way, with limited seating and social distancing of course, until it's safe to allow things to return to 'normal.' Emergency powers are intended to keep us safe, not to shred our Charter-guaranteed rights to freedom of conscience and religion and of peaceful assembly." He called upon the provinces to allow houses of worship to reopen and hold services while adhering to social distancing rules. "This is not a request for special treatment, he wrote, "but a request for equal treatment." Ontario and Alberta, among other provinces, in late May and early June said that churches and temples could reopen but that they

had more restrictions placed on them than did restaurants, bars and stores. Sloan said, "It was a hurtful insult to these Canadians to have their places of worship classified as non-essential by so many provincial governments. This is just the same as telling these people of faith, who put God at the centre of their life, that religious worship is non-essential, that God doesn't mat-

## Sloan comes out against C-8

Most of the Conservative Party of Canada leadership campaign has been fought online, on social media and through email blasts to supporters and webinars. In a leaked June 2 webinar reported by CTV News,

See, 'MacKay' p. 12

## A fractured universalism

The pandemic lockgown been lifted before riots broke out The pandemic lockdowns had not across America, unrest which then spread throughout the Western world. Sparked by the stomach-churning video of a black man being suffocated by a white cop, the fires of outrage which led to these riots have since cooled, and have now become smoldering piles of suspicion. In corporate, academic, political, and celebrity networks, statements of support circulate as much to express solidarity as to signal virtues and expose the ideologically impure. The bended knee and the repeated phrase "Black Lives Matter" have become shibboleths, tests by which racists are purportedly exposed.

It goes without saying, of course, that nothing could be more precious than life – this fact is the bedrock on which our own crusade on behalf of the unborn

We cannot
give any ground
to social forces
that admit
exceptions to
the human family

is founded. Black life matters dearly, especially in the womb. where it is menaced and maimed with disgraceful impunity. Thus, if the "Black Lives Matter" movement were true to that name, its supporters would not

have converged on police precincts nor would they be toppling the statues of forgotten confederates or Renaissanceera explorers. They would, instead, have headed to the places where black life is being destroyed on an almost unthinkable scale, to the places where black bodies are torn apart every day and their tiny organs trafficked for profit – a practice which draws uncomfortable but clear parallels with the slave trade of old. "Black Lives Matter" activists should be working tirelessly to purge the memory – and stop the ongoing work – of one of the 20th-century's most virulent and destructive racists, Margaret Sanger, the still-lauded founder of Planned Parenthood. But, instead of working to prevent the daily destruction of black life in the womb, this movement has taken aim at something called "systemic rac-

An intentionally vague term, systemic racism is in the eye of the rebellious beholder, and it has been used to indict everything from social structures and psychological patterns. Two important consequences follow from its use. First, by making a nebulous "system" the elusive source of evil, social activists with radical left-wing agendas have convinced those in the demoralized, guilt-ridden West that everything from their culture to their individual psyches are in need of extreme changes. But - and this is the second point – systemic racism makes such extreme changes necessary precisely by collapsing the vital distinction, so central to Christianity, between agent and action, sinner and sin. This distinction is the basis for redemption on a personal level and reform on an institutional one. Without it, there is no hope. In such a paradigm, mobs are only placated when scapegoats are broken or when the extant system is smashed.

Here, a telling contrast can be made with the pro-life movement. If any sys-

tem might be charged with irredeemable corruption - to say nothing of its complicity with the destruction of black life - it is the abortion-industrial complex. And yet, faced with the heinous evil of pre-natal infanticide, the pro-life movement has recourse not to riots but rosaries: Marches for Life, in Canada, the U.S., and across the world, are peaceful and prayerful, conspicuous for their cheerfulness and joy. We sing hymns; we walk with hope; and we see the perpetrators and supporters of abortion as the second victims of that terrible crime. In our view, the parents, the medical and legal professionals, and the politicians who participate in or support this odious evil have themselves been wounded and deceived. They, like the unborn victims of abortion, are the objects of our love and prayers. To them, we hold out hands of empathy, compassion, healing, and forgiveness.

We in the pro-life movement know that there is no such thing as "systemic" injustice, because we know that sinful acts – of racial prejudice or even murder – are always the acts of individuals, and they can, therefore, be forgiven and amended. Those who have been harmed by the evil of abortion are not beyond redemption. Indeed, former members of the abortion industry from Bernard Nathanson to Abby Johnson have become the loudest, clearest voices on behalf of the victims who suffer silently in the womb.

To contaminate any system with an indistinct accusation is to lay the groundwork for more injustice, not less. In fact, while the slogan, "Black Lives Matter" can be charitably read as a protest, an objection to the shameful fact that some lives are implicitly excluded from the statement, "all lives matter," one can also hear, in the insistence of a distinction, a fracturing of the universalism that makes us all members of the same human family. Nothing good can come from such a rupture. Last summer, for instance, the student protestors on the streets of Hong Kong reacted with prescient alarm when the state police began referring to them as "cockroaches." They rightly drew the troubling parallels between previous genocides in Rwanda and Germany where dehumanization in language preceded barbaric programs of real extermination. And we in the pro-life movement know all too well that the dehumanization of the unborn, with euphemisms like "clump of cells" or foreign-sounding technical terms like "fetus," have enabled their murder.

We cannot, therefore, give any ground to social forces that admits exceptions to the human family. All lives matter; and the murder of anyone be they black or white, born or unborn, is intolerable. It is the height of hypocrisy for political radicals to exploit victims of violence to advance their agenda, all the while ignoring the daily plight of the unborn.

Western culture is in desperate need of healing, but not because an undefined demon lurks in the shadows of its systems. Rather, we have been harmed by decades of corrosive violence against the unborn and, more recently, by provocateurs who conceal that very violence and who stoke only the flames of outrage that further their own purposes. But peace on the streets starts with safety in the womb, and our unravelling world needs the pro-life movement's unifying message of universal justice now more than ever.

## DIFFERENT DAY, DIFFERENT PROTEST, SAME PROTESTERS





*The Interim* welcomes letters of 300 words or fewer. Letters may be edited. Please send to:

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## Open letter to PM re: vaccines

Dear Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and political party leaders"

Sending this to you in the hopes you can confirm this article is "Fake News" thanks for your attention to this.

The June edition of The Interim newspaper reported Health Canada is approving human clinical trials using aborted baby fetal tissue cell line HEK293 derived vaccine Ad5-nCov ("Canada approves trial of unethical coronavirus vaccine"). The aborted baby tissue fetal cell line HEK293 was developed by and is owned by Canada's National Research Council. The NRC is working with Chinese Firm CanoSino Biologics Inc. to test and develop Ad5-nCoV in Canada according to the Interim newspaper. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced the collaboration and was quoted in the article that clinical trials would take time and must be done right.

The article reports clinical trials will involve 600 people and the director and his team overseeing the trials in Halifax said they will not wait for full results from one stage to the next, but rather conduct the tests in a more accelerated fashion, without sacrificing safety. Normal safety protocols are being suspended to get a vaccine to market as quickly as possible. Forbes magazine reports that the average time it takes a vaccine to reach market is 10-15 years.

Vaccine Choice Canada founded by families who have suffered from vaccine reactions or injuries, said the source of the vaccine should be a concern for everyone and that rushing a vaccine to market could

do more harm than good.

Aborted baby fetal tissue cell line HEK293 derived vaccine Ad5-nCov is the worlds first coronavirus vaccine to be approved in human clinical tests. It "could be the mark of the beast vaccine."

Jerome Desilets Via email

## Fr. de Valk's influence

Thank you for *The Interim* and especially the article on Fr. de Valk ("Fr. Alphonse de Valk, RIP," May).

I am only two years younger than him, born in 1934. *Catholic Insight* was essentially what persuaded me to become a Catholic, after a lifetime as a Christian, and a member successively of the Church of England, the Methodist Church (both in England) then the Anglican Church here in Canada.

Thank you for everything you have done and are doing.

Jeannie L'Esperance Ottawa

## Fr. de Valk's influence (II)

I am sorry for the loss to *The Interim* and Campaign Life Coalition families with the passing of Fr. de Valk. He seemed like a great man. His writings were clear and crisp, his principles unwavering, and his example unsurpassed. His pro-life battles in Saskatchewan and Alberta are legendary. The pro-life movement, the Catholic Church, and Canada has lost a giant.

Robert Totten Calgary

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## **COVID-19 double standards**



## Law Matters John Carpay

In April, Ontario Premier Doug Ford denounced people who were protesting against the lockdown as "absolutely irresponsible, selfish, reckless, law-breaking yahoos." In Alberta, lone protester Cody Haller was arrested and dragged out of the Alberta legislature grounds by sheriffs on May 11 and slapped with a \$1200 ticket. The Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms is representing several individuals who received tickets and huge fines after peacefully exercising their *Charter* freedoms to speak, move, travel, associate, assemble, and worship.

But now politicians are just fine with blatant violations of social distancing, if it occurs at anti-racism rallies.

On May 30, over 3,000 anti-racism protesters crowded into downtown Toronto, disregarding social distancing. Our Prime Minister did so as well, at a different protest. Yet Ford did not denounce these anti-racism protesters (or the Prime Minister) as "irresponsible, selfish, reckless, law-breaking yahoos." Where is the science? Apparently, in Ford's mind, COVID-19 is a political virus that knows the difference between a protest against racism and a protest against the violation of our *Charter* freedoms.

According to "Ford science," COVID-19 is a deadly killer for Orthodox Jews, who for months on end were denied their *minyan*, the quorum of ten adult men that their faith requires in order to hold a prayer meeting. But COVID-19 somehow does not threaten thousands of anti-racism protesters marching side-by-side. According to "Ford science," COVID-19 is so dangerous that it was necessary to shut down churches, mosques, synagogues and temples for months on end, but COVID-19 poses little risk at Walmart, and at liquor and marijuana outlets.

Likewise, neither Alberta Premier Jason Kenney nor Chief Medical Officer Deena Hinshaw expressed any outrage or condemnation over the violation of social distancing at anti-racism rallies in Alberta.

Now that Messrs. Ford, Kenney, Trudeau (and many other politicians) have rejected social distancing as medically or scientifically necessary, why are so many of Canada's religious leaders still participating actively in

the suppression of freedom of conscience and religion?

Freedom of religion and conscience is the very first freedom protected by the *Charter*. The *Charter* protects the rights of atheists, agnostics and theists alike to ponder life's most important questions: why do we exist? What moral code should we follow when living out our lives?

The *Charter* places the onus on politicians – not the citizens who elected them – to justify "demonstrably" any measure that violates our freedom to move, travel, assemble, associate and worship. Politicians are required by the *Charter* to show that lockdown measures actually do more good than harm.

Most of Canada's religious leaders have joined politicians and chief medical officers in accepting the wildly inaccurate claims of Dr. Neil Ferguson of Imperial College, who predicted in March 2020 that as many as 510,000 people in the United Kingdom would die of COVID-19, along with 2,200,000 Americans.

Inexplicably, most religious leaders continue to accept the political claims that were made in March, but which have proven to be false. By early May, we knew that 95 per cent of COVID-19 deaths occurred amongst those 60 and older, with more than two-thirds of COVID-19 deaths in people 80 and over, and next-to-zero deaths among people under 20. COVID-19 tragically targets the same demographics as the annual flu. This is what publicly available government data is telling us about COVID, from provinces, states, and countries around the world. Religious leaders who love truth owe it to themselves – and to their congregations – to acquaint themselves with facts.

The global COVID-19 death toll (431,000 as of June 13) is within the range of deaths resulting from the annual flu. The annual flu unfortunately claims between 290,000 and 640,000 lives each year, mostly those who are elderly and already very sick. In some years the numbers are far higher: the 1957–1958 "Asian flu" and the 1968–1969 "Hong Kong flu" each took one million lives around the world.

Ignoring readily available facts, the majority of Canada's religious leaders are causing their congregations to live in a state of fear, as though COVID-19 is something like the bubonic plague: a very serious threat to *everyone*, regardless of age or health. In contrast to the layman, religious leaders have a higher duty: to acquaint themselves with the facts, rather than permit themselves to be led about by dubious political claims. There is no wisdom in cooperating with government violations of a fundamental *Charter* freedom. Doing so is foolish if not suicidal.

Lawyer John Carpay is president of the Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms (jccf.ca).

# Moving



From the editor's desk

As I have noted in previous issues, we are putting this paper together remotely, from our homes. Since I returned from a brief vacation to the U.S. in early March, I've been in quarantine with my family. A few days after we returned, the country underwent quarantine to battle the spread of the coronavirus. The fact is, I probably prefer working from home, not commuting, and spending more time with my wife and the five kids that still have at home.

Not working in the office is not so much a challenge as an opportunity lost. No longer is it so simple to commiserate with colleagues at *The Interim* and Campaign Life Coalition; emails, texts, and videoconferences are meagre substitutes for actual conversation. Many stories I write – and sometimes chose to write about – are influenced by conversations with colleagues. Sometimes the importance of an article becomes clear after a conversation about it, other times I see a previously unconsidered angle.

As *The Interim* and CLC moves to Hamilton I thought of barely going into the office. It would be more convenient on a personal level to avoid the three-hour round-trip commute by public transit, convenience that goes beyond the bus or train ride itself and the time in commute: later dinners, missing children's performances and other school events, having my ever-patient wife Christina bare a greater burden of transporting kids to and from school and after-school activities.

I thought of the benefits of working from home and the focus it provides without those distracting but ultimately useful conversations.

But then my thoughts turn, as they often do, to the big

picture. What is work for? As Sean Speers, a former policy advisor to Stephen Harper, says, work is about more than a paycheck, it is about the non-financial benefits of work. Some of those include dignity, self-worth, and sense of purpose. Another, Speers says, is interaction with co-workers and customers. It ties us to a group of people we might not know otherwise. I don't consider my work colleagues family, but they are an important community, especially considering that we share core values about life, faith, and family. We are models of faith and family to each other, supporting what often seems to be counter-cultural lifestyles of fidelity to traditional ways of organizing our lives.

The fact is, I probably would not be the Catholic I am today without seeing orthodox Christianity lived around me by my co-workers; I'm not sure what my family life would be like without witnessing so many large families that I have come into contact with because of the pro-life movement.

My compromise between the various needs and wants and desires when it comes to balancing work and family is that I will commute to Hamilton twice a week and work from home three days a week, once commercial life is reopened and life returns to normal. I do not (quite) share the pessimism of my friend Rick who said "they don't seem to want us to be a society." But to ensure that I am connected to others and have the relationships that make us human and humane, it may be necessary to endure the inconvenience of the 90-minute commute to our new offices.

Which brings me, finally, to emptying my Toronto office. After 19 years, I have accumulated a bountiful set of newspaper clipping and other files and a nice collection of books. There is not room for it all in the new, smaller offices. The pandemic quarantine prevented a proper redistribution of some of this material to those who may have wanted what did not make the move to the new office or my home office. I am genuinely sorry about that.

I was surprised that I suffered no nostalgia whilst whittling what I was keeping and what would be donated, recycled, or trashed. Like the late Fr. Alphonse de Valk, I'm trained as a historian and value the substantial archives *The Interim* and CLC have accumulated over decades. But ultimately, the office, the memories, the archives, is not about things, but people. It is about co-workers, but more importantly it is about those people vulnerable to the Culture of Death. Our work to protect them continues, regardless of where I sit to put out *The Interim* each month.

# Conservative judicial activism?



## National Affairs Rory Leishman

Should morally enlightened judges strike down any statute that sanctions pornography, abortion, or euthanasia?

The late, great Antonin Scalia did not think so. As a devout Catholic, he clearly understood that pornography, abortion, and euthanasia are unmitigated evils, yet as one of the most learned judges ever to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States, he insisted that it is not unelected judges, but elected representatives of the people who have the constitutional authority and the moral obligation to eliminate immoral statute laws.

As a general rule, Scalia held that judges should not legislate from the bench, but stick to upholding the plain words of the laws and the Constitution as duly enacted and originally understood.

On this basis, Scalia voted time and again as a Supreme Court justice to reverse *Roe v. Wade* and other similar judicial errors which purported to discover an implicit right to abortion hidden in the United States Constitution. However, that is as far as Scalia was willing to go on this subject. In a May 2002 *First Things* article "God's Justice and Ours," he maintained: "If a state were to permit abortion on demand, I would – and could in good conscience – vote against an attempt (by the Supreme Court) to invalidate that law for the same reason that I vote against the invalidation of laws that forbid abortion on demand: because the Constitution gives the federal government (and hence me) no power over the matter."

On this point, Adrian Vermeule, a professor of law at Harvard and a recent Catholic convert, fundamentally disagrees. In a controversial article in *The Atlantic*, "Beyond Originalism," he argues that Scalia was wrong to hold that judges, as judges, have no authority to rewrite the laws and the Constitution to conform with their judicial understanding of morality.

According to Vermeule, the problem with judicial activists on the Supreme Court of the United States over the past 60 years is not that they legislated from the bench, but that they did so by imposing a wrongheaded, "conventionally left-liberal" set of "substantive moral commitments and priorities" including legalized abortion on demand and same-sex marriage.

In contrast to Scalia, who opposed judicial activism in principle, Vermeule favors judicial activism, but only as practiced by enlightened judges who take "a robust, substantively conservative approach to constitutional law and interpretation" that includes "a candid willingness to 'legislate morality'." Although Vermeule does not say so explicitly, it is clear from the tenor of his argument that he, unlike Scalia, thinks conservative judges should have no compunction about amending or striking down any constitutional provision or statute law that permits induced abortion, euthanasia, same-sex marriage or any other transgression of the divinely sanctioned natural moral law.

What should we make of this argument? Russell Hittinger, Warren Chair of Catholic Studies and Research Professor of Law at the University of Tulsa, sides with Scalia. In *The First Grace: Rediscovering the Natural Law in a Post-Christian World*, Hittinger argues that under some extreme circumstances, a judge should resign rather than uphold an evil law, but "the judge, insofar as he is a judge, is not entitled to plough ahead and substitute his own law for that of the legislator, whether the legislator is divine or human."

Apart from this debate over the limits of judicial authority as defined in natural law, how practical is Vermeule's proposal? Is it likely that the Supreme Court of the United States, which now consists of four left-leaning judicial activists and five originalists in the Scalia mould, will end up any time soon with a majority of conservative judicial activists dedicated to imposing the fundamental principles of the natural and divine moral law?

Obviously not. If anything, Vermeule's advocacy of judicial activism could play into the hands of liberal pro-abortion judges who might soon reconstitute a majority of the Supreme Court of the United States if Joe Biden, that shamelessly pro-abortion Catholic, wins the presidency.

Be that as it may, it is noteworthy that by working through the democratic process rather than relying entirely on the courts, pro-lifers in the United States have made considerable legislative and judicial progress in many areas of the country in recent years. These pro-lifers, and their beleaguered counterparts in Canada, should continue to do the same – strive for democratic, legislative change, confident that in the dominant court of public opinion, the truth is bound eventually once again to prevail that all human beings have been endowed by their Creator with an inalienable right to life from conception to natural death.



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# UN, US in abortion conflict

## Human rights groups chastise UN abortion advocacy

Paul Tuns

Since Donald Trump became U.S. president in January 2017, he has vowed not to support the global abortion industry through American taxpayer funds. Since last October, his administration has ramped up its criticism of several United Nations efforts to promote abortion through various declarations and policies.

Last year, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar called for the term "sexual and reproductive health" - a term that includes abortion - to be deleted from several different UN declarations. On May 18, John Barsa, acting director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), sent an open letter to UN Secretary-General António Guterres, urging him to ensure the UN will "stay focused on life-saving interventions" and remove references to "sexual and reproductive health and its derivatives" from the Global Humanitarian Response Plan on COVID-19.

Guterres' spokesman Stéphane Dujarric responded to Barsa's letter saying, "any suggestion that we are using the COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity to promote abortion is not correct." Dujarric added that while supporting lifesaving health care, "we do not seek to override any national laws."

And then last month, the Working Group on

discrimination against women and girls at the Special Procedures of the UN Human Rights Council issued a statement fighting back against the U.S. The statement criticized several U.S. states for declaring abortion a non-essential service during the COVID-19 quarantine that shut down countless businesses, churches, and charities, beginning in March.

In the statement, the Working Group complained that "some U.S. states appear to be manipulating the COVID-19 crisis to curb access to essential abortion care," and named Alabama, Arkansas, Iowa, Louisiana, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas as states that declared abortion not an essential service. "We regret that the above-mentioned states, with a long history of restrictive practices against abortion, appear to be manipulating the crisis to severely restrict women's reproductive rights," said Elizabeth Broderick, vicechair of the Working Group. "This situation is also the latest example illustrating a pattern of restrictions and retrogressions in access to legal abortion care across the country. We fear that, without clear political will to reverse such restrictive and regressive trends, states will continue pursuing this pattern."

Those eight states insisted that medical resources be reserved for health care workers battling the pandemic. Some abortion

against facilities abided by the at the orders, while others sued of the their respective states to re-

On behalf of the Working Group, Broderick also said, "abortion care constitutes essential health care and must remain available during the COVID-19 crisis. Restrictions on access to comprehensive reproductive health information and services, including abortion as well as contraception, constitute human rights violations and can cause irreversible harm, in particular to low-income women and those belonging to racial minorities and immigrant communities."

The Working Group also said it was "extremely concerned" by Barsa's letter to Guterres asking that references to "sexual and reproductive health and its derivatives" be removed from the Global Humanitarian Response Plan on COVID-19. It stated: "We reiterate that sexual and reproductive health services, including access to safe and legal abortion, are essential and must remain a key component of the UN's priorities in its responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. Removing references to sexual and reproductive health from the HRP will have devastating consequences for women worldwide. It will seriously undermine the international community's joint effort to respond to women's health needs in this time of crisis."

The Working Group's statement reflected the

views of five independent "experts:" Meskerem Geset Techane (an Ethiopian lawyer and High Court judge, and a current appointment as associate scholar at the Women's Human Rights Education Institute, University of Toronto); Elizabeth Broderick (a longtime Sex Discrimination Commissioner in Australia); Alda Facio (a founder of the Women's Caucus for Gender Justice at the International Criminal Court); Ivana Radačić (a part-time lecturer at the University of Zagreb, focusing on women's rights); and Melissa Upreti (a Nepal lawyer who has worked with the U.S.-based Center for Reproductive Rights and founded the South Asia Reproductive Justice and

Accountability Initiative).

The statement was also endorsed by Dainius Pūras, Special Rapporteur on the right to physical and mental health, and Dubravka Šimonovic, Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences.

Trump withdrew the United States from the Human Rights Council in 2018, saying it had become too politicized.

Meanwhile, 434 human rights groups from Central and South America published the "International Manifesto for the Right to Life" in response to the UN Humanitarian Response Plan COVID-19. The manifesto was delivered to foreign ministry offices in Argentina, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Peru amid concerns that the UN was pushing abortions in countries where life is protected from conception.

The document calls on the international organization to "focus on public policies based on human dignity" and cease "any attempt to interfere with or attack the sovereignty of our countries, in particular coming from the U.N. and its principal agencies." It notes that the UN has pressured Ecuador to provide "safe, legal abortion" as a condition for COVID-19 funding. To receive a humanitarian aid package, the Ecuador government, which has a constitutional provision saying life begins at conception, had to agree to earmark \$3 million for abortion-training for medical professionals.

Among the international agencies specifically named in the manifesto were the United Nations Population Fund, UN Women, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund.

The manifesto also rejected "Joint the Statement on Protecting Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Promoting Genderresponsiveness in the COVID-19 Crisis" signed by representatives of 59 countries including Argentina, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Peru.

See, 'Ecuador' p.9

# **Evil spirits**



## Light is Right Joe Campbell

Of course I believe in ghosts. I've been one. So have most writers who detoured through public relations on the way to more honourable callings. Chances are they've ghostwritten letters, speeches, articles, even books, not to mention jokes, apologies, eulogies, and marriage proposals. In public relations, things are not as they seem.

For some years, I ghost wrote annual reports for the president of the institution that employed me and letters, articles and briefs for the president of an organization I volunteered with. I received no public credit for these editorial misrepresentations. Ghosts rarely do.

Looking back on my time as a ghost, I sometimes wonder about the ethics of it. Oh, I know that moralists say there is nothing wrong with putting your best foot forward. But the officials I wrote for were putting my best foot forward as if it were theirs. This is troubling. I agreed to give them some of my prose, not one of my feet.

Writing isn't the only craft that relies on ghosts. Singing, dancing, instrumental performing, and acting do as well. In Hollywood musicals of the 1930s and '40s, characters were expected to break into song without notice. If they weren't able to, they lip synched to ghosts. This could be disconcerting when different ghosts sang for the same actors in subsequent movies. You didn't know whether to admire the actors' versatility or scorn their inconsistency.

I was really disappointed to learn that one of my favourite tap dancers didn't sing any of her songs and another sang only some. Now, when I watch DVDs of their movies, the knowledge that I'm listening to ghosts detracts from the magic. I can't get used to the idea that my favourites are deliberately deceiving me.

At least their dancing is authentic. Or so I thought until I discovered that an uncredited body double danced for the star in a more recent Hollywood movie. So now when I sample my DVDs I can't help wondering whether that's really Eleanor Powell, Vera Ellen, George Murphy, or Gene Kelly. Or is it only a series of uncredited ghosts?

Characters in the old musicals weren't just expected to sing without warning. Many were also expected to accompany themselves or others on the piano, and a few did. The rest faked it while ghost pianists, unseen and unacknowledged, made them sound and look good.

Not all ghosts are unheralded. Paramount Pictures credited a couple of jazz musicians who ghosted for Fred Astaire and Burgess Meredith in a movie about rival trumpet players vying for the same woman. I don't know why the studio revealed the fraud. Maybe Fred and Burgess were afraid that if it didn't they'd have to join the musicians' union.

A fellow musician and I used to take turns ghosting for a friend who enjoyed pretending that he could play the trumpet after just three lessons. But we only did it at parties and never for pay.

A consummate mimic, the would-be musician weaved and swiveled convincingly, fooling most of the partygoers. He continued to fool them when he held the trumpet with one hand and waved with the other. He even fooled a few when he put the horn to the side of his head and signaled that he was playing by ear. He fooled only a couple, though, when he pretended to play through his naval.

The first Hollywood ghosts, I suspect, were stunt men, now known as stunt persons (to include women) or stunt performers (to include other species) or stunt doubles (to include – I'm not sure what they include. Maybe conjoined twins). Anyhow, stunt men, women, performers or doubles replace actors in scenes too dangerous or difficult for them to play.

The depth of the duplicity is stunning. Why, a series of aptly chosen ghosts can make a tone deaf wimp with two left feet seem like a melodious daredevil with wings on his shoes.

But human ghosts can't match their digital counterparts in deception. Digital ghosts regularly correct the pitch in vocal and instrumental performances and even remove wrong notes. So if you want a career as a singer, but can't carry a tune, don't worry. Your digital ghost can carry it for you.

If you want a career as a cover girl, but don't have the desired look, take heart. Your other digital ghost can make your skin clearer, your teeth straighter, your lips poutier and your body slimmer.

The Gospel tells us that Satan is the father of lies. I sometimes wonder whether he has anything to do with ghosting. He's a spirit, you know.





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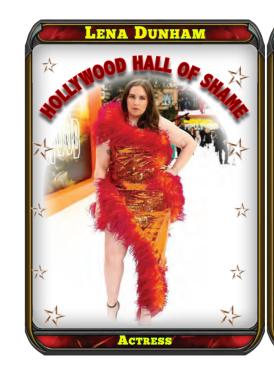
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# **CELEBRITIES** SAY THE **FUNNIEST THINGS**



- Born: May 13, 1986, New York City
- Marital status: Single
- & Children: None
- Career highlights: Girls (2012–2017)
- Abortion activism: Sold 169 inner and outer garments from her closet over RealReal and donated all of her 70 per cent commission to Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

"Now I can say that I still haven't had an abortion, but I wish I had."

·Lena Dunham on a December 2016 episode of her "Women Of The Hour" podcast



- Born: December 19, 1972, New York City
- Marital status: Twice
- Children: Two
- Representation 2 Career highlights: Who's the Boss (1984-1992), Charmed (1998-2006), Hall Pass (2011)
- Awards: "Favourite TV Actress," Kids Choice Awards, "Spirit of Compassion Award," UNICEF (2015), "Ariadne Getty Ally Award," GLAAD Gala Forum (2018)

"I knew at that time, I was not equipped to be a mother, and so I chose to have an abortion. I chose. It was my choice. And it was absolutely the right choice for me."

· August 20, 2019 podcast



Born: November 22, 1958

- Santa Monica, California
- Marital status: Married
- Children: Two (adopted)
- Career highlights: Halloween (1978), True Lies (1994) and Freaky Friday
- Awards: Two Golden Globe awards
- Abortion activism: Took part in an online telethon-style fundraiser for Planned Parenthood, along with celebrities such as Iane Fonda and Tim Robbins.

"Proud to be the spokesperson of @ PPFA and to introduce you to their new program of Telehealth. Important. Vital. Private."

• April 17, 2020 tweet introducing Planned Parenthood's over-the-phone abortion service



- Born: November 17, 1960,
- San Diego, California Marital status: 'married' to same-sex partner
- Children: None
- Career highlights: RuPaul's Drag Race (2012-present)
- Awards: GLAAD's Vito Russo Award for promoting LGBTQ+ equality (1999), six Prime Time Emmys, and Time's list of 100 most influential people (2017).
- Abortion activism: Raised money for Planned Parenthood when he appeared on the May 11 2020 episode of the Price is Right.

66We live in a masculine-dominated culture. How dare some man tell a woman what to do with her body. That is outrageous! Outrageous. As a human, that is a big issue for me that really strikes a chord."

·2017 interview with Marie Claire magazine



- Born: December 1, 1970, Bedford, N.H.
- Marital status: Said she would never get married
- Regional Children: none
- The Sarah Silverman Program (2007-2010)
- Awards: Two Primetime Emmy Awards
- Abortion activism: Long-time vocal support of abortion, including contributing to "7 Inches for Planned Parenthood," an album to raise funds and awareness for PP.

"TONIGHT AT 7 wherever you are, Join in dedicating your salute to essential workers to abortion providers,"

•May 31, 2020 Instagram post encouraging her followers to #clapforabortionproviders



- Born: September 1, 1970, Madras, India
- Marital status: Divorced
- Children: One
- Career highlights: Easy Exotic: A Model's Low Fat Recipes From Around the World (1999), Top Chef (2006-present)
- Affiliations: An ACLU Artist Ambassador for women's reproductive health and immigration rights.

"If you identify as male and someone you love has had an abortion or you just support a woman's right to choose, NOW is the time to let it be known. Use #himtoo and share your

·May 15, 2019 tweet



- Born: April 19, 1968, Los Angeles, California
- Marital status: Divorced
- Children: None
- 2 Career highlights: A Time to Kill (1996), Double Jeopardy (1999)
- Abortion activism: Works with the pro-abortion Population Services International and United Nations Population Fund

"We've always known that for antichoice politicians, it's never been about valuing human life. It's about control."

> ·April 21 2019 tweet in support of NARAL Pro-Choice America attack on Republican lawmakers



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# Ecuador pressured

Continued from p.7

Luis Losada, director of the Latin American branch of the pro-life organization CitizenGO, told the Catholic News Agency that

commitment to respect the sovereignty of nations. He said that the international interference of the UN and its agencies "violates the statutes of the United Nations that expressly commit it to not interfere in national policies or legislation, respecting the sovereignty of nations."

Losada said that the financial pressure exerted on Ecuador during the pandemic failed to respect the parliamentary debate that took place just last year when a constitutional amendment was added recognizing that life begins at conception. Martha Villafuerte of Ecuador for the Family said that "it is unacceptable to try to take advantage of the situation to slip in through the back door a crime that the Constitution rejects."



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# When police stop seeing persons



## **Talk Turkey Josie Luetke**

In early 2016, an Arizona police officer yelled highly Lonfusing commands at a sobbing and terrified Daniel Shaver (who, as it turns out, was unarmed), warning him that if he made a mistake, he might die, and die he did. For the sake of this column, I rewatched the video of this incident, witnessing his body crumple as it was peppered with bullets. Believe

Just this year, officers in Lethbridge, Alberta, weapons drawn, took down (but thankfully didn't kill) a poor 19-year-old girl because she was carrying a plastic gun as part of a Stormtrooper costume she was in to advertise the Stars Wars Day promotion at her work-

Like all of you, I also watched the asphyxiation of George Floyd.

I don't want to talk about his past or the looting and rioting, which many of you are all too eager to distract yourselves with. I want to talk about law enforcement - those who are supposed to serve and protect – abusing their power, because aggression from state actors is far more perturbing than any civilian crimes.

These stories are not one-offs. There are so many more I want to share that I just don't have the space for, countless examples of police on pandemicfed power trips slapping down punishing fines the moment a plebeian dares question them. The response of the police to the George Floyd protests has been distressing. No one has been spared. Reporters have been arrested and shot at; a 75-year-old was shoved and fell, leaving him with a brain injury. Suffice it to say, there's an extremely fat record of police overreach and brutality that signals a systemic problem, one that's worsened by racism. If you don't buy that, do your own research.

Granted, this isn't a "life issue" as we typically conceive of it, but it's obviously still life or death; you could ask Shaver and Floyd if they were still alive.

It is apropos to quote Martin Luther King Jr.: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." The belief in the value and dignity of every human being underlies the pro-life position, so whenever that dignity is assaulted, so too is the philosophy that the pro-life movement is built on.

Let's also not forget that preborn children and their pregnant mothers can be victims of police brutality. On May 25, the same day Floyd was killed, Emerald Black filed a lawsuit alleging cops stomped on her belly last year and caused her to miscarry. A pregnant protester in Austin, Texas, was reportedly recently shot with non-lethal rounds, including in the abdomen. There's an outstanding question as well about whether tear gas can be abortifacient. (Pro-choicers have been asking, "Where's the pro-life outrage?" Well, here it is.)

We pro-lifers have learned to be suspicious of our various legislatures and courts, knowing well how biased they are and their history of unjust policies or decisions. Unfortunately, many of us don't seem to have the same suspicion for "law enforcement," even though they enforce the unjust part of it too. Who arrested Linda Gibbons, Mary Wagner, and Fr. Tony Van Hee after all?

Police officers can no more excuse their actions by claiming that they're just following orders than can a doctor who's told to commit an abortion. Neither can they excuse their actions with fear. They ought to be prepared to lay down their lives before using force inappropriately and if they're not, they have no business wearing the uniform.

We are the ones who put the guns in the hands of cops and so it's all the more necessary that not a single misstep of theirs be tolerated. As comedian Chris Rock pointed out, "Some jobs can't have bad apples. Some jobs, everybody gotta be good. Like, pilots. American Airlines can't be like, 'You know, most of our pilots like to land, we just got a few bad apples that like to crash into mountains'."

And if the bad apples aren't being rootled for and immediately thrown out? The whole force is rotten. The bad apples prove that the badge doesn't make one deserving of power and deference. The good apples, then, know that it's their job to personally earn the respect of civilians, who have no other way to distinguish between the good and the bad.

The Police Executive Research Forum's "Guiding Principles on Use of Force" state first and foremost: "The sanctity of human life should be at the heart of everything an agency does." That's not the case across North America - and pro-lifers should have no problem insisting it be.

## Friends of Life for Life

"Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from Him."

Psalm 127:3

"Voici, des fils sont un héritage de l'Éternel, le fruit des entrailles est une récompense."

Psaumes 127:3

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# Liberals have pattern of discriminating against pro-life groups

Continued from p. 2

May 28 that the Liberals had heeded the request and added the critical phrase. A CEBA applicant is now asked to confirm that it "does not promote violence, incite hatred or discriminate on the basis of sex, gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion, culture, religion, education, age or mental or physical disability contrary to applicable laws."

The reader also noted that the Royal Bank of Canada had not yet updated its website to reflect the change. LifeSiteNews contacted RBC for comment but did not hear back.

The CEBA is available for businesses, non-prof-

its, and registered charities that generate a portion of their income from the sale of goods and services, and appears to be the only Liberal COVID-19 economic relief measure with a "non-discrimination clause."

"We are pleased to see the federal government include acknowledgement of the rule of law in its CEBA requirements," Moore told *LifeSiteNews* in an email.

"Requiring that government decision-makers apply an objective standard of what is 'contrary to applicable laws' should provide legal protection to faithbased groups against being targeted by the subjective dislike of those exercising

government authority," he

That terms like "discrimination" and "hatred" are abused by government staffers who interpret these terms subjectively has been demonstrated by federal decisions "denying religious organizations eligibility to apply for Canada Summer Jobs grants," he

The JCCF is currently suing the Liberals on behalf of BCM International, a Christian organization that runs the Mill Stream Bible Camp & Retreat Centre in Peterborough, which was denied CSJ funding for the summer of 2019.

With the summer jobs ment decision-makers have ed with permission.

demonstrated a pattern of disregarding whether or not something is 'contrary to applicable laws' in targeting religious beliefs that they dislike or do not understand," Moore said. "One hopes that the federal government will not have the same disregard for this important clarification in the CEBA require-

Groups or organizations that believe they are being discriminated against by the government on the basis of their religious beliefs or practices can contact JCCF, added Moore.

This article originally appeared May 29 at program, "federal govern- Lifesitenews and is reprint-

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# Black Lives Matter supports abortion, LGBTQ+ agenda

Paul Tuns

Following the death of George Floyd – he died after being arrested for allegedly using a counterfeit \$20 bill and the arresting officer, Derek Chauvin knelt on his neck and back for nearly nine minutes there were protests, first in Minneapolis and later across the United States and around the globe, organized by Black Lives Matter and other civil rights groups. Black Lives Matter, polls showed in mid-June, was more popular than President Donald Trump in the United States and demands to "defund the police" are being seriously discussed in various municipalities including Minneapolis, Los Angeles, New York, and Washington D.C. But what do people really know about Black Lives Matter (BLM) and its

Ryan Bomberger is the founder of Radiance Foundation, "a life-affirming organization that creatively illuminates that life has purpose." The organization has four key values: "Every human life has purpose;" "We are called to love one another and show compassion to those in need." "The most fundamental right is the Right to Life;" and, "Family is the foundation of every society."

On June 5, he posted on the Radiance Foundation website, "Top 10 reasons I'll never support the #BlackLivesMatter movement." He was later interviewed on Jonathan Van Maren's LifesiteNews podcast about it, where he extrapolated upon the ten points. He said "the premise is not true; there is no goal of forgiveness or reconciliation, and, it's all about Black Power." But Bomberger also raises issues related to life and family, where BLM is on the wrong side. He noted that BLM promotes the LGBTQ+ agenda, ignores fatherhood, undermines the family, and supports abortion. He said "apparently, not all black lives matter," in regard to BLM's support of a full range of reproductive rights, including abortion.

According to U.S. census data, blacks make up 13 per cent of the American population, but according to the Centers

Disease Control, black women account for about 40 per cent of all abortions. Research by Protecting Black Life found that 79 percent of Planned Parenthood surgical abortion facilities are located within walking distance of minority neighborhoods and that an estimated 20 million black preborn babies have been killed by abortion since Roe v. Wade in 1973. New York City health statistics show that more black babies are killed by abortion than are born each year.

Reflecting on such numbers and the fact that Margaret Sanger supported eugenics policies, *Wall Street Journal* columnist William McGurn wrote that "This doesn't mean that Planned Parenthood promotes abortion so America

Donald Trump's 2018 State of the Union address, BLM released a response, which included support for abortion: "We deserve and thus we demand reproductive justice that gives us autonomy over our bodies and our identities while ensuring that our children and families are supported, safe, and able to thrive. We deserve and thus we participatory demand democracy that encompasses political, economic, cultural, spiritual, and sexual self-determination." In 2016, it announced it would "partner" with "reproductive justice groups to fight for black women." In 2014, BLM partnered with black "reproductive justice" organizations such as Trust Black Women and New Voices for Reproductive Justice.



Ryan Bomberger of the Radiance Foundation published a widely distributed list of the "Top 10 reasons I'll never support the #BlackLivesMatter movement."

will have fewer black citizens. But it's undeniable that this is the outcome of what they are doing." Asking for Sanger's bust to be removed from the National Portrait Gallery's 'struggle for justice' exhibit, Senator Ted Cruz (R, Texas), said that "her racist views have had a very real and devastating impact on the widespread destruction of unborn human life."

Despite the numbers that show black Americans are disproportionately victims of abortion, BLM supports abortion rights and abortion rights groups, and they, in turn, reciprocate the support.

Following President

Accepting as the "intersectionality" model of social phenomenon - what Wikipedia explains is "the interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage" - the groups said that it was not possible to understand the oppression that all blacks face without understand the lack of bodily autonomy black women have when it comes to deciding how many children they might have.

In a statement by the Trust Black Women Partnership, the group said: "Our lives are at stake. To realize a future where Black Lives Matter, we must Trust Black Women. To Trust Black Women is to affirm that Black Lives do Matter. So we say, in

the same breath, in the same freedom song: Trust Black Women. Black Lives Matter."

Alicia co-founder of BLM, said in an interview with RH Reality, a pro-abortion website: "reproductive justice is very much situated within the Black Lives Matter movement. And the way we talk about that is that, essentially, it's not just about the right for women to be able to determine when and how and where they want to start families, but it is also very much about our right to be able to raise families, to be able to raise children to become adults.... And that is being hindered by state violence in many different forms. One form being violence by law enforcement or other state forces, and the other form of crisis through poverty and lack of access to resources and lack of access to health communities that are safe and sustainable So we certainly understand that BLM and reproductive justice go hand in hand." Without a hint of irony, in that same interview, La'Tasha D. Mayes, founder and executive director of New Voices for Reproductive Justice, said "freedom from violence is reproductive justice."

Before co-founding BLM in 2014, Garza worked with pro-abortion groups for a decade before becoming "disillusioned" with Sanger and the movement's eugenic and racist history, so she re-labeled her work reproductive justice instead of reproductive rights and began promoting abortion as a means of bodily autonomy for black women. Furthermore, the director of communications for BLM Global Network Shanelle Matthews, worked as a strategist for the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California on reproductive freedom and LGBTQ rights, co-founded the Reproductive Justice Advocates, and serves on the board of directors for the National Network of Abortion Funds.

When the BLM protests and riots started after George Floyd's death. NARAL Pro-Choice America, National Abortion Federation, and numerous state and local affiliates of Planned Parenthood made statements in support of BLM. Planned Parenthood of Greater New York posted a statement in favour of dozens of black and gay rights groups, noting, "Planned Parenthood of Greater New York stands with all those fighting

against white supremacist terror. The road to liberation is long and will take all of us. The time to invest in the future of racial justice is long overdue." Another affiliate posted the message: "We're devastated, grieving, and outraged by violence against black lives. We must continue to demand accountability, justice, and an end to the inequity that continues to define every moment of life for Black America from the racist institutions that

uphold white supremacy." In its statement, NARAL Pro-Choice America said the death of Floyd was "a snapshot of the violence and racism Black people in America face every day due to entrenched white supremacy. Further, we understand that we are part of a system of structural racism unless we are every single day working to unlearn it and fight against it. Silence is not an option." It continued, "We witness and actively work against reproductive oppression," with nary a word about the disproportionate number of black babies killed by abortion.

'Reproductive justice' essential to BLM

The National Abortion Federation released a statement that began: "These senseless killings shine a light on the systemic racism and white supremacy that pervade so much of our society. We know that these systems of hate and oppression affect the lives and safety of Black people every day and that we must speak out and condemn these murders and the systems that allow them to happen, as silence and complacency only serve to condone these injustices." It went on to commit to helping "Black and Brown" abortion providers and abortion clients get the resources they need to provide abortion to the black community.

When the first BLM protests took place six years ago, Milwaukee Sheriff David Clarke tweeted that "If only these faux protesters were asked by media about all the black on black killing or black babies aborted in US every year." When interviewed about the tweet on CNN, Clark said: "Look, the abortions? If Black lives - if they really mattered, that's where the outrage would be; that's where we'd see protests."

During the latest round of protests, that message is getting out again. On June 5, Maria Church was taking part in a Walk About Jesus street evangelism at the Alabama Women's Center for Reproductive Alternatives in Huntsville, holding a sign that said: "Many George Floyds will die here today." She was assaulted by a passer-by who said the comparison was ignorant.

BLM is also radically supportive of the LGBTQ+

agenda. On the BLM "what we're about" section of its website, there is no mention of police brutality or prison conditions, but there are four separate references to homosexual or transgender issues. It states: "We are guided by the fact that all Black lives matter, regardless of actual or perceived sexual identity, gender identity, gender expression, economic status, ability, disability, religious beliefs or disbeliefs, immigration status, or location." And in the next paragraph, it commits to "make space for transgender brothers and sisters to participate and lead" stating that "We are self-reflexive and do the work required to dismantle cisgender privilege and uplift Black trans folk, especially Black trans women who continue to be disproportionately impacted by trans-antagonistic violence." Later, the statement affirms, "We foster a queer-affirming network. When we gather, we do so with the intention of freeing ourselves from the tight grip of heteronormative thinking, or rather, the belief that all in the world are heterosexual (unless s/ he or they disclose otherwise)."

As Bomberger says, BLM "heavily promote(s) homosexuality and transgenderism."

Bomberger told Van Maren that Christians can have nothing to do with BLM. "The Bible is unambiguous about sexuality. Loving every human being is not the same as loving every human doing."

He also said that BLM ignores fatherhood. BLM's 'what we're about" states, "We make our spaces family-friendly and enable parents to fully participate with their children. We dismantle the patriarchal practice that requires mothers to work 'double shifts' so that they can mother in private even as they participate in public justice work." And in the next line, it says: "We disrupt the Westernprescribed nuclear family structure requirement by supporting each other as extended families and "villages" that collectively care for one another, especially our children, to the degree that mothers, parents, and children are comfortable."

Bomberger told Van Maren that ignoring fatherhood is a fatal mistake for the black community. "Fatherless communities are far more vulnerable to any predator, whether it's the abortion industry or drugs," he said. "But I don't hear that being talked about."

Bomberger said BLM is about black power and despite the importance church to many black Americans, it is completely devoid of any religious foundation or acknowledgement of God. He said that churches need to lead the movement for racial reconciliation because the secular movements have "no forgiveness. No reconciliation at its heart is leading it."





## Revolution



## Laying Down the Lawton Andrew Lawton

Australian wildfires. A global pandemic. Murder hornets (if you don't know, don't ask).

Could a revolution be next among 2020's offerings? I don't, but that doesn't mean things aren't changing.

After a police officer was filmed with his knee on George Floyd's neck during an arrest in Minneapolis –.an arrest that proved fatal for Floyd –.a racial reckoning began. What started as a movement to condemn police brutality became about broader racial issues, then went the way so many protest movements do by becoming about any and every grievance imaginable.

As such, within just a week, not only did black lives matter, but also capitalism was wrong and trans women are women.

This – combined with violent rioters and looters whose conduct claimed lives, including black lives – took what was an important discussion and rendered it a revolution against everything, yet also nothing.

When Floyd was killed it seemed for a moment that everyone could be united in mourning a needless death and demanding accountability and justice. Such a moment was destined to be a fleeting one in an era in which nothing can exist without being politicized.

One can be a supporter of police and an opponent of racism. Anyone who calls themselves pro-life should deplore senseless and unnecessary death. It's entirely valid to say Floyd should be alive today without needing to bestow sainthood upon him.

None of these nuances has existed in any substantive way in the weeks since Floyd's death, as calls for change took on the form of abstractions and political posturing from so many adopters.

United States senator and former presidential candidate Kamala Harris joined one of the earliest protests outside the White House. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau took a knee before protesters in Ottawa as did numerous police chiefs across North America.

These displays make for good photo ops but are befuddling. If people are protesting the system, the politicians who are the system can't join them without admitting their own complicity in the problems they are eager to identify despite years of silence.

Protesters are trying, at least in theory, to elicit action from those in positions of leadership. If politicians are allies, legislation accomplishes more than a dusted up knee.

Trudeau has not spoken about widespread institutional and systemic racism in Canada and Canadian policing in the five years he's been in office, yet his sudden awakening suggests it's a no-brainer that these things exist.

No doubt there will be reviews, consultants, inquests and all sorts of other naval-gazing exercises to get to the bottom of what the system needs –.but without a clear focus we won't stray all that far from where we are now.

Is the answer more civilian oversight in policing? Is it education? Is it demilitarizing the police?

Calls to "defund police" have been mixed between those seeking to jiggle around some budget line-items and those who see the existence of police departments as a fascistic and patriarchal blight that needs to be purged. It's hard to find any middle ground when these are the starting positions.

Polarization is never pleasant, but it was particularly bad when exacerbated by months of lockdown and coronavirus fears – both of which have emboldened a healthy amount of distrust in a number of institutions.

But the question remains to anyone seeking change: What do you want?

There are lots of people willing to tear things down. We've seen police cars vandalized, a Wendy's torched, careers ruined, and statues toppled. No where am I seeing a commitment to rebuilding anything from the ashes of what's been destroyed.

Celebrities, journalists, and executives have lost their jobs to the mob for saying (or thinking) the wrong things, even if done innocently enough. This mentality is not new but certainly had a renewed power after Floyd's death. There are surely casualties of this climate whose names we'll never know, too.

Any true revolutionary is seeking change, not simply a void. Though a void is all we'll be left with, once the grievance-mongers are through, given the path that's been forged.

It's easy to take down things and people, which is why the old trope of a boss telling the employees to bring solutions, not just problems, is so familiar.

Anything long-lasting must be built by people committed to real change. A lot must go into this –.including prayer and patience.

# MacKay attacks Sloan

Continued from p. 3

Derek Sloan criticized C-8, the government's ban on so-called conversion therapy, which would criminalize medical or spiritual counseling to fight unwanted same-sex attractions and gender confusion. Sloan had also railed against C-8 in an email in March. If passed, C-8 would also prohibit parents from seeking to help their son or daughter from pursuing homosexual or transgender identities. Sloan said that while doctors and families can put children on puberty blockers and amputate healthy sex organs, "The Liberals have said 'no, you can't get counselling and if a parent, as a parent, you take your kid to get counseling for this, you can go to jail for five years.' That's insane, that's ridiculous." He called invasive surgeries and hormone therapy as a form of "child abuse." Sloan has said that if elected prime minister he would do what the United Kingdom has proposed and ban both sex-change operations and hormone therapy for minors under 18. Peter MacKay, the presumptive frontrunner, said that Sloan's remarks were 'reprehensible," as both MacKay and Erin O'Toole have endorsed Bill C-8.

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## Lewis, Sloan oppose unethical vaccines

Leslyn Lewis Derek Sloan say they object to coronavirus vaccines made fetal cells obtained from aborted babies decades ago. In May, Canada's National Research Council announced it would work with the Chinese research firm CanSinoBio to develop a coronavirus vaccine. The vaccine, Ad5nCoV, co-developed with the Chinese Academy of Military Medical Sciences, employs aborted fetal cells in its research. LifeSiteNews asked Lewis and Sloan if they approve of vaccines derived from aborted babies and both gave pro-life answers. Lewis said, "Canada should hold itself to the highest

ethical standard possible" and "a nation like ours with the creativeness and ingenuity of our doctors should never need to breach ethics in order to make every effort to save lives." Sloan said using cell lines derived from aborted babies is "reckless and irresponsible." Sloan said, "Canadians should not have to choose between their health and their conscience." LifeSiteNews also asked Erin O'Toole and Peter MacKay about vaccines, but neither responded. Sloan has also come out against a mandatory COVID-19 vaccination in order to return to school or work. Lewis tweeted that decisions about vaccinations should be made by individuals and their family physician.

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 $\label{thm:continuous} \emph{Violence breeds violence}. \textit{ Please pray to end abortion}.$ 





# Will we recognize our lives when we get them back?



# **Amusements Rick McGinnis**

With the end of the coronavirus lockdown in sight as I write this, we'll finally get to see how the greatest social experiment of the 21st century will finally play out. By the time you read this you may be able to visit your elderly relatives or sit in a restaurant or watch a movie in a movie theatre. Perhaps one, or even two, of these – but almost definitely not all three.

And so our lives are returned to us, piecemeal. I will not look back on this chapter of history with fondness. But I can already tell that I might miss the way that a mute button seemed to have been pressed in the city around me. With automobile traffic wildly reduced, commercial air traffic nearly nonexistent and everyone either jobless or working and studying from home, my hometown felt almost pastoral, and the parks began filling up with the first warm days.

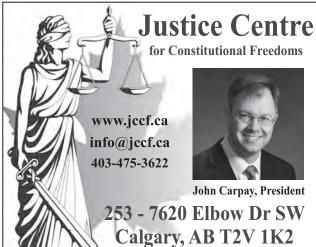
When a downtown Toronto park was inundated with young people on one of the first balmy weekend, there was a wave of indignant condemnation that was notably missing a couple of weeks later when a wave of street protests saw similar if not larger crowds. But we'll get to that in a moment.

Perhaps a few of us began sheltering in place with lockdown goals – a list of projects ranging in ambition from reading more books to a basement-to-eaves house cleanup, to finally embarking on a long-postponed creative project.

I can look back on the lockdown with a mixture of accomplishments. I didn't finish a single book, but that might been the fault of starting with an 800-plus page history of the naval arms race that preceded World War I. I did, however, watch hundreds of hours of YouTube videos on saw mills, bushcraft, cooking in the wild, and watch and guitar repair. In a world of enforced idleness, it was comforting to at least watch someone else do practical things.

My business as a professional photographer dropped off to nothing, so I set myself to a series of self-assignments, shooting landscapes and street photography and dozens of still-life in our kitchen, of flowers and groceries and spring buds and trash collected from the alleyway behind our house. I also photographed a wedding, as a favour – the first I've shot in 25 years, one of only five people allowed in the church according to the city's social distancing rules.

In "The Privilege of Boredom," an essay about isolation and inspiration published in the *Times Literary* 





Supplement, Oxford professor Anil Gomes recalls the last day before lockdown when he went to his daughter's school to teach philosophy. While the remaining teachers frantically prepared distance learning programs, Gomes sat down on the floor with the remaining students and played a series of mental games, asking them to imagine the first impressions of aliens visiting our world – if they put a chair on their head, would that make it a hat?

"A year three told me that she could sit on her sister but that doesn't make her a chair," Gomes remembered. "They fizzed with ideas and laughter. The next day we all withdrew into our homes."

Using Rene Descartes' *Meditations on First Philosophy* as a guide, Gomes allows us to imagine that the lockdown should be a period of massive inspiration. The French philosopher "begins with a withdrawal," Gomes writes. "The meditator isolates himself in a warm room, free of all distractions, so that he can properly examine his beliefs and identify those that will form the firm foundation of his philosophy. There he stays for six days..."

Lockdown, of course, lasted very much longer than six days, but Gomes realizes early on that this isn't just a meditative but a domestic withdrawal, where many of us were isolated with roommates, spouses or partners, children and even parents: "Withdrawal from the world is not much of a withdrawal when some of the world comes with you."

Reflecting on the rare circumstances that allowed Descartes to self-isolate in search of inspiration – a world without modern communications technology, and where a man of means like Descartes could rely on servants to keep him fed, laundered and watered – Gomes acknowledges that Descartes' creative self-exile (not very different from Henry David Thoreau's in *Walden*) was very much a luxury.

Descartes' exercises were, Gomes writes "designed to take our natural aptitude for thought, to channel it and to inculcate habits of attention. This is difficult. It is time-consuming. It is also deeply, deeply boring. And this was surely its point, for it is only by going slowly that the mind can be led away from itself to God and the truth"

I haven't been bored since I was a child, and even then I think I understood – as Gomes did, and Descartes – that boredom is a luxury. When my own children first complained to me that they were bored, my instinctive response was to say "I don't care." I'm hoping that I was able to teach them to enjoy boredom, as there will be enough in their life to come that will demand their attention, either with creativity, novelty and experience or (mostly) with duty, chores, social obligation and the pursuit of a wage. They certainly never complain about being bored any more, which seems like a miracle with teenagers.

Perhaps the lockdown will produce an explosion of invention, creativity and inspiration. That remains to be seen. The worst outcome, however, would be that millions of people, deprived of distractions and occupations, worried about paying for necessities, restricted from most human contact and kept in a simmering state of fear and anxiety, would explode out of isolation at the first excuse to voice their outrage and frustration.



Which is, of course, exactly what happened.

The needless killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police united everyone I knew, right or left, in sorrow and anger. But that only lasted a moment, and since no crisis can be wasted, protesters took to the streets, followed close behind by looters and suspiciously well-prepared rioters whose primary role seemed to be to destroy that brief moment of unity.

Crowds that were condemned as careless and even aggressive threats to public health just a week or two previously were being excused and applauded. And any baffled questions about the wisdom and severity of the previous three months of lockdown in the light of official support for the protests were quickly drowned out – a perfect way to ensure that future conspiracy theories will thrive.

A virus that kills without regard to race or gender (but concentrates its intent on the aged and infirm) was suddenly superseded as #1 threat by lethal institutional racism. The question changed from "Why aren't you wearing your mask?" to "Are you wearing that mask to hide your face from security cameras, block tear gas, or prevent infecting your fellow protester?" As with any moment of precarious social calamity, we found ourselves asking questions we'd never have imagined asking before.

And like so many otherwise inexplicable moments we're living through, it all starts to make sense if we appreciate it as a religious moment in a presumably secular society.

The *National Review* ran a story about Smooth Sanchez, a YouTuber who posted a livestream where he wandered New York City during the height of the Floyd protests. Trolling the crowds, he approached white women and (falsely) identified himself as a member of Black Lives Matter, asking them to kneel, apologize for their privilege, and admit their complicity in crimes against minorities. He insisted on referring to Floyd as "George Foreman." Almost no one corrected him.

Sanchez wanted to expose the gullibility of the people he approached, but by this point there was plenty of footage online of white people voluntarily kneeling to apologize for their privilege and culpability in systemic racism, some even organized by church pastors. One such event featured a pastor and his flock washing the feet of black activists, a ritual that echoes the priest re-enacting Jesus' actions before his crucifixion – an annual ritual that's part of Catholic Holy Thursday Mass.

"It feels as though many of those whom Sanchez films have transcended the material plane and reached a level of mystical elevation in their political fervor," writes Dmitri Solzhenitsyn in the *National Review*. "To them, the woke genuflection of repentance is like unto a kneeling prayer, the renunciation of one's identity unto devout asceticism, the obeisance of the supposed minister of Black Lives Matter unto humility before divine authority"

I'm certain that it's impossible to breed the religious impulse from human beings, and any student of history knows that religion –particularly the Protestant, charismatic, evangelical variety – is hardwired into America's society and culture. Slavery and racism are often described as America's "original sin," so it's not surprising that acts of atonement and penance familiar to any regular churchgoer are being acted out by and prescribed to people who might not have been inside a church since they were teenagers – if ever.

Much as churchgoers have been deprived of religious fellowship and community for months, everyone else has had their life as social beings voluntarily suppressed. One of the few activities encouraged and celebrated amidst social isolation has been ministering to the sick and the dead, and the people occupied with this task were celebrated and described like people sheltering from medieval plagues would have honoured clergy. Though I can't help but wonder if there was a Black Plague equivalent to line dancing in scrubs on TikTok. Another one of those questions that we never thought we'd ask ourselves.

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## And then there was this ...

#### Canada

Justin Trudeau's Liberal government has announced new funding of \$8.9 million for international abortion organizations. As outlined in this column last month, Trudeau's core government "foreign policy" was revealed as a threefold, interconnected, abortion platform: feminism and the rights of women and girls; the right to safe and accessible abortion; and, promotion of LGBTQ rights. In addition, Canada's deputy minister proudly declared that this platform and funding underline Trudeau's push for a seat on the U.N. Security Council. (Woops, Canada came up 20 votes short as Norway and Ireland were elected to fill two seats reserved for western Europe and Canada.) In 2019, Trudeau pledged \$1.4 billion, every single year until 2030, to international organizations that advocate for and carry out so-called sexual health and reproductive rights in developing countries, with half being reserved for abortion. In June, this paper also introduced porn baron Phil Harvey to our readers. Harvey is a billionaire who funds abortion through his multiple sleazy endeavours (including mail-order porn). He founded and sits on the board of the abortion conglomerate Marie Stopes International. His finger is in the recent funding from the Trudeau government. Out of the new funding of \$8.9 million, Marie Stopes, which is already generously funded by Harvey and various governments, will receive \$4.9 million from Canadian taxpayers. Another \$2 million will go to Ipas, another global abortion provider but which focuses on India. And the U.N. will receive \$2 million in their fight against gender-based violence against women. So, these three international abortion supporters and providers will have their coffers topped up with Canadians' money. Note that all three "endeavours" support the Trudeau government's 'foreign policy' platform. And it was all done under the auspices of pandemic funding

Choice 42 - Choice for two - is a Canadian pro-life, nonprofit organization that "connects with abortion-minded women and works with them to help them chose life over termination, and assists them in finding the resources the women need." Laura Klassen, founder of Choice42, crowd-sourced nearly \$3,000 through GoFundMe to assist three pregnant women in need-in Zimbabwe, in Canada and in the United States. GoFundMe, not supportive of the urgency of the women needing the funds, withheld the money because it says that Zimbabwe is not supported by their payment processes, and then cut off contact with Klassen. It was only when she went to social media, explaining that she had done everything the company had asked her to do that a representative of GoFundMe contacted her. However, the stalemate had not been resolved at the time *The Interim* went to press, and a member of Choice42 put up her own personal funds to ensure that the three women who are in dire need of help are assisted. Klassen confirmed that her organization will no longer use GoFundMe as their fundraising platform.

## **United States**

The all-but-official Democrat nominee for president, Joe Biden, released a video about his complete support for the abortion agenda. Employing euphemisms to barely disguise his abortion extremism, Biden said: "It's a simple proposition, health care is a right not dependent on race, gender, income, or zip code. As president I'm going to do everything in my power to expand access to quality affordable health care for women. We will protect women's constitutional right to choose, and I am proud to stand with you in this fight." That means taxpayerfunded abortion, for any reason, up to and even after the moment of birth. As a career "Catholic" Democrat, Biden has long opposed taxpayer-funder of abortion, but flipflopped last summer after abortion activists criticized him for being insufficiently pro-abortion. The Democrats have a litmus test on abortion for candidates for high office: no questioning of the abortion license, no legal limits on the practice of pre-natal or even neo-natal homicide if procured as a choice of the mother.

It will come as no surprise that Planned Parenthood endorsed Joe Biden in the race for U.S. president. What was maybe a tad surprising was the wording that Planned Parenthood's acting president Alexis McGill Johnson used: "This is literally a life and death election." We'll leave it there without comment.

Obianuju (Uju) Ekeocha, an African pro-life leader presently living in the U.K., has appeared many times in The *Interim*. She is a fierce defender of the unborn and of her traditional African culture. A recent video of Nancy Pelosi (D-California) and her Democratic colleagues kneeling "in solidarity" with black people during the U.S. riots has resulted in comments and criticism worldwide, not the least because of the colourful scarves worn by these kneelers? Uju (and others) pointed out the hypocrisy of these "virtue signallers": "I had to say something about the American politicians shamelessly and ignorantly using the Kente fabric as a prop in their virtue signaling." She continued: "Excuse me, Democrats. Don't treat Africans like we're children. The fabrics and these colorful things (i.e., in this instance, the scarves) that we have within our culture and our tradition, they all mean something to us. I know you look at us and you say, 'Oh, Africans are so cute in all your colorful dresses.' Well, some of those dresses and patterns and colors actually do mean something to us."

"We're devastated, grieving and outraged by violence against Black Lives. We must continue to demand accountability, justice and an end to the inequality that continues to define every moment of life for Black America from the racist." That tweet was sent out during the riots and looting in June. Every respectful person can agree with the statement and maybe share the anguish that the tweeting writers seem to be suffering - except for one small detail. Those who are "devastated, grieving and outraged" are the very persons who prey on black Americans and abort their children. These tweeted "anguished cries" are those of Planned Parenthood, purveyors of death, despair, injustice, and inequality. No, sisters, you have it backward. Because of the violence Planned Parenthood inflicts on unborn black children and the money it makes from the killings, Planned Parenthood has no credibility at all in respect of human life. Spare us the tears; the hypocrisy is numbing.

Since 1973, 18 million, six hundred and five thousand, two hundred and thirty-seven (18,605,237) black babies have been aborted in the U.S. (as of 12 noon, June 13, 2020 according to the website numberofabortions.com. That website gives the "real-time abortion counter based on the most current statistics," for a number of categories, including number of black babies eliminated by abortion in America. As the site explains, each abortion counter is a real-time estimate of the number of abortions in the U.S. and worldwide based on the very latest data, although world statistics are not broken down by country. Most of the abortions reported are surgically induced; there has been no attempt to tally the totals for chemically-induced abortions. Pharmacists for Life estimate that there have been approximately 250 million babies aborted chemically in the U.S. since 1973 (Roe v. Wade). The site explains why it includes a "black baby counter." It was requested by two African-American religious-based groups to "highlight the disparity of the high number of abortions in the black population," which was part of Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger's eugenics plan. African-Americans are just under 13 per cent of the U.S. population, and yet 36 per cent of all abortions are obtained by black women. At a ratio of 474 abortions per 1,000 live births, black women have the highest ratio of any group in the country. Abortion is the leading cause of death among blacks, and yet, it is completely ignored by Black Lives Matter and its supporters. If black lives really do matter (and they do) why does BLM support abortion and accept the support of the National Abortion Rights Action League and Planned Parenthood, among others?

In the middle of massive protests against the police killing of George Floyd, two New York police officers ignored the rioting, looting, and lack of social distancing and focused their attention on two black pro-life women peacefully praying in front of the Margaret Sanger Planned Parenthood facility in Manhattan. The women, standing on the public sidewalk obeying distancing rules, not interfering with pedestrian traffic, were praying when they were handcuffed, taken away in a police

cruiser, and charged with violating COVID-19 social distancing guidelines. One of the women commented to FOX News: "It's really truly biased against Christians, against pro-life abolitionists." In a related incident, David Benham, noted entrepreneur (who with his brother had their home improvement series cancelled on TV because of their non-related pro-life work) and Christian pro-life activist was cuffed and arrested outside a Charlotte, N.C. abortion facility. He claims that his group was following distancing rules, as a video confirms, and his charitable, non-profit Cities 4 Life is allowed to continue its work during the pandemic according to the rules of North Carolina. Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas) has pledged his support for Benham. Those are only two of a number of pro-life demonstrators being arrested during the pandemic, including another North Carolina group that has engaged The Thomas More Society in filing a federal lawsuit. And yet other demonstrators are allowed flout physical distancing rules in the thousands, with not only impunity but political, corporate, and media cheerleading. The double-standard is sickening and will only further erode trust in our institutions.

Democrat Senator Elizabeth Warren (Mass), reportedly on the short-list of vice presidential candidates being considered by Joe Biden, tweeted in June that "the murder of black trans women is an epidemic." Of course, the death of any person is a tragedy and every human being, before and after birth, has the right to life. But is there really an epidemic of black trans women murders? One of the self-identified transgender individuals highlighted in Warren's tweet was shot during a robbery gone bad. That does not seem like a gender identity-related crime to us; more being in the wrong place at the wrong time. In other words, a tragedy. Warren is playing identity politics on steroids pandering to black trans women - not blacks, not women, not trans, but black trans women. It makes you wonder if politicians like Warren see the human being behind the various identities they have.

Zoom meetings became ubiquitous during the pandemic as employers and friends met on the online portal that provides live audio and video. Whatever other issues might arise with Zoom, count on an academic (or two) to find the most bananas criticism possible. Caroline Brooks and Amy Bonomi of Michigan State University published an essay in MSU Today titled "There's an unconscious bias in virtual meetings. Here's how you can avoid it." Brooks and Bonomi wrote: "There's an issue happening beneath the surface with platforms like Zoom, Teams, and Skype beyond stress and mental health that's affecting its users." The problem? The "symbolism and nonverbal cues that reinforce normative social identities with respect to gender, race, sexual preference, and socioeconomic status." A prime example, they noted was having pictures of weddings or families in the background, which Brooks and Bonomi complain, "unintentionally reinforces the idea that marriage is most fitting between opposite sexes." Sometimes a picture is just a picture, not systemic oppression.

## **International**

Many jurisdictions are reporting a decline in abortions during the pandemic. The French Health Minister even worried that not enough women were having abortions. The Catholic News Agency reports that there has been a 40 per cent decline in the number of abortions this spring in Mexico as people were confined to their homes. Alison Gonzalez of the pro-life Pasos por la Vida (Steps for Life) said that pro-abortion groups are using the declining number of abortions as a talking point in arguing for do-it-vourself chemical abortions at home. Gonzalez said, "it is incredible that given the times we're living in, there are institutions that only think about abortion." Maria Lourdes Varela, director of 40 Days for Life in Ibero-America, Mexico, said "if there are more babies, they should be welcomed as they are human beings who deserve the same rights and opportunities we do." More good news from Mexico: state legislators in Guanajuato and San Luis Potosi rejected efforts to legalize abortion. Although 18 of 32 Mexican states passed right-to-life measures in 2016, abortion activists have been agitating to remove protection for babies in the womb.

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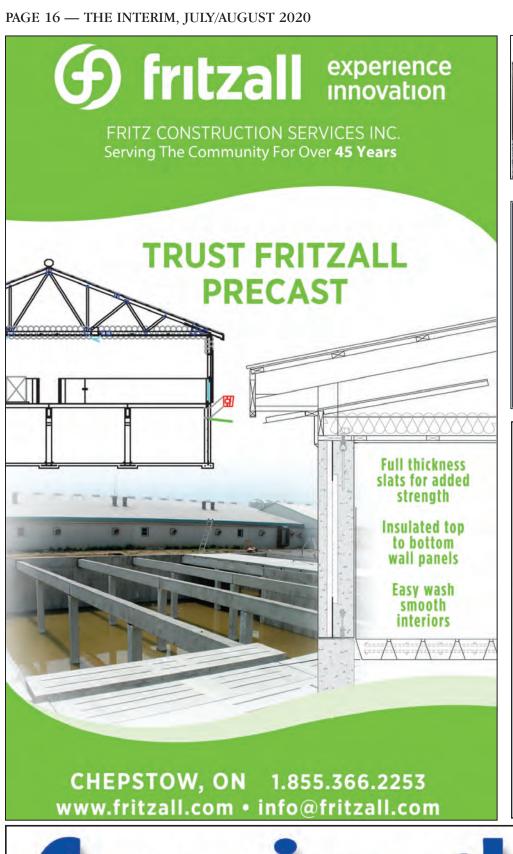
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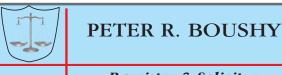
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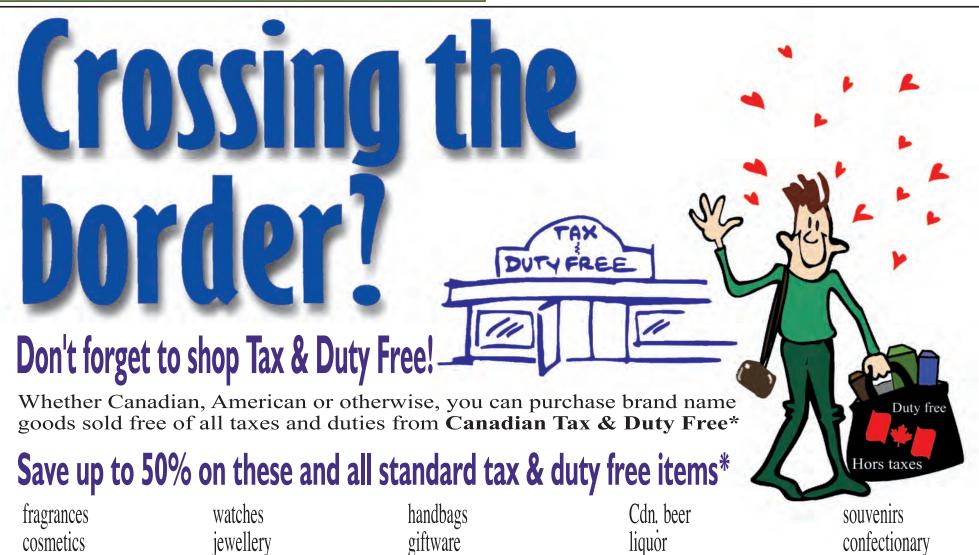
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