



President's Message

Happy Easter! We have some good news to report. As you will read in the enclosed news, we have a pro-life candidate running in the Conservative Party of Canada leadership race! And 40 Days for Life campaigns are ongoing throughout Canada, including for the first time right here in Hamilton. Hooray!

My Lenten sacrifice this year was going to be praying an hour a day at the 40 Days site and going to daily Mass. Well, that came to an abrupt halt on Ash Wednesday evening when I slipped on ice and cracked a rib! Ouch! I suppose God wanted me to have a different Lenten sacrifice this year. I'll be recuperating from that very nasty fall for at least 40 days. I'll get back on the frontlines as soon as I am able.

I have confidence in the words of St Paul who said: "I planted the seed and Apollos watered it, but God made it grow." We are all planting seeds through our prayer, sacrifice, and good works. Keep it up. We know how the story ends: Life wins! Easter proves that.

For Life,

Jeff Gunnarson
Jeff Gunnarson,
National President



Pro-life rated MP enters CPC leadership race

MP **Leslyn Lewis** (Haldimand—Norfolk) put her hat in the ring in early March in a bid to win the leadership race of the Conservative Party of Canada (CPC). Pro-lifers now have at least one, and perhaps two or three candidates (see below), they can vote for. We've given Lewis a "green light" rating for her public record in favour of life.

Since becoming a MP in 2021, Lewis has been a vocal advocate for life, promoting the life-saving work of pregnancy care centres and defending free speech. Lewis spoke at our Save our Pro-life Charities rally last November, stating that what Prime Minister Trudeau is doing to strip crisis pregnancy centres of the charitable status is "just wrong."



MP Leslyn Lewis at CLC's Save our Charities Rally on Parliament Hill, Nov. 24, 2021. Photo: CLC

In the previous CPC leadership race held in 2020, Lewis ran proudly on a pro-life platform. Although she finished third place, she won the popular vote on the second ballot, beating **Erin O'Toole**, the eventual winner. His stronger score in Quebec ultimately won him the crown, but Lewis came close. Lewis is campaigning this time around on the themes of "hope, unity and compassion."

While more leadership candidates may emerge, the declared candidates at press time along with Lewis were Conservative MP **Pierre Poilievre**, Brampton

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mayor **Patrick Brown**, former Liberal Quebec premier **Jean Charest**, Ontario independent MPP **Roman Baber**, Saskatchewan businessman **Joseph Bourgault**, pro-abortion Conservative MP **Scott Aitchison**, and Conservative MP **Marc Dalton**. **Peter MacKay**, the Red Tory who finished second to O'Toole in 2020, has announced that he will not run.

As we wrote in our news last month, **Pierre Poilievre** is pro-abortion and supports same-sex "marriage." He has utterly abandoned pro-life-and-family positions he formerly held when CLC first helped him win his nomination during Stephen Harper's government.

You may remember **Patrick Brown** winning the leadership of the Ontario PC party in 2015 with the help of social conservatives who supported his then-pro-life-and-family stances. After winning the race, Brown went on to betray social conservatives on practically every major issue, flip-flopping on abortion, marriage, and sex education. As leader of the Ontario PC party, Brown became pro-abortion stating in 2017 that "any policy that attempts to limit a woman's right to choose or the ability of same-sex couples to marry are off limits, period." In the end, Brown lied to party members about what he actually stood for. "He did exactly what he promised not to," we stated in 2017. After Brown was forced to resign from the Ontario PC party in 2018 in the wake of allegations of sexual misconduct (from which he has since been cleared), he mocked "social conservatives" in a tell-all book as "dinosaurs who are becoming less and less relevant every single day." Brown entering the race is certainly an attempt to steer the CPC to the left in the same failed direction that Erin O'Toole was trying to steer the party.

You may remember **Jean Charest** as the former Premier of Quebec, 2003-2012. Charest, like Brown, is no friend of the pro-life and pro-family movement. In a 2009 interview, Charest called the



Pierre Poilievre

Patrick Brown

Jean Charest

Roman Baber

Joseph Bourgault

Scott Aitchison

Marc Dalton

abortion debate “settled,” adding that “we will not come back to it. Women must have access to this service.” He certainly wants to move the CPC further left on moral issues, further making the Conservatives indistinguishable from the Liberals and NDP. It’s interesting to note that Charest was an idol of the young Patrick Brown and the two have been friends for 25 years. Inside sources have indicated that Charest, who has powerful allies in Quebec, entered the race with a secret deal with Brown to make one of them the next Conservative leader. Both have agreed not to say a bad word about the other. It’s quite possible that Charest entered the race to ultimately drum-up the crucial Quebec support for Brown whom Charest would endorse later in the race.

As for **Roman Baber**, we still have to evaluate how he would handle abortion, euthanasia, and other moral issues as a potential leader of the party. He has been a critic of Doug Ford’s pandemic restrictions and is a vocal defender of the right of Canadians to make their own medical decisions when it comes to getting the jab.

Businessman **Joseph Bourgault** from Saskatchewan is running on a platform to “eliminate COVID-19 Mandates and not allow vaccine passports now or in the future,” “eliminate the Carbon Tax,” and defund the CBC. He wants to create a “Pro-Life and Family Culture” by “empowering our citizens to create families in our communities.” Bourgault pledges that he would create “support structures to help families experiencing unplanned pregnancy to ensure that they have the financial, spiritual and social support to be confident in raising a healthy and happy family.” Bourgault states that he believes in “God as our creator and the Creator of all natural (scientific) laws governing our peaceful and harmonious co-existence” and that “our Rights of Life, Liberty and Pursuit of Truth - to understand Natural Laws - were granted to us by our Creator, and not by Governments.” CLC is currently reaching out to Bourgault to find out exactly where he stands on abortion and other life issues. We will update you next month.

Conservative MP **Scott Aitchison** (Parry Sound – Muskoka) has not released any details about his bid for leadership of the CPC. We’ve rated Aitchison as pro-abortion and pro-LGBT based on his voting record. He has voted against outlawing sex-selective abortion, in favour of keeping persons who struggle with unwanted same-sex attraction locked in their LGBT identity, and in favour of expanding the euthanasia killing regime.

Conservative MP **Marc Dalton** (Pitt Meadows-Maple Ridge), a former elementary and high school teacher, entered the leadership race on March 20th, saying that his first action as leader would be to call a “national inquiry into the COVID-19 pandemic” that would include examining how much of the “government’s action was about political advantage rather than public health;” the “breaches of the Canadian Charter of Rights;” the “coercive measures that the government took to get people vaccinated;” and how much the government knew about vaccine injuries and deaths and yet still wouldn’t give people a choice.”

As a former BC MLA, Dalton was attacked by the radical leftist union bosses at CUPE in the 2017 provincial election for having pro-family beliefs. He has a largely pro-life-and-family voting record, but has thus far not answered our questionnaire on abortion. Last year, he voted to outlaw sex-selective abortion in which unborn babies are killed for no other reason than their sex. In 2020, he voted against expanding euthanasia. We’re currently reaching out to Dalton to find out exactly where he stands on abortion and other life issues and will update you in next month’s news .

The CPC’s Leadership Election Organizing Committee (LEOC) has set the rules for the race. Candidates for leadership must be members in good standing for at least six months before the race started and must become a candidate by April 19. Candidates must raise \$300,000 to enter the race, a \$200,000 entrance fee and a \$100,000 deposit to ensure they play by the rules. They must also secure five hundred endorsement signatures to continue the race.

To vote in the leadership race, Canadian residents must be members of the CPC by June 3. Voting will take place by mail, with ballots being mailed to party members in late July/early August. The outcome of the voting will be revealed Sept. 10.

It is vital that pro-lifers inclined to support the Conservatives — and anyone else who wants to help elect a pro-life leader — ensure they have a valid CPC membership. There is at least one pro-life candidate running, perhaps two, and they deserve our support. We expect more pro-lifers will enter the race. Please contact the CPC party to see if your membership is still valid. You will need to be a member by June 3 and your membership must be valid through the leadership race’s duration. Please do not delay, become a member today. Please let us know that you took out a party membership by calling us or sending

an email to elections@campaignlifecoalition.com. It's important for us to track how many pro-lifers are getting involved.

Action item: Become a CPC member or renew your membership to vote for pro-life candidates.
Visit www.conservative.ca

UN cancels pro-life groups, including CLC

In a move that can only be described as discriminatory and unacceptable, the United Nations (UN) excluded pro-life non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including CLC, from fully participating in the March 14 to 25 UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), by rejecting their applications to host parallel events.

Answering the call of Pope John Paul II in the early 1990s, CLC has continued its involvement at the UN and its many conferences, providing support to pro-life delegates and being a voice for the unborn. In recent years, we've held numerous events at a number of UN meetings and had planned to do so again this March.

But in February, we got word from the Non-Government Organization Committee on the Status of Women, New York (NGO CSW/NY), the organization that oversees CSW parallel events on behalf of the UN, that our event had been rejected: "Unfortunately, your request to host an event has been denied as your event does not align with NGO CSW/NY's values and/or mandate." We were deeply disturbed that this committee has created an ideological litmus test that they are applying to groups wanting to hold official parallel events, with the apparent goal of ensuring that pro-life groups are excluded.

This year's theme was "Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes." CLC submitted a written statement to the UN, which was accepted and published on CSW's website, calling for respect for all human beings from the time of conception onward. In addition to applying to run a parallel event, which was denied, CLC put together a delegation of about a dozen young adults who were tasked with virtually attending the various parallel and side events during the two-week conference. They asked questions, took notes, and wrote reports. In just the first few days, they had the opportunity to witness first-hand how many pro-abortion players at the UN are trying to promote population control through abortion and sterilization programs as a solution to climate concerns. More will be written about this in the next issue of CLC National News.

We were not the only pro-life groups to be denied a parallel event. The New York-based Centre for Family and Human Rights (C-Fam) issued an open letter to the UN on behalf of over 450 organizations, including CLC, who decried the UN's discrimination against pro-life and pro-family groups. The spirit of debate and openness that is supposed to animate the United Nations as a way of coming to solutions to the world's problems has given way to

cancelling groups that present a challenge to the pro-abortion orthodoxy that reigns at the upper echelons of the UN.

Our Communications' Director Pete Baklinski commented on this in a blog on our website: "At the end of the day, having a secret values test that targets pro-life groups is simply an unfair and discriminatory practice. Shame on the Government Organization Committee on the Status of Women and shame on the United Nations for enabling this censorship to continue. Accredited NGO's deserve a fair and level playing field."

40 Days for Life Winter/Spring campaign

The 40 Days for Life vigil kicked off on March 2nd in 13 Canadian cities and continues through to April 10. The movement first came to Canada more than a decade ago when Campaign Life Coalition kickstarted the first prayer vigils outside abortuaries in Toronto, Ottawa, and Halifax. Since then, it has grown and thousands of Canadians have publicly prayed outside abortion killing centres for an end to abortion and for the women entering them.



40 Days for Life

The name "40 days" comes from the timeframe God consistently uses throughout salvation history to transform His people. For example, God washed sin from the earth with 40 days of rain in the time of Noah. The Hebrew people wandered in the wilderness searching for the promised land for 40 years as a corrective punishment for worshipping false gods. Jesus prepared himself to transform the world by fasting and praying for 40 days in the wilderness.

In a victory for pro-lifers last month, a Canadian judge ordered a pro-abortion woman and her allies in Ontario to stop sabotaging the 40 Days for Life campaigns. The woman and her friends would fill vigil spots with no intent to participate, fill shopping carts in the 40 Days for Life Store with no intent to purchase, publish online personally identifiable information about 40 Days for Life personnel, and encourage others to do the same. 40 Days for Life headquarters took legal action and we were pleased to see justice being done in this matter. Pro-life advocates deserve to have their campaigns run peacefully and without being sabotaged by those who support the killing of children in the womb.

Here's a beautiful and touching story from a recent 40 Days for Life campaign in Helena, Montana. An elderly woman named

Margaret was involved in organizing the campaign. She was dispirited over what seemed to her a lack of positive results. She felt helpless when she one day learned that her own granddaughter was planning to abort her great grandchild. Not too much later, Margaret unexpectedly got a call from several volunteers for the 40 Days for Life she had organized. There was a baby that had been saved. A young girl had changed her mind. It turns out it was Margaret's granddaughter. 40 Days for Life saved the life of Baby Leo, Margaret's great-grandchild.

Untold numbers of babies have been saved throughout the years where these campaigns have been running in numerous cities across the world. We know of at least a handful of babies who were saved here in Canada in the Fall 40 Days campaign and the current campaign. There are 40 Days for Life vigils currently going on in Vancouver and Victoria in British Columbia, Calgary and Edmonton in Alberta, eight communities in Ontario (Guelph, Hamilton, Oakville, Peterborough, Sarnia, Toronto, Welland, Windsor) and Montreal. Contact your local pro-life group or the 40 Days for Life website for more information.

Action item: Join a 40 Days for Life campaign near you before April 10 to help save lives. Visit: campaignlifecoalition.com/40-days-for-life

2022 National March for Life will be awesome



We're just one month away from the May 12 National March for Life in Ottawa. Yes, we are going to be gathering in person to march in our nation's capital. And, we'd love to see you there.

The more pro-lifers we can have there on May 12th, the louder the message will be to our federal lawmakers: We must end abortion and euthanasia and reject all the horrors the Culture of Death has brought upon our nation.

This year's event has an added historic significance as this will be the 25th National March for Life. To date, there continues to be no legal protection for children in the womb. Because of this tragic and unjust situation, thousands of people make the trip to Ottawa every year now, from all across the country, to be a voice for the voiceless.

The theme of the NMFL is "I AM", as we call upon the holy

name of God in our march to defend the sanctity of every human life, from the time of conception until natural death. It is also a reminder to every single person that "I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14), and that each one of us is made in His image and likeness and that we all have inherent dignity from the time of conception until natural death.

Here's what we have planned for this year's March:

- Sunday, March 27th to Sunday, May 8th - Life on Film, a lineup of pro-life films and documentaries every Sunday at 8:00 p.m. EDT (online)
- Saturday, May 7th - "I AM Standing for Life", a national pro-life roundtable (online)
- Wednesday, May 11th - "I AM the Pro-Life Generation" Youth Summit and Candlelight Vigil (in person and online)
- Thursday, May 12th - The National Mass for Life and prayer services, the in-person Rally & March, the annual Rose Dinner (in person and online)

After a two-year hiatus, an in-person Rose Dinner is coming back! We can't wait to see you all again for an evening of great food and pro-life fellowship.

For ongoing updates on our Life on Film series, on everything from our special guests and speakers, to Masses for Life and prayer services, to purchasing your tickets for the Youth Summit and Rose Dinner, make sure you visit the National March for Life website regularly at marchforlife.ca.

See you in Ottawa!

Action Item: Watch all the online programming on youtube.com/marchforlifecanada leading up to the March and attend the National March for Life in Ottawa, in person, on May 12

Parliament must protect conscience rights

Conservative MP Kelly Block (Carlton Trail—Eagle Creek) introduced a bill in February that, if passed, would amend the Criminal Code to "protect medical professionals from intimidation or coercion to participate in medical assisted suicide." The bill would also make it an offence to refuse to employ or to dismiss from employment a professional who directly or indirectly refuses to take part in euthanasia or assisted suicide. Bill C-230 is titled "The Protection of Freedom of Conscience Act."

This bill is urgently needed. The truth is that medical professionals should never be pressured to act against their conscience when it comes to euthanasia. We've heard reports of health care professionals who have felt pressure to take part in the wilful destruction of innocent human life against their pro-life

convictions. We know there are health care workers who have left their profession or moved to other jurisdictions so that they would not be coerced to take part in medicalized murder.

While some provinces provide some conscience protection, most require that physicians still refer their patients to doctors that will acquiesce in the killing (the sole exception is Manitoba, which has the gold standard of conscience protection). Meanwhile, nurses and pharmacists, who have less protection, are often bullied into aiding and abetting medicalized murder.

Block's bill is designed to safeguard and defend the Charter-protected conscience rights of health care workers. Health care workers need a federal law with real teeth in it to prevent them from having to choose between their conscience and their profession. As CLC campaigns manager David Cook said in a recent blog post, "It is hard to believe that the biblical command, 'Thou shalt not kill,' has been turned on its head by the courts who now demand, 'Thou SHALT kill,'" but that is what it has come to.

During the pandemic, we applauded the work of health care professionals. The greatest appreciation we can show them is to respect their consciences and not force them to either participate in euthanasia or quit the jobs they love. Please reach out to your elected representative and urge them to enact Bill C-230.

Action Item: Contact your MP using our nifty online tool, urging them to vote for Bill C-230: votervoices.net/CALIFE/Campaigns/81506/Respond

MPs receive CLC petition to save crisis pregnancy centres

Thanks to all of you who signed our online petition to MPs asking them to help save our country's crisis pregnancy centres by opposing any bill, motion, or regulatory policy that seeks to strip them of their charitable status. We are pleased to announce that in early March we delivered the 12,000-strong petition to each of the elected 338 MPs.

"We want to make sure every MP sees every signature and reads every heartfelt comment. We cannot let them ignore our concerns," CLC Campaigns Manager David Cooke stated in a blog.

The Trudeau Liberals are still moving ahead with their plan to punish Crisis Pregnancy Centres and other pro-life charities by denying them official charitable status. Last December, Trudeau directed Deputy Prime Minister, Chrystia Freeland, to "introduce amendments to the Income Tax Act to make anti-abortion organizations... ineligible for charitable status," alleging they "provide dishonest counselling to pregnant women."

Thank you for joining us in fighting this every step of the way. If you have ever wondered whether signing a CLC petition makes any impact, please be assured that it does. When our elected officials and their staff members are confronted by stacks of thousands of signatures from pro-active, pro-life Canadians, they take notice.

MPs know that every signature represents hundreds of other like-minded citizens who may not have signed, but who will make their opinions heard at the ballot-box next election. MPs from every party are paying close attention to our petitions, because they know their jobs are on the line.

Together we can and do make a difference!

CLC reinforces Atlantic Canada presence

Your support is allowing CLC to grow in significant ways to be even more effective in working to end abortion across Canada while defending marriage and family values. This is why we're excited to announce that, to reinforce the pro-life cause in the Eastern provinces, we have hired an Atlantic Region Coordinator.

Ruth Robert (pronounced Ro-bair) is a name you may already be familiar with. She has worked previously as the local coordinator for Campaign Life Coalition Nova Scotia. Ruth has gained a lot of experience in activism and politics and she is looking forward to bringing this experience to expand support across the Atlantic Provinces.

There are many good, pro-life Canadians in Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, and they are hungry to do more for the cause of life. Ruth will support new local efforts and lead our political team in the region. It helps to have someone working full-time on the ground in Atlantic Canada rather than trying to coordinate

Announcements

Place Ad In National March for Life Souvenir Book

Support the National March for Life by sponsoring a business advertisement or placing an "InMemoriam" message for a loved one in the 2022 National March for Life souvenir book.

Please contact Leeda Crawford at 416-538-1390 or toll free at 1-800-730-5358.

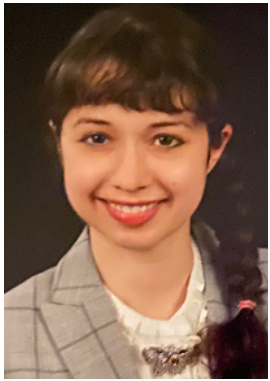
You can also email her at crawfordleeda@gmail.com. Each Rose Dinner guest will receive a copy of the book after the March for Life, and copies will also be available for purchase on marchforlife.ca. They are a great keepsake and souvenir from the National March for Life experience. Your generosity helps with the enormous costs of putting on this important witness in the nation's capital and online through our week long programming. The cut-off date to place an ad is **April 30, 2022**.

Start planning to attend National March for Life

Yes, we are gathering in person to march in our nation's capital on May 12. And, we'd love to see you there. Visit marchforlife.ca for details.



so many things (like the federal Conservative leadership vote, provincial elections) from our headquarters in Ontario. Ruth will be working with CLC's current provincial and local leaders in mobilizing pro-lifers and bring the pro-life message to the public and elected representatives.



Ruth Robert

We're thrilled to have Ruth join our team. We look forward to seeing the fruit of her labour in Atlantic Canada. We are indeed blest to be working alongside a dedicated professional of Ruth's calibre. Of course, none of this would be possible without the tremendous support we receive from thousands of Canadians like you, for which we are deeply grateful.

CLC updates "abortion facts" webpage

The internet allows us to provide information and disseminate it widely in a convenient way. CLC has provided information about abortion online ever since we first had a website. But the content needed to be updated and refreshed. Our updated webpage now includes the latest Canadian stats on abortion, the legal status of abortion, how abortion is funded, why women choose abortion, and what the Canadian public thinks about abortion. This is a powerful resource for pro-life advocates across the country. You'll want to bookmark it and share it with family and friends.

This is crucial information to get out to the public because many people are poorly informed about abortion in Canada and their views on the issue are coloured by misinformation, if not downright disinformation, peddled by some pro-abortion politicians and their allies in the media. We are also in the process of updating our other issue-oriented pages. So, stay tuned!

Check out our "Abortion Facts" page: campaignlifecoalition.com/abortion/

Unborn child recognized as shooting victim

Something that has not received a lot of attention, but is a positive bit of news is that an "unborn child" was publicly recognized by the Government of Nova Scotia as one of the 23 victims of the country's worst mass shooting that took place almost two years ago.

A February 22 statement from Nova Scotia Premier Tim Houston noted: "This week marks the beginning of the inquiry into the April 18 and 19, 2020, mass casualty that took the lives of 22 Nova Scotians and an unborn child." In that April rampage, Gabriel

Wortman impersonated a police officer, pulled over random motorists, and executed them. He also set houses and vehicles on fire to hide his crimes and was eventually killed in a shootout with police.

Kristen Beaton, 33, was a wife and mother who was expecting her second child with husband Nick. She was pulled over by Wortman and shot to death. Her unborn child was killed as a result. Nick would later tell CNN: "She was pregnant with my unborn baby ... I know in my heart what it would be like if she was here right now, we had the whole week planned out because I was off too. We were going to get the spare room ready for the baby."

The Government of Canada and Province of Nova Scotia established the Mass Casualty Commission and is now reviewing how the rampage happened. It's certainly appropriate that the government should recognize the pre-born baby as one of the victims. It must be pointed out, however, that had Wortman been apprehended alive, he would never face justice for the killing of Nick and Kristen's unborn child. This is because Canadian law does not recognize the preborn child as a human being and, therefore, he or she cannot be the victim of a crime.

Numerous attempts to bring an unborn victims of crime law onto the floor of the House of Commons have been stymied. This needs to be rectified. As our Communications' Director Pete Baklinski noted in a blog: "It's a step in the right direction for a government to publicly recognize that Baby Beaton was a member of the human family and that his or her life mattered. Acknowledging that a pre-born baby's life matters, that they are a 'somebody' with a distinct life of their own, is moving in the right direction to one day granting them legal protection in the womb."



3d ultrasound. Photo credit: Shutterstock.com

As you can see from this newsletter, there are many issues that Campaign Life Coalition must address and on so many fronts.

Please use the response card and envelope enclosed in this package to financially support your local CLC organization.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

If you do not wish to be on our mailing list, please contact us at the address below.

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