



CLC NATIONAL NEWS

CAMPAIGN LIFE COALITION CANADA

NOVEMBER 2026

President's Message

I remember attending the Rose Dinner after the March for Life in Washington when Mike Pence was Vice President and keynote speaker. He shared what became his signature line: "I believe with all my heart that pro-life is winning in America."

After reading about Life Chain in this edition and learning that some 15,000 people stood at Life Chains across Canada, I am full of confidence. Despite the challenges of the culture of death, and with our trust in God, we are making a positive change.

That does not mean abortions are declining or that a pro-life law is yet in place. It means Canadian pro-lifers refuse to cede ground and are increasing their engagement. Dozens of pro-lifers are running for office at every level of government. In my heart, I believe pro-life is winning in Canada!

This month, let us remember those who have sacrificed so much for our rights and freedoms.

Jeff Gunnarson

Jeff Gunnarson,
National President



Participants at the 2026 Life Chain in Barry's Bay, Ontario.

Canadians Show up for Life Chain in Full Force

The 2026 Life Chain was a success. Thirty-six years after the annual day of public witness for preborn children killed by abortion was introduced to Canada, the pro-life movement is still showing up.

Across 375 locations from coast to coast, over 15,000 pro-life advocates of varying ages and backgrounds endured public scorn on Sunday, Oct. 4, to give witness to the inherent dignity of our preborn brothers and sisters.

During the one-hour peaceful, prayerful demonstration, they held signs with messages such as "Abortion Kills Children," "Life, the First Inalienable Right," and "Abortion Hurts Women." Abortion claims the lives of an estimated 100,000 Canadian preborn babies a year.

"The Canadian pro-life movement silently but boldly confronts our pro-death culture with the pro-life message through Life Chain," said Josie Luetke, a member of the Life Chain Canada committee, in a press release prior to the event. "The mainstream media may studiously ignore this message, but we've bypassed them, bringing the truth directly to our neighbours passing by."



Some of the faces of the 2026 Life Chain demonstrations from across Canada.

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There are no speeches or graphic images. For one hour, participants simply stand peacefully, pray, and invite their neighbours to consider the deadly reality of abortion. Almost 5 million preborn children have been erased by abortion since legalization in 1969.

In a couple of locations in the Greater Toronto Area, participants counted passing vehicles and estimated 5,000 views in the hour. In Sydney, Nova Scotia, the Life Chain organizer estimated 1,000 vehicles went by.

"We can know, with a high degree of confidence, that hundreds of thousands of Canadians encountered the pro-life message on the Life Chain weekend—and that's not even considering the ripple effect," wrote Josie in an email blast to supporters following the event.

When Life Chain is promoted from the pulpit, it can make all the difference to the number of attendees. Saints Peter and Paul Church in Mississauga, Ontario, once again recorded a record-breaking turnout—650 this time—because their pastor, Father Mario, threatened to deliver 10 homilies in a row on abortion if he didn't see an increase in participation.

In Grand Falls, New Brunswick, 25 people of



Fredericton, New Brunswick.



Springdale, Newfoundland & Labrador.



Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church, Mississauga, Ontario.

faith joined the Life Chain—not bad for a town of 5,000, even if it's far from what we might hope for. Later, however, a woman posted photos of them in a community Facebook group, berating the “loser gathering.” The post attracted well over 2,000 comments, expanding the reach of this event even more.

“What this online debate and our presence on the streets says is that abortion is still controversial,” commented Josie, adding: “And while it’s controversial, average citizens are more likely to investigate both sides and more likely to consider alternatives to abortion.”

Josie noted that while the middle fingers, expletives, and insults can be “taxing,” there is also a “fair share” of friendly honks and thumbs-up, which for many locations comprise the majority of responses and seem to be increasing year by year.

Life Chain participants in one city in British Columbia this year were treated to free snacks and drinks compliments of a nearby local business.

Some locations were subject to counter-protests by abortion activists, such as in Quebec City where the Life Chain was swarmed (see story on page 5). “If you were at a location with a counter-protest, that can be taxing as well,” said Josie, adding: “and for some reason, there was also a notable increase in such demonstrations this year. Let’s continue to pray for healing and repentance in those who defend abortion.”

Thank you to everyone who participated in or organized a Life Chain. Make sure you save the date for next year’s Life Chain, October 3, 2027. Also, if you don’t have a Life Chain near you, please consider bringing it to your own community next year. It’s easy, and we will help you get organized. Contact lifecchain@campaignlifecoalition.com for more information.

Liberals to Expand Euthanasia to Those Incapable of Consent

On the same day that the Canadian government announced that it would introduce legislation to prevent the implementation of euthanasia (MAiD) for mental illness as the sole criterion, it also announced that the same legislation would expand euthanasia by permitting advance requests.

On October 7, the House of Commons was set to vote on MP Tamara Jansen’s private member’s bill, C-218, that would have prevented the expansion of euthanasia to people whose sole underlying condition is a mental illness. Earlier this year, the special parliamentary committee on Medical Assistance in Dying recommended further delaying or rescinding the eligibility of mental illness for euthanasia, and there has been widespread backlash against the expansion that has already been postponed twice.

That same day, Justice Minister Sean Fraser and Health Minister Marjorie Michel announced that the federal Liberal government would introduce legislation to prevent the



Whitehorse, Yukon.



Winnipeg, Manitoba.



Port Hood, Nova Scotia.



Gatineau, Quebec.



Unity, Saskatchewan.



Burlington, Ontario / Halton Region.

implementation of euthanasia for mental illness as the sole criterion. Some groups lauded it as a victory—and it is welcome news that the Carney government listened to the concerned voices of psychiatric experts, religious leaders, and concerned citizens.

But the Liberals decided to trade one vulnerable group for another by saying that the same bill, which has yet to be tabled, will allow for advance directives for people with dementia so that they can be medically killed when they lose the capacity to consent if they have indicated beforehand their willingness to die at some later date when their health deteriorates. Therefore, the Liberal government's announcement is no victory.

The Interim editor Paul Tuns was not fooled by the poison pill the Liberals were offering. He posted on X: "This is actually diabolical. The Liberal bill will force Conservatives opposed to expanding euthanasia for mental illness to ALSO vote for expanding euthanasia through advance directives, which eliminates the legal requirement for contemporaneous consent to being killed. Liberals are playing games. They voted down C-218 that, if passed, would block implementation of euthanasia for patients suffering solely from mental illness on the same day the Liberals announce they will introduce a bill doing the same but which will also allow advance directives."

C-218 was defeated when all but two Liberals were joined by the Bloc Québécois in voting down the bill, which was supported by the Conservatives, the NDP, Green MP Elizabeth May, and two Liberals—former Conservative Marilyn Gladu (Sarnia—

Lambton—Bkejwanon, On) and Kent Macdonald (Cardigan, PEI). The truth is that if the government were interested in saving the lives of people with mental illness, they could have voted for C-218, and then, if still committed to the idea of advance directives, introduce a bill just on that matter. But that is not what they did.

CLC National President Jeff Gunnarson commented in a press release: "The Liberal government is playing with lives" when "it voted down a bill that would protect the mentally ill while claiming it will introduce its own protections." And as Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, is warning, the Liberal bill could have definitions that are less precise than C-218, which would not accord the same protections the just-defeated bill would have provided.

Advance directives occur when a person who is legally competent declares their wish to be killed when they can no longer legally consent due to deteriorating conditions. This means that the patient is being euthanized without consent. Schadenberg says that while all euthanasia is wrong, advance directives are "even more egregious" because they "permit doctors and nurse practitioners to kill someone who has become incompetent, based on an advance request." Their incompetence means they are not legally capable of changing their minds and rejecting their previously signed advance directive. When Parliament legalized euthanasia in 2016, Schadenberg notes, "it did so under the guise of being for mentally competent adults, who are capable of consenting and who freely 'choose,'" but



Kelowna, British Columbia / Kelowna Right to Life Society.



Drayton Valley, Alberta.

“euthanasia by advance request undermines these basic principles.”

Advance directives raise other issues, such as who will decide and when the decision will be made to kill a patient who is no longer competent: at the first sign of deterioration that calls into question competence, after a year, or after a decade? Advance directives give incredible power to physicians or family members to decide the moment of death for (non-consenting) patients.

We do not have to wait to see the actual bill the Liberals will bring forward; it is not supportable if it expands so-called “Medical Assistance in Dying” by including advance directives.

Finance Committee Renews Attack on Pro-Life Pregnancy Centres

Canada’s pro-life pregnancy care centres are under attack again. The House of Commons Finance Committee released its 2026 budget recommendations on September 22, which, if taken up, would penalize pro-life pregnancy care centres.



Recommendation 65 states that the budget should “introduce amendments to the Income Tax Act to require greater transparency from anti-abortion pregnancy centres in order to mitigate harm to clients and prevent the misuse of charitable status.” The Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada admitted on its website Oct. 3 that it submitted the recommendation.

Our Communications Director, Pete Baklinski, pointed out on X that the recommendation does not treat pro-life pregnancy care centres as charities serving women, but as a problem to be regulated. “This is almost unbelievable,” he wrote. “‘Harm’ is simply assumed. ‘Misuse’ is treated as a given. There was no finding of fact and no hearing. They slapped on these slanderous labels and proposed changing the tax law.”

This is the same fight that has been going on since 2021, when the Liberal platform under Trudeau promised to strip pro-life groups of charitable status. Last year, a 2025 budget recommendation included that the government “no longer provide charitable status to anti-abortion organizations.” Fortunately, nothing came of it, but not without a huge fight from grassroots pro-lifers. This new recommendation asks the finance minister to pick up that fight again.

Pro-life groups are already rising up in defence of the pro-life charities. Jakki Jeffs, Executive Director of Alliance for Life Ontario, wrote an open letter on October 5 to the Standing

Committee on Finance and the government urging it to reject the recommendation. “It violates the fundamental principle of tax neutrality, creates unnecessary legislative redundancies over an already robust Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) framework, and poses severe constitutional risks under the Canadian Charter,” she wrote.

Pro-life pregnancy care centres exist to help vulnerable women facing a crisis pregnancy. They are there to support the mother and her preborn child. They offer women real choices, including parenting and adoption. They do amazingly good work. Most of them are run by Christians. They offer what the abortion industry does not: diapers, baby clothes, rent help, parenting classes, adoption connections, and someone who will walk with the mother, including after the birth of her child.

There is evidence that the government will not take up Recommendation 65. Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE) spokesperson Erin Quevillon told the Investigative Journalism Foundation in September that, in reference to the Trudeau Liberal’s former plan to go after the pro-life charities, “we do not currently have plans to reintroduce it.”

Budget 2026 has not been finalized yet and we want to make sure that pro-life pregnancy centres remain safe. There is still time to contact your MP and the finance minister and urge them to reject Recommendation 65. “It is time for Canadians who value life to rally around our country’s pro-life pregnancy care centres and demand that the government stop attacking them,” wrote Baklinski on X. Please pray for this situation.



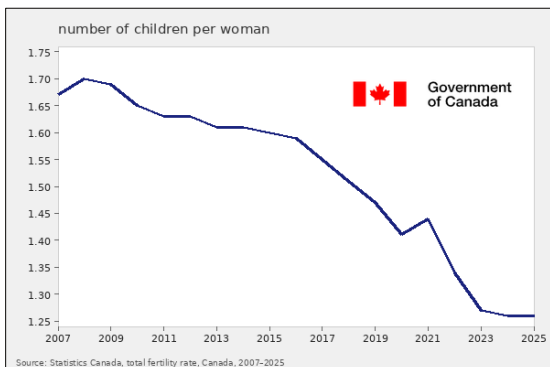
Take action: Contact your MP and the Finance Minister, The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne (minister-ministre@fin.gc.ca) urging them to reject Recommendation 65.

Canada’s Fertility Remains at an ‘All-Time Low’ for 2025

Canada’s fertility rate remains at an “all-time low,” Statistics Canada confirmed at the end of September. Canada’s total fertility rate for 2025 was 1.26 children per woman, a number practically identical to the 1.25 low observed in 2024.

A country’s fertility rate is calculated as the average number of children born per woman over her reproductive lifetime. A rate below the replacement level of 2.1 means that a nation’s population is slowly shrinking. Canada’s golden age of fertility was in the 1950s, when the average woman bore about four children over her lifespan. The decline began in the 1960s and accelerated with the legalization of contraception and abortion in 1969.

A plummeting fertility rate is what the annihilation of a nation looks like. A country that no longer views children as a gift to be treasured has given up on hope. It has chosen self-destruction.



The sad truth is that since the baby-boomer generation, Canada has taken a nosedive that is leading to oblivion.

Canada's fertility crisis was addressed in a recent episode of the *Focused on Life* podcast hosted by African pro-life leader Obianuju Ekeocha and CLC's vice-president Matthew Wojciechowski and featuring our Communications Director Pete Baklinski.

Pete laid out in Episode 5 of Season 3, titled "No Babies, No Future?" what he believes is the reason behind the plummeting fertility rate that most Western nations have experienced. "There has been war waged on the child, and it's been calculated and orchestrated for many years," he said, pointing to contraception and abortion as weapons used in the war.

He pointed out how today's mentality when it comes to children differs dramatically from a biblical perspective, where children are viewed as a blessing and even a fulfillment of God's promise to fathers of faith, such as Abraham. "The very first commandment that God gave us in the Scripture is 'increase and multiply.' Compare that to today's mentalities of the child. The child is viewed as another mouth to feed, a carbon footprint, a problem to be solved, someone to eradicate if they're inconvenient. ... The child essentially is viewed as a curse."

The truth is that children are a gift. They are a sign of hope for a nation's future. A nation that stops welcoming them stops believing it has a future. Listen to this episode and many others here: bit.ly/4Ba4B8E.

Quebec City Life Chain Targeted by Counter-protest

On October 4, in front of Saint-Charles-

Garnier Church in Quebec City, 150 to 200 counter-protesters surrounded about a dozen silent Life Chain participants, tore their signs from their hands, and blocked Laurier Boulevard until police arrived.

Three days earlier, the pro-abortion group Collectif Riposte Féministe announced on Facebook that it would target the event. "Bring your anger, your signs and everything you need to make as much noise as possible!!" the post read. "Let's show that Quebec City is and will remain PRO-CHOICE!"

In front of Saint-Charles-Garnier, the counter-protesters were already in place when participants arrived, with music blaring and feminist slogans written on the sidewalk, according to a witness. One of them, dressed as a nun, carried a sign showing a uterus with the words "My body belongs to me and I do what I want with it."

The Quebec City-Chaudière-Appalaches regional council of the Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN), one of Quebec's major labour federations, said in a Facebook post that it "answered the call of the feminist collective La riposte" that day. The witness says she saw CSN signs at the scene.

According to one participant, the counter-protesters swarmed the dozen or so Life Chain participants, making them feel like "sheep among wolves."

Counter-protesters stood in front of the participants so drivers could no longer see the signs, insulted them, and whistled loudly into the ears of an elderly man who wears hearing aids. They blocked traffic on Laurier Boulevard; some cars drove onto the church lawn to get by. Signs were torn from participants' hands, ripped up, and trampled. The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe did not come through intact.



Life Chain in front of Saint-Charles-Garnier Church being surrounded by counter-protesters. Credit: Radio-Canada.

Announcements

CLC Youth Gearing Up to Attend U.S. March for Life

Preparations are underway for CLC Youth's annual trip to Washington, D.C., for the March for Life in January 2027. Approximately 50 young delegates (ages 18–29) will attend the March and the National Pro-Life Summit, joining hundreds of thousands of pro-lifers and hearing from leading voices in the movement.

Do you know someone who may be interested? Send them this registration link: bit.ly/4yWMMRC.

Rising costs mean many young people need financial help. Our goal is to raise \$15,553 to cover 60% of attendees' expenses. Could you help give a young person this opportunity? Donate:

- Online: bit.ly/4zxEd71.

- Cheque: Campaign Life Coalition, 157 Catharine St. N., 2nd Floor, Hamilton, ON, L8L 4S4. Write "Sponsor a young pro-lifer" in the memo.

- Phone: 1-800-730-5358.

Thank you for investing in the next generation of leaders for life!



Not far away, at the corner of Laurier and Jean-De Quen, a second Life Chain location reported no disturbances and a strong police presence. It seems the police were unaware of the Life Chain location in front of the church.

One participant had come with her parents. They chose the church site because roadwork limited traffic and parking at the Jean-De Quen corner. They did not know a counter-protest had been announced there.

According to her account, a FEMEN activist began violently ripping signs out of participants' hands. When she pulled the participant's sign away, she scratched her face. She then tore the signs up one by one "with a cry of victory, to the crowd's applause."

"It was violent and we were defenceless before the crowd," the participant wrote. Police had to be called twice. About ten minutes later, officers arrived. "In no time at all," they restored order, cleared the street, and set up a security perimeter. At the end, they escorted the participants to their cars.

An officer noted the marks on the participant's face and offered her the chance to file an assault complaint. She did not. "I came there to pray, very humbly, to defend the unborn child," she wrote. She kept praying until the end.

"Our people stood on a sidewalk, in silence, for one hour," said Georges Buscemi, president of Quebec Life Coalition. "The other side announced in advance that it would bring its anger, and it did. Next year we will be back, and the police will know exactly where each of the two groups will be."

A Hopeful Day at the United Nations

Anyone who has followed our work at the United Nations knows it can often be discouraging. Year after year, abortion is promoted under the banner of "sexual and reproductive health and rights," while the protection of unborn children is largely absent.

One recent meeting in New York was different. On September 23, CLC's Youth Coordinator Kim Headley represented Campaign Life Coalition at Women's Health and Protection of the Family, a side event held across the street from United Nations Headquarters during the UN General Assembly on the Geneva Consensus Declaration—a global document affirming the right to life. Campaign Life Coalition co-sponsored the event with a group of other pro-life NGOs.



Kim Headley

"Instead of listening to countries discuss how to expand abortion around the world," Kim wrote about the event, "I had the privilege of sitting in a room filled with representatives from countries willing to stand together for life, women and the family."

The event centred on the Geneva Consensus Declaration (GCD), launched in 2020. Its four objectives include securing health gains for women, protecting human life at all stages, defending the family, and upholding national sovereignty. Crucially, it affirms that there is no international right to abortion.

Senior U.S. officials spoke openly in defence of these principles. Bethany Kozma, head of the GCD Secretariat, said, "We're not here to speak for sovereign nations. We are here to help sovereign nations speak together." She added, "We do not have to agree on everything... but we can stand together on the principles we do share."

Three new countries—Honduras, Algeria, and Trinidad and Tobago—signed onto the Declaration that afternoon, bringing the coalition to more than 40 nations. "Watching three more countries add their names to the Declaration made the message we had been hearing throughout the afternoon tangible," Kim observed.

As a Canadian, the moment was both encouraging and bittersweet for Kim. "I had just watched three more countries join this growing international coalition, while my own country remains absent," she wrote. "Where is Canada?" She hopes one day the Canadian flag will stand among the GCD nations.

The Declaration itself concludes, "Individually we are strong, but together we are stronger." After many discouraging trips to the UN, Headley left hopeful: "It was refreshing to leave this gathering feeling hopeful about what can happen when countries choose instead to stand together for life."



As you can see from this CLC news, 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!

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