CLC NATIONAL NEWS

CAMPAIGN LIFE COALITION CANADA

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Jesus is the reason for the season. Credit: Shutterstock

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President's Message

I'm happy to share so many good news stories this month! From encouraging election results to a baby saved through Life Chain and young adults defending life—there is much for which to thank God.

How fitting that these arrive as we prepare to celebrate the greatest Good News of all: the birth of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

The Child in the manger reminds us that every human life is precious, and that God often works through humble beginnings and faithful hearts. We still face challenges. But take encouragement from the good accomplished through your prayers, generosity, and willingness to stand for life. These efforts bear fruit, sometimes in ways we may never know.

May the Christ Child bring peace to your home and renewed hope this Christmas. God bless!

Jeff Gunnarson

Jeff Gunnarson,
National President



GOOD NEWS: Life Chain Saves Baby From Abortion

A Canadian Catholic priest shared the good news in November that a baby was saved from abortion after the baby's father encountered a Life Chain demonstration.



Fr. Brenton Cordeiro, CC

Fr. Brenton Cordeiro, pastor of St. Timothy's in Toronto, shared in a Facebook video that the parents were expecting a child and had planned to have an abortion. After hearing the baby's heartbeat on ultrasound, the mother decided she could not go through with it. The father, however, continued to pressure her to proceed.

"For days and maybe even over a week, they were fighting," the priest related. "They were at odds with regards to this child and his future."

This year's Life Chain took place on Sunday, October 4. The annual event sees thousands of pro-life advocates from across Canada gather in over 350 locations for an hour of prayer and peaceful public witness for the preborn whose lives have been erased by abortion. Participants stand at designated intersections, pray quietly, and hold signs with messages such as "Abortion Kills Children," "Abortion Hurts Women," and "Jesus Forgives and Heals.

Organized nationally by Campaign Life Coalition and locally by parishes and pro-life groups, the witness is meant to confront the reality of abortion—nearly five million preborn children lost in Canada since legalization in 1969—while inviting passersby to reconsider.

Parishioners from St. Timothy's held their own Life Chain that day at the nearby intersection of Don Mills and Sheppard. While they were there, the father of the preborn baby drove past, saw the signs, and watched some 160 participants praying to end abortion. Something the father saw must have moved his heart. He realized what he needed to do.

"So, he goes home and tells his wife, 'Let's have the baby,'" Fr. Cordeiro related. The priest, who is a member of the Companions of the Cross, called the story a "beautiful testimony" that shows "the power of prayer, the power of peaceful resistance to this awful evil of abortion."

Josie Luetke, a member of the Life Chain Canada committee, rejoiced at the news of the baby saved. "Praise God that this precious baby has been saved, the heart of the father has been softened, and our simple, humble witness has been used for His glory," she said.

Josie suspects that there have been many babies saved because of Life Chain, though, she admits, "we'll likely never know about them in this life." She speculated that parents who choose life because of the pro-life witness may not know



Participants at St. Timothy's Life Chain, Oct. 4, 2026.

how to contact the organizers to tell their story or, perhaps, they don't wish to—maybe due to shame or even resentment.

For Josie, her main takeaway is that Life Chain participants "don't know who will drive by or hear about our demonstration, but we trust that God will use all things for good."

"Really, it is not our job to know; we must simply answer His call to serve the least of our brothers and sisters. Still, we may rejoice when He does grant us knowledge of some of the fruit our actions have borne," she said.

We thank God for the many wonderful shepherds like Fr. Cordeiro who foster a strong culture of life within their church communities. Public witnesses like Life Chain, 40 Days for Life, and the National March for Life in Ottawa are more than just annual pro-life events; they are an extension of the Church's mission to defend human life and share the Truth with the world.

Liberals Unveil Deadly Euthanasia Bill Disguised as 'Safeguards'

As we reported last month, the Liberals voted down Bill C-218, which would have permanently removed mental illness as a sole qualifying condition for legal euthanasia (MAiD).

Liberal Justice Minister Sean Fraser effectively ensured the bill's defeat by signalling that Liberal MPs should vote it down because the government intended to introduce its own legislation. That legislation would indefinitely exclude people whose sole underlying condition is a mental illness while simultaneously expanding euthanasia through advance requests for people diagnosed with serious illnesses (such as dementia) who may later lose capacity to consent.

We called this a diabolical ploy intended to trade protection for one group of people for the creation of another killable class of patients. While some pro-life groups took a wait-and-see approach, we opposed the yet-unseen bill because we knew it would be immoral.

On October 27, the Carney Liberals introduced Bill C-41, the Medical Assistance in Dying Safeguards Act. To the extent the bill provides "safeguards," they largely protect practitioners from prosecution. The language repeatedly requires only that a medical or nurse practitioner be "of the opinion" that the person meets the criteria, making it extremely difficult to hold anyone accountable if the law is not followed.

While the bill permanently blocks "MAiD" where mental illness is the sole underlying condition, its main focus is the legalization of advance requests for people who lose the capacity to consent. Under the bill, once an advance request has been made, a practitioner is not required to inform the person what is about to happen or even speak with them before ending their life. The procedure may proceed solely on the basis of the earlier request, and the practitioner's assessment that the described symptoms and suffering are present, subject only to a check for what the bill calls "refusal or resistance." When euthanasia was legalized in 2016, advocates insisted that safeguards would ensure the full and ongoing consent of the person being euthanized. That protection is now being stripped away.

Our National President, Jeff Gunnarson, said about this in a press release: "We now see consent being whittled away when it comes to euthanizing sick people. Where this slippery slope inevitably leads is euthanasia without consent—a horror that is not without historical precedent."

Euthanasia Prevention Coalition executive director Alex Schadenberg has identified further serious problems with Bill C-41. It does not provide effective oversight of the law; it permits practitioners to claim as a defence that they were of the "opinion" the person met all the criteria; it egregiously permits advance requests; and it expands euthanasia despite the fact that the legislatively required five-year review of the original 2016 law (Bill C-14) was never conducted.

On November 3, as second-reading debate on the bill was already underway in the House, we called on Parliament to split C-41 and pass the mental illness exclusion on its own before March 17, 2027, when the temporary exclusion expires and euthanasia for mental illness as a sole condition would become legal. Conservative MPs have also called for the same thing, but the Liberal government will have nothing to do with it.

On November 17, after only eight hours of debate, the bill passed second reading 225 to 89 and was referred to the Justice Committee. Thirty-seven Conservatives voted in favour and 89 against. MP Andrew Lawton criticized the Liberals' decision to rush the bill through without proper debate and consultation as "the most cynical and undemocratic form of politics."



Take Action: Contact your MP and ask them to split Bill C-41 and pass the mental illness exclusion on its own.

GOOD NEWS: Pro-life Pregnancy Centres Untouched in Budget 2026



The 2026 federal budget, released by the Carney Liberals on November 5, left our country's pro-life pregnancy centres untouched after pressure from life-affirming groups, including Campaign Life Coalition.

"We thank God," said our National President Jeff Gunnarson in a press release. "This is welcome news for the thousands of women and families who rely on pregnancy care centres across Canada."

We were worried when we learned that the House of Commons Finance Committee had included a recommendation from the abortion lobby in its September 22 report. Budget Recommendation 65, submitted by the Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada, called for amendments to the Income Tax Act requiring greater transparency from so-called "anti-abortion pregnancy centres" in order to "mitigate harm to clients and prevent the misuse of charitable status."

Gunnarson said that Recommendation 65 was never about genuine transparency. "It was an ideologically motivated attempt to single out and burden pro-life charities simply because they offer women real alternatives to abortion—including material support, parenting resources, and adoption connections. We are pleased the government has chosen not to advance it."

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. Recommendations in Budget 2025 included that the government strip churches, Christian charities, and pro-life organizations of their charitable status. These recommendations were not adopted, but only after significant pushback from pro-life citizens along with people of faith.

We can understand why the abortion industry wants to shut down pro-life pregnancy care centres, but it makes no sense for any government to go along with this agenda. These 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. 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. This is something that any government should be glad to support.

Pete Baklinski, our Communications Director, pointed out in a press release that Recommendation 65 did not treat pro-life pregnancy care centres as the community-building and life-affirming charities serving vulnerable women that they are, but as a problem to be regulated. "Recommendation 65 was simply slanderous and based on provable lies spread by the abortion lobby. Harm was simply assumed, and misuse was treated as a given—with no finding of fact and no hearing," he said.

We were surprised to discover that the Conservative members of the all-party finance committee, which also includes Liberals and the Bloc Québécois, did not block this recommendation from being included in the final document and raised no reservations about it. We call on future finance committees, especially Conservative members of those committees, to reject recommendations from the abortion lobby intended to harm genuine charities that provide Canadian mothers and fathers the support they need.

GOOD NEWS: Ontario Municipal Elections See Significant Pro-life-and-family Gains



The recent Ontario municipal elections resulted in significant gains for the province's pro-life and pro-family movement.

We green-lit 237 candidates for school board trustee, city council, and regional council positions across the province. Eighty-seven of those candidates won—37 percent of the endorsed candidates were victorious on election day. More importantly, three Catholic school boards now have a majority of pro-parental rights trustees committed to fighting for authentically Catholic education.

"As far as the pro-life and pro-family cause is concerned, it was a very successful election indeed," wrote our Director of Political Operations, Jack Fonseca, in a detailed analysis of the election results published on our website.

Green-lit candidates won 9 of 11 seats on the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. On the Waterloo Catholic District School Board, green-lit candidates won 8 of 9 seats—a commanding majority with which to undo the damage done by previous, permissively anti-parental rights trustees. On the Halton Catholic District School Board, green-lit candidates won 7 of 9 seats. Dufferin-Peel is the only Catholic board in the province that has a neutral flag board policy banning the LGBT flag from being flown outside and inside schools, so we are hopeful that the new majority can build on that positive foundation and, just as importantly, resist pressure to abandon the policy.

These commanding majorities will support the good work that existing pro-life trustees have been doing in recent years

while facing stiff opposition from LGBT activists. On the Toronto Catholic District School Board, 6 of 12 trustees were green-lit. In 2022, only four trustees on Canada's largest Catholic school board voted to uphold Catholic moral teachings in the schools. Now, with an even split, there is hope for a renewal of common sense; perhaps some trustees who previously went along with the (immoral) majority can be convinced to abandon anti-life, anti-family, anti-parental rights activism and join the authentically Catholic side.

"With half the board now onside, there exists a greater opportunity to win some battles, and to restore some of the Catholic identity that was ransacked by the previous gang," Fonseca pointed out.

The students at the aforementioned Catholic school boards total 225,000, and they will now have greater spiritual protection under trustees who take their Catholicism seriously. Other good news is that York Catholic District School Board green-lit trustees maintained 5 of 10 seats—that we know about; a couple of the new trustees did not sign the CLC questionnaire, and it is possible that they would either already be on board or open to being persuaded to join the existing five. The York board has 55,000 students. We also supported pro-parent candidates in the public school board elections, and some were indeed victorious, but there is much more work to be done in those school boards.

In city and regional elections, we green-lit successful mayoral candidates in Barrie, Chatham-Kent, Emo, and Norwich. Furthermore, Rob Cooper ran a very strong second in Hamilton, garnering a third of the vote while being openly pro-life and attacked by the now-defeated mayor Andrea Horwath for his Christian principles; Horwath finished third with just 15 percent of the vote. Lisa Robinson, openly pro-life and critical of flying the pride flag at City Hall, ran an impressive second in Pickering, winning a quarter of the vote. There were also 12 green-lit candidates for city council and 3 green-lit regional council candidates throughout the province who were elected. Congratulations to all of them.

Our analysis shows that 57 candidates finished in a competitive second place and another 26 candidates finished in third—meaning 72 percent of CLC-endorsed candidates either won or finished second or third. These are the bases on which to build future victories. We must also support our successful candidates—eight green-lit candidates won their campaigns by fewer than 150 votes. Doubtless, our get-out-the-vote efforts in these races made the difference. More importantly, these courageous candidates, whether successful or not, provided voters with a meaningful choice. We hope to do even better in 2030.

In light of this good news, our Vice President, Matthew Wojciechowski, wrote in an article published on our website that now is the moment to stop dreaming about authentically Catholic schools and start reclaiming the schools children deserve—free from gender ideology and sexualized curricula. In his article, titled "Catholic Schools in Ontario Have Lost Their Identity – But Parents Have Just Been Thrown a Lifeline to Save Them," he gives an eagle's-eye view of how publicly funded Catholic schools have lost their way over the years and why the recent elections have given parents a lifeline to save them. "The tide is finally beginning to turn, and now is not the time to ease off the gas." Read Matthew's full piece here: clife.ca/clc-blog/id/563.

Why OneBC's Policy to Defund Late-Term Abortions is Unsupportable



3D ultrasound of a preborn baby / Shutterstock.

While we acknowledged in an e-blast to our supporters that it took a lot of courage for Dallas Brody and OneBC to make this promise and that it showed a willingness to reopen the abortion debate that is refreshing, we explained why CLC cannot endorse this policy. We explained how we cannot support legislation that legalizes abortion at any stage.

"From zygote to embryo to fetus to newborn, every human being deserves legal protection," explained to our director of political operations, Jack Fonseca, in the October 16 e-blast. "Laws that permit the killing of younger unborn children while seeking to protect those further along in development cannot be supported. No exceptions. No compromises," he added.

Jack pointed out that human rights begin when human life begins, and laws must mirror this truth. Laws and funding decisions should reflect the equal dignity of every child, not draw arbitrary lines that teach society some lives are less valuable, he noted.

He also highlighted how the gestational political strategy has only made the situation worse in other nations where it has been tried, such as in the UK. John Smeaton, a leader in the UK's pro-life movement, told CLC in a 2021 interview that the gestational approach betrays the principle that "all babies have the right to life" and "flies in the face of the general principle that one mustn't do evil hoping that good may come of it."

While we do not support gestational laws that sacrifice some lives for the sake of others, we do support incremental measures that apply to all lives—leaving no one behind. Examples include: a law to make it a separate offence to injure or kill an unborn child during a criminal assault on a pregnant woman; a law to ban sex-selective abortion; a law that would defund abortion; a law that would offer conscience protection to health care professionals who do not want to take part in abortion. Such laws would leave no child behind at some arbitrary developmental stage. If such measures were to become law, they would incrementally work to end the killing while respecting all life.

Despite not being able to support OneBC's policy, we commend the party for challenging the status quo and urge them to go further with a more just policy that leaves no child behind.

GOOD NEWS: CLC Youth Launches New Initiative to Connect With Young Adults



CLC's Josie Luetke and Hailey Smith at the first Life Forum.

On October 22, nearly sixty individuals filled the room for our inaugural Life Forum, a new initiative to engage young adults in the pro-life movement and spark much-needed change to turn the tide on the culture of death.

Hailey Smith, our Youth Coordinator, said the initiative was created to "engage university-aged students and young professionals in the pro-life movement" and "give young adults a special chance to learn more about life issues and discover how they can make a difference."

At the event, held in St. Vincent de Paul Church Hall in Toronto, attendees visited booths from ten pro-life exhibitors that showed them how to get involved in the life issue.



Participants at the Oct. 22 inaugural Life Forum.

The launch featured a Pro-Life 101 presentation by Josie Luetke, our Director of Education and Advocacy. The presentation aimed to give attendees the tools to articulate the pro-life position. As Luetke stated, "Anyone is capable of providing a basic defence of the pro-life position; more Christians simply need to take the time to learn how to do so effectively."

The importance of the knowledge shared cannot be overstated. "Having at least a rudimentary understanding of pro-life apologetics could quite literally save a life," Luetke emphasized.

The Life Forum was created to form an active community of young pro-life adults who will become equipped to defend their pro-life beliefs and live those values out in their everyday lives.

Reflecting on the event, Smith commented: "The response was inspiring, and it's apparent that a new generation is being convicted by the Holy Spirit to find and defend truth." She added: "We cannot expect cultural change unless Christians take



Vendors and attendees at the Life Forum.

Merry Christmas from CLC

Christmas is about a baby who changed the world.

Jesus, the Son of God, deigned to come into our broken world as a baby in what many would say were less than perfect circumstances.

His mother was a teenager who became pregnant before living with her husband. She and her pregnancy were misunderstood by those closest to her. Some people wanted to kill her baby.

Sound familiar?

Jesus entered the brokenness of our world to heal and restore. The pro-life movement celebrates Christmas because God comes to us in a baby, and this baby is Immanuel—God with us. And God continues to come to us in every baby, since each is created in his image and likeness.

And this is why the pro-life movement exists—to defend and protect babies in honour of God, in whose image they are made.

May the Christ-child inspire all of us this season to see him in those who are broken and hurting in our world today, and to know that what we do to them, we really do to him.

Merry Christmas!



up the responsibility to be the drivers of it."

Smith said CLC Youth is making plans on how to expand the Life Forum. "This is just the beginning," she said. "Our collective fight for life is far from over, and we are ready to assist the next generation to carry on the torch for life."

Please pray for the success of this endeavour. For more information on how to join the CLC Youth network, or if you are interested in bringing a life-forum to your city, please contact hailey@clife.ca.

Ottawa Office Honours Donors and Pro-life Pioneer Karen Murawsky



Jim Murawsky, Karen's husband, along with their sons Chris (R) and Patrick (L), and daughter in-law Tracy in front of the boardroom plaque dedicated to Karen.

On November 4th, our Ottawa office hosted an event to honour local donors whose generosity, dedication, and support helped make this new office in the heart of our nation's capital a reality. It's hard to believe that a year has already passed since we moved in.

A plaque, recognizing the names of those who so generously contributed to this important effort, was unveiled during the event. One highlight of the occasion was the naming of our boardroom in honour of a local pro-life heroine, Karen Murawsky (1943-2020). A plaque was unveiled in the room, showing her picture and the title: "The Karen Murawsky Boardroom: Champion for the Voiceless & Pioneer of the Pro-life Movement."

Mrs. Murawsky holds a special place in the history of our Ottawa office and the local pro-life movement. She was instrumental in opening the office, served as CLC's first lobbyist, founded the Parliamentary Pro-Life Caucus and served as its first secretary. She helped start the National March for Life and witnessed to life in front of the local abortion mill for many years.

"We cherish the memory of Karen Murawsky as a pro-life heroine, a courageous leader, and an enduring example of love in action, the plaque states.

Chris Murawsky, Karen's son, who has worked in the Ottawa office since 1997, was honoured to accept the award in memory of his mother. His father and brother also attended the event. "I was very fortunate to have worked alongside my mom when I started at Campaign Life Coalition," he said. "Naming the boardroom in her honour is a fitting tribute to her vision, leadership, and many contributions." We are grateful for all that Karen has done and for everyone who helped make this special milestone possible.

The special milestone was attended by National President Jeff Gunnarson and Vice-President Matthew Wojciechowski, and former colleagues of Karen, Marg Mountain and Mary Ellen Douglas, CLC's former National Organizer and Ontario President. Gunnarson called the event a "celebration of what we have accomplished together" and thanked all those whose "generosity and commitment" have made the Ottawa office a fitting place in the nation's capital from which to make a strong stand for life.



Jeff Gunnarson with his entourage, Marg Mountain (L) and Mary Ellen Douglas (R).

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!

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

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