

3-1193 Oxford Street East  
London, Ontario N5Y 3M2  
Tel.: 519.659.3334  
Fax: 519.659.3345  
Email: info@right2life.ca  
Website: www.right2life.ca

London Area  
Right to Life Association Inc.

# Newsletter



A London Pro-Life Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2012

Volume 46

Number 1

## Reminder...

Memberships due  
for 2012

\$15/person \$30/family \$50/group  
Please use enclosed donation form

## Thank You

to the generous donors who responded to our Christmas Appeal. If you have not yet donated please consider doing so. Our goal of \$18,000 has not yet been reached. Every bit helps. Thank You to the many who assist us in so many ways.

## Upcoming EVENTS

### MARCH 7 MARGARET SOMERVILLE "The Case Against Euthanasia And Assisted Suicide"

- 7:30 p.m. Brescia College
- See page 5

### MARCH 10 REGION #1 MEETING S.W. Ont. Pro-life Groups

- Stratford hosting

### MARCH 29 LARTLA ANNUAL DINNER/SILENT AUCTION

- Marconi Club
- See poster page 3

### APRIL 10 LARTLA's ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 1193 Oxford St. E. Unit 3
- See page 4

### APRIL 13-15 PROJECT RACHEL

- Post-abortion healing
- Ph: 1-888-355-1110

### MAY 10 MARCH FOR LIFE OTTAWA

- One-Day Bus Trip
- Three-Day Bus Trip for Youth
- See page 2

### MONTHLY HOSPITAL WITNESS

- Last Thursday of month at L.H.S.C.
- 3:30-5 p.m. John at 519-657-9009

**"IT'S TIME"** This year at our Annual General Meeting I will assume the position of past president. Helping to guide this organization has been an amazing and rewarding experience. I look forward to continuing my active involvement on the Board while assisting the new executive in any way I can. See AGM on page 4.

## UPROAR OVER SEX-SELECTION ABORTIONS

President's Message by Phil Arnsby

On Monday January 16, 2012, Dr. Kale, neurologist and the interim editor-in-chief of the Canadian Medical Association Journal, wrote an editorial in the Journal in which he urged doctors to consider concealing the gender of a fetus from all pregnant women until 30 weeks to prevent sex-selective abortion by Asian immigrants. At 30 weeks the risk increases for the mothers and abortion clinics (lawsuits) although abortions are still available.

That article raised yet again the controversy of abortion in this country at a time when most of the media and our governments consider the topic off limits and closed: The killing of in-utero Canadians will never go away, nor should it.

Father Raymond De Souza (National Post Jan. 19, 2012) wrote under the heading "The female screams we don't want to hear". In part he wrote:

*"It is inconsistent to be squeamish about the motivations behind those abortions. While the problem of sex-selection abortions is presented as a pathology of Asian cultures that prefer boys to girls, it actually is not rare in respectable Canadian medical practice. The euphemism is "family balancing": Couples who already have a boy and want a girl, upon discovering another boy on the way, abort him and try again.*

*"You may disagree or feel uncomfortable with the practice but people who practise family balancing are not evil or nefarious," Tim Caulfield told The Globe and Mail. He's the Canada Research Chair in Health Law and Policy at the University of Alberta, giving an academic stamp of approval to abortions for sex selection if done by nice people."*

Jakki Jeffs, Executive Director of Alliance for Life Ontario, recently wrote in rebuttal to the National Post:

*"I imagine with headlines like "The debate that isn't" and "Attempt to fire up abortion debate fizzles", you believe you can help quell the growing uneasiness regarding abortion in Canada. We have government and politicians so cowardly that they will not address the killing of children before birth. A media so left wing, it cannot possibly encourage a reasoned and thoughtful public discussion on whether killing children before birth is a good or bad thing. Faith leaders unready to lead their communities in outright challenge of this situation and a medical profession so dishonoured by its abandonment and neglect of its tiniest patient the silence is deafening."*

At Fanshawe College our pro-life sign on the backlit board at the pub entrance displays a child in the womb with the words, "**Why is it that when they want me I'm a baby and when they don't, I'm Not.**"

That question captures the absurdity of the struggle we face. Why is it that our laws allow, and many in our society accept, the systematic destruction of our pre-born?

It is desirable and even essential that all of us do our part in defending these most innocent ones. **It is worth remembering that we will all stand before Our Maker on the last day and we will long to hear these words, "Well done good and faithful servant"**.

In every day encounters with family, friends and business associates. To remain silent is really not an option. Welcome the debate!

## Real Estate for Life...you can help

If you, your family or friend decide to purchase or sell a home or commercial property a referral fee will be paid to the London Area Right to Life Association if you follow the steps below.

**STEP 1.** BEFORE you call a real estate company or realtor **Call Real Estate for Life at 1-877-543-3871** and Real Estate for Life will let a local real estate company know of your interest. They will use your preferred real estate company/agent if you wish.

**STEP 2.** After completion of the transaction (buying or selling) The local real estate company will forward the referral fee to Real Estate for Life who in turn will cover their costs and will forward the referral fees to London Area Right to Life.

**i.e. a \$300,000 home (bought or sold) will generate a \$2,000 referral fee for our organization.**

For more information: [www.RealEstateForLife.org](http://www.RealEstateForLife.org)



## FROM THE OFFICE: Happy New Year! - by Mira De Sousa

I trust you all had a wonderful Christmas, celebrating our Savior's birth with friends and family. I think I hear early spring somewhere!!!

These first few months have been productive: applying for our summer student, preparing for the Annual Dinner/Silent Auction, and -believe it or not- gearing up for our Walkathon. So excited for 2012!!

With this new year comes fresh vision for the city of London. Please join with us in prayer to see this city shift. I pray that ALL denominations come together for LIFE. That we would unify citywide in Pro-Life outreaches and that our members would be encouraged and would be renewed in the battle. That we would have an increase of youth and young adults come alongside the wisdom of the mothers and fathers of this organization to create new ways of delivering God's message of Life to the community.

**Baby Faith is coming soon!** He is the little one saved during our 40 Days for Life campaign. Here is a fragment of a report sent from the AFLO office who has been working very closely with Baby Faith's family. "We have been blessed with the funds to cover the Caesarean section which our wonderful pro-life physician has recommended because baby is so very big. We have been blessed to have the assistance of the London Diocese Chancery office staff and more! We have been blessed to have not only one physician but two amazing pro-life doctors who have stepped up to the plate to assist" – one of them is in London. Good Job London! Please keep Baby Faith and his mom in prayer for a smooth delivery.

Our 89 pro-life school presentations in 21 schools are just wrapping up for this year. Thank you to the 18 presenters who continually carry the message of the sanctity of life/chastity, creating a culture of life.

Thank you to **YOU** the members who continually support us with your prayers, donations and by volunteering. **So looking forward to seeing you all again in person at our Dinner - tickets are NOW available!**



## A Note of Thanks from UWO Student

*The following is a recent e-mail from one of the pro-life med students at UWO telling me about a few reactions and impressions of the various pro-life witnesses at Victoria Hospital...and to say thank you:*

Hi Elaine,

I was in the early pregnancy clinic a few weeks ago at University Hospital. And a patient came in and said that she found out she was pregnant a few weeks earlier. She told me the first thought that went through her mind was "Oh my gosh, I'm not ready for this – I have to have an abortion." **But then she said the very next thought, a second later, was of the images displayed "by those people at Victoria Hospital."** **And she knew that she could never do that to her baby [referring to the graphic images at the Witness every last Thursday of the month].**

I'm sure you had more than your fair share of abuse and dissent during the 40 Days for Life, but... you've also been making even those that disagree with you take notice. One of my (pro-choice) residents commented how amazed he was at the dedication of the group as he watched you very early one morning in the pouring rain.

And finally, I wanted to give a personal thanks. It gave me such courage, when I had to confront a superior regarding life issues, knowing that I was not alone. So thank you....and God Bless!



## MARCH FOR LIFE 2012 - Join 1000's of Canadians!!

**MAY 9th** Candlelight Vigil

**MAY 10th** Mass and Prayer Services

**MAY 10th** The March for Life through downtown Ottawa

**MAY 11th** Pro-life Youth Conference

### ONE-DAY BUS TRIP:

By Coach: from St. Justin's Parish May 9th at 11:30 p.m.  
Arriving in Ottawa on May 10th between 7 and 8 a.m.  
Coach back in London: May 10th at 11:30 p.m. Cost: Adult \$60 Student \$30  
Contact Cheryl Aspden: 519-453-1489, or, cherylaspden@hotmail.com

### 3-DAY YOUTH TRIP:

The London District Catholic School Board is sending a bus of students and chaperones from our catholic high schools to Ottawa for the National March for Life May 9-11, 2012. Students will be part of a candlelight vigil service, mass at Notre Dame Cathedral, the gathering at Parliament Hill, the march through downtown Ottawa, youth banquet and youth conference. Seats are available on a first come, first serve basis – so don't delay!

### Two student comments after the March:

"Before this trip I was set on that abortion was a matter of circumstance. However, each day I was surrounded by people who celebrated life no matter how it came to be, and I saw that even children who were conceived by rape are still children of God."  
"It feels amazing that I can help end abortion. It is so important for young people to stand up for what is right without being ashamed of it."

### More information & permission forms are available through the trip organizer:

Ann Clarke, Chaplaincy Leader at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School  
Phone: (519) 660-2798 ext. 24238 Fax: (519) 660-2763  
E-mail: aclarke@office.ldcsb.on.ca



# *London Area Right to Life Association* **29th Annual Dinner & 11th Silent Auction** Thursday, March 29, 2012

**Marconi Club, 120 Clarke Road, London**

**Doors will open at 5:45 p.m. for social time and to view & bid on the Silent Auction Items**

**This Year's Guest Speaker:**

**Nicole Campbell**

**Organizer of Toronto's 40 Days for Life**

## **Loving Them Both With Passion and Enthusiasm**

In her work with moms and their little ones, doing so with love is everything for Nicole Campbell. Since she was 14 years old, Nicole has had a desire to be actively pro-life. She held a leadership position in the Toronto 40 Days for Life for four separate campaigns. She has done sidewalk counselling for years, also helping women who have experienced abortion to find help and healing. As a chastity/pro-life high school speaker, she has influenced many a pro-choice student to become pro-life. Nicole is one of the many shining stars among the today's young pro-life activists. Her passion and enthusiasm are contagious and will surely energize us all.

- **\$25.00 EACH** (Advanced Sales Only)
- **by Thursday, March 22, 2012**
- **Buy your table of 8 (\$200)**

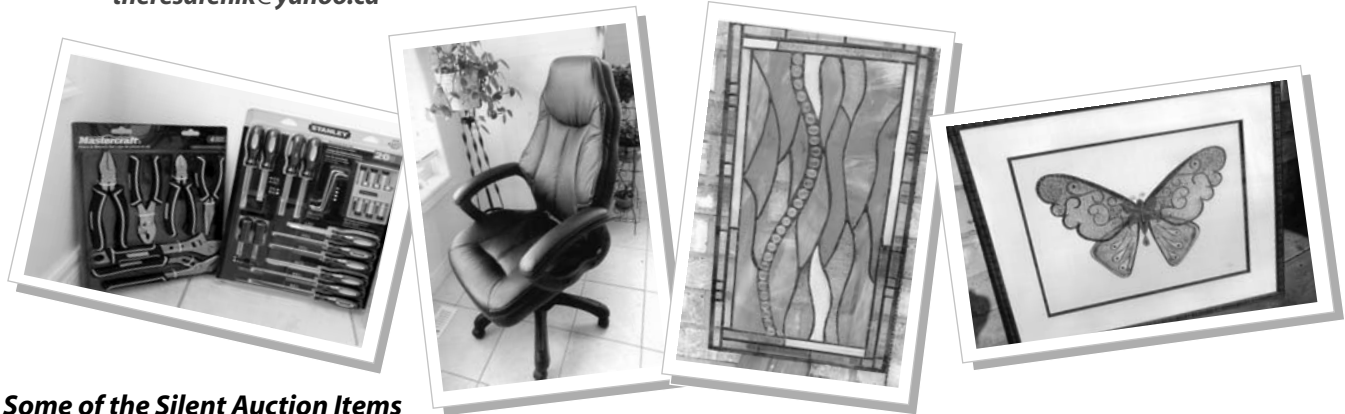


*Nicole holding a baby she helped save from abortion.*



**Call: Theresa Fenik at 519-432-3166 or LARTLA Office at 519-659-3334**

*theresafenik@yahoo.ca*



*Some of the Silent Auction Items*

**We would be very grateful for donations of NEW ITEMS or SERVICES**

**Please call Elaine Arnsby at 519-951-7789 or drop off at office Thursday, March 22, 2012**

# London Area Right to Life ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Tuesday, April 10, 2012, at 7 p.m.**  
**Right to Life Office, Unit 3 – 1193 Oxford St. E.**  
(at Mornington near Highbury)

**Agenda:** Welcome and Opening Prayer, Annual Treasurer's Report, President's Report, New Business, Election of Directors, Prayer & Adjournment. Refreshments will be available before and after.

## BOARD NOMINATIONS

Names, addresses, and phone numbers of nominees (members of LARTLA in good standing) and those nominating them must be sent to office by April 9th. Items of new business for the AGM may be sent in writing or e-mailed to the office in advance of the meeting to be added to the agenda.

**LARTLA needs good people to come forward to serve, to reach out to our community on Life issues.**



## Canadian youths brave -26c weather to get out the pro-life message

From an article by Peter Baklinski, LifeSiteNews.com, Jan. 16, 2012

On Saturday Jan. 13, one hundred and fifty young volunteers handed out over 20,000 pamphlets to homes across Ontario – 24 electoral ridings. The pamphlets called for taxpayers to unite in demanding that the government cease using tax dollars to fund an elective procedure that kills babies. The front of the pamphlet sports a picture of dollar bills being sucked down a drain with the words, "Thank you for paying for my medically unnecessary procedure". The brochure informed the recipients that \$30–50 million of their tax dollars goes every year to fund abortion.



**A recent poll by Abacus Data found that a staggering 91% of respondents were not aware of the amount of money the Ontario government spends to subsidize abortions in the province.**

"The eagerness, passion and fearlessness young people have to reach out to others in this life-saving work is, without a doubt, going to help bring an end to child-killing in this country," said Alissa Golob, head of Campaign Life Coalition Youth who organized the outreach, adding that, **"The youth are not the future of the pro-life movement, they are the present."**

A Defund Abortion petition organized by CLC Youth has already garnered more than 13,000 signatures and they are hoping for 20,000. To find the petition go to the CLC Youth website. To contact Alissa Golob for more information about joining or starting a leafleting blitz campaign in your riding: e-mail [alissa@campaignlifecoalition.com](mailto:alissa@campaignlifecoalition.com) or Ph: 416-204-9749 ext. 238



## ABORTION – An Elective Surgery

By Elaine Arnsby

Deb Matthews, the Minister of Health and Long Term Care in Ontario, is being urged to delist abortion. In January, she stated that "procedures must improve patients' health outcomes or they won't be covered" and that OHIP coverage applies when a procedure is deemed medically necessary. She was referring to C-section births at the time.

The Health Minister needs to understand that abortion is essentially an elective surgery – it is never medically necessary. It is a procedure that kills a child in the womb for whatever reason and for no reason, but is fully funded. Ontario would save between \$30 and \$50 million dollars every year if the Ontario government would delist abortion from OHIP. Those millions of dollars could then be put to real medical use.

Just think – some 300 to 500 Ontario babies would have a better chance at being born, bolstering our beleaguered birth rates, there would be fewer women suffering from the effects of abortion and gradually our families, and society in general, would grow stronger and healthier.

Let's pray our government officials someday get it – that abortion is killing us all.

**CANADIANS WANT THE DEBATE!**

## THE POLLS SHOW

Of 2,000 Canadians polled...

- 72% want some legal protection for the unborn
- Only 2 in 10 support no protection until birth
- Only 3 in 10 support tax funding of abortion
- 92% want sex-selection abortions to be illegal

(Life Canada's 2011 Environics Poll)

## Focus on the Fetus *by Margaret Somerville*

### Sex-Selection abortion shifts the spotlight from the mother to the unwanted baby

Over 100,000 abortions take place each year in Canada, which, uniquely among Western democracies, has no law restricting access to the procedure.

...So why is there this huge fuss about sex-selection abortion? If one can have an abortion for any reason or none, why not because a baby of the opposite sex is strongly preferred?

The reason is, as sex-selection abortion most clearly demonstrates, that abortion is not just a private matter. The issue involves shared societal values, cultural norms and clashes of cultural values and shows that the cumulative impact of abortion has societal consequences.

Pro-choice advocates have long proposed that whether women can have unfettered access to abortion should be the litmus test of whether a society has respect for women and their rights. Ironically, however, sex-selection abortion is overwhelmingly the expression of a lack of respect for women in cultures in which sons are highly valued and daughters are massively devalued.

Sex-selection abortion also shifts the analytic, ethical and legal spotlight from the pregnant woman (who is the basis of the pro-choice case), to the unwanted fetus (which is normally ignored in the pro-choice analysis). This is because in sex selection, unlike probably most other abortions, the woman wants a baby – just not a girl. As a result of this focus on the fetus, we see abortion in a different ethical and legal light. Sex-selection abortions are often referred to as “female

feticide” or “gendercide” – both emotionally evocative terms. But all abortions are feticide. Why don't we refer to them as such? Cumulatively, abortion decisions have an impact on society and are not just a private matter. In one Indian study in which 7,000 consecutive abortions were followed, 6,697 were of female foetuses. In some areas of China it's reported there are 160 young men for every 100 girls. This is harmful to both sexes: Women are devalued, treated as objects, abused and harmed. And men cannot find wives.

The Canadian Medical Association Journal editorial suggestion that the way to handle sex-selection abortion in Canada is to withhold information on the sex of the baby until 30 weeks gestation is neither feasible nor ethical. A baby's sex can be determined at eight weeks of gestation with a blood sample from the mother and, in general, people have an ethical and legal right to know the information a physician generates about their condition.

Moreover, testing unborn children for sex is the tip of the prenatal testing iceberg. Tests for many other conditions are already available and more are coming fast. The issues are how may these be used and how should they not be used – and what law governing abortion should be put in place to ensure that the Canadian values we want to enshrine regarding these tests are respected? Much as some politicians, including the Prime Minister, protest against doing so, they must start discussing abortion in Parliament. It is an issue that affects some of the most important values on which we base our Canadian society. And it is not going away.

## Professor Margaret Somerville Speaking at Brescia College “The Case Against Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide”

**When: Wednesday, March 7, 2012 at 7:30 pm.**

**Where: Brescia University College** - 1285 Western Rd. London, Mother St. James Memorial Building Auditorium

**Cost: This is a free event - Everyone is welcome.**

Professor Margaret Somerville holds professorships in both the Faculty of Law - where she holds the Samuel Gale Chair - and the Faculty of Medicine (McGill University - Montreal). She was the founding director of the McGill Centre for Medicine, Ethics and Law. Professor Somerville is a world-renowned speaker, consultant and researcher on many topics including euthanasia and assisted suicide. She has written about the role that scientific and medical research and technology play in the formation of societal values. She was the key-note speaker at the First International Symposium on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide

Co-sponsored by The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition and St. Peter's Seminary



## REMEMBER THIS WOMAN *Warsaw, Poland*



During WWII, Irena Sendler, got permission to work in the Warsaw ghetto as a Plumbing/Sewer specialist. She had an ulterior motive.

Irena smuggled Jewish infants out in the bottom of the tool box she carried. She also carried a burlap sack in the back of her truck, for larger kids. Irena kept a dog in the back that she trained to bark when the Nazi soldiers let her in and out of the ghetto. The soldiers, of course, wanted nothing to do with the dog and the barking covered the kids/infants noises.

During her time of doing this, she managed to smuggle out and save 2500 kids/infants. Ultimately, she was caught, however, and the Nazi's broke both of her legs and arms and beat her severely.

Irena kept a record of the names of all the kids she had smuggled out, in a glass jar that she buried under a tree in her back yard. After the war, she tried to locate any parents that may have survived and tried to reunite the family. Most had been gassed. Those kids she helped got placed into foster family homes or adopted.

All pro-lifers can look up to Irena Sendler, a true pro-life heroine.

# WARNING TO PARENTS ABOUT HPV VACCINE - GARDASIL

*From an article by Thaddeus Baklinski for LifeSiteNews Feb. 2, 2012 and from an article by Dr. Mercola on Gardasil*

Annabelle Morin died on December 9, 2008, after having received two doses of Gardasil under a program introduced by Quebec in September 2008. (Health Canada approved Gardasil on July 18, 2006.)

After the first shot at a clinic in October 2008, the teenager vomited, became confused and incoherent and was unable to speak or walk. At hospital she was diagnosed with a migraine and sent home. Annabelle received a second dose of Gardasil at her school on Nov. 24, 2008, and again became ill. Two weeks later her parents found her dead in the bathtub. Her parents are suing the manufacturer of the HPV vaccine, pharmaceutical giant Merck Frosst, as well as three doctors and a clinic, for \$197,000.

Last November, Dr. Joseph Mercola, a well-known doctor in the U.S., said that the U.S. government's Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) database indicated in 2009 that Gardasil has been linked to 48 sudden deaths, 213 permanent disabilities, 137 reports of cervical dysplasia, 41 reports of cervical cancer, and thousands of adverse events reports, ranging from headaches and nausea, to outbreaks of genital warts, anaphylactic shock, grand mal convulsion, foaming at the mouth, coma and paralysis.

"Deadly blood clots, acute respiratory failure, cardiac arrest and 'sudden death due to unknown causes' have all occurred in girls shortly after they've received the Gardasil vaccine," Dr. Mercola explained. "These are atrocious risks to potentially prevent cervical cancer one day down the road. **Because let's not forget that the HPV vaccine has not yet been proven to actually prevent any kind of cancer... Global sales of Gardasil topped \$2 billion in 2008, but that's not enough for Merck. In an effort to expand their vaccine sales, Merck just recently filed for FDA approval to use Gardasil for boys as well as girls!**"

**Editor's note: We have pamphlets on Gardasil available at our office.**

## "TELL THE TRUTH" CAMPAIGN in PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

*From lifesitenews articles by Thaddeus and Peter Baklinski Dec. 16 2011 and Jan. 04 2012*



*The Gentle Island*

In December 2011 the Health Minister of Prince Edward Island, Doug Currie, again told a newly formed pro-abortion group that is agitating for expansion of abortion services in Canada's only abortion-free province, that the existing status quo will not be changed.

Currently the government pays for women to obtain abortions off-island, primarily in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. According to Health P.E.I. this is due to both government financial considerations and to the fact that no doctors have applied to perform abortions at the island's hospitals.

Anne Marie Tomlins of P.E.I. Right to Life told the media after the meeting with Minister Currie that the organization will step up its pro-life campaign using newspaper ads and mass-mailings to every household in the province if the government moves to reintroduce abortion on the Island.

To achieve their goal of educating the islanders, the pro-life association has teamed up with Campaign Life Coalition, the Knights of Columbus, and the Catholic Women's League.

They plan to run a full-page abortion information ad next month in the island's major newspaper. They have already given briefs to the island's minister of health and premier outlining how abortion harms women. Information packages and briefs will be sent to MLAs and to medical personnel throughout the province. The group has recently revamped its website and created Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Tomlins refers to her province as the "life sanctuary," noting that the island has not had any abortions on its soil since the late 1980's.

## Motion to Debate PERSONHOOD of UNBORN in Parliament

*From LifeSiteNews article by Patrick B. Craine Mon. Feb. 06, 2012*



On Monday Feb. 6, 2012, Steve Woodworth, pro-life Conservative MP, filed a historic motion in the House of Commons calling for Parliament to establish a special committee to consider when human life begins.

The MP from Kitchener Centre has called for Parliament to re-examine section 223 of Canada's Criminal Code, a 400-year-old provision inherited from British common law that stipulates a child only becomes a "human being" once he or she has fully proceeded from the womb.

Abortion was legalized in Canada in 1969 with the passage of Pierre Trudeau's Omnibus crime bill, which allowed a committee of doctors to approve the deadly procedure. The Supreme Court of Canada struck down that law in 1988, calling on Parliament to enact a new one. In his remarks on Monday, Woodworth emphasized that his motion accords with the view of Madam Justice Bertha Wilson in the 1988 R. V. Morgentaler decision.

Before the special committee called for by Woodworth can be established, the motion must get majority support from the house of Commons. Woodworth expects an hour of debate on the motion in March and another hour in June. His motion proposes to give the committee ten months to prepare a final report detailing the medical evidence, whether or not it is consistent with the current Criminal Code, and possible legislative options for Parliament to affirm or amend the Code.

Justice Minister Rob Nicholson issued a statement reiterating the Harper government's position that they will not reopen the debate on abortion. However, the effort has been backed by numerous pro-life and faith-based groups, including Campaign Life Coalition, the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, LifeCanada, and the Catholic Civil Rights League.

# MAKING ABORTION UNTHINKABLE

January-February 2012

by Stephanie Gray

**CCBR**  
CANADIAN CENTRE  
FOR BIO-ETHICAL REFORM

On January 22 and in association with the March for Life in DC, I spoke to 1,000 teenagers at a conference by Louisiana Right to Life in Virginia; immediately following, I jumped into a taxi to head to the Students for Life America (SFLA) Conference in Maryland where I spoke to 2,000 college students.

My prayer that morning was that the Holy Spirit would move in the hearts of the attendees and convict them to use the information in their everyday lives. My prayer was that I would decrease to that God would increase.

Feedback from both was very encouraging one young man told me the presentation changed his life, and he specifically cited my playing of our abortion video has deeply convicted him.

SFLA's communications director, Jackie Anderson, told me, "I also want to reiterate that it was during your presentation that the online webcast of our conference crashed because there was such a huge influx of people trying to watch at that time."

**She also shared this encouraging feedback from attendees who gave a 5/5 for the presentation:**

- "It was so good! I loved the analogies and stories of her experiences with people dealing with serous issues. The movie was also good."
- "She left such an impact on me; it was the best."
- "Stunning. Bring her back or make her president of the USA or both!"
- "She was absolutely amazing. She had my attention the entire time and she had so much good, usable information. I only hope I can learn to speak my beliefs as well as she does."

Twenty three young people did 'Choice' Chain in Vancouver on Jan. 14. Led by our former intern Ania Kasprzak and courageous post-abortive young woman Jeanne Nuels, these women and their team made a big impact. Ania reported this encounter:

*"Oh my gosh what is that?" I turned to my right, and saw a man in his late twenties clutching a pamphlet and darting his eyes from poster to poster.*

*"What are these pictures of?"*

*He appeared genuinely confused about what the graphic images were depicting. I approached him and gently explained that we were showing exactly what abortion does to the preborn child at different stages of development. I pointed out how the majority of abortions happen during the first-trimester and this is why we are focusing on bringing this shocking and graphic truth to the public.*

*The young man was at a loss for words. He kept shaking his head and repeating the same sentence over and over:*

*"Oh my gosh, how can this be happening? Is this really what it looks like? That's terrible! I had no idea!"*

*"Choice' Chain has offered me the opportunity to reach people with my regretful testimony. I know that using my testimony through 'Choice' Chain will persuade others to choose life for their children and themselves, and if they have had an abortion to confront their fear and seek healing."*



## His Life Was Worth Living

By Trish Anker, LifeSiteNews Wed. Jan. 11, 2012 (unmaskingchoice.ca)



I will never forget the joy and thankfulness I felt when I got the call telling me that I was pregnant.

Other than feeling extremely nauseous and tired, my first trimester went well. I had my first ultrasound at twelve weeks and was extremely thankful to see that everything looked perfect with our baby.

On November 13, 2002, I was scheduled for my twenty-week ultrasound. My husband Dave had been unable to attend any of my previous doctor's appointments or ultrasounds so he took the day off and we decided to take our daughter Jasey with us as well, to give her a first look at the new baby. We were blissfully unaware of the tragic news we would receive and we didn't even think to be concerned that anything could be wrong.

The technician began the ultrasound. After a couple of minutes she murmured that there wasn't very much amniotic fluid. I ignorantly asked if that was bad. She continued moving the wand around my belly and without looking at me she said, "I'll have the doctor come in and talk to you when I'm finished here." I remember the sick feeling in my stomach as Dave and I looked at each other anxiously. She did her best to make the rest of the ultrasound seem normal as she measured various body parts and pointed out the head and perfect little hands and feet. We tried to concentrate, but our minds were racing, trying to imagine what could be wrong. When she'd finished she told us the doctor would be in to talk to us shortly. Fearing the worst, I asked Dave to take Jasey into the waiting room while I waited for the doctor.

The doctor came in and his first words were "I'm so sorry." I immediately began to cry, but tried to compose myself while he told me that I had a dangerously low amount of amniotic fluid surrounding the baby and I would have to go for a more detailed ultrasound at Swedish Hospital in Seattle. I asked what caused this, and he told me that our child's kidneys hadn't developed properly. This condition is known as "Potter's Syndrome." (continues on next page)

There are no words to describe the devastation I felt when he said those words. I didn't care who heard me crying as I got dressed and ready to tell Dave that the baby we already loved so much was going to die. I don't remember much about the meeting with the doctor, but one thing stands out: That one of the first things he said was that in a case like this we should think about terminating the pregnancy. **We didn't hesitate, and told him that we would never even consider that, since we believe only God can create life and only He has the right to end life. It was like a slap in our faces to hear that since our baby would probably not be able to live outside my womb, his life had no more value. Dave and I cried the whole way home. We dreaded making the calls to our families because telling them made it even more real. Everyone was devastated.**

On November 20th, we had our appointment at Swedish Hospital. We hoped that maybe the state of the art ultrasound machines would show that miraculously there was a normal amount of fluid, but the news was no more hopeful this time. We asked if the technician could tell us if our baby was a boy or girl, and she said that there wasn't enough amniotic fluid for her to get a good look, but since about 80% of babies with Potter's Syndrome are boys, there was a good chance it was a boy. We had felt all along that this baby was a boy and had chosen the name David John, after Dave and his father. After the ultrasound, we met with a genetic counselor who kindly but bluntly told us that our baby had 0% chance of survival outside the womb. He told us he was required to let us know that termination of the pregnancy was an option, but once again we said that was not even an option in our minds. He said that it was likely that in the next eight weeks, our baby would die. What a grim prediction. The unknown felt terrifying. When we asked if our baby was in any pain, he told us that David was completely safe and pain-free inside my womb, which gave us some small comfort. To imagine that our baby would have to die soon was awful, but to think that he was in pain would have added to the anguish we already felt.

At my next doctor's appointment, I had the same doctor who had seen me on the day of my ultrasound and when he came into the room, he looked puzzled and asked me what I was there for. When I told him I was there for my prenatal check-up, he said, "What for? You do know your baby isn't going to survive, right?" I felt like I had been kicked in the stomach but asked if he would please let me listen to the baby's heartbeat. He reluctantly did so and it was a relief to hear the sound of his heartbeat galloping. Because I knew we would most likely never get to see our baby alive, I treasured moments like these more than ever.

We begged God to heal him and spent a lot of time during the following months with our hands on my growing belly feeling our baby kick and squirm, and made sure that Jasey felt included in those times so he would feel real to her as well. We hoped and prayed that David knew how much we loved him and counted every day of my pregnancy as a blessing. That is not to say that it wasn't an extremely difficult time! We struggled to accept God's will, and although it is painful for me to admit now, there were times as I grew bigger and more uncomfortable that I wished for it all to be over.

On February 21, 2003, I went for another appointment at Swedish Hospital to see if there was any change in David's development. The night before my appointment, I brought Jasey to my mom's house for the night. I didn't know it then, but God was orchestrating everything for David's arrival. I was barely home when my legs and back began to ache. The pain in my back grew increasingly intense and I remember asking Dave if he thought it was possible that I might be in labour. I looked up the symptoms of pre-term labour and it confirmed that I was indeed in labour. We were extremely nervous, but tried to get some sleep. Dave fell asleep but I tossed and turned from the pain and began shivering uncontrollably with fear and anxiety. After a couple of hours, I told Dave we should go to the hospital.



When we arrived at Swedish Hospital, one last ultrasound was administered to see if anything had changed in David's status but the results were the same as every other time. It seemed to be a cruel mistake as his heartbeat was still so strong and Dave still held onto one last shred of hope that God would still perform a miracle.

My family had arrived and went to the waiting room to await news of David's birth. His delivery was long and very painful. He was breech and progress was slow. I vaguely remember one of the nurses turning off the heart monitor at some point and I asked if he was still alive. She listened carefully, and sadly shook her head. The sorrow was unbearable! What pain had he endured during his struggle to be born? At what moment had his heart stopped beating? It was so painful to think we had missed seeing him alive by moments. After he was born, one of our nurses cleaned him up and placed him into my arms. He was still warm and merely looked as though he was sleeping. **Dave and I held him and kissed him with tears streaming down our faces. Then Dave went to call my family to meet our son. I will never forget the sound of my mom and sisters weeping as they came down the hall. It was such an awful moment, yet Dave and I felt such pride in our beautiful son and were so thankful to share him with our loved ones.**

We held him for hours and told him how much we loved him. When it was finally time to let him go, it was so hard to let the nurse take him and put him in his little bassinet. I will never forget the moment when she pulled the sheet over his face as she prepared to leave our room. It was such a brutal reality: Our son was dead.

We were so thankful that we had our precious little girl to hold when we got home. Her innocent chatter and affectionate nature was the best medicine for the awful sadness of the following days and months.

**To this day we have regrets about the short time we spent with David. I wish I hadn't been so drugged, that I could have experienced that time with more clarity. I wish I had held him longer, and that Jasey could have met her baby brother. I wish I could have had him closer to home so more family and friends could have come to see him, but the one thing I will NEVER regret is that we chose not to end his life. He was our son, loved and longed for, and his life, although short, has touched our lives and the lives of our family and closest friends unforgettably. However short, his life was truly worth living.**