



Prince George ProLife Society

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NEWSLETTER NO. 28

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PROLIFE SOCIETY

This newsletter is a publication
of the ProLife Society of
Prince George.

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Members of the ProLife Society believe in the right to life of all human beings from the moment of fertilization until natural death. We support only the use of peaceful means to promote the aims of the society.

COMING EVENTS

May 2006

**28 Annual Potluck/Silent
Auction**
St. Mary's Auditorium
Doors 4:00 Dinner 4:30

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is especially at this time of year that I am most keenly reminded of all that Jesus suffered and sacrificed so that we might have life and live it to the fullest. There is also the realization that although our own sacrifices, on behalf of life, seem so small in comparison, when they are joined to the sufferings of Christ, all things are possible. As I reflect on this, I feel an ever greater hope and a renewed sense of commitment. It is this hope that keeps us all going, even through difficult times.

I'd like to share with you some information I received recently which does bring us a glimmer of hope. In the April edition of The Interim, there was a Statistics Canada report on the numbers of induced abortions for the year 2003, which are the latest figures available. Although most provinces and territories either remained the same or increased by a small amount, the provinces of New Brunswick, Ontario, and British Columbia saw a decline. This decline reduced the national average from 15.4 abortions/1,000 women to 15.2 abortions/1,000 women, with a total of 1,386 less abortions Canada-wide. This is always good news - however, there were still 103,768 defenseless unborn lives that were lost across our country. This brings the numbers, to date, to a total of more than three million Canadian babies who have been killed by induced abortions.

There has also been some very encouraging news released from a poll which was commissioned by LifeCanada. In this poll, it was found that 64% of Canadian women and 55% of Canadian men support the legal protection of unborn children. At the present time, there is no legal protection at all throughout the nine months of pregnancy, even for those who are injured or killed as a result of a brutal crime.

Although nearly all abortions are publicly funded, this poll revealed that 50% of Canadians feel that abortions should be funded only when the mother's life is in danger or in cases of rape or incest, and another 18% feel that all abortions should be privately funded.

In regards to informed consent legislation, 70% supported legislation which would ensure that women who are considering an abortion would be informed about the stages of fetal development and the possible side effects and complications of abortion, and would also be given an ultrasound scan. Today, there is no such legislation and women are not being provided with the information necessary to give a truly informed consent.

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(President's Message, cont.)

And when Canadians were asked about a parental consent law, 56% supported legislation that would make it mandatory for parental consent to be given before a girl under the age of 18 could have an abortion. At this time, no parental consent is needed at any age.

Although we have a new government in place which takes a more pro-life stance, it appears that abortion is not an issue that they want to deal with in the near future. Perhaps in time, perhaps with a majority government, or perhaps with the spoken and written outcry of all those who say they want to see a change, will new legislation be put in place. We still have a long way to go and a lot of work yet to do.

What gives us comfort, however, are the words of Fr. Frank Pavone, who will be the keynote speaker at the upcoming March for Life in Ottawa, May 10-12: "We already have a victory placed in our hands because Christ is risen. Because He's risen and because death is conquered, victory is not just our goal, it's our starting point. We start with victory and that's what propels us to do this work. We can never stop moving forward."

The resurrected Lord is our source of all hope. I pray that this Easter Season brings you and your family abundant blessings and a wealth of love, peace and joy – and the wondrous gift of hope.

Laura Fowlie, President

Victoria Microbiologist Slams National Post Bias Favouring Embryo Cloning

TORONTO, April 19, 2006 (LifeSiteNews.com) – Eminent Victoria microbiologist, Clement Persaud PhD, has published a letter to the editor of the National Post this week scolding the Post for its editorial bias in favour of embryonic stem cell research. The self-described "conservative" National Post went even further than is usual in the mainstream press, saying that not only should existing embryos be killed for their parts, but that new "fresh" cloned embryos should be created for the purpose.

The Post editor wrote, "We must abandon this country's overly timid approach to embryonic stem cell research."

The story revolved around a significant scientific breakthrough reported by LifeSiteNews.com on April 4, in which a team of researchers had created entire new bladders for patients suffering from spina bifida. On April 10, the National Post picked up the story and published an editorial saying that the breakthrough was further proof of the necessity for embryonic stem cell research and cloning.

The actual research, however, had little to do with stem cells, whether embryonic or adult and nothing whatever to do with cloning. The cells that created what the scientists had called the "neo-bladders" were

differentiated already to be specific to the bladder. They were not stem cells but had been obtained by biopsy from patients' existing bladders that had been damaged by disease.

Persaud said that to connect the successful creation of the bladders to embryo cells was a "quantum leap." He wrote

that despite the hype and years of attempts, not a single peer-reviewed report has been made of sustained clinical benefit with embryonic stem cells. "They deliver promises," he writes, "but no results. By contrast, adult and cord blood stem cells have contributed to over 65 treatments or cures."

To say that Canada has an "overly timid" approach to the experimental use of human beings in the embryonic stage flies in the face of two years of sustained efforts by the pro-life movement to defeat Bill C-6 (formerly C-13), passed March 2004, and which allows for embryonic stem cell research. Pro-life advocates revealed that the bill would open the door to nearly unrestricted research including cloning.

Persaud told the Post, "Many Canadians, have profound concerns, transcending medical benefit, concerning creating life simply for the purpose of destroying it for stem cells, when there is an ethical, fruitful alternative..."

Persaud was among the few scientists in Canada to testify against legislation passed two years ago

“ Many Canadians have profound concerns creating life simply for the purpose of destroying it for stem cells . . . “

legalizing embryo research and cloning. He also spoke against a plan by a member of the US President's Council on Bioethics, to create "quasi" embryos and harvest their stem cells. Although the plan was approved by a number of eminent Catholics, Persaud said the proposal would simply be "cloning to produce an aberrant human embryo," that would then be killed for its parts.

The National Post is known for publishing more columns leaning toward traditional moral views than most newspapers, thereby providing some balance to a mostly uniform social leftist Canadian media establishment. However, editorially, the Post's owners have parroted the usual establishment social liberalism.

In addition to the current editorial advocating stem cell research, recent unsigned Post editorials have opposed raising the age of consent for gay sex to 18 and have supported legalized prostitution and legalized marijuana use.

The paper, which formerly took more distinctly conservative positions under founder Conrad Black would also now rather see the abortion issue disappear and, in opposition to some of its columnists, tends to be soft on the gay social engineering agenda. In a 2004 editorial, the Post's official voice wrote, "The fact is that Canada is a socially liberal nation: if he hopes to win in the future, Mr. Harper will need to leave no doubt about his party's positions on issues such as abortion and gay rights—perhaps even going so far as embracing gay marriage as a means to take the bigot card away from the Liberals."

Cancer Chemo for Pregnant Women Safe After First Trimester

Avoids abortion recommendation

CAMDEN, N.J., April 13, 2006 (LifeSiteNews.com)
Chemotherapy administered to women for cancer detected during pregnancy may be safe for the unborn child if administered after the first trimester, doctors revealed last month.

Although rare – only 1 in 1,000 women develop cancer in pregnancy – until now, many physicians had recommended abortion because it was felt that

chemotherapy would irreversibly damage the unborn child. New evidence reveals it may be safe as long as the treatment is given after the baby has developed beyond the first trimester. Until recently, doctors also felt that the stress of carrying a child would reduce a woman's child of surviving the cancer.

Dr. Elyce Cardonick, a maternal-fetal specialist working at Cooper University Hospital in Camden, N.J., began collecting information from women treated with chemo during pregnancy for various types of cancer beginning in 1996.

"No physician wanted to be the first person to treat a (pregnant) patient with cancer," she explained, according to a Woman's Cancer Network report. "No one person had a lot of experience because it was rare." She and other doctors practicing similarly have found that babies fare well if chemotherapy is begun after the first trimester.

Hawaii First State in US to Enshrine Abortion "Rights" in Law

Same bill waives mandatory 90-day residency requirement; allows abortion in-office

HONOLULU, April 12, 2006 (LifeSiteNews.com)

Hawaii legislators have passed a law that would enshrine the "right" to abortion in the hopes that it will prevent a future challenge to legal abortion.

The addition of two new conservatives to the US Supreme Court, combined with South Dakota's successful passage of an abortion ban has spurred lawmakers there to pass Bill 1242, which went to the governor for approval Tuesday. Adding the provision would make it more difficult for a court challenge in the island state – even if it were successfully challenged federally, lawmakers argued.

The same bill eliminates the mandatory 90-day residency requirement before abortion, and allows abortion as an in-office medical procedure. The proposal prompted one commentator to dub the island state as the "baby killing centre of the Pacific."

Republican Sen. Sam Slom added that the new law "would make Hawaii the abortion capital of the world. We are known for sewage in our ocean. What other negative thing could we be known for," he said, according to thehawaiiichannel.com.

The law also eliminates provisions that ban late-term abortion, according to Republican Sen. Paul Whalen. The law allows "abortions to occur in doctors' offices and clinics all the way to birth; as late an abortion as you want," he said. Planned Parenthood Hawaii spokesman Annelie Amaral denied that the law would expand the late-term prohibition, which she said would still be illegal.

Gov. Linda Lingle has 10 days to veto the law. Her past strong support for abortion has commentators suggesting she will not resist the measure.

Pro-Lifer Attacked Outside Vancouver Abortion Clinic - Attack Caught on Video

VANCOUVER, April 10, 2006 (*LifeSiteNews.com*) On Friday afternoon April 7, 2006 a pro-life demonstrator was viciously assaulted by an unknown assailant. Rose Mawhorter, a member of the executive of Campaign Life Coalition BC, was protesting with graphic images across the street from Vancouver's notorious abortion clinic, Everywomans Health Center at the corner of Broadway St. and Commercial Drive when she was attacked from behind and thrown violently to the ground.

Her female assailant ripped Rose's signs from her neck and began running down the street. She threw the signs into the traffic and turned back to the scene of chaos she had left behind and began cursing and swearing at the people who were coming to assist Rose. The attacker continued this screaming and yelling until she was out of earshot of the group and then bolted across the road, running as fast as she could making a clean get away.

The perpetrator did not know the entire incident was captured on video tape. The tape has been turned over to the Vancouver Police department who said they would have no trouble identifying the suspect.

Within minutes of the assault, four police cars arrived and spent considerable resources combing nearby streets in an attempt to locate the suspect. Statements were taken from several witnesses and the videotape and Rose's signs were turned over as evidence.

Rose suffered a small laceration on her wrist as well as bruising on her elbow and hip. She was asked by police if she needed an ambulance but said it was not necessary. Asked later how she was feeling, she said she was still a little shook up.

Rose wanted to clarify that the incident will not deter her from maintaining her weekly vigil at the abortion location. In fact she said incidents like this are to be expected when one brings a message to society that it does not want to hear. She was not surprised that people who condone killing the smallest of human beings would resort to attacking defenseless, peaceful demonstrators.

"This traumatic incident speaks to the need for the continued presence outside abortion facilities and points to the sacrifices some dedicated pro-lifers are making to ensure the voice of the unborn children is not silenced," Campaign Life Coalition BC President John Hof told *LifeSiteNews.com*. "She will return to her post again on Friday and invites anyone who would like to discuss this issue to come speak with her."

Violence can never be considered an option" Mawhorter stated. "Social justice movements almost inevitably face violent resistance when they successfully challenge accepted injustice. This will be no different for the pro-life movement when we begin to effectively confront our society's sin."

New Jersey Court Rules Jury Must Decide If Abortion Terminates a Life

TRENTON, N.J., April 7, 2006 (*LifeSiteNews.com*) - In a stunning reversal for abortion providers, a New Jersey Appellate Court has issued a unanimous opinion that the factual contention that a first trimester abortion terminates the life of a human being is a question to be decided by a jury. In the sixteen page opinion in *Rosa Acuna v. Dr. Sheldon Turkish* (Appellate Docket # A-4022-03T5), the Court remanded the case for trial, ruling that whether a first trimester abortion terminates the life of a complete, unique human being presents a fact question for a jury to decide.

Mrs. Acuna contends that she submitted to an abortion after her regular gynecologist -- who she saw for abdominal pain -- recommended that she have an abortion. When Mrs. Acuna asked Dr. Turkish whether her baby was already there, he told her "Don't be stupid, it is just some blood," according to Mrs. Acuna. Mrs. Acuna wanted to know if there was a human being already in existence. Even Dr. Turkish has acknowledged that he would have told her that there was just some "tissue" that was being removed.

Mrs. Acuna has stated that she relied upon representations of Dr. Turkish, and submitted to the abortion procedure. Three weeks later she was rushed to a local hospital because of heavy hemorrhaging and was told by a nurse that the doctor had "left part of your baby in you."

Mrs. Acuna's attorney, New Jersey attorney Harold J. Cassidy, is also the chief counsel for four parties in litigation involving the same factual contentions, currently pending in the Federal District Court in South Dakota and the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit in St. Louis. In that case, Planned Parenthood sued South Dakota Governor Michael Rounds and Attorney General Larry Long claiming that a South Dakota law enacted in 2005 -- which requires abortion doctors to disclose to a pregnant mother the fact that the abortion will terminate the life of a whole, separate, unique, living human being -- violates the free speech rights of the abortion doctors.

The Acuna case, which is a jury trial, and the South Dakota Planned Parenthood v. Rounds case (Fed. District Ct. Case No. 05-4077; U.S. Court of Appeals Case No. 05-3093) are the only two cases of their nature in the United States. Both cases will decide whether a first trimester abortion terminates the life of a living human being, and implicates questions surrounding the beginning of biological life.

"Mrs. Acuna is grateful that the Appellate Court has again ruled in her favour so that she will be permitted to try her case in a court of law," Mr. Cassidy stated.

"Planned Parenthood in the South Dakota case had pointed to the second lower court decision in the Acuna case before the U.S. Court of Appeals. Its reliance upon the lower court decision that conflicted with the prior Appellate decision was misplaced, and today's opinion will be brought to the attention of that court before the oral argument on April 20th."

Belgium to Consider Legalizing Under-18 Euthanasia

BRUSSELS, Belgium, April 7, 2006 (LifeSiteNews.com) – The government of Belgium is considering a proposal to legalize euthanasia for children and youth up to age 18.

The Flemish Socialist party, a member of Belgium's coalition government, has called for an extension to

the country's euthanasia laws to give teenagers under 18 the right to choose assisted suicide, and parents of younger children the right to "choose" it for them.

Euthanasia was legalized in Belgium in 2002. Under the current law, a patient must be over 18, terminally ill and in constant suffering in order to qualify for euthanasia. The country has considered extending the law to include children ever since the present law was first passed.

Last month the Netherlands announced it would allow the legal euthanasia of babies and children under 12 years. Dutch doctors admitted to the unauthorized killing of infants prior to the legislation; at least 15 babies were killed every year, many of them born with non-fatal genetic disorders.

See LifeSiteNews coverage:

Belgium Strengthens Assisted Suicide, Ponders Including Those Under 18

<http://www.lifesite.net/ldn/2003/jun/03062310.html>

Holland to Allow Baby Euthanasia

<http://www.lifesite.net/ldn/2006/mar/06030601.html>

Abortion Ruling: Florida Supreme Court Upholds Women's Right To Know Act

WEST PALM BEACH, FL April 7, 2006 (LifeSiteNews.com) - Yesterday, the Florida Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the Women's Right to Know Act, a statute prohibiting abortion without the informed and voluntary consent of the patient. Last year, a state appeals court ruled that the informed consent law violates Florida's right to privacy contained in the state constitution.

The Florida Supreme Court construed the statute as an informed consent statute and stated, "The doctrine of informed consent is well recognized, has a long history, and is grounded in the common law and based in the concepts of bodily integrity and patient autonomy." The Court stated, "The termination of pregnancy is unquestionably a medical procedure and we conclude that, as with any other medical procedure, the State may require physicians to obtain informed consent from a patient prior to terminating pregnancy."

Liberty Counsel filed an Amicus Brief in the case on behalf of the Catholic Medical Association and the Christian Medical Association, which together represent over 20,000 physicians. The Associations are

represented by Teresa Collett, professor of law at St. Thomas University School of Law, along with Mathew D. Staver, President and General Counsel of Liberty Counsel.

The brief argued that women make better choices when they are fully informed of the consequences and, like any other medical procedure, women simply have the right to be fully informed. The brief also argued that "a right exercised in ignorance is not freedom. It's just tyranny once removed."

Staver commented, "We applaud today's opinion upholding the Women's Right to Know Act. Abortion providers arguing that they should not be required to inform women about the consequences of abortion is akin to the fox guarding the hen house. Abortion doctors have an incentive to spend as little time with their patients as possible in order to increase their profit margin. Although abortion providers claim they act in the best interest of women, their actions are to the contrary. It is astounding that abortion providers would fight the implementation of this statute that was only intended to provide women seeking an abortion with full information about the consequences of the abortion. The best interest of women, and for that matter the best interest of any patient, is to be fully informed of the impending medical procedure. Women have a right to be fully informed."

British Study Says Premature Babies Feel Pain

LONDON, Great Britain, April 5, 2006 (LifeSiteNews.com) – Another study has found that premature babies feel pain as intensely, or even more intensely, than we do.

A research team from University College London analyzed brain scans of premature infants taken when blood samples were being drawn using a heel lance, reported BBC News yesterday. They found records of a surge of blood and oxygen to the babies' brains during the procedure, showing conclusively that the pain registered in the sensory levels of the brain.

"We have shown for the first time that the information about pain reaches the brain in premature babies," said lead researcher Professor Maria Fitzgerald, a specialist in developmental neurobiology at the Thomas Lewis Pain Research Centre at UCL. "Beforehand, although we could assume it, we did not know for sure that these babies could feel pain."

Dr. Paul Ranalli, professor of neurology at the University of Toronto, said last year in reference to the pain felt by premature babies, "The only difference between a child in the womb at this stage, or one born and cared for in an incubator, is how they receive oxygen—either through the umbilical cord or through the lungs. There is no difference in their nervous systems."

Professor Fitzgerald conducted research in 1998 into the intensity of pain levels experienced by premature babies. She found that babies in the womb are more sensitive to pain than adults and older children.

"The premature baby cannot benefit from the natural pain-killing system which in adults dampens down pain messages as they enter the central nervous system," she said at the time.

Although previous research indicated that premature babies are capable of showing measurable signs of pain and distress, it was possible to dismiss the indications as bodily reflex reactions, not an experience of true pain.

Fitzgerald's research team says the findings in this latest study are clear, that there is a potential for the intensity of the pain experience to affect later brain development.

Numerous studies have emerged over the past year that suggest premature or unborn babies feel intense pain, among them a U.S. study which used ultrasound videos to show unborn children as young as 28 weeks crying in the womb.

The emergence of these reports has led to efforts to create "pain legislation," in an attempt to lessen the agony of abortion for the unborn child who is brutally killed.

U.S. Mainstream Media Reports on RU-486 Deaths

NEWYORK, United States, April 5, 2006 (LifeSiteNews.com) – The New York Times reported last Saturday on dangers associated with the use of the chemical abortion drug RU486.

Abortion providers are beginning to question the drug's safety after the deaths of two more women who died in March after taking the drug. The deaths have raised the concern of doctors who prescribe chemical abortion drugs.

“None of these women should be dying; it’s shocking,” Dr. Peter Bours, an abortion provider in Portland, Oregon, told the Times. He is rethinking whether to offer chemical abortions to his patients.

RU486 has been linked to the deaths of more than 10 women in Europe and the U.S. as well as multiple cases of severe and bloody side effects. The F.D.A has received notice of more than 600 cases of complications including extreme nausea, cramping, excessive bleeding and haemorrhaging, and incomplete abortion requiring surgery, since the drug was first marketed.

Despite the dangers associated with the medication, the F.D.A. has not pulled it from the market and abortion advocates continue to promote its use.

Planned Parenthood’s vice president for medical affairs, Dr. Vanessa Cullins, said, “both surgical and medication abortion are extremely safe and effective procedures.” Both have “comparable risks with the exception of what we have recently seen as it relates to septic fatalities.”

The risk of death associated with the use of RU486 is slightly higher than one in 100,000, almost ten times greater than that of surgical abortions. Five deaths in the U.S. were caused by infections with an unusually virulent bacterium called *Clostridium sordellii*, which is normally of little danger.

After an investigation last year, F.D.A. officials said there was no definitive link between the drug and the bacterial infections.

Dutch MP says Stay-At-Home Mothers should be Punished for “Throwing Away” Education

AMSTERDAM, April 4, 2006 (LifeSiteNews.com) – An MP of the Dutch Labour Party has suggested that stay-at-home mothers who used state subsidies for their education should pay the government back since their work at home is “wasted” on child rearing. Sharon Dijksma believes that punitive measures should be taken against women who choose to stay at home with children after graduating from university instead of entering the paid workforce.

“A highly educated woman who chooses to stay home and not to work: that is destruction of capital,” said

Dijksma, deputy leader of the Labour Party (PvdA) in 'Forum', a magazine published by employers' group VNO-NCW. “If you receive the benefit of an expensive education at society’s expense, you should not be allowed to throw away that knowledge unpunished.”

Dijksma is reiterating one of the central tenets of socialism, which says women can only have value when they are in the paid labour force, and that motherhood and childrearing is a form of slavery.

This doctrine was laid out by one of the original Marxist philosophers, Frederick Engels, who asserted that the family was the original source of “oppression.” He said that only when all women entered the workforce and childrearing was institutionalized could the socialist paradise be ushered in. Engels recommended “open marriage,” divorce and sterilization.

Studies have shown that much social instability has been suffered in industrialized countries since the imposition of feminist principles that have broken up family life and left children to be raised in institutionalized day care. Since women have been forced into the labour market, marriage has been devalued and divorce rates and the number of the “permanently single” have skyrocketed in most western countries.

The online magazine, Brussels Journal, said that Dijksma wrote on her ‘blog on her proposal to penalize stay-at-home mothers saying that it is only natural that educated women should either work or pay the state back. “If someone chooses not to work, then there should be a substantial repayment,” she said.

The number of women in the Dutch workforce rose from slightly under 3 million in 2001 to nearly 3.2 million in 2005. Between 2001 and 2005, the number of Dutch women in the workforce between 15 and 65 who were in the workforce rose from 55.9 to 58.7 per cent.

Check out our website:

www.pgprolife.com

ANNUAL POTLUCK SUPPER / SILENT AUCTION

You are invited for an evening of warm fellowship, great food and good fun at the Prince George Pro-Life Society Potluck Supper and Silent Auction, on Sunday, May 28 at St. Mary's School auditorium. Events will include a dinner, an auction, and activities for the children. Doors will be opened at 4:00 pm and supper will start at 4:30. If your last name begins with A – R, please bring a main dish. If it begins with S – Z, you are asked to bring a dessert. The executive will supply the salads, buns, beverages, etc. The cost is \$10/adult or \$15/family.

Any donations of new items for the auction would be very much appreciated. If you have any items to donate, either for adults or for children, please drop them off at Matte Bros. Construction at 813 Victoria Street.

As this is the Society's main fundraiser for the year, your support is critical for funding the many projects planned for educating the public on pro-life issues and for raising awareness of the sanctity of each and every human life.

Thank you for your continued generosity.



Name/s: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Membership: New Renewal (Membership year starts from AGM each October)

Individual/Family **\$24** Senior/Student **\$12** Donation _____

Make Cheque payable to: ProLife Society, PO Box 2333, Prince George BC V2N 2J8
(Prince George ProLife cannot issue charitable tax receipts for donations)