



Prince George ProLife Society

P.O. Box 2333 Prince George BC V2N 2J8

pgpro_life@hotmail.com

Phone / Fax 250-963-3157

NEWSLETTER NO. 16

JANUARY 2003

ProLife Society

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

Office hours: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

President: Laura Fowlie
Past Pres: Barbara Gobbi
Secretary: Lorraine Lawrence
Treasurer: Horst Thiele

Board of Directors:

Rolande Matte
Jacquie Ollenberger
Tracey Pfannmuller

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

Coming Events

January

25 SUPREME COURT VIGIL
1 – 2 p.m.

February

22 Serena Presentation
7 – 9:30 p.m.

April

5 Pot-Luck / Silent Auction
6 – 9 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to you all! I hope you all had a beautiful and blessed Christmas and are now feeling revitalized and ready to continue working, writing letters, and speaking out, in defence of all life, throughout this new year!



Part of making plans for the future is a looking back and reflecting on what has happened in the past. And as I look back at the year 2002, many wonderful memories come to mind: the Supreme Court Vigil, when you came to brave the cold and to stand up for the rights of the unborn; the potluck supper and silent auction, where families came together to enjoy the company of one another and to support a common cause; the Day of Infamy and Life Chain – your prayerful and peaceful witnessing to the preciousness of life; and the Prince George Exhibition, where so many gave of their time and talents to share the truth and educate others. For all of this, I feel much gratitude to all of you. Your dedication and commitment to pro-life are a constant source of inspiration to me. I have learned much from you.

In October I also, along with many of you, had the great pleasure of listening to and being energized by Rev. Ken Campbell who spoke so passionately of his experiences in the fight against abortion. His words have made an impact on all who were there and they strengthened our resolve to “do more” in whatever ways possible!

And lastly, I was most privileged to attend the “Creating a Culture of Life” international forum that was held in Toronto. What a tremendous opportunity to meet with over 500 people, from all over the world, who are dedicated to protecting all life. They, like all of us, have had times of struggle and frustration, but their steadfast faith and hope – and sense of humour – have kept them going. All that was shared, during those three days, has helped me to become better informed on pro-life issues, given me a broader picture of what is happening and what needs to be done, and has created in me a determination to do all that I can.

And there is so much to be done. We face many issues on which all who are pro-life need to take a stand and let our voices be heard. One very crucial issue is that of abortion. In a recent Leger Marketing poll conducted across Canada, it was determined that the “current status of abortion funding and fetal rights in Canada does not reflect public opinion.” This poll revealed that “only 23% of Canadians want all abortions to be publicly funded and only 30% would deny legal protection to unborn children.” Now, that these figures have been made public, our hope is that they will be listened to and that action will be taken by politicians to reflect the wishes of the people of Canada.

Each, in our own way, is also called to act, to make a difference. One way you can visibly take action is by attending the Supreme Court Vigil on Saturday, January 25, from 1-2 p.m., outside the courthouse on George Street. We need your presence to help make our voice against abortion heard loud and clear. I look forward to seeing you all there!

Laura Fowlie

LACK OF INFORMATION GIVEN TO WOMEN

TORONTO, Jan. 2, 2003 (LifeSiteNews.com) - Internist Dr. Chris Kahlenborn was sincerely determined to prove that the ridiculous notion that abortion can cause breast cancer had no scientific foundation.

Kahlenborn's intensive research instead revealed to him that, not only did abortion and some forms of the pill cause breast cancer, but the medical societies and publications that he had trusted for years were all cooperating in widespread suppression of excellent research on the issues. As well, experienced, competent researchers who published their results on these surprising but politically incorrect results lost their jobs, status or most of their usual research grants.

There is much more that this articulate, convincing and pleasant young doctor told his audience at the recent Toronto International Forum. Few people at the conference had ever heard of Dr. Kahlenborn before the conference but by the end of his session many realized that these incredible and well-presented facts had to get out to as many people as possible.

You can order the audiocassette of Dr. Kahlenborn's talk by going to:

<http://www.lifesite.net/shop/tapes/2002conf/orderform1.htm>

ABORTION NUMBERS IN DECLINE IN USA

According to figures from the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) in the United States, the ratio of abortion to live births was at the lowest level since 1975. The CDC report attributed this decline to many reasons, among them were: the aging female population, reduced access to abortion services and laws requiring a waiting period and parental notification in the case of minors.

A spokesperson for the National Right to Life Committee thought it was because Americans, especially the younger ones, are becoming more conservative in their views as they learn more about what happens during an abortion. She pointed out a November 2002 poll done for the Buffalo (NY) News by Zogby International showed that 21% of the 1800 people polled shared that they had become more negative toward abortion than they were previously.

Source: The Washington Times, Cheryl Wetzstein, Dec/02

Teen Trends over the last 35 years

- ?Percentage of teens involved in sexual activity has nearly doubled
- ?Average age that teens begin having sex has decreased
- ?Physicians are seeing more 12 and 13 year old who are sexually active
- ?Average number of sexual partners during teen years has increased
- ?Rate of infection with STDs has increased substantially
- ?Teen pregnancy has increased

from Teen Sex - Reality Check by Stephen & Shelagh Genuis

ALBERTA HEALTH MINISTER REFUSES TO CONSIDER DEFUNDING ABORTION

CALGARY, Nov. 25, 2002 (LifeSiteNews.com) -Health Minister Gary Mar ignored the wishes of almost three-quarters of Albertans as he told an expert panel looking at defunding non-essential medical services to exclude abortion from its consideration. Patty Nixon, Executive Director of Alberta Pro-Life, said, "72% of Albertans told Leger Marketing in October that they wanted abortions de-insured, except those done in medical emergencies or for rape and incest. Mr. Mar has thumbed his nose at the voters and taxpayers and has said we will continue to pay for 10,000 abortions a year."

Mr. Mar's assertion that the province funds "only abortions that are medically necessary" was also challenged by Nixon. "So all 10,000 abortions, including the over 3,000 a year that are repeats are medically necessary?" she asked. "Mr. Mar pretends that the government is acting responsibly by "only" paying for "medically necessary" abortions, when in fact the only reason abortions are considered medically necessary is because women ask for them, and for no other reason."

Nixon pointed out that Mr. Mar told Planned Parenthood last March that abortion would not be de-insured, even before the expert panel was appointed. "Mr. Mar is imposing his personal opinion on abortion, despite the opposition of most Albertans. We'll keep paying for abortions and picking up the tab for all the negative health effects on women afterwards."

CANADIANS' OPINIONS ON ABORTION

A Leger poll that was commissioned by LifeCanada, the national pro-life educational group that PG ProLife is a member of, was released in October of 2002. A brief overview of the results follow.

37% of Canadians thought that human life should be protected by law from fertilization onwards. A further 13% said they think the unborn should have protection in law after 12 weeks gestation. 30% of those polled thought the unborn should not be protected by law until after birth. 14% were either undecided or refused to answer.

Only 23% of Canadians thought that elective abortions should be publicly funded. 11% didn't respond to that question. Almost all abortions done in Canada are elective - done for socio-economic reasons.

The more educated the respondents the more liberal they tended to be in their responses. This certainly shows the need for more of a pro-life presence on the college and university campuses.

MORGENTALER / PRO-LIFE LEADER CHAT

FREDERICTON, Dec. 13, 2002 (LifeSiteNews .com) - Henry Morgentaler, Canada's top abortion crusader, invited Peter Ryan, the executive director of New Brunswick Right to Life and president of Campaign Life Coalition New Brunswick, for a tour and a polite chat inside the Fredericton abortuary on October 23. The encounter is reported in the December 2002 edition of *The Interim* newspaper, but as Ryan points out, it is doubtful that the exchange led to any change in Morgentaler's thinking.

Contacted by a reporter this week, Morgentaler said of Ryan, "He tried to convince me that a 12-week fetus is a baby.... I want to say this: Look, women do not kill babies, they want to prevent the embryo that is developing inside them from 'becoming' a baby. We should trust women to make that decision."

Note: I read in a different report that Peter Ryan, originally from Vancouver by the way, pulled out a plastic model of a 10-week baby to show Morgentaler. Morgentaler apparently denied that was what a 10 week unborn baby looked like.

B. Gobbi, editor

ADULT STEM CELLS REJUVENATE DAMAGED HEART TISSUE

LONDON, January 3, 2003 (LifeSiteNews.com) - Two new studies are showing the promise of adult bone marrow stem cells, this time in treating heart attack patients by rejuvenating cell growth in damaged heart tissue.

Two teams of doctors from Germany and Hong Kong reported promising results after transplanting stem cells extracted from bone marrow into heart muscle. Prof. Gustav Steinhoff, leading a research group at the University of Rostock, injected the cells into six patients' hearts, and five showed exceptional improvement in blood flow. A second group under Dr. Hung-Fat Tse at the University of Hong Kong treated eight heart patients and also found improvement in blood flow.

The two articles are entitled "*Autologous bone-marrow stem-cell transplantation for myocardial regeneration*" and "*Angiogenesis in ischaemic myocardium by intramyocardial autologous bone marrow mononuclear cell implantation.*"

Both studies can be read in full on *The Lancet* website by scrolling down to "Research letters" at <http://www.thelancet.com/journal>. Registration is required, but free.

CANADIAN SPERM BANKS RISKY

OTTAWA, Dec. 13, 2002 (LifeSiteNews.com) - Despite new federal guidelines designed to curb corruption and mismanagement of donated sperm, Health Canada inspectors found "dozens of cases of shoddy paperwork and an equal number of failures by sperm banks to

properly screen donated semen for disease before distributing it to women."

This was reported in internal government documents the public would never have seen if the *National Post* had not obtained them under the Access to Information Act.

Only 10% of sperm banks inspected were found to be operating safely.

STUDY FINDS EVIDENCE OF IVF LINK TO BIRTH DEFECTS

CHICAGO, Dec. 19, 2002 (LifeSiteNews.com) - *The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* website says a study funded by the National Institutes of Health has found that in vitro fertilization produces children with higher than normal defects.

In a registry of 65 children with Beckwith-Wiedemann Syndrome (BWS, "characterized by, among other features, an enlarged tongue and a predisposition for rare cancers"), three cases (5%) were IVF children. But in the general U.S. population, only 0.8% of cases are IVF births. "You'd expect maybe half a case [of BWS in the registry]," says Dr. Andrew Feinberg at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. "Even 'one' would be kind of alarming," he said.

Feinberg's report will appear in the January issue of the *American Journal of Human Genetics*, but is already available online. Similar genetic problems have also arisen with cloned mammals, as reported by JAMA in September 2001.

For the JAMA report see: <http://jama.ama-assn.org/issues/current/ffull/jha 20012-1.html>

CONSCIENCE RIGHTS RESPECTED

A Canadian Press news item out of the Atlantic region on December 5, 2002 reported that the New Brunswick College of Physicians and Surgeons has stated that doctors are free to refuse medical treatment or services on moral grounds. The November bulletin said that they did have an obligation to explain to the patient why they had made the decision.

College registrar, Dr. Ed Schollenberg, said that people have always been guided by their own sense of what is right and what is wrong. He said that morality issues are relevant to health care.

President Elizabeth Crouchman of the New Brunswick Right to Life pointed out that the onus to find another physician rests with the patient. In other words - there is no obligation to refer.

Source: *The New Brunswick Telegraph-Journal*

Crisis Pregnancy Centre

Volunteer Training
starting in January
for information call
562 - 4464

CANADIAN STEM CELL LEGISLATION

OTTAWA, December 16, 2002 (LifeSiteNews.com) - Just prior to recessing for the Christmas break, the House of Commons Health Committee approved the 'assisted reproduction' bill C-13. The bill, which continues to allow destructive research on embryonic humans, has actually been made worse with amendments by the committee. The bill was amended to ensure that the public is forced to fund artificial procreation for lesbians and single women.

The bill now goes back to the House of Commons for third and final reading and a vote when the House reconvenes in late January. Political analysts say the bill can be expected to be one of the first items on the agenda but several amendments are expected to be introduced.

The bill in its current form is available online at:
http://www.parl.gc.ca/37/2/parlbus/chambus/house/bills/government/C-13/C-13_2/90187bE.html

See LifeSite's comprehensive Stem Cell page:
<http://www.lifesite.net/features/stemcellembryo/Index.html>

HIV/AIDS IS A KILLER

One man dies of HIV/AIDS every day.
One woman dies of HIV/AIDS every 6 days.

Source: *Selected Canadian Mortality
Statistics 1999*

UGANDA WINNING THE WAR AGAINST AIDS

While the United Nations is predicting that AIDS will wipe out half of the population of some African countries, one country seems to be on top of the scourge. Using a strategy that experts of the Planned Parenthood ilk scoff at, Uganda has cut the HIV cases in half since 1992. Instead of using the condom as the first line of defence, the Ugandan government is stressing the need for abstinence before marriage and chastity after.

There are currently about 30,000 Ugandan youth involved in the True Love Waits abstinence program. Using this slogan and focusing on the value of evading all the negative consequences of extra-marital sex has set this east African country on the road to hope. Wouldn't it be great if the rest of the world's countries took more notice, starting with our own!

*With files from the Culture and Family Institute,
Sarah Trafford, July 200*

STEM CELLS AND YOU: THE BIOTECH CENTURY

On Thursday, November 14th the PG ProLife Society sponsored a talk by Dr. Clem Persaud, a retired Professor of Biotechnology, who is now living in Victoria, BC. The evening presentation, held in the Canfor Theatre at UNBC, attracted an audience of 85, of which several were students attending the University of Northern British Columbia.

After going into the differences between the various forms of stem cells currently available, he shared the reasons why the government should not be including approval of research involving human embryonic stem cells in **Bill C-13**, the Assisted Human Reproduction Act.

Dr. Persaud pointed out that while study after study continue to show the therapeutic potential of adult stem cells, there is no evidence whatsoever that cites clinical benefit from embryonic stem cells. Persaud pointed out that embryonic stem cells are hard-wired for differentiation and growth, and that they need complex embryonic cell signals for normal function, something they cannot get from an already developed body. When injected into a developed body they are difficult to control and tend to form teratomas, a complex tumour often containing many different tissues, such as skin, hair, teeth, connective tissue, cartilage, bone, muscle and glands.

Dr. Persaud thinks that the ongoing breakthrough advances in the use of adult and umbilical cord stem cells renders embryonic stem cell research obsolete. He also stated that scarce health care dollars should be spent in researching and using of the demonstrably superior non-embryonic stem cells.

He opined that there are also serious ethical issues involved in the use of embryonic stem cells since a living human being, the human embryo, must be killed in the process of obtaining embryonic stem cells.

Dr. Persaud made a second submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health on December 2. The House of Commons Standing Committee on Health completed its study of Bill C-13 on December 13 and sent it back to the House of Commons for third and final reading. This contentious bill will be debated in the House after Parliament resumes on January 27. At this time amendments can be proposed and voted on. It is important that the Prime Minister, the Health Minister and our Members of Parliament continue to hear from us about our concerns.

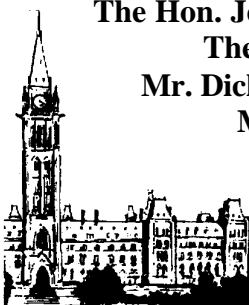
No postage is needed:

The Hon. Jean Chretien, Prime Minister's Office, 80 Wellington Street, 2nd Floor, Ottawa ON K1A 0A2

The Hon. Anne McLellan, Minister of Health, Brooke Claxton Bldg., Ottawa ON K1A 0K9

Mr. Dick Harris, MP, Prince George-Bulkley Valley, House of Commons, Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Mr. Jay Hill, MP, Prince George-Peace River, House of Commons, Ottawa ON K1A 0A6



NOTE: Bill C-13 can be found online at:

www.parl.gc.ca/37/2/parlbus/chambus/house/bills/government/C-13/C-13_1/C-13_cover-E.html

SUPREME COURT VIGIL

On the closest Saturday to the January 28 date, when the Supreme Court of Canada decided that Section 251 of the Criminal Code of Canada could not withstand a Charter challenge brought forward by Dr. Morgentaler, pro-life people hold a vigil. The vigil is held to remind the general populace and the politicians that the Supreme Court of Canada, in its 1988 decision, stated that the state has a legitimate interest in protecting the life of the unborn child. It also stated that, in our country, it is up to parliament, and not the courts, to decide when the state's interest in fetal life begins.

Following the throwing out of the abortion law in 1988, Canada has been in a state of lawlessness in regard to abortion. In 1989 the government of Brian Mulroney introduced Bill C-43. It would have made abortion a decision to be made between a woman and her doctor. There were several amendments put forward, none of which passed, and the bill was eventually defeated in the Senate in 1991. There was a feeling that Bill C-43 would be virtually useless as far as giving protection to unborn children was concerned. The amendment in the House of Commons that came closest to passing (118 - 105) was one by Dr. Gus Mitges, MP, which would have restricted abortion to saving the life of the mother. The amendment brought forward by BC MP, Mary Collins, that urged the using of a gestational approach similar to that the Canadian Medical Society approved of then, and currently still supports, was roundly defeated by a 191 - 29 vote.

No federal government since has decided to get into legislation regarding abortion and so the unborn have no protection in law at the present time. An unborn child can be killed with impunity right up to birth. One Canadian woman chose to shoot her infant in the head with a pellet gun just two days prior to her expected due date. This state of affairs is unconscionable.

Following the 1988 ruling, and with no replacement legislation brought in, the number of known unborn children killed by abortion has gone from 72,693 to over 110,520 in 1998, the last year recorded statistics from all provinces and territories is available for. At the present time the medical profession is the gatekeeper for abortion, which of course it would also have been should Bill C-43 been passed into law. Currently, during this time of legal lawlessness, there is a gestational approach used in the practice of induced abortion, something the parliamentarians definitely rejected in the legislative initiative following the Supreme Court 1988 decision.

We need to start holding the medical profession more accountable for the present carnage. In Prince George over 400 unborn human beings are killed with the knowledge and collaboration of many in the local medical fraternity. They, more than most, are aware of just what it is that is being killed, and therefore they have a greater obligation to see that the present carnage is curtailed.

Meanwhile, let us continue to work towards having the unborn child's right-to-life enshrined in law, including a law with criminal sanctions against the elective killing of these totally innocent, totally vulnerable, human beings.

We hope to see almost all our members out for our 15th annual Supreme Court Vigil on Saturday, January 25, between 1 and 2 pm outside the courthouse at 3rd and George. Picket signs will be available with various sayings or you can bring your own. We will start with a prayer, followed by a brief talk. After that we will walk around the building until the hour is up. A petition asking the federal government to bring in legislation to protect the unborn child will be available. Please take the time to sign it. The petition will be presented in the House of Commons in early February after Parliament resumes sitting.

SUPREME COURT VIGIL

Saturday, January 25, 2003

at the Courthouse
on 3rd and George
1 - 2 p.m.

Held to remind the populace
and politicians that the
Supreme Court Justices agree
that the protection of the
unborn is a valid
parliamentary objective

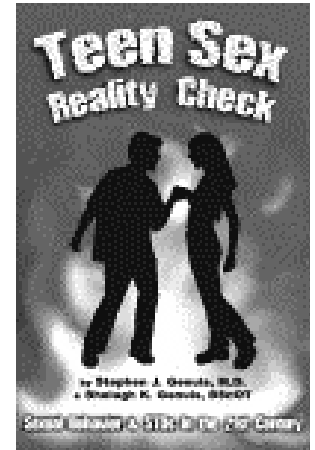
NEW RELEASES WORTH HAVING

Stephen Genuis, M.D. and his wife Shelagh Genuis, BScOT, have produced two more timely educational materials for the teenage population. The first is *Teen Sex Reality Check*, a 148-page book using stories, case presentations and current medical research to address the area of teen sexuality from a medical viewpoint. STDs and HIV/AIDS get their deserved stress in the book and abstinence is presented as the only 'safe sex' for the unmarried. The second is a 30-minute video, *Teen Sex - Reality Strikes Back*, - that gives a realistic picture of the medical dangers that await the non-abstinent teen.

Dr. Genuis's previous video got the best video award from the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada. Dr. Genuis is an Edmonton gynecologist and well-known pro-life speaker.

The book and the video can both be ordered from Winfield House Publishing, 2935-66 St., Edmonton AB T6K 4C1 Ph. (780) 461-1606. An order form can be accessed at www.winfieldhouse.com as well.

We have a copy of both the book and video available at the office if you wish to borrow them.



WOMEN'S SUBSTANCE ABUSE LINKED TO PRIOR ABORTION

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3, 2003 (LifeSiteNews.com) - Women with a prior history of abortion are twice as likely to use alcohol, five times more likely to use illicit drugs, and ten times more likely to use marijuana during the first pregnancy they carry to term compared to other women delivering their first pregnancies, according to a study published in the newest issue of the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*.

Based on the National Pregnancy and Health Survey, using a nationally representative sample of 2,613 women who had recently given birth, the study led by Dr. David Reardon is reportedly the seventeenth study linking abortion to higher rates of substance abuse. Reardon directs the Elliot Institute and is co-author of the new book, "*Forbidden Grief: The Unspoken Pain of Abortion*."

The study is entitled "History of induced abortion in relation to substance use during pregnancies carried to term," and appears in the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*, December 2002, 187(5):1673-8.

ASSISTED SUICIDE IN BC

The Duncan News Leader of November 16 had a news item on the case of Evelyn Martens, the 71-year-old former nun from Duncan, BC that was in the Duncan Provincial Court on November 15 to face two charges involving assisted suicide. Among her many supporters present were several members of the Victoria Humanist Association.

Martens was a member of the Right to Die Network of Canada, which is currently raising funds towards her legal costs. Right to Die founder, John Hofess, who was a key player in the Sue Rodrigues a few years back, is hoping this case will help propel the so-called 'right' to assisted suicide forward in Canada. Further hearings in the case are expected to be heard in January.

A November *National Post/Global National* poll of 608 people done by COMPAS showed that 55% of Canadians think assisted suicide should be legal, compared to the 36% who believe it shouldn't be. The poll is considered accurate to within four percentage points 19 times out of 20.

Having a permanent relationship with one mutually faithful, uninfected partner can truly be called "SAFE SEX"

from Teen Sex - Reality Check by Stephen & Shelagh Genuis

Seren

Natural Family
Planning
Free Presentation

Civic Centre – Room 201
Saturday, Feb. 22, 2003
7 – 9:30 p.m.

Respectful of the woman's
reproductive system – has a
99% method effectiveness rating.



POTLUCK SUPPER AND SILENT AUCTION

Saturday, April 5, 2003

Doors Open 6:00 p.m.
Supper 6:30 p.m.



Auction Bidding
7:30 to 8:30



Sacred Heart Auditorium
1346 Ingledeu

\$5 single \$10 per family

A to R bring main dish
S to Z bring dessert

All Proceeds to Prince George ProLife

Donated items can be dropped off
At Matte Bros., 813 Victoria Street

www.albertaprofife.com
www.physiciansforlife.com
www.justthefacts.org
www.euthanasiaprevention.on.ca
www.hopeafterabortion.com
www.lifesite.net

ProLife E-News
www.interlife.org

Name/s: _____

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Membership: £ New £ Renewal

£ Individual / Family \$20

£ Senior / Student \$10

£ Donation _____

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(Prince George ProLife cannot issue charitable tax receipts for donations)