



# Prince George ProLife Society

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**NEWSLETTER NO. 31**

**January 2007**

## 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  
**Secretary:** Patricia O'Neill  
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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.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to you all! My prayer for you is that God will bless you abundantly with good health, much happiness and with a deep and abiding peace. May you also be blessed with the strength, conviction, commitment and faith needed to continue this mission that has been given to us, until the day comes when all life is respected and protected.

I very recently had the pleasure of attending the 2006 International Pro-Life conference, which was held in Vancouver. I wish everyone could attend a conference such as this one. I feel, in many ways, that God uses these conferences to strengthen our conviction, commitment and beliefs. They are powerful and motivating experiences. Allow me to share with you now, some insights from this conference.

I found this conference, in format, to be quite different from others I have attended in the past. Usually, at pro-life conferences, there are various speakers who address a range of issues. This one, however, had only two main speakers and they shared a common theme, "Healing the Culture – A New Beginning." The first, Camille De Blasi Pauley, spoke specifically about "The Four Levels of Happiness." She described the four levels in the following ways: Happiness Level 1 focuses on physical pleasure and material possessions. Happiness Level 2 centres on ego-gratification. Happiness Level 3 is based on contributions to others and being a "self-gift" to the world. Happiness level 4, the highest level, resides in faith in God's unconditional love.

Camille explained that each level has a significant purpose. It is necessary to fulfill the real needs of our physical bodies (Level 1) and it is important to have a sense of our own dignity and talents (Level 2). However, if either of these levels becomes our main goal, we can become addicted to "things" or seek to advance ourselves at the expense of others, instead of focusing on what is really important in life. These lead to an unhealthy culture. But a healthy culture defines happiness as Level 3, when we give freely of ourselves to others and Level 4, when we surrender all of who we are to God. It is especially in Level 4 that our lives become balanced and healthy.

We know that, today, much of society is focusing on the lower levels - on materialism and accolade - and we, as a culture, and especially our unborn, are paying a huge price because of it. Individually and collectively, we are all called to attain to a higher level - a level of love, truth, goodness and justice.

Fr. Robert Spitzer, the second speaker, gave a presentation on the "Ten Life Principles." These principles are ones that have been universally held throughout much of history but, when looked at together, it becomes undeniable that life at all stages is to be valued and defended. It was a wonderful short course in apologetics. It gave the tools necessary for credibly defending the right to life.

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## COMING EVENTS

### January 2007

**27 SUPREME COURT VIGIL**  
Outside the Courthouse  
on George Street  
1 – 2 pm

### February 2007

**24 FOCUS ON LIFE FUNDRAISING DINNER**  
Columbus Community  
Centre – 7201 Domano  
Cocktails 6 pm  
Dinner 7 pm

*(President's Message, cont.)*

These two speakers and the messages they shared had a tremendous impact on all present. We began to realize that God is asking each one of us to first look at our own goals and our own lives and then to make the changes needed to become effective educators and witnesses to the Truth.

Before I close, I want to encourage each one of you to attend our Focus on Life Dinner that will be held on Saturday, February 24, at the Columbus Community Centre. Proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards a television ad campaign aimed to reach out to women who are considering an abortion or who are suffering from having had an abortion, and to offer them help. We are excited to have this opportunity to join with other pro-life groups throughout British Columbia in bringing hope to women who so desperately need it. Please come and see what it's all about and please give your generous support.

*Laura Fowlie, President*

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## **CATHOLICS IN UK CARRYING ID CARDS ASKING NOT TO BE STARVED TO DEATH IN HOSPITALS**

LONDON, January 16, 2007 (LifeSiteNews.com) - The Observer in the UK reported Sunday that Catholics in the UK have taken to carrying special ID cards informing doctors that they do not wish to be deprived of food and fluids in the case of admission to hospital.

In a growing worldwide trend, doctors in the UK consider what used to be routine care--administration of nutrition and hydration, by artificial means if necessary--to be "treatment" which can be refused or denied.

The UK's Association of Catholic Women (ACW) which produced the ID cards, had sold nearly 26,000 by 2005.

"We were greatly concerned that ANH (artificial nutrition and hydration) was considered as 'treatment', and could be withdrawn if the patient was deemed to have a 'poor quality of life,' thus leading to death by starvation/dehydration," explained a spokesperson for the ACW.

The card is a simple blue card stating: "In case of my admission to hospital please contact a Roman Catholic priest. I would like my nursing care to include fluids - however administered."

Food and water, once considered basic humane care to be offered to every patient, now have increasingly been relegated to "medical treatment" and considered optional depending on a patient's likelihood of recovery and/or future quality of life.

UK doctors were warned in November that they may face prison sentences if they refuse to withdraw food and fluids from patients who have previously indicated they do not want medical treatment.

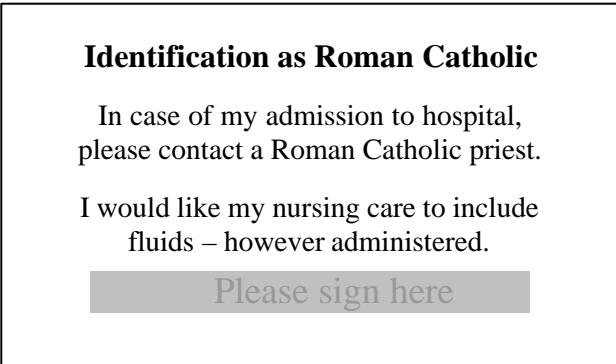
Dr. Peter Saunders, head of the Christian Medical Fellowship, said at the time that the new government guidelines were not a concern for dying patients whose bodies could no longer assimilate nutrition.

"But we are concerned that patients will make unwise and hasty advance refusals of food and fluids without being properly informed about the diagnosis. It is too easy for patients to be driven by fears of meddlesome treatment and 'being kept alive', into making advance refusals that later might be used against them."

Dr Jacqueline Laing of London Metropolitan University, who called the measures an obvious "cost-saving" effort on behalf of the National Health, said the Act "inverts good medical practice by criminalizing medical staff who intervene to save the lives of their patients with simple cures and, in certain cases, even food and fluids."

Carrying a card requesting food and water in the event of hospitalization may not guarantee protection from the changing policies, as a 46 year-old British man suffering from a degenerative disease found last year.

Leslie Burke, who has a neurological disorder that will eventually leave him paralyzed and unable to speak, was concerned that he would be denied food



and water once his disease progressed to the point that he could no longer speak for himself.

The General Medical Council opposed Burke's request for a guarantee that he would receive food and fluids until natural death occurred, saying it must reserve the right to withhold food and water from patients at a doctor's discretion.

Burke took his battle to the European Court of Human Rights after the British court system refused to grant him legal protection. The EU Court ruled against Burke's request, saying there were adequate protections in place in British law that would prevent the premature removal of food and water.

Alex Schadenberg, head of Canada's Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, told LifeSiteNews.com at the time that the European court "erred significantly" in the decision, putting patients all over Europe at risk.

Although doctors have always had the authority to determine if further treatment would be burdensome and futile, Schadenberg said, doctors are now being given the freedom to make such decisions based on cost effectiveness and patient "quality of life", instead of purely medical considerations.

"Modern bioethics philosophy has rejected the concept of purely medical futility. The treatment is not considered futile; the patient is considered futile," Schadenberg said.

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## **BREAKTHROUGH RESEARCH SHOWS HOPE FOR BONE MARROW TRANSPLANTS USING ADULT STEM CELLS**

MINNESOTA, January 16, 2007 (LifeSiteNews.com) - Researchers at the University of Minnesota have successfully used adult stem cells to replace the immune system and bone marrow of mice, in one of the most significant discoveries of the recent acceleration in adult stem cell research breakthroughs.

The research technique isolated adult stem cells (multipotent adult progenitor cells, or MAPCs) from the bone marrow of adult mice. The cells were reproduced in the lab, and then transplanted into mice that had no immune system due to radiation treatments.

"The cells not only survived when transplanted but they completely repopulated the blood system of the mice," said Catherine Verfaillie, director of the University's Stem Cell

Institute, in a statement released by the University of Minnesota. The cells did not differentiate into other cell types, such as liver or brain cells, nor did they form tumors in any animals, a common problem when using stem cells obtained from embryos.

Verfaillie was responsible for first identifying the existence of MAPCs in 2001. Difficulties in growing the cells and in reproducing the research results in other labs led to skepticism in the scientific community. Now, however, four different scientific publications support the current research, showing the results are consistent and replicable.

"These experiments point to potential precursors of blood forming stem cells in an unexpected population of cultured cells," said Irving Weissman, who directs Stanford's Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine.

"Scientists must now understand that mouse MAPCs can make normal blood, and we need to explore how they do it," said Weissman, who was initially highly skeptical of the research proposal. "It is very important to note that MAPCs were not themselves radioprotective, thus they alone could not be used in patients in whom the bone marrow is totally eliminated due to radiation or chemotherapy, but it is still remarkable that they can give rise to blood cells."

Further research is underway on animals more physically similar to humans, to prepare for potential treatments on people in the future. MAPCs have been isolated from bone marrow in humans, mice, rats and pigs.

In further developments, a team of researchers including participants from Spain, Belgium and the University of Minnesota showed the ability of the cells to differentiate into two types of cells that line the walls of blood vessels, known as endothelial cells. Scientists were able to make human MAPCs differentiate into cells for both arterial and secondary veins, in both lab tests and in mice.

"This work provides the first evidence that human MAPCs can be induced to differentiate into the different types of cells needed to form arteries," Felipe Prosper, M.D., of Spain said in a study published in the journal *Blood*, November 2006. "This may suggest future clinical applications for MAPCs in diseases and conditions such as stroke and heart attack."

Further research, published in the December 2006 issue of the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, showed that the cells

are capable of producing smooth muscle cells in the laboratory.

"While previous research has demonstrated that various types of stem cells can turn into cells that express the proteins consistent with smooth muscle, this is the first study that shows that the cells we generated have the same functional properties as smooth muscle, as well as express the same proteins," said Jeffrey Ross, Ph.D., research associate at the Stem Cell Institute.

The research has potential for the future laboratory generation of working tissue, such as blood vessels for use in bypass surgery.

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## **CHILEAN CONSTITUTIONAL COURT DECREE HALTS DISTRIBUTION OF ABORTIFACIENT PLAN B**

SANTIAGO, Chile, January 15, 2007 (LifeSiteNews.com) - A controversial program distributing the abortifacient morning-after pill free to girls as young as 14 was halted last Friday when the Constitutional Court declared the program was unconstitutional on a technicality, in the latest effort by opponents to block the measure pushed through by the government.

The court voted 6-4 that the distribution program violated the constitution because it was authorized by an administration body, the Associated Press reported Jan. 12. The ruling stated that the program must be approved by the legislature or by presidential decree before it would be valid under the constitution.

The distribution program has been strongly opposed by conservative lawmakers, as well as Catholic Church leaders. Thirty-two legislators requested the court to rule on the issue, saying the drug violates the country's anti-abortion laws by acting as an abortifacient and also goes against parental rights by making the drug available to young girls without their parents' knowledge.

While supporters of the emergency contraceptive claim it only prevents pregnancy from occurring, in fact the drug can cause an abortion in the earliest stages of pregnancy by preventing the embryo from attaching to the wall of the womb--just last week, drug manufacturers in New Zealand admitted the drug could act as an abortifacient.

The Constitutional Court did not address the abortifacient nature of the pill or the question of parental rights, making the decision solely on the technicality issue.

The government said President Michelle Bachelet, who supports the program, would issue the required decree--supporters of the measure want to avoid a legislative vote due to a lack of support in Congress.

Attorney for the legislators, Jorge Reyes, said the case would not end with a presidential decree. If a decree should be issued, he said, "We will go back to the court to object to other aspects of the program that we consider unconstitutional."

While abortion in the predominantly Catholic country is illegal, efforts are underway to push through legislation decriminalizing abortion within the first 12 weeks of pregnancy.

International organizations, including the United Nations Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women, have been increasingly pressuring the country to legalize abortion over the past decade, as well as advocating for contraceptive programs and greater support for homosexuality.

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## **FEMINIST ACTIVIST LAWYER IN MONCTON TO LAUNCH SUIT FORCING PUBLIC FUNDING OF PRIVATE ABORTIONS**

MONCTON, January 15, 2007 (LifeSiteNews.com) - A pro-abortion lawyer in New Brunswick has announced she will launch a suit to try to force the province to lift funding restrictions on abortion. Currently, the province requires abortions to be carried out by a licensed gynecologist in a hospital and will not cover the expenses for abortion at Dr. Morgentaler's private facility in Fredericton.

Moncton lawyer, feminist and same-sex marriage activist Michéle Caron, charged that the restrictions are "unconstitutional and discriminatory." She told the CBC she plans to launch the suit in the spring if her meetings with the New Brunswick health minister Michael Murphy do not result in a change of policy.

Caron, a professor at Université de Moncton, wrote a column in August last summer suggesting that the province's reluctance to pay for abortions outside hospitals was a conspiracy between the provincial government and the Catholic Church.

She wrote, "To what extent is the opposition to

freedom of choice for women linked to the legitimization of the patriarchal structure of the Catholic Church? What are the connections between the political decision makers and the Church? Why is the principle of the separation of church and state not in effect in New Brunswick?" The column is featured on the website of the provincially funded Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

Although Liberal health minister Ujjal Dosanjh had insisted the province must pay for abortions in Morgentaler's Fredericton facility, in December, the federal government said it would not be pursuing the issue.

Tory health minister, Tony Clement, said in December that it is "off the radar" for the Conservative government.

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### **ALBERTA GOV'T ADMITS CELL-LINES FROM ABORTED BABIES USED IN VACCINES, OFFERS ETHICAL ALTERNATIVE**

OTTAWA, January 12, 2007 (LifeSiteNews.com) - The Deputy Minister of Health in Alberta has admitted that the both federal and provincial public health agencies are aware that some vaccines in use in Canada were produced with the use of cell-lines from aborted babies. Furthermore, the Alberta government is set to provide alternative vaccines that are not tainted by abortion.

The admission comes in a letter to Canadian Physicians for Life (CPL), which wrote the government in November demanding an alternative to vaccines tainted by abortion. Alberta Health and Wellness Deputy Minister Paddy Meade, in a December 22 letter to CPL President Dr. Will Johnston, writes: "PHAC (Public Health Agency of Canada) and Alberta Health and Wellness (AHW) are aware that some vaccines are made from human cell-line cultures which were derived from embryonic tissue from three medically indicated abortions conducted decades ago (1960s).

The letter from Alberta Health and Wellness also states that the Alberta Government will make Pediacel available in publicly funded immunization programs after March 2007.

Until this announcement, the only combined infant vaccine (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio and Haemophilus B) available to Canadian parents was Pentacel, which is partly derived from a cell line created from aborted fetal tissue. Pediacel (same diseases) is not derived from fetal tissue.

In November, Canadian Physicians for Life sent a letter to each provincial health minister and the federal health minister, requesting that a choice between Pentacel and Pediacel be provided to parents who are morally troubled by the origins of the Pentacel vaccine.

Canadian Physicians for Life applauds Alberta's decision to provide an alternative to the ethically controversial Pentacel vaccine and requests other provinces to follow Alberta's lead in providing a choice to Canadian parents.

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### **MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL BARS STUDENT FROM PARTICIPATING IN NATIONAL PRO-LIFE DAY OF SILENT SOLIDARITY**

ADF attorneys file suit on student's behalf

ALBANY, NY, January 10, 2007 (LifeSiteNews.com) – A 13-year-old Gowana Middle School eighth-grader prohibited from expressing his prolife views during the National Pro-Life Day of Silent Solidarity now has a group of attorneys with the Alliance Defense Fund filing suit on his behalf.

The lawsuit was filed January 3 in U.S. District Court against Gowana Middle School principal Jill Bush and Shenendehowa Central School District officials.

"Students do not abandon their free speech rights when they set foot on campus," said ADF legal counsel Matt Bowman. "The school's egregious actions in denying this student's free speech rights, while allowing students to speak on other issues, cannot be allowed to continue."

The boy, identified in court documents as M.G., like 1,400 other middle and high school students nationwide was participating in the 3rd annual Students' Day of Silent Solidarity, organized by the Stand True ministry (<http://www.standtrue.com>).

The day of the event, October 24, the boy and his friends arrived at school wearing pro-life T-shirts. Before school and during first period they handed out fliers and spoke with other students about their beliefs.

The boy wore a piece of red tape over his mouth; the word 'LIFE' was printed on it, to symbolize the aborted babies who will never have a voice. He had

previously obtained permission from his teachers to wear the tape and observe silence all day in solidarity with aborted children.

When school principal Jill Bush learned of the students' demonstration, however, she allegedly told them to turn their T-shirts inside out and throw their tape and fliers into the trash.

She also allegedly made an announcement over the school intercom directing any student who received a flier to hand it over to school officials.

Court documents say that when one student objected that the First Amendment protected their right to express their personal views, provided they are not disruptive, Bush replied, "Students shouldn't be thinking about issues like that at your age."

'M.G.' was forced to throw away his tape; however, he did obtain permission to remain silent all day provided he did not explain to anyone why. He obeyed to avoid further public discipline.

The boy's mother called the Shendendehowa Central School District office more than a week in advance to clear her son's plans with School Superintendent L. Oliver Robinson. She spoke with a representative and left her name and phone number, but was never notified that her son's plans would interfere with any school or district policy.

Court papers note that Gowana Middle School students have previously been permitted to express their views freely on other controversial social issues.

"The First Amendment does not permit school officials to 'pick and choose' which speech is allowable and which is not," said ADF-allied attorney Tom Marcelle of Albany, N.Y., who is co-counsel in the case. "If 13-year-olds are old enough to participate in sexual education courses, they are certainly old enough to talk about such issues as abortion."

In recent months attorneys with the Alliance Defend Fund have handled similar cases in Virginia and Washington.

In this case the attorneys say they seek a jury trial and permission for the boy to engage in another silent protest and leaflet campaign on January 22—the

anniversary of the Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade* that made abortion legal in the U.S.

To respectfully contact:

**Gowana Middle School officials:**

Gowana Middle School  
970 Rt. 146  
Clifton Park, NY 12065  
(518) 881-0460

**Shenendehowa Central School District officials:**

Attn: Superintendent L. Oliver Robinson  
5 Chelsea Place  
Clifton Park, NY 12065  
(518) 881-0600

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**CANADIAN HOSPICE ASSOCIATION SLAMMED  
FOR ABANDONING OPPOSITION TO EUTHANASIA**  
CHPCA HAS CHANGED ITS LANGUAGE TO PREFERRED  
LANGUAGE OF RIGHT TO DIE LOBBY

OTTAWA, January 9, 2007 (LifeSiteNews.com) – While stopping just short of endorsing physician-assisted suicide (PAS) or euthanasia, the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association (CHPCA) has issued an ostensibly neutral draft statement that proposes to withdraw its previous specific opposition to the practice. Euthanasia opponents, however, have denounced the document saying the move is tantamount to abandoning dying and vulnerable patients "to their fears and depression".

The draft statement on "physician assisted dying" says that while the organization "does not view euthanasia or physician-assisted suicide as a part of quality end of life care," the group does not condemn the "choice" of euthanasia or PAS.

The draft statement, approved by the CHPCA Board of Directors on November 22, 2006, goes on to say in language clearly influenced by the right-to-die lobby's rhetoric, "[A] small number of Canadians may still choose to have control over their own death. As hospice palliative care practitioners, we will respect their right to choose and will not abandon them."

"We will continue to provide the same compassionate care to these individuals and their families, but we also have a choice not to participate or to be expected to assist in any efforts that intentionally hasten death."

Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director of Canada's Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, expressed his dismay at the direction indicated by the new document. He pointed to the draft document's carefully worded guidelines for discussion saying, "There is no way to indicate whether the CHPCA supports or opposes euthanasia and assisted suicide." This means, he says, that the CHPCA appears to have shifted from opposition to a neutral position.

Schadenberg says the title of the CHPCA's policy alert, "Physician Assisted Dying (PAD) Issues Document," is in line with the call from the world's euthanasia lobbyists at their recent meeting in Toronto, to change the language of the debate to make euthanasia and PAS more palatable to the public.

"The CHPCA has changed its language to the preferred language of the Right to Die lobby," Schadenberg warned. Schadenberg said that, like the "right to choose" jargon, the proposal that palliative care should "respect" the "right to choose" euthanasia effectively abandons patients.

"You are abandoning them to their fears, to their depression, to their family pressures, and to their existential questioning, rather than affirming them as a valued member of society," Schadenberg charges.

"This statement is a direct threat to our most vulnerable members of society, who even question the value and dignity of their own life."

The CHPCA said it would "revisit" this proposal in two years and is asking for input from its members to develop an official position statement. A discussion that may result in the organization formally dropping opposition to euthanasia for terminally ill patients.

The group is highly influential in the legislative process and in a policy alert offers to make presentations to Parliamentary and Senate committees should another bill proposing to legalize euthanasia or PAS be brought forward.

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## **MARRIED COUPLES ARE A MINORITY IN U.S. HOUSEHOLDS, CENSUS REPORT SAYS**

UNITED STATES, January 17, 2007 (LifeSiteNews.com)  
- Married couples are well on their way to becoming a rarity in the United States, a New York Times report on the Census Bureau's latest American Community

Survey in 2005 found, with married couples a listed as a minority in U.S. households for the first time.

Fifty-one percent of women over the age of 15 said they were living without a spouse in 2005--having either never married, being divorced, separated or living apart from their husbands for some other reason.

That means 59.9 million women were single or had husbands who were not living at home when the survey was taken in 2005, out of the more than 117 million women over the age of 15 in the U.S, compared to 57.5 million women who were living with a spouse.

In 2000, 49 percent of women over the age of 15 were living without a spouse-- in 1950 the number was just 35 percent.

While 63 million women are married, of those, 3.1 million are legally separated and 2.4 million said their husbands were not living at home.

"This is yet another of the inexorable signs that there is no going back to a world where we can assume that marriage is the main institution that organizes people's lives," said Prof. Stephanie Coontz, with the nonprofit research group Council on Contemporary Families. "Most of these women will marry, or have married. But on average, Americans now spend half their adult lives outside marriage."

A higher percentage of men are married and living with their spouse , the survey showed— about 53 percent compared with 49 percent among women.

Between 1950 and 2000, the share of women 15-to-24 who were married plummeted to 16 percent, from 42 percent. Among 25-to-34-year-olds, the proportion dropped to 58 percent, from 82 percent.

While the U.S. has the world's third-largest population at 300 million people, following China (1.3 billion) and India (1.1 billion), social trends that weaken the foundation of family life threaten to destroy the country's relatively healthy birthrate of 2.0 children per woman. (A replacement birth rate would be 2.1 children).

The population crisis facing Western European nations, whose birthrates have plummeted to an average of 1.5 children per woman, may soon be a factor in the U.S. if the institution of marriage continues to deteriorate in the country.

**FOCUS ON LIFE  
FUNDRAISING DINNER**

**Saturday, February 24  
COLUMBUS COMMUNITY CENTRE  
7201 Domano Blvd**

**6:00 pm Cocktails  
7:00 pm Dinner**

**Tickets \$ 30.00 per person**

**Guest Speaker  
Malcolm Roddis, Chairman  
"Focus On Life" television media  
campaign for ProLife BC**

**For information or to purchase tickets  
call 564-0551**

**SUPREME COURT VIGIL**

**Saturday, January 27, 2007  
at the Courthouse  
on 3<sup>rd</sup> and George  
1 – 2 p.m.**

**Guest Speaker – Bob Zayonc**

**Join with us in a peaceful,  
prayerful protest to urge our  
federal government to  
enact a new law – a law  
that defends the sanctity of  
life and protects the rights  
of the unborn. Let your  
presence speak for those  
who have no voice.**

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)