



Prince George ProLife Society

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NEWSLETTER NO. 18

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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

August

7 - 10 PGX ProLife Booth

September

8 General Meeting 7 pm

October

5 Life Chain
21 AGM 7:30 pm

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

All around us, coming at us from every side, we hear the cries of, "We should have the right to end our lives with dignity;" "Embryonic stem cell research is the only way to go;" "There is a need for abortion on demand." Sometimes, it feels as if our lives are being totally turned upside down.

Where are our values? Where is our respect for life? We can feel confused and alone, and ready to give up the fight.

But we're not alone! More and more, we're seeing signs of victory. These are difficult times but they are also exciting times, watching God work through the efforts of men and women everywhere.

There have been dramatic breakthroughs with the use of adult stem cells. A 16-year old, severely injured when a nail gun pierced his heart, is regaining heart strength through the injection of his own stem cells into the artery going into his heart. A man, suffering from Parkinson's disease, had his symptoms decrease by 80% after some of his stem cells were removed, allowed to multiply, and then injected into his brain. These are just two of the many successes that are now being seen with adult stem cells, while, on the other hand, there have been no scientific breakthroughs in embryonic stem cell research that offer practical applications for helping humans.

For the first time in twelve years, there will be a vote on a pro-life motion in the Canadian Parliament. This motion, put forth by Alliance MP Garry Breitkreuz, a tireless crusader for the unborn, asks the government to determine whether or not abortions are medically necessary and to determine what health risks could arise from this procedure. This is a major step forward and could possibly open many doors for the pro-life cause.

The March for Life in Ottawa, held on May 14, was hugely successful. More than 3,500 Canadians joined together to be a visible expression of their pro-life beliefs. This was a record-setting turnout for the Ottawa March with an increase of at least 1,000 people over last year. It also set a record for the greatest number of parliamentarians present. Nearly two dozen MPs and senators participated in the March for Life and/or spoke at the March itself or at the banquet. And equally encouraging, was the fact that at least half of all the participants were young people under the age of 25. Much of our hope for change is alive and well in our youth!



(continued on page 2)

President's Message (continued from page 1)

In the United States, a new national campaign, "Silent No More," is raising awareness about the many devastating side effects of abortion and reaching out to women who have had abortions and who are suffering in silence. Women from all over the country are coming together to share their abortion experiences in the hope of bringing about education and healing.

This theme, "Silent No More," has also been adopted as the theme for this year's Canadian National Pro-Life Conference, which will be held November 6-8 in Edmonton. The keynote speaker for the conference is David Reardon, of the Elliot Institute, who co-authored the newly released book, Forbidden Grief: the Unspoken Pain of Abortion. In his book, he tells women that the time has come to be silent no more and that the facts about abortion, no matter how uncomfortable for people to hear, must be told.

These are just a few of the many glimmers of light that are now visible and are growing increasingly brighter. We must not give up. We must keep faithful to this cause through prayer and through the fearless speaking out of the truth. For we know there is hope. We know there is progress. And we know, that with God's help, all things are possible!

Laura Fowlie, President

SVEND ROBINSON STRIKES AGAIN

On Monday, June 2, NDP activist MP Svend Robinson, from the BC Burnaby-Douglas riding, introduced Motion 440 in a bid to get Health Canada to adopt "abortion-on-demand" as its standard of care. The motion asks that the federal government "ensure that Health Canada adopts a framework on sexual and reproductive health that includes abortion as a safe, legal medical procedure available to women on demand." Canada already has what would seem like "abortion-on-demand" with over 115,000 abortions performed annually, 15,000 of which are done in BC and over 400 of which are done at Prince George Regional Hospital.

MP Robinson works closely with the Humanist Association of Canada, as does Dr. Morgentaler. Morgentaler was their first president after it was formed in 1968. It now has chapters across Canada. According to an editorial in the June 23-July 6, 1999 issue of the Canada Free Press, the secular humanists are trying to live up to their promise to "drag in the rotting corpse of christianity by the Year 2000."



Fellow Christians take note: the secular humanists are only a bit behind schedule with their plans - and our country is on the leading edge of this scenario, often with the help of "Christian" churches.

What are we going to do about it?

ABORTION / BREAST CANCER LINK

The summer issue of the Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons has published an article discussing, among other things, the epidemiological evidence for the link between abortion and breast cancer, the implications for patient care and the medical malpractice issues involved. The article can be accessed at: www.jpands.org/vol8no2/malec.pdf

The February issue of the American journal, Obstetrical and Gynecological Survey, concluded that there was a statistically significant positive association between induced abortion and breast cancer that cannot be dismissed and that there is an overwhelming need for more research in this area.

There has been a lot of reluctance on the part of some scientists, medical practitioners and cancer organizations, like the Canadian Cancer Society, to acknowledge this politically unpopular link.

The Prince George ProLife Society is planning to have Dr. Joel Brind, Professor of Endocrinology at Baruch College, City University of New York, come to speak on the abortion/breast cancer link this fall at UNBC.

LIFE BEGINS AT THE BEGINNING

A June 9, 2003 cover story in the American magazine *Newsweek*, "Should a Fetus Have Rights?" noted that a recent *Newsweek* poll indicated that only 46% of Americans consider a fertilized egg to be the beginning of human life.

In a 2003 article by Ward Kischer titled, "When Does Human Life Begin? The Final Answer," (www.lifeissues.net/writers/kisc_04whenlifebegins1.html) we read: "It is unfortunate, but true, that much of the lay public has little background in basic reproductive biology, and even less in human embryology. As a consequence, this basic information has been rather easily corrupted within the public discourse."

The author goes on to share what every embryologist accepts as a scientific fact. When the male's sperm fuses with the female's egg, fertilization takes place and human life begins.

To quote from one human embryologist: In his 1994 textbook, "Human Embryology and Developmental Biology," Dr. Bruce Carlson writes, "Human pregnancy begins with the fusion of the egg and the sperm..."

Help spread the truth!

IS WOMEN'S HEALTH BEING CONSIDERED?

A June 27th LifeSite article noted that Health Canada has recently approved a request from Plan B manufacturer, Women's Capital Corporation, to have Plan B's status in Canada changed to an "over-the-counter medication" from a "prescription only." The US-based manufacturer had made a similar request to the American Food and Drug Administration in April of this year. It could take up to two years to get a decision south of the border.

Ryan Baker, Health Canada's spokesperson, told *LifeSite*, Canada's leading on-line daily pro-life news source, that "while the initial approval has not yet been made public, the public comment period will likely last longer than a month, after

which the decision will be made." This process sounds a bit confusing.

British Columbia and Quebec currently have legislation allowing pharmacists to prescribe the morning after pill, and Ontario embarked on a pilot study on same in 2001, under the auspices of Planned Parenthood. The results of the Ontario study were to be available this year.

The Plan B "morning-after" pill regimen consists of two .75 mg doses of the hormone levonorgestrel (progestin). It is the same regime given under the name Levonelle in Great Britain.

Great Britain's chief medical officer has recently advised his government that young women must be warned that there is a high rate of ectopic pregnancy associated with the use of Levonelle and that information leaflets need to be changed to include this recent finding. Research reported on, in a January 30, 2003 article in Reuters Health, noted that 12 of 201 pregnancies that occurred following the ingestion of this regime ended in an ectopic pregnancy, a life-threatening pregnancy complication.

The Australia Medical Association is fighting a current push in their country to have the "morning-after" pill distributed over-the-counter. As we've noticed before, these types of lobbying efforts happen in a well-coordinated way all over the world.

You can register your concern about making Plan B an "over-the-counter" drug by writing to:

The Hon. Anne McLellan, Minister of Health
Room 306, Justice Building
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

PHYSICIANS AND PHARMACISTS LOCK HORNS

The Canadian Pharmacists Association (CPhA) is currently lobbying Health Canada for wider access to the prescribing of drugs. Jeff Poston, executive director of CPhA, insists that the

prescribing of drugs is a natural extension of the pharmacist's role.

Dr. Dana Hanson, president of the Canadian Medical Association (CMA), has spoken out against giving pharmacists this authority. A January 2003 article in the Canadian Medical Association Journal (CMAJ) quotes Hanson as saying, "We feel very strongly that this is not in the patient's best interest. There is a very definite set of skills that are refined and honed before a physician can enter practice and pharmacists do not have this." The CMA head said that there is a role for pharmacists in a collaborative setting but the line must be drawn at prescribing.

Interestingly, in the case of the "morning-after" pill, the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada (SOGC) actively lobbied for pharmacists to be given the right to prescribe them. Did the CMA rap the knuckles of the SOGC for encouraging this move down a medically dangerous path? Such support would have helped pave the way for acceptance of the pharmacist's current demands.

When making politicians aware of our condemnation of the abortifacient "morning-after" pill, we should also mention the folly of putting prescription rights into the hands of pharmacists. Perhaps the CMA will be onside given their current stand.

ADULT BONE MARROW SUCCESSFUL

LONDON, Ont., June 23, 2003 (LifeSiteNews.com) A group of scientists at Canada's Robarts Research Institute in London, Ont. have discovered that adult stem cells from bone marrow can trigger regeneration of severely damaged organs including the pancreas. The process has been done only with mice so far.

"The bone marrow stem cells interacted with the pancreas and basically triggered the pancreas to regenerate on its own. ... This is a completely unprecedented property of bone marrow stem cells," says Dr. Mickie Bhatia, who directed the research. There is no reason to think it wouldn't work in humans, Bhatia added. "It certainly raises intriguing therapeutic possibilities."

TEEN SEX AND DEPRESSION LINKED

WASHINGTON, June 5, 2003 (LifeSiteNews.com)

A new study shows that sexual activity among high school age boys and girls often has harmful emotional and psychological consequences. Sexually active teens are less likely to be happy, more likely to be depressed and more likely to attempt suicide. The majority of sexually active teens state that they regret their initial sexual activity and wish they had waited until they were older before becoming sexually active.

Family Research Council's Bridget Maher, policy analyst on marriage and family issues, said, "This study is one more reason why abstinence education is a more compassionate policy approach than pushing 'safe sex.'" The study, conducted by the Heritage Foundation, is based on data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Adolescent Health, a nationwide survey that examined behaviors of adolescents in junior high and high school.

Among the findings were:

- Teenage girls who are sexually active are three times more likely to be depressed than are girls who are not sexually active. Those girls who are sexually active are almost three times more likely to attempt suicide than are girls who are not active.
- Teenage boys who are sexually active are more than twice as likely to be depressed than are boys who are not sexually active. Those boys who are sexually active are almost ten times more likely to attempt suicide than are boys who are not active.
- Almost two-thirds of sexually active teenage boys and girls state that they wish they had waited longer before beginning sexual activity. Almost three quarters of sexually active teenage girls state they wish they had waited longer before beginning sexual activity.

To access the study at the Heritage Foundation:
<http://www.heritage.org/Research/Family/cda0304.cfm>

“SAFE SEX” – RUSSIAN ROULETTE

TORONTO, June 24, 2003 (LifeSiteNews.com)
An American Family Association report on sex education and the sexual activity of American teens contains the following more notable facts and statistics:

- Condoms are completely ineffective against six common STDs.
- According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), about 25% of sexually active teenagers get a sexually transmitted disease (STD) every year.
- 80% of infected teens don't even know they have an STD, passing the diseases along to unsuspecting partners.
- 46% of teen girls become infected with an STD during their first sexual encounter. 30 different STDs infect millions of kids ages 12 to 18.
- 20% of Americans age 12 and older test positive for genital herpes.
- Of the new HIV infections each year, about 50% occur in people under the age of 25.

See:

<http://afajournal.org/2003/june/603teensex.html#safesex>

BELGIUM STRENGTHENS ASSISTED SUICIDE LAW

Belgian legislators are planning to extend the country's assisted suicide law to allow the procedure for those under the age of 18 according to a report from Dutch news services. The vow came as Belgian coalition leaders issued a threat that all hospitals must provide euthanasia services – a threat provoked by the refusal of "some" Catholic hospitals to comply.

"Those under the age of 18 feel pain in exactly the same way as their elders," Flemish Liberal Senator Jeannine Le-Duc told the *Gazet van Antwerp*.

Not everyone agrees with the plan. "Euthanasia for a seven-year-old kid -- there's no way," said Liberal Senator Philippe Monfils.

GROUPS SUPPORTING EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH

Alzheimer Society of Canada
Canadian Cancer Society
Parkinson Society of Canada
Muscular Dystrophy Association
Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada (HSFC),
Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada
Arthritis Society
ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis) Society of Canada

No civilized society has the right to reduce the status of a human being to the level of an experimental tool or a lab rat.

*Senator Brian Harradine
Federal Parliament, Australia*

EUTHANASIA PREVENTION GROUP DEMANDS LIFTING OF PUBLICATION BAN ON EUTHANASIA ACTIVIST MURDER TRIAL

VANCOUVER, June 20, 2003 (LifeSiteNews.com)
A case against pro-euthanasia activist, Evelyn Martens, is proceeding after provincial court Judge Brian Mackenzie ruled there was enough evidence to move to trial. Marten, 71, is charged with assisting the suicides of Vancouver teacher Leyanne Burchell, 52, and ex-nun Monique Charest, 64.

Trial dates will be set in B.C. Supreme Court on July 8, however there is a publication ban on the case.

The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (EPC) believes that it is in the interest of the public for the publication ban on this case to be removed. "The fact that the investigation has produced enough information that the case is going forward tells us that the public need to know the severity of the possible transgression of the law that has taken place. We are concerned that if the silence is allowed to continue, the Right to Die Society will be able to use that to their advantage by undermining the truth with propaganda," stated EPC Executive Director Alex Schadenberg.

BILL C13 – ASSISTED REPRODUCTION STATUS

The controversial assisted human reproduction bill was one of about 50 pieces of proposed legislation that will now have to come back to the House of Commons when it resumes sitting in mid-September. The Liberal leadership convention is to be held in November so there is concern that at least some of the waiting bills will not be dealt with adequately or at all. Health Minister Anne McLellan insists that the government is “very committed” to dealing with Bill C-13 when Parliament resumes.

Meanwhile, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), a federal funding agency, has decided to start accepting research proposals on embryonic stem cells, even though this is a hotly contested section of the bill.

In the measure in which research harms the embryos, which are used to the point that afterward they can only be rejected, we state that these embryos have been reduced to the rank of objects.

*Archbishop Jean-Pierre Ricard, President
French Catholic Bishop's Conference*

LDI'S BOYCOTT LIST

Doug Scott, President of Life Decisions International (LDI), is an Evangelical Protestant Christian operating out of New York. Some of you would have heard Doug when we had him speak on the threat of the Planned Parenthood (PP) group at our Annual General Meetings on two occasions in the past 10 years.

Our group subscribes to his Caleb Report and Boycott List. Following are some changes in his boycott list of companies that finance Planned Parenthood:

PP Supporters:

Dairy Queen
Fruit of the Loom
Microsoft
Pampered Chef

Stopped Supporting PP:

American Express

BILL C-13 (ASSISTED HUMAN REPRODUCTION ACT)

Bill C-13 was still in third reading when Parliament recessed for the summer. That means that it will be up for debate and a final vote when the House of Commons resumes sitting in mid-September. It will no doubt be brought forward swiftly as Health Minister Anne McLellan has said that she considers it a priority item. Legislation on this issue has already been introduced twice before, as Bill C-47 and Bill C-56. Both previous bills died when these Parliament sessions ended. It is doubtful it will happen yet again. It does have to pass in both the House of Commons and in the Senate before the next leadership convention in November.

Meanwhile, the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR), whose March 2002 guidelines were used for Bill C-13's legislative proposal regarding stem cell research, has decided not to extend its one-year voluntary moratorium that ended April 1 this year. It is in the process of forming a committee to make funding decisions for embryonic stem cell research proposals that it receives. The Institute has already sent out a request for such proposals to be forwarded to it.

The Canadian Institutes for Health Research would restrict embryonic stem cell research to:

- embryos created for reproductive purposes that are no longer required.
- embryos whose gamete [egg and sperm] providers have given free and informed consent; and
- embryos for which there was no commercial transaction involved; and
- there could be no experimentation beyond the 14th day of cell division

ProLife groups think that Bill C-13's allowing of research on human embryos is reason enough to vote against the bill in its entirety. A large majority of Canadian Alliance MPs seems to agree.

ARE ABORTIONS MEDICALLY NECESSARY?

The petition we have chosen to make available at the Prince George Exhibition this year originated with a very outspoken MP, Garry Breitkreuz (Canadian Alliance member from Saskatchewan). Motion M-83 was introduced in the House of Commons May 12 this year. As explained by Mr. Breitkreuz when introducing the motion, "It asks the Standing Committee on Health to fully examine, study and report to Parliament on two issues related to the delivery of abortion services in Canada. The first is to determine whether or not abortions are medically necessary as defined in the Canada Health Act. The second is to determine the health risks for women undergoing abortion."

In 2002, the Standing Committee on Health wrote to the ministers of health of all Canadian provinces and territories to ask if they had done a risk/benefit analysis with respect to abortion in their jurisdiction.

Quebec gave no response. All other provinces informed the committee that they had not. Yet, on October 3, 2002, the Saint John Telegraph Journal quoted Health Minister Anne McLellan as saying, "Our [the federal Liberal government's] view is that obviously abortion is a medically necessary service." So much for accountability

The decision to claim that abortion is medically necessary is based on political expediency. We need to show politicians that we, as the people who vote them in and out of office, will not tolerate our unborn sisters and brothers being killed with impunity.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE GET A LARGE TURNOUT AT LIFE CHAIN ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5TH. THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS HAS DROPPED FROM OVER 900 THE FIRST YEAR TO ABOUT 165 THE PAST FEW YEARS. WHAT KIND OF MESSAGE ARE WE SENDING LOCALLY?

CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTRE NEWS

Volunteer Training begins in September. If you are interested please call Alison, Executive Director, at the CPC Office: **562-4464**

Crisis Pregnancy Centre
202 – 2289 Westwood Drive
Prince George BC V2N 4V4
Email: pgcpc@bcgroup.net

PROLIFE RAFFLE

First Prize: \$250

Second Prize: Baby Hamper (three \$25 gift certificates from The Bay, plus other items up to a value of \$150)

Third Prize: \$50

Pine Centre Mall has again agreed to give us space and time at the mall. This is not only a great opportunity for making revenue for our group; it is also a chance for public exposure. We are allowed to make our membership brochures available on the table.

If you would be interested in helping out with a shift, or just with selling tickets, please phone Laura at 563-3874.

THE RAFFLE DRAW WILL BE AT OUR AGM

CAN YOU HELP?

The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (EPC) is having a tough time financially; so much so that they had to lay off George Paul Dienesch who had been doing research into abuse of the elderly and medically vulnerable persons in our society.

If you can spare even \$10 to this highly respected and professional group please send the cheque to: Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, Box 25033, London, ON N6C 6A8

We are currently sending out copies of the EPC's 12 page "Euthanasia Paper" to local churches.

PRINCE GEORGE EXHIBITION

As is usual, our group has booked a two-sided booth at the Prince George Exhibition. The one side will deal with topics like abortion, assisted-suicide and euthanasia; the other side deals with fetal development and abstinence education for teens. We also always have a petition. This year it will be one in support of MP Garry Breitkreuz's Private Member's Motion M-83. (See the related article on this.)

Our balloons - always an attention getter - have three different messages this year: 'Life is Precious', 'Love Life', and 'Children Are a Gift From God'. Plastic models of a ten-week

developing baby and silver 'Precious Feet' pins will also be available.

We ordered a large photo of Samuel, a little fellow who was operated on in-utero for spina bifida. The photo shows him holding onto the doctor's finger while still in the womb! It will be part of our backdrop.

If you are able to take a 3-hour shift at some point during the four days of the fair please phone Barbara at 963-9189. We always have two people on every shift so we need a fair number of volunteers. Teenagers are always welcome. Free exhibition passes are provided for during your shift. The fair runs from Thursday, August 7 to Sunday, August 10.

OCTOBER AGM ELECTIONS

All positions on the board are open for election and re-election. Please feel free to offer your talents! Phone Barbara Gobbi, past-president at 963-9189.

We need a president, secretary, treasurer and five board members. All nominees must be paid up members.

Websites of Interest

www.interlife.org
www.prolife.com
www.physiciansforlife.com
www.reallove.net
www.justthefacts.org
www.worldyouthalliance.com
www.hopeafterabortion.com
www.lifesite.net

Name/s: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Membership: New Renewal

Individual / Family \$20 Senior / Student \$10 Donation _____

Make cheque payable to: **ProLife Society, P.O. Box 2333, Prince George BC V2N 2J8**
(Prince George ProLife cannot issue charitable tax receipts for donations)