

Prince George

# PROLIFE SOCIETY

July 2007



## Prince George ProLife Society

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

Office hours: 9 am to 9 pm

**President:** Laura Fowlie  
**Secretary:** Patricia O'Neill  
**Treasurer:** Tracy Pfannmuller

### Board of Directors:

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## Coming Events:

### August 2007

9-12 PGX ProLife Booth

### September 2007

30 Life Chain  
Along 15th Avenue  
2:00 to 3:00 pm

### October 2007

1 Annual General Meeting  
First Baptist Church  
483 Gillett Street  
7:00 pm  
Speaker: John Hoff  
President of Campaign  
Life Coalition BC

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Many of you have heard of Amnesty International (AI), a well-respected human rights movement with more than 2.2 million members and supporters from over 150 countries and territories around the world. AI's goal is the global recognition of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and other international human rights standards, for all people. Some of the causes it is has dedicated itself to are the right to adequate housing, food, water, sanitation, education and health care; an end to the torture and ill-treatment of captives; an international, legally-binding Arms Trade Agreement; an end to violence against women; and, perhaps most recognized, an end to the death penalty.

From Amnesty International's website comes this statement: "The death penalty is the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment. It violates the right to life. It is irrevocable and can be inflicted on the innocent." Much of what is stated there could refer to abortion as well, which makes AI's recent actions even more unconscionable.

I was disillusioned and disheartened to learn that Amnesty International has now reversed its previously neutral stand on abortion and has adopted a new policy. This policy calls for all governments to "decriminalize" abortion, allowing those who perform abortions freedom from prosecution. It also urges governments to ensure access to abortion for women in certain circumstances. These include those who are victims of rape or incest, or where a pregnancy threatens a woman's life or her health. As history has taught us, the definition of the word "health" can become very broad, allowing most or all pregnancies an ensured abortion.

This new policy goes against the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child, which states that every child "needs special safeguards and care, including legal protection, before as well as after birth." It also disregards Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which says, "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person." By changing its stand, Amnesty International has turned its back on two of

the basic human rights documents that it has professed to uphold.

Equally disquieting is the underhanded way in which AI has dealt with this change in policy. Karen Schneider, chair of the Sexual and Reproductive Rights Working Group, posted a letter on the members-only website making it perfectly clear that no press release or public statement was to be issued on this new position. This information only came to light when exposed by Ryan T. Anderson, a writer for the journal, "First Things," who discovered the policy statement buried on the "members-only, restricted content" page of AI's US website.

This radical position change occurred despite the internal poll that took place in the United Kingdom, which indicated that the majority of U.K. members felt strongly against this new policy. Interestingly, the results of an on-line vote in the United States, which occurred last fall, have yet to be seen. Obviously, the results would not have supported such a change, for if

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COME SEE US  
AT THE PGX  
AUGUST 9-12

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
October 1 — 7:00 pm  
At First Baptist Church  
483 Gillett Street

*President's Message, cont.*

they had, this information would have been used to give strength to Al's position.

Furthermore, Amnesty International, at its U.S. regional and national conferences, actively censored the information members could receive by excluding the distribution of pro-life pamphlets. Apparently, the Amnesty International Executive Committee had already made their decision and would allow nothing to sway them or to influence their membership.

I ask you, if you are a contributing member of AI, to consider withdrawing your membership and your support of this organization; and please, as soon as possible, send a letter/email, or make a call, urging the Executive Committee members to overturn their decision and to commit themselves, instead, to the fight for the rights of the voiceless, the most vulnerable, the millions of unborn who are being denied the basic right to life.

To email Amnesty International: [www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org)  
(Click on "Contact Us" and then

select "Canada" to send an email to the Canadian Chapter or select "International Secretariat" for the International Office)

To send a letter or to phone the Canadian Chapter:

AI Canada  
312 Laurier Ave. East  
Ottawa, ON, K1N 1H9

Phone 1-613-744-7667

Thank you for your continued efforts for life, and have a most enjoyable and memorable summer!

*Laura Fowlie, President*

## ABOLISH ABORTION: THE GREAT CANADIAN WISH

### Theresa Matters

The Interim  
Youth Issues Correspondent

In an effort to encourage the youth of Canada to speak up about their thoughts on our country, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation began a forum entitled, "The Great Canadian Wish List" on the internet site Facebook. Facebook is a social networking website that has become popular for connecting and re-connecting with friends, colleagues, co-workers and family through the internet. As of February 2007, there were 20 million users and the number keeps growing.

CBC worked with Student Vote to create the Wish List. Student Vote is a non-partisan educational program. It creates an election experience for students who are not yet voting age. On its website, [www.studentvote.ca](http://www.studentvote.ca), it is said: "We hope they'll have a chance to discover what being involved can do for Canada."

On this CBC-created group, any Facebook user may make a wish for others to support. On the first day, Dave Gilbert heard about it on CBC World News and decided to make his wish known: abolish abortion in Canada. A discussion thread was started in the main group, which grew quickly with intense debate. Posts numbered in the thousands, as both sides of the issue jumped in to defend their view.

The conclusion of the summary of the abolish abortion wish states, "This wish aims to redeem the

humanity of the preborn child. It also recognizes that there need to be necessary social changes in place to support women in crisis pregnancies."

As Gilbert's wish grew in supporters, an opposing wish was started: I wish that Canada would remain "pro-choice." Kirsten Van Houten said in the wish summary that "in response to the growing support for the 'pro-life' group's wish, this wish is an alternative for anyone who is 'pro-choice.'" She also explained the rationale for the wish: "Abortion is an issue concerning a private individual and their body. Canada's legal system is based on the concept that individuals are rational, self-interested, dignified human beings, which is reflected in the Morgentaler case. In addition, given that a fetus is not considered to be a child until the second or third trimester, there can be no claim that it's murder."

There has been much media attention given to this surge of talk on abortion. The *Globe and Mail*, along with *MacLeans.ca*, had articles on it. On June 12, the CBC News at Six covered the Wish List and interviewed Gilbert. He says the number of supporters and amount of talk on abortion "shows that with open and free debate, Canadians want to talk about (abortion). This is not a closed issue." Also interviewed was Tamara Small, who studies politics and social networks at Mount Allison University. She attributes the wish being number one to supporters who are better organized.



The nature of Facebook allows many individuals to post as much as they would like as often they would like with whatever they want to say. Needless to say, then, many arguments have been posted, logical and illogical. The issue dominated many discussions, despite the intention of the CBC to have a plethora of wishes talked about.

At the top of the main group, CBC points out: "Remember, too, that this is not a moderated site: we set it up, but that's it. This is your place to have your say, get into your debates and discussions and views. Lay off the swearing and the bickering. This is a public place - give folks a chance to speak out, too. "We're not sure where this all leads to in the end, but at the very least, we hope people have some fun, as well as celebrating and debating what makes us proud."

Apart from the debate on abortion, many other wishes are being stated. A wish for a spiritual revival in our nation is a leading wish. Topics surrounding tuition fees, the environment and defending the traditional definition of marriage also have gained many supporters. The CBC is planning to air a program about the top wishes in early July.

**"This wish aims to redeem the humanity of the preborn child. It also recognizes that there need to be necessary social changes in place to support women in crisis pregnancies."**

## APPLAUDING BELLA: A MOVIE THAT ILLUMINATES THE BEAUTY OF LIFE IN THIS CULTURE WAR AGAINST LIFE

**Marlon Bartram**  
Life Immeasurable

Thus far in the abortion war, one tool the pro-abortion side has clearly used far more effectively than the pro life side is the entertainment media. Slick, big-budget productions such as Cider House Rules and Million Dollar Baby have skillfully presented the "choice" arguments to the masses without much competition from the other side...until now. Bella, although by no means big-budget, gives pro lifers a quality film that has the potential to reach a large audience with a very powerful life-affirming message. It was made in just 23 days but manages to eloquently say what we have been trying to get across for more than 23 years – that life is beautiful, valuable, and the only real choice.

Certainly, Bella is a Pro-Life film, but it does have potential to appeal to the pro-abortion crowd as well. It gives ample air time to the arguments for choice and portrays with honesty just how difficult a crisis pregnancy can be. Thus, it can also be described as pro-woman, something pro-aborts do not often accuse pro lifers of being. Those supporting abortion will also appreciate that the film does not come right out and say that "abortion is wrong" or

"abortion is murder." Rather, Bella simply shines a brilliant light on the fact that the child outside the womb is the same precious and infinitely valuable child that was once inside the womb.

In the movie, Eduardo Verastegui, a popular Mexican soap opera actor and heartthrob, plays Jose, a professional soccer player turned chef with a chance for resurrection after tragedy, while Tammy Blanchard plays his long-time co-worker, Nina, who faces an unplanned pregnancy. Together they deliver an acting performance viewers cannot help but become enmeshed in. The believable and attention-grabbing plot, meanwhile, is marked with just enough irony and uncertainty to keep you guessing. Producer Leo Severino's use of clever foreshadowing and symbolism keeps you connecting the dots during and after viewing. Furthermore, the story line is so down-to-Earth and realistic that similar events could very well be actually happening in your neighbourhood. If there is one thing that really stood out for this viewer, however, it is the collective performance of the talented actresses in the film.

So intensely and accurately portrayed are the complex emotions that must accompany such real-

life experiences of women that viewers are compelled to feel right along with the characters. Indeed, more than a few tears rolled and by the end of the film not a dry eye could be seen. At the same time, a strong feeling that we had just witnessed a movie with a rare and even divine power to touch a place in us that is all too often buried under layers of materialism, humanism, or moral relativism hung heavy in the theatre.

Most movies these days are easily forgotten shortly after viewing (and many of those not a moment too soon) but Bella is one of those rare gems that can find a place in your heart and stay there a very long time. It really is a fine and important piece of art that is destined to become a highlight of any collection of pro life material. The fact that Bella was awarded top honors at the 2006 Toronto International Film Festival attests to that.

The success of Bella – in terms of reaching the widest audience possible – depends heavily on how well it does in its opening week. Please, do yourself and the movement a favour: find out where Bella is playing in your area and go see it in early August. You will not be disappointed that you did.



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eloquently say what  
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## EARLY ABORTIFACIENTS NOW PRESCRIPTION FREE IN BC

### Interim Staff

British Columbia pharmacies will now offer Plan B "emergency contraception," the so-called "morning-after pill," without a prescription and without a mandatory informed consent sheet. The abortifacient drug, used to prevent conception or end early-stage pregnancy, can cause the death of an unborn human being in the first days of life by preventing him from implanting in his mother's womb.

The pill has been moved from a Schedule IV designation – requiring a prescription from a doctor or trained pharmacist and an informed consent sheet – to Schedule II, which means it is available over the counter, but kept within eyesight of the pharmacist to allow for minimal instruction in safe usage.

Strangely, the new regulations apply only to Plan B brand emergency contraception, with competing brands still requiring a prescription and an informed consent sheet.

Those truly concerned with women's health point to the health risks of unrestricted access to MAPs, including increased risk of potentially fatal ectopic pregnancies. Pro-lifers are worried that women are not given sufficient information about the drug, including its abortifacient nature. Canadian Physicians for Life has stated that, "Physical and clinical examinations by a physician are essential to good healthcare: to counsel patients on how to reliably avoid pregnancy, to determine sexually transmitted diseases and abusive or coercive relationships and to discuss health risks." Physicians for Life says

these issues are best dealt with in the privacy of the family doctor's office than at the pharmacy counter.

Since 2000, pharmacists, not only doctors, have been permitted to prescribe the morning-after pill to women. The changes will eliminate the need for a prescription.

In 2005, Health Canada approved the sale of Plan B directly from pharmacies across Canada after B.C., Quebec and Saskatchewan permitted over-the-counter sales of the drug.

The concern now is that other provinces or the federal government will permit yet easier access to these potentially dangerous drugs

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ProLife Society**

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**We're on the Web !**  
**www.pgprolife.com**

**Annual General Meeting**

Monday, October 1, 2007

First Baptist Church  
Fellowship Hall  
483 Gillett Street

**Agenda**

President's Report  
Treasurer's Report  
Elections

**Guest Speaker**

John Hoff, President  
Campaign Life Coalition BC

**Coffee and Dessert  
Everyone Welcome**

**Prince George ProLife Society  
Annual General Meeting**

**Monday, October 1st - 7:00 pm**  
First Baptist Church - Fellowship Hall  
483 Gillett Street

**"What is the Appropriate Response?"**

You are invited to come and listen to the words of John Hof, a dynamic speaker and President of Campaign Life Coalition B.C. (the political wing of the pro-life movement in Canada). His message will be, "What is the Appropriate Response?" and it will provide you with the tools to deal with any pro-life questions that you might have or that others may have posed to you. This message promises to banish apathy and to re-energize pro-life efforts.

This event will also include coffee and dessert, a brief AGM and a fundraising appeal. We will be requesting your generous support for the upcoming year's programs which include informative newsletters, guest speakers, the pro-life booth at the Prince George Exhibition, our website, and various educational opportunities and materials. None of this would be possible without your help.

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**LIFE CHAIN 2007**

**A peaceful, prayerful  
witness to the truth  
about abortion**

**Along 15th Avenue from Burden to Central**

**Sunday, September 30th  
from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm**

**This powerful event provides you with the opportunity to be  
a visible witness to the value, dignity and sanctity of the lives  
of the unborn.**

**Come and join us, and encourage your friends and family  
members to come along, too.**