



Prince George ProLife Society

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NEWSLETTER NO. 30

September 2006

PROLIFE SOCIETY

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

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

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Kim Klitch
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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

Most of us remember the shock and outrage we felt when we first heard of China's 'one child policy' and of the resulting sex selection abortions of female fetuses. With males being more highly valued in Chinese culture, these abortions were performed so parents could ensure that their 'one child' would be a male. It's been estimated that, since this policy was put in place, 250 – 300 million babies have been killed in China with the large majority of these being female. As a result, there are now only 80 women for every 100 men. Valerie Hudson, a political scientist at Brigham Young University and co-author of *Bare Branches – The Security Implications of Asia's Surplus Male Population*, predicted that, "In world history, there has never been a bride shortage as large as is about to hit China." Some scholars further predict that, as a result of millions of men being unable to find a mate, that there will be high levels of crime and social disorder which will eventually lead to global unrest.

More recently, but equally distressing, were the results of the study reported in January in *The Lancet*, a British medical journal, revealing that, since the increased availability of ultrasound technology, there has been "the widespread and mass termination of female fetuses" in India, a country where the culture also places far more value on boys over girls. At a rate of approximately one-half million such abortions each year, it is calculated that, at the present time, there is a shortage of ten million girls in India.

And now, according to a research article, "Canada's Lost Daughters," published in June's *Western Standard*, we read the unimaginable news that sex selection abortions are also happening in various parts of our own country, with some in our own province. It appears that, in areas with high populations of immigrants from India and China, this practice continues. It is the thinking of some medical practitioners that they are dealing with a cultural issue and that it would be an insult to those of another culture if they were denied an abortion.

This seems to be very strange thinking, especially in the light of the fact that both in India and China they are trying to turn around this gender disparity. In China, the government has begun paying cash bonuses to those who give birth to girls, and in India, both sex selection abortions and performing tests to determine the sex of an unborn child are now illegal. Those charged with gender determining testing are subject to fines, imprisonment and the suspension of their medical license.

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COMING EVENTS

October 2006

- 1** **LIFE CHAIN**
Along 15th Avenue
2 – 3 pm
- 23** **AGM**
St. Mary's School
7 pm

(President's Message, cont.)

Why, when these governments are trying to undo some of the harm they have caused, are we, in Canada, choosing to perpetuate this practice? The answer, according to Joyce Arthur, with the Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada, is "Being pro-choice means supporting a woman's right to decide whether or not to continue a pregnancy for whatever reason, even if one personally does not agree with her reason."

What irony! Joanne McGarry, executive director of the Catholic Civil Rights League, addressed this issue by saying, "The National Action Committee on the Status of Women must have a heck of a time with this one. All that successful lobbying on the slogan, 'the issue is choice,' only to discover that for some, the choice is to eliminate the girls."

I'm sure that women who are active abortion advocates are now beginning to squirm. For if they were to admit that sex selection abortions are morally wrong, it would open up the question – is it moral for women to have the right to choose an abortion for any reason? And yet, for them to ignore this issue and to just keep silent is to dismiss and devalue the worth of all women.

Laura Fowlie, President

SWISS EUTHANASIA GROUP DEMANDS ASSISTED SUICIDE FOR THE DEPRESSED

LONDON, September 22, 2006 (LifeSiteNews.com) – The Swiss suicide organization that has helped to kill at least 54 British clients and uncounted others from around Europe, is in a test case in the country's Supreme Court arguing that people suffering from depression or who are "tired of life" should be able to legally use the facility to end their lives.

Ludwig Minelli, the founder of Dignitas, the Zurich-based organization said his group was seeking to overturn the Swiss law that allows them to assist only people with a terminal illness.

Following in the wake of the international conference of the Right to Die movement in Toronto earlier this month, the move has come as no surprise to euthanasia opponents, who say it has always been part of the plan to make assisted suicide and euthanasia legal for anyone who wants it.

Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director of Canada's Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, who attended the conference, says Minelli's court battle is proof at last of the falsehood of the claim that the push to legalize euthanasia is about caring for people in distress.

Schadenberg said that Minelli's request for assisted suicide for the depressed is an admission that the euthanasia/assisted suicide movement is essentially a "death on demand culture."

He warned that the demand for changes in the law for terminally ill people "rationally requesting a peaceful death," are part of a larger "strategy of the death culture" and not the final goal.

"In fact euthanasia and assisted suicide have nothing to do with terminal illness or rational choices, but rather a demand for an unfettered ability to commit suicide," Schadenberg said. "What Minelli is admitting is that people should have the right to suicide assistance, even if they can't rationally consent or they aren't terminal," he concluded.

At the World Federation of Right to Die international conference in Toronto a debate was held on strategy between Canadian Derek Humphrey – considered a "radical" even among euthanasia campaigners – and Dr. Rob Jonquière of the Netherlands. Dr. Jonquière was opposed to the radical strategy of Derek Humphrey pushing for legalization on the grounds that it added to public suspicion as to the overall agenda.

Jonquière argued that a subtler method will be to have euthanasia legalized in the Netherlands for people who are "tired of living," using the language of compassion and caring.

Following the movement's strong anti-Catholic sentiments, Minelli blamed "religion" for stigmatizing suicide, attacking this "stupid ecclesiastical superstition" against suicide and euthanasia.

Schadenberg told LifeSiteNews.com that a leading theme of the Toronto conference was the movement's hatred for Christianity and Catholicism in particular which it sees as the only credible opposition to their goals.

Minelli, speaking to a group of Liberal Democrats in England, confirmed Schadenberg's thesis, saying, "We should see in principle suicide as a marvelous possibility given to human beings because they have a conscience . . . If you accept the idea of personal autonomy, you can't make conditions that only terminally ill people should have this right."

"We should accept generally the right of a human being to say, 'Right, I would like to end my life', without any pre-condition, as long as this person has capacity of discernment."

A spokesman for English disability groups concurred with Schadenberg's analysis saying, "This confirms the suspicions of many disabled people that legalizing assisted suicide would be the start of a slippery slope that would lead to anyone, whatever their condition, being helped or even coerced into opting for death."

LIBERAL MP STRONACH SUGGESTS ONLY PRO-ABORTION WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD RECEIVE GOVERNMENT FUNDS

OTTAWA, September 22, 2006 (LifeSiteNews.com) - Opposition MP Belinda Stronach, the former Minister of Human Resources while the Liberal Government was in power, was quoted in the Toronto Star yesterday suggesting that women's groups which do not support abortion should not receive government funding. Speaking of government funding for women's groups such as REAL Women Canada which are pro-life, Stronach said, "They should be rejected because they're anti-

choice and they're also anti-equal rights. They don't support equality."

The suggestion alienates a majority of Canadian women. A Focus Canada poll conducted in October 2005 by Environics Research found that 64% of Canadian women support legal protection of unborn children before birth.

Stronach's comments to the press closely resemble those she made in the House of Commons yesterday. Stronach slammed the government from even hearing the opinions of REAL Women. Describing the pro-life and pro-family women's group Stronach said, "This is a group that is anti-choice, anti-gay, does not support equality for women and wants to obliterate the Department on the Status of Women. This group's website even has links to sites that suggest that day cares do not care and homosexuality is a psychological disorder."

Bev Oda, the Conservative Minister of Canadian Heritage and Status of Women, responded saying that the Conservatives will listen to all groups unlike the Liberals who only had time for their own special interest groups. "This government, the new Conservative government, listens to all groups, but not only groups. We listen to the mothers of children. We listen to families. We listen to those people who are contributing to the community, unlike the previous Liberal government that only listened to its friends," retorted Oda.

'RIGHT' TO BE DEHYDRATED KEY RIGHT TO DIE STRATEGY

TORONTO, September 21, 2006 (LifeSiteNews.com) - At last week's Toronto conference of the international Right to Die movement, speakers laid out the course of the movement's strategy for legalization of euthanasia and assisted suicide around the world.

Of particular note is the emphasis on the "right" to be starved and dehydrated to death, especially for

patients suffering from dementia or cognitive disabilities.

Seeing a “catch-22” in the dementia and euthanasia problem, the Right to Die movement says the problem is that some, while unwilling “to end life prematurely,” know that “it requires mental competence to take personal responsibility for choosing a peaceful death at the right time.” The difficulty is that when a patient is incapacitated by dementia and unable to make his wishes known, family members may intervene to stop dehydration deaths.

Removal of nutrition and hydration tubes has become a key issue in the Right to Die movement’s campaign. Dr. Stanley Terman warned conferees that the wishes of the family, often manipulated by the “religious right” is a threat to securing the right to be killed by dehydration for dementia patients.

Dr. Terman, a psychiatrist specializing in end-of-life family counselling, said the solution is a plan that “satisfies desires to avoid a life of dementia,” and yet protects family members from having to take steps to end the patient’s life.

Terman also pointed to the increasing costs of keeping dementia patients alive, echoing the running eugenic theme of the conference in favour of euthanasia as a cost-cutting measure. Terman is the author of a book, “The Best Way to Say Good-bye” that explains how patients can ensure they will be dehydrated to death if experiencing dementia.

Terman, with a number of other speakers, pointed to Wesley J. Smith, the lawyer and writer on bioethics issues, as a force to be reckoned with in the euthanasia debate. He stated that if a patient wishes ensure that he will have food and fluids withdrawn then he needs to read his (Terman’s) book. If he wishes to prevent the withdrawal or withholding of food and fluids then he needs to read Wesley Smith’s books.

Another major theme of the Right to Die strategy is the issue of autonomy as a criterion for deciding end of life questions. Robert Raben, a political

organizer and advisor explained how the Right to Die movement was attempting to convince politicians that their position was politically positive.

Raben says he is convinced that their message must be: “Who Decides?” meaning that the decision to end or sustain life must be in the hands exclusively of the patient.

The “autonomy” issue, he said, will play well in the US culture of individualism and “choice.” In modern bioethics thinking, autonomy is often given as a key indicator in the determination of “personhood”. Many bioethicists argued that because Terri Schiavo’s disability had reduced her autonomy that she was, in effect, already dead.

Another speaker, Steve Hopcraft, the political organizer for the recent California campaign to legalize assisted suicide, said that the movement must work to ban the word “suicide” from its lexicon.

Hopcraft explained the results of the polling data from the California campaign. He is convinced that even though they failed to get the bill passed into law, that in fact they were so successful it is inevitable they will pass a law.

Focus groups found that when the questions were framed as issues of “suicide” or “assisted suicide,” the public was less receptive. When they used terms such as “aid in dying” or “end of life choices” they gained 15% in their polling. Media, however, were not cooperative and refused to change the language.

Hopcraft said that at the next round, the movement would frame the debate on themes of “patients rights,” “senior citizens issues,” and the “right to choose.

Conference speakers included a who’s who of the euthanasia and right to die world, including George Felos, the lawyer who drove the court battles to kill Terri Schiavo; Derek Humphry, Chair of the Advisory Committee of the Final Exit Network USA; Lord Joel Joffe, a member of the

British House of Lords, and sponsor of a bill allowing physician aid-in-dying which is currently before the UK Parliament; Dr. Rob Jonquière, a leader in the Right to Die Society of the Netherlands.

Also in attendance was Evelyn Martens, the British Columbia woman who was acquitted of two assisted suicides in 2004 and Lesley Martin, New Zealand's most notorious euthanasia advocate who was convicted of the attempted murder of her mother; and Dr. Philip Nitschke MD, founder and director of Exit International, Australia.

ABORTION CLINIC SUED FOR POSING AS A PRO-LIFE CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER

WHITE PLAINS, NY, September 21, 2006 (LifeSiteNews.com) - Yesterday, Expectant Mother Care-EMC FrontLine Pregnancy Centers filed suit against "Dr. Emily's" abortion clinic with sites in the Bronx and downtown Brooklyn citing evidence of deceptive advertising practices.

"EMC is taking the lead in countering a truly deceptive abortion advertiser which pretends to be an alternative to abortion agency advertising under pro-life ad categories in New York City yellow pages," said Chris Slattery, founder and president of EMC, operator of 15 pro-life crisis pregnancy counseling centers and medical clinics in New York City and suburbs.

"To aggressively compete against pro-life centers, we've seen three NY abortion clinics pose as alternative centers to lure confused women who might be seeking help and support, into abortion clinics to possibly undergo abortions they may not want," Slattery added.

"In a year when unfounded charges of deceptive advertising are flying against pro-life alternative to abortion groups from abortion industry advocates like Planned Parenthood, NARAL, and the National Abortion Federation, we filed a sixteen-count complaint supported by affidavits alleging deceptive acts and practices in the conduct of an

abortion clinic's business in violation of N.Y. General Business Law 349," Slattery said.

EMC is seeking an order from the New York State Supreme Court in Westchester County preliminarily enjoining the defendant from submitting any "Abortion Alternatives" advertising and compelling it to withdraw any such advertising it may already have submitted. EMC also seeks, at the conclusion of the case, a permanent injunction and the damages that are statutorily authorized.

ABORTION RATES IN YOUTH CLIMB AS SPAIN DECLINES

MADRID, September 21, 2006 (LifeSiteNews.com) – A new government study released Wednesday shows the rate of abortion has increased among Spain's young people in a country which already faces an impending demographic implosion.

According to the Spanish news agency EFE, the National Institute for Statistics reports that abortions among women under 19 in Spain rose to 8.8 abortions for every 1,000 women, up from 5.5 for every 1,000 women in 1995. Spain with a fertility rate of 1.28 (2005), faces a worsening nightmare of demographic implosion with every increased incidence of abortion, especially among young people.

The government report confirms the findings of the Institute of Family Policy (IFP), which reported that in Spain approximately one in every six pregnancies ended in abortion, and one in seven abortions were carried out by women under 19. IFP also reported that the largest percentage of Spanish women aborting were under 24 in 2003.

According to IFP, abortion rates among the youth have risen concomitantly with the government's massive lobbying of "safe sex" programs and promotion of condom use over the years. Abortion has notably increased among younger age groups, who are the frequent targets of the government's campaigns.

Also, the presence of abortifacient “emergency contraception” in Spain since 2001 has neither slowed nor reduced Spanish abortions as many proponents of the abortifacient birth control have claimed. In the span of a decade, abortion rates climbed 72%, according to Spain’s health ministry, to 84,985 in 2004, up from 49,367 in 1995. Meanwhile the fertility rate has halved in the 20 years of legal abortion, and for years has hovered somewhere between 1.07 (2000) and 1.28 (2005), far below the necessary replacement rate of 2.1.

While Spanish laws officially restrict abortion to situations involving rape, malformation of the baby, or threats to the physical or mental health of the mother, nearly 95.7% of all abortions are justified for concern for the mother’s health, while 2.5% are for fetal deformity, and just 0.1% for rape.

RECENT STEM-CELL HOAX SHOWS PATTERN OF DISHONESTY IN SCIENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C., September 19, 2006 (LifeSiteNews.com) – Stem-cell researchers who refuse to see a problem with killing human life at its earliest stages, also have no problem sacrificing the credibility of science by making false claims in order to further their agenda, said a pro-life official of the US conference of Catholic Bishops at a conference in Rome co-sponsored by the Pontifical Academy for Life on Friday.

Richard M. Doerflinger, Interim Executive Director of the U.S. bishops’ Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, delivered his brief talk during an international congress titled “Stem Cells: What Future for Therapy?” revealing that the recent scandal involving the fraudulent claims made by Dr. Robert Lanza of Advanced Cell Technology (ACT) shows a pattern of public deception by embryonic stem-cell researchers.

Doerflinger began with Dr. Lanza’s announcement in Nature that ACT, a biotechnology company in Worcester, Mass., that they had developed a new technique for creating stem cell lines by using single cells obtained from 8- to 10-celled human

embryos that would not harm the embryo. Instead, the reputation of the journal was damaged as it was discovered that Dr. Lanza had in fact destroyed 16 embryos, and resolved no problems at all.

“Even if he ultimately were to find a way to get one cell from each embryo to create a cell line, he would still be relying on an ‘embryo biopsy’ procedure that sometimes harms the embryo and also has an unknown risk of harming any children later born alive,” added Doerflinger. “So he solved no ethical problem regarding the safety of the embryo. But he did highlight another ethical problem: deception in the field of embryonic stem cell research.”

Doerflinger cited two other instances, where embryonic stem-cell researchers sacrificed the integrity of established scientific journals to further their agenda. The human cloning hoax of Dr. Woo-Suk Hwang in South Korea damaged the credibility of Science, since Hwang solicited women with cash and even his own staff for their eggs, and falsified data and photographs to disguise his failures to clone a human being after using two thousand eggs.

Another recent casualty of scientific dishonesty was The New England Journal of Medicine, which admitted in its July 27, 2006 issue that it had misrepresented two studies to claim that stem-cells from cloned human embryos were used with success in animals. After alerted to its mistake by a reader, the journal conveniently admitted its mistake only after Congress had finished voting on stem-cell legislation.

“As these exaggerated promises have failed to produce results, the researchers have felt obliged to exaggerate and deceive more and more to maintain public trust and financial investment in their efforts – in the hope that they will ultimately solve the practical problems, and produce the cures that will make everyone forget their past ethical lapses,” said Doerflinger.

Doerflinger related that a National Institutes of Health expert attempted to reconcile the

discrepancy between stem-cell researchers' political message and scientific fact by stating, "To start with, people need a fairy tale."

"In fact, we do not need a fairy tale," Doerflinger contested. "We need the truth. But a fairy tale is what we are sometimes getting – not only from politicians and entrepreneurs but from respected scientific journals. This must change, or science itself will lose credibility."

NEW STUDY QUESTIONS "BRAIN-DEATH" CRITERION FOR ORGAN DONATION

ROME, September 15, 2006 (LifeSiteNews.com) – A new case study raises more doubts about the ethical determination of "brain-death", since researchers discovered that a patient suffering from a "persistent vegetative state" (PVS) demonstrated similar brain activity to healthy conscious individuals according to Zenit news.

Under the leadership of neuroscientist Dr. Adrian Owen, the team of scientists from Cambridge University and the Belgian University of Liège applied MRI technology to discover that the brain activity of a PVS patient indicated she was "consciously aware of herself and her surroundings."

In their experiment, the researchers gave oral commands to a 23-year-old comatose Englishwoman, who fulfilled all the requirements of a "persistent vegetative state", while they measured her brain activity with an MRI scanner.

According to the researchers, the woman showed increased activity in speech comprehension centers in her brain while researchers spoke to her, indicating comprehension. When the researchers asked her to imagine herself playing tennis and walking through the rooms of her home, the imaging screen showed activity in the woman's brain areas governing visual-spatial and motor functions: all patterns similarly observed in healthy volunteers.

In their report, Dr. Owen and his scientists wrote, "Despite fulfilling the clinical criteria for a diagnosis of vegetative state, this patient retained the ability to understand spoken commands and to respond to them through her brain activity, rather than through speech or movement."

"Moreover, her decision to cooperate with the authors by imagining particular tasks when asked to do so represents a clear act of intention, which confirmed beyond any doubt that she was consciously aware of herself and her surroundings," they stated in the September 8 issue of Science.

Zenit reports that Fr. Gonzalo Miranda, LC, a bioethics professor at the Regina Apostolorum University in Rome, believes this is the first time scientists have delved into the inner workings of a person's brain activity.

"Until now," he said, "we only had a few tests about the responsiveness of a person in this state which were limited to exterior observations -- things or gestures a person could do or not."

"These studies have confirmed something I've upheld for years now: that a person in a vegetative state is not dead," added Fr. Miranda. "They are a person living in a bad state, but they are a person, so we must respect them."

The recent case-study significantly bolsters the argument of opponents of the "brain-death" criterion for organ donation, who fear that severely brain-injured patients are seen more and more as living organ farms than as persons needing care and attention. Hospitals frequently have invoked "brain death" to justify harvesting organs ever since organ donation and transplantation became a multi-billion dollar industry beginning with the first successful organ transplants and the development of immunosuppressant drugs in the late 1950s.



LIFE CHAIN 2006

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

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

**Sunday October 1st
2:00 to 3:00 pm**

**for further information and church
contact person phone Laura at
563-3874**

Our Website:

www.pgprolife.com

Prince George ProLife Society Annual General Meeting

Thursday, October 26, 2006

7:00 p.m. - Evangelical Free Church

The Speaker: Pastor, Teacher and gifted presenter,

Mike Wlodarczyk

Living Word Cristian Centre

Kamloops

**Cake Auction
for Fun & non-Profit
Everyone Welcome**

For information phone Laura Fowlie 563-3874 or Horst Thiele 563-2933

September 25, 2006

Dear ProLife Society Members,

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support throughout this past year. Your presence at pro-life events, your financial contributions and your prayers have played a huge role in helping the Society to accomplish its many various goals and objectives.

At this time, I wish to invite you to renew your membership for the upcoming year. Last year, it was decided that the membership year would be fixed from the beginning of October to the end of the following September. Membership is \$24 per year for individuals and families and \$12 per year for seniors and students. Your membership will include a subscription to the ProLife Society newsletter, which is sent out to you four times a year.

So, please take a moment to fill out the form and mail it in to us or bring in to the AGM, which will be held at St. Mary's School on October 23 at 7:00 p.m. We thank you for your continued generosity and we pray that God will abundantly bless you and your families.

Sincerely,
Laura Fowlie
President

Name/s: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Membership: New Renewal

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)