



AGM!

COME OUT AND BE HEARD!

Toronto Right to Life Annual General Meeting
November 20th, 2008! p. 7

Disturbing Trends:

This summer has seen some unsettling
silencings of the pro-life voice p. 5



THE STORY OF BILL C-484: HOW TO TURN A DIAMOND INTO A LUMP OF COAL

BILL C-484:

PAUL KLOTZ



REFINED?

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FYI:

SPECIAL NOTICE
REGARDING
CHARITABLE DONATION
RECEIPTS p. 2

On August 25 the Conservative Party of Canada announced introduction of new legislation designed to replace the proposed bill C-484, the "Unborn Victims of Crime Act". The original bill would have effectively made an assault upon a pregnant woman into two crimes, one against her and the other against her preborn child. The bill was hailed by the pro-life community, and was thus viciously attacked and set aside in favor of a version of it so watered down that the most militant pro-"choice" advocates would be placated.

Clearly, the family anticipating the joy of the coming birth of the child experienced the loss of two dearly loved ones.

The new proposed legislation makes harm done to the preborn child in an assault on the mother an aggravating factor for judges to "consider". If they're in the mood. What so shook up the abortion "rights" community was the possibility, however remote it might be, that the preborn child or "fetus" could gain rights under the law. If the assailant was charged with two counts of murder there would be an indirect recognition of the fetus, in this situation, as a human being. They have described it as a first step through the back door in recriminalizing abortion and proclaimed it a threat to "women's reproductive rights". Bill C-484, however, allows fetal protection only for women who want to give birth to their child. The bill has been labeled as being focused on the fetus at the expense of the woman, so they say, and is as such a detractor from the true problem, which is domestic abuse of the woman.

However, Bill C-484 is clearly about protecting the woman from abuse and assault. While it's true that the pre-born child would as well be afforded some protection under this legislation, considering that pregnant women are six times more likely to be abused, the added penalty of a second crime would serve to compensate for her especially vulnerable position. The original bill would have provided a far greater deterrence for abuse and assault on pregnant women, and thus guaran-

continued page 2

teed greater protection for them than the proposed diluted version of Bill C-484, which is comparable to replacing a pit-bull guard dog with a toy poodle.

Bill C-484 took into consideration the grief and loss of the mother and family eagerly waiting to welcome the child into the world, and recognized the women who do want to have their baby. This bill was never about abortion and trying to sneak fetal rights in through the back door, it was about justice.



Aysun Sesen, a twenty-five year old Ontario pregnant woman and her preborn child were killed by her husband and father of her child last October. Aysun was

that merits special protection. To the pro-“choice” supporters, it is the increased vulnerability of the pregnant woman to abuse. The baby is left out of the picture.

The true commitment to “choice” here isn’t clear. What is clear is the all-important myopic self-focus on abortion “rights” at the expense of legislation lauded by the so-called “anti-women” pro-lifers that would have done far more to protect the woman and her choice. While proposing the new law the Conserva-

tive Party stated that the government was not going to reopen the debate on abortion. This statement reeks of pro-”choice” paranoia and confusion. The

The new proposed legislation makes harm done to the preborn child in an assault on the mother an aggravating factor for judges to “consider”. If they’re in the mood.

seven months pregnant. Her family was completely devastated by both deaths. Aysun was stabbed in the abdomen. The knife wielded by the attacker went clear through the child and into the mother. Yet, he was charged with one count of murder. Clearly, the family anticipating the joy of the coming birth of the child experienced the loss of two dearly loved ones. Where is the redress for the double tragedy they experienced?

The new legislation designed to replace bill C-484 leaves the pregnancy status of the attacked woman up to the judge to consider as an aggravating factor. Is this going to bring any justice to the mother who survives an assault, but loses the child she has chosen to bring to term? Is this pro-“choice”?

The fact that any law in this area is being proposed at all shows some recognition that there is something different about abuse in the case of a pregnant woman

new proposed revision is a quick fix that can’t hold true for long. Bill C-484 will be back. Meanwhile, in spite of all, mother and child will have at least a shadow of increased protection. Congratulations, abortion “rights” advocates. Enjoy your hollow victory. ■

1 Middlesex-London Health Unit “Task Force on the Health Effects of Woman Abuse, Final Report” (September 2000).

SPECIAL NOTICE REGARDING CHARITABLE DONATION RECIEPTS

Toronto Right to Life is excited to be launching a new, far superior database system for our member records. We thank you in advance for your co-operation and patience as this transition will result in some temporary changes in the delivery of charitable donation receipts. Please check the information on your address label to make sure it is accurate. Feel free to contact us at **416-483-7869** if any corrections are needed or if you have any questions. **Thank you for your support!**

SARAH PALIN'S CHOICE



TORONTO RIGHT TO LIFE

Commentary

Regarding medical group's concern over US Vice-Presidential candidate's choice to have her Down's Syndrome child:

The SOGC and the abortion "rights" community can't have it both ways. If they are pro-"choice" then they must respect the choice of women who want to bring their babies to term. Sarah Palin chose to have her baby, regardless of the growing eugenic pressures from our medical system and the pro-"choice" community, not to mention those who profit financially from abortions. The pro-life community will not accept that anyone, born or preborn, should be killed because they have a disability. The assertion that care would be "burdensome", or that the person with the disability will have an estimated "low quality of life" is completely subjective, patronizing and reflects the sad state of how persons with disabilities are viewed in our culture.

Executive Director of the deVeber Institute of Bioethics and Social Research, Elaine Zettel's response to the Globe and Mail's article *A Message Of Hope - Or Pressure To Keep The Baby?* speaks volumes:

"As one who has worked with adults with developmental disabilities (who were not privileged to have social and financial support during their childhoods), I see the many gifts that people with disabilities bring to our world. Sarah Palin's decision to give birth to Trig, knowing he had Down syndrome, spared her the long-term emotional distress many women experience after aborting due to fetal anomaly. Rather than fearing pressure for parents of children who have been diagnosed before birth, I hope that Ms. Palin's example will encourage us to provide the disabled and their families more support."

Canadian Doctors Group Worried Palin Example Will Lower Down's Syndrome Abortion Rate

THADDEUS M. BAKLINSKI

TORONTO, September 10, 2008 (LifeSiteNews.com)

U.S. vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin's loving and highly-publicized acceptance of her Down's syndrome child Trig has at least one prominent Canadian doctor worried that her example may lead to mothers shunning abortion after diagnosis of Down's syndrome.

According to the Globe and Mail, Dr. Andre Lalonde, executive vice-president of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC), is worried that Palin's decision to give birth to Trig, despite knowing about his condition, could influence other women in similar situations, but who lack the financial and emotional support that Palin had access to. "The worry is that this will have an implication for abortion issues in Canada," he said.

Citing his concern for women's "freedom to choose", Lalonde said that popular examples about women like Palin, who choose not to kill their unborn children, could have negative effects on women and their families, reported the Globe. However, Lalonde said that doctors in Canada give balanced information about the consequences of the condition to pregnant women with a Down's child, and that women are not necessarily encouraged to abort. "We offer the woman the choice. We try to be as unbiased as possible," Lalonde said. "We're coming down to a moral decision and we all know moral decisions are personal decisions."

Krista Flint, executive director of the Canadian Down Syndrome Society, however, disagreed with Lalonde's claim that pregnant women are given balanced information about the condition: "Many of the country's medical professionals only give messages of fear to parents who learn their baby will be born with the genetic condition."

The statistics for abortion amongst Down's children in Canada are stark: according to some estimates 80-90% of Canadian children with Down's syndrome are aborted.

"It's very dark," Flint said in the Globe and Mail report. "They hear a lot about the medical conditions that are sometimes associated with Down syndrome. They hear about the burden ... it places on children and a marriage."

"They hear about things like shortened life expectancy. They hear a lot about the challenges of a life with Down syndrome.

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ABORTION: “WHY DON’T THEY GET IT?”

ELENA SKOREYKO

As with the promotion of any important cause, as times change it is always worthwhile to re-evaluate our approach. There are so many methods of defending life, but which is the most effective? What message is most likely to attract the public and give them a real sense of the incredible value of the human person? As pro-life advocates, the violence of abortion can sometimes seem so clear to us that we become frustrated with the seemingly widespread inability of others to see the inherent injustice of ending an innocent human life, after all, it’s so obvious, right? *Maybe not.* According to a series of studies conducted by an independent leading research firm for pro-life media organization, *The Caring Foundation*, pro-life advocates have tended to assume that because it seems self evident to them that the notions, “killing is wrong” and “a fetus is a human being” are not morally compatible, simply better explaining the humanity of the fetus must be the answer to garnering pro-life support.¹ The “Abortion Stops a Beating Heart” signs, popular with pro-life advocates are a good indication of this. However, human logic is naturally wrought with emotion, and far from inducing sympathy, the study found that messages that focus entirely on the unborn child rather build resentment, particularly in women of childbearing age.²

The research found that women do not generally dispute the humanity of the unborn child, but empathy felt for a woman in crisis, the very women that signs and slogans focusing exclusively on the unborn child seem to ignore, overrode empathy for the child. This is because those who empathize with the woman in the crisis pregnancy situation recognize that she is not worrying about simply an embarrassing pregnancy, rather what she is perceiving is a deep-seated threat to her identity. As Paul Swope, northeast project director of the Caring Foundation and president of LifeNet Services, writes in his article, *Abortion: A Failure To Communicate*, to these women, unplanned motherhood represents “a complete lack of control over their present and future selves.”³ Essentially, the abortion decision tangibly feels to her to be one of choosing between her own life and the life of the child.

1 Paul Swope, “Abortion: A Failure To Communicate” *First Things*, 82 (April 1998): 31-35

2 *Ibid.*

3 *Ibid.*

Well, sure, says the pro-life advocate, but if having a child is going to so threaten your identity, what about “Adoption, The Loving Option”? To the woman in crisis, this feels quite the contrary. Adoption seems perhaps the worst route she could choose, as it represents to her the abandonment of her child, which in her mind would cast her as a “bad mother” further uprooting and tainting her sense of self.⁴

So what is the solution? How can we best respond? Perhaps a shift in perspective is in call.

It would do the pro-life movement well to frame our message with the recognition that hundreds of the women we see will experience unplanned pregnancies in their lifetimes, 100,000 in our country alone will likely choose abortion this year.⁵ We might consider adopting slogans such as Feminists For Life’s “Women Deserve Better”, or “Women experiencing unplanned pregnancy also deserve unplanned joy.” Messages that affirm the true strength of the woman will do much to counter the isolation and depersonalization that often leads her to abort.

Whatever we do, we must do our best to offer or suggest sources for practical help and support as well as empathize with the plight of the woman in crisis. We must acknowledge the difficulty of the situation she is facing, affirm her strength and ability as a mother, and always encourage and empower her towards a broader, stronger, more flexible sense of self.⁶ □

4 *Ibid.*

5 Therapeutic Abortion Survey. “Induced Abortion Statistics, 2005” Statistics Canada.

6 Paul Swope, “Abortion: A Failure To Communicate” *First Things*, 82 (April 1998): 31-35

Palin’s Choice, cont’d from page 3

That’s why Mrs. Palin has become an example that could possibly stem the tide of families who abort fetuses after a positive determination for Down syndrome,” Ms. Flint said.

“We know overwhelmingly the message families get is ‘Don’t have this baby, it will ruin your life,’ and I don’t think people would look at Sarah Palin and see a ruined life,” Ms. Flint said. “Regardless of politics, I think it’s a good example.”

According to Physicians for Life between 84 percent and 91 percent of babies with Down syndrome are aborted in the U.S. While this figure is similar in Canada, it is even higher in England and Spain where 94 percent and 95 percent of unborn babies with Down syndrome are aborted. □

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DISTURBING TRENDS EMERGING AGAINST THE CULTURE OF LIFE

PAUL KLOTZ

Like coal-black storm clouds forming on the horizon, disquieting developments in the mentality and attitudes of those who oppose Culture of Life are beginning to appear. They are not entirely new characteristics of pro-abortion, pro-euthanasia, and other groups contrary to the infinite value of human life, but formerly these groups, as hostile as they can sometimes be, at least attempted to back up their positions with what they felt was reason and logic. However, this flawed tactic seems to be fading in favour of an increasingly open use of strategies which require guile and blatant manipulation. These include such things as underhanded timing, use of official positions to advance personal agendas, outright bullying and use of sheer force to attempt to silence the pro-life voice.



During Canada day the Governor General's office awarded the nation's highest civilian honour to the most divisive choice possible for the Canadian people, Henry Morgentaler. Morgentaler, who was the primary proponent of legalizing abortion in Canada, has consistently defied and broken federal law. The action amounted to an apathetic and virtually mocking disregard for the sentiment of an enormous segment of the population.

And in the latest shot in the back, the Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons quietly attempted to force medical practitioners to acquiesce to all "requirements" of their patients, either directly, or indirectly by connecting them with those who will provide the desired services, including induced abortion, regardless of conflicts these services may present

The opposition has unwillingly had to recognize the staying power and potential influence of the pro-life movement. They are now attempting to fortify the status quo by eliminating the threat to their interests.

In the summer of 2008 we have seen the trend of these methods develop in rapid fashion:

A select few of the York Federation of Students held a strategically-timed meeting, which took place at the beginning of summer, when most students are away, in which they voted to handle the abortion debate by simply banning pro-life clubs on campus altogether, then quickly moving to have the ban passed at the national level by the Canadian Federation of Students.

Advertising Standards Canada declared a gentle pro-life billboard advertisement, which read: "Nine months- the amount of time abortion is legal in Canada", to be "offensive" and "misleading". The ads had been removed from bus shelters earlier this year in Hamilton, after 3 complaints to the transit office.

with the moral convictions or religious beliefs of the physician.

What are the reasons for this developing trend? What implications does it have for the pro-life movement in Canada? What kind of responses should it be met with? These are questions that are of immediate importance and relevance.

The opposition has unwillingly had to recognize the staying power and potentially increased influence of the pro-life movement. Accordingly, they have been attempting to fortify the status quo by eliminating the threat to their interests. It is becoming less of a goal to disprove or discredit the pro-life cause than to simply extinguish it altogether. This mentality is reflected in what is happening with freedom of speech and >>

Disturbing Trends, cont'd from page 5

conscience regarding the life issues. The ultimate goal seems to be to make the legal right to freedom of expression as illegal as possible, as quickly as possible, for the pro-life movement.

Although these goals and methods are not new, they are increasing in frequency and openness. Counter-

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actions are needed to engage in this new phase of the struggle between the cultures of life and death. The flicker that has appeared in the outcry to Morgentaler's nomination to the Order of Canada, with a hundred MPs voicing their opposition and thousands of signatures on petitions of protest, must be kindled into a fire. It must be clearly understood that the supporters of the established, proposed, and potential laws which threaten the sacredness of life, will continue to dig in and increasingly have less scruples about using any means possible to further their agendas. Unwritten and seemingly accepted codes of honour are becoming more and more a thing of the past. Even the inviolability of democracy itself is now beginning to be compromised in certain situations regarding the pro-life voice.

It must be recognized that it is time for everyone who believes in the value and dignity of human life from conception to natural death to come together and act. Everyone. Every voice, every letter, phone call, email, or signed petition to MPs or offices or groups that support laws that do not respect life, makes a difference. Pro-life education and advertising must increase in order for the truth of the pro-life message to find its way into every heart and mind that is open to it. The power of the ballot and the law must be used to the maximum. Polls consistently show the numbers are on our side, yet the pro-life population is like a sleeping giant, the potential impact only beginning to be seen. We need the retired members of our community to help out as they are able, by writing letters, petitioning, and financially supporting the groups and organizations that advance the pro-life philosophy, message and values. We need ministers, priests, and other religious leaders of all faiths to instill a love for life and the importance of its defense into their communities and congregations, and to organize pro-life

activities and prayer. We need parents, teachers, students, lawyers, medical professionals, and anyone who believes that life should be protected to inspire, teach, and advocate for life in whatever ways they have the means or talents to do so.

Those opposing a culture of life are fully aware that they are waging a full scale war to silence and paralyze the pro-life cause, in which rational argument and even the pretenses of it are disappearing. We must respond accordingly, together, in all our capacity, and **wake this sleeping giant.** ▣

For more information on how you can help out, contact Toronto Right To Life at 416-483-7869, or by email, righttolife@on.aibn.com

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S SWING DANCE FOR LIFE, A HOPPING SUCCESS!

This year's Toronto Right To Life Midsummer Night's Swing Dance for Life was a wonderful time and a good fundraising effort! Many thanks to all who came out!



Executive Director Paul Klotz and his wife Renata show how it's done!

<<

Toronto Right To Life members, Maureen and Stan Grwzyna learn the moves!

>>



A couple of supporters share a laugh during the swing dancing lesson.

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**TORONTO RIGHT TO LIFE ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Coming Up!

Come out to the Toronto Right to Life Association Annual General meeting for a chance to offer your ideas and perspective, as well as hear about current and upcoming pro-life initiatives in the Toronto area.

Honoured guest speakers this year will be the Sisters Of Life.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH
7:30PM**

NORTH YORK CENTRAL LIBRARY

Corner of Park Home Avenue & Yonge Street
Accessible by TTC at North York Centre Subway Station
Underground and street level parking available

INTERNATIONAL PRO-LIFE CONFERENCE



October 2 - 4th 2008

From the 2nd to 4th of October, Toronto will be home to Campaign Life Coalition's **Creating a Culture of Life Around the Globe**, an International

Pro-life Conference packed with exciting speakers from around the world. It promises to be an informative and inspiring event.

For more information or to register contact Campaign Life Coalition at **416-204-9749** or **1-800-730-5358** (outside GTA) or by email at **clc@lifesite.net**.

TORONTO RIGHT TO LIFE STREET CAMPAIGN



Every summer, Toronto Right to Life distributes educational information on abortion, for one week, on the streets of Toronto. The effort relies entirely on volunteer help. This year, with the help of seven generous pro-lifers, we handed out informative literature to over 3,000 people in several key downtown locations.

Although the fruits of our labours can't be immediately known, we planted seeds of truth into minds and hearts that were open to it. Thank you, once again, to the volunteers who gave of their time to distribute this much needed information to the public.

You?



Toronto Right to Life is currently seeking passionate, dynamic, youth-oriented pro-life advocates to serve as members of our Speakers Bureau. As

a member, we will train you to help spread the pro-life message in elementary and high school classrooms and at other speaking engagements. If you are interested in becoming a part of this essential facet of Toronto Right to Life, please email us at:

righttolife@on.aibn.com

or call us at

(416) 483-7869.

THE RIGHT TO LIFE ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO AND AREA

Membership Renewal/ Donation

- I have enclosed \$ _____ for my/our tax-deductible contribution. (See boxes at right)
- I would like to become a member/ renew my membership with the Right to Life Association of Toronto and Area (Please check appropriate box on the right).
- I would like to give a gift membership to a friend, including your quarterly newsletter (please attach their contact information).
- I would like to support Toronto Right to Life Association with my automatic monthly donation of \$ _____ applied to my VISA or MasterCard.
- Please renew my membership automatically each year (donation charged to my credit card) in the amount of \$ _____ Email: _____

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City: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Expiry: _____ Signature: _____

All donations are tax-deductible.
Suggested minimum donations for membership:

- Student/senior - \$10 -
 - Individual - \$20 -
 - Family - \$25 -
 - Monthly gift of \$ _____
 - Other \$ _____
- Total of \$ _____

*Please add me to your e-list

2008 Toronto Right To Life Christmas Cards



Song of the Angels

“Peace and joy to you
at Christmas
And throughout the year!”



Wise Men Seek Him

“Wishing you every
blessing and happiness
this Christmas and always.”



Assorted Cards

Include several
different designs

_____ Song of the Angels
pack(s)

_____ Wise Men Seek Him
pack(s)

_____ Assorted Cards
pack(s)

_____ Total Packs

_____ Postage **

_____ **Total Payment**

**All packages are
\$7.00 for 10 cards
and envelopes.**

**Please include:

\$2.00 for shipping and handling of

1 pack of cards

\$4 for 2-3 packs

\$6 for 4-5 packs

Shipping is FREE for 6 packs or more

For out of province orders call
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*Thank you for
supporting
Life!*