



# LifeCanada E-Newsflash

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We invite you to forward this E-Newsflash to anyone who might be interested in these news items

### *The Perils of Choice*

The Globe and Mail ran a column last week by a woman who aborted her daughter at 19 weeks gestation because the baby would be "significantly lower functioning than other children." The couple felt "robbed of the treasured only child, the little athlete" they had dreamed about. She and her husband are both professionals in their 40s, financially well off, healthy and athletic. They "don't feel capable of raising a severely disabled child. It would be different if we didn't have a choice, but we do." The baby was not severely handicapped. If the test was right, and they aren't always, the baby girl had an extra chromosome but it was not even as serious as Down's Syndrome according to the writer. Her comment about having a choice is puzzling. If they didn't have a choice, would they feel capable of raising a severely handicapped child? What they wanted was perfection, an impossibility for any parent. If the child had tested "normal", is that a guarantee that they'd have their "little athlete?" And if she wasn't, they wouldn't know until she was older, so what then? This is a chilling article but quite likely an accurate reflection of why some people choose abortion.

*This article is reprinted with permission from Alberta Pro-Life*

### *Groups Support Private Member's Bill Banning Late-term Abortions*

A number of pro-life, pro-family, Catholic, and evangelical groups have issued statements supporting Liberal MP Paul Steckle's Private Member's Bill C-338 which would ban all abortions after 20 weeks gestation except in cases where abortion was necessary to protect the life of the mother or "to prevent severe, pathological, physical morbidity of the woman." The penalty for breaking this law would be imprisonment for a term up to five years and/or a fine up to \$100,000.

Some of the groups who have said they will support Bill C-338 are LifeCanada, Canadian Physicians for Life, Real Women of Canada, Campaign Life Coalition, Alberta Pro-Life, Priests for Life, Catholic Organization for Life and Family, Evangelical Fellowship of Canada and Focus on the Family.

## Euthanasia Makes Headlines

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## How you can help:

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"It's better to save some lives than risk all in pursuit of a perfect law", said Fr. Jim Whalen, National Director for Priests for Life Canada. The press release by Priests for Life goes on to say: "In The Gospel of Life, Pope John Paul II explained that one may support 'imperfect' legislation—legislation that, for example, does not ban all abortions but puts some control on a current more permissive law by aiming to limit the number of abortions - if that is the best that can be achieved at a particular time. In doing so one seeks to limit the harm done by the present law: 'This does not in fact represent an illicit cooperation with an unjust law, but rather a legitimate and proper attempt to limit its evil aspects' (no. 73). Bill C-338, should it pass, will limit the damage that is caused to Canadian society by abortion and will be a 'step in the right direction' in an effort to defend the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death, as the Catholic Church clearly professes".

Feminists groups are lobbying against Bill C-338. They say, "this bill is significant in that it is the first private member's bill to directly attack abortion rights by attempting to return abortion to the criminal code." They are urging their supporters to contact Mr. Steckle at: [Steckle.P@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Steckle.P@parl.gc.ca) It would be a shame if Mr. Steckle only received comments from abortion advocates. Let's make sure that he hears from pro-life voices as well.

## *Efforts To Tighten Abortion Laws Are Not Unique To Canada*

The head of the Catholic Church in England and Wales, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, has called on ministers to lower the gestational age limit of 24 weeks for abortions. The Cardinal says that the current law is out-dated and needs to be changed to reflect advances in technology which allow younger unborn babies to survive. A Commons motion asking for a review of the 1967 Abortion Act has been signed by 31 Members of Parliament. The government responded that there are no plans to change the regulations at this time.

A January 2006 opinion poll published in The Observer found that the majority of women in Britain (57%) want the legal limit for abortions to be lowered from the present 24-week limit – the highest in Europe. Even abortion advocates support lower limits for abortion. Dr. Tim Black, chief executive officer of Marie Stopes International, the largest abortion provider in Britain, said that the abortion limit should be cut from 24 weeks to 20 weeks. In 2005, Dr. Black said: "Public opinion is in favour of abortion but falls off quite quickly when we get to 20 weeks because there is a perception that the foetus is potentially viable. We do feel that in light of medical developments the upper limit should come down."

## *CMAJ Guest Editorial Misleading*

A guest editorial by legal professionals in the June 24 Canadian Medical Association Journal misleads readers to believe that the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that Canadian women have a constitutional right to abortion and physicians have a duty to refer patients for abortion. This is particularly unsettling given that one of the authors, law professor Sanda Rodgers, teaches a course to University of Ottawa medical students entitled "Abortion Services in Canada."

It is important to know what the Supreme Court of Canada actually did say about abortion so that we can correct these errors. The Court has consistently said that it is up to Parliament to balance the rights of the mother with the rights of the child and to decide at which point the child in the womb should be protected by law. Please contact the LifeCanada office if you wish to receive more information at: [info@lifecanada.org](mailto:info@lifecanada.org)

The article further states that physicians who do not refer women to other physicians for abortion are "committing malpractice and risk lawsuits and disciplinary proceedings." This is simply not true. The Canadian Medical Association's Code of Ethics actually says that "A physician whose moral or religious beliefs prevent him or her from recommending or performing an abortion should inform the patient of this so that she may consult another physician."

The authors of this guest editorial, Sanda Rodgers and Jocelyn Downie, represent law faculties at the University of Ottawa and Dalhousie University, respectively. It is hard to believe that women in these positions are not more knowledgeable about the legality of abortion in Canada. Obviously, from this article, they believe that access to abortion should be expanded. It is unfortunate that they chose to mislead Canadians to make their point.

### ***Maggie Sanger's Ideology is Still Alive and Well Today***

*Below is a recent article from a publication put out by the Elliot Institute.*

*RU-486 Linked to Population Control in Letter Found in Clinton Files*

A pro-life organization has uncovered a letter written by a prominent member of the abortion lobby that urged the Clinton administration to use surgical and chemical abortion as a tool to "eliminate the barely educated, unhealthy and poor segment of the country."

The letter, written by Ron Weddington, who served as an attorney for the abortion side in the *Roe v. Wade* case, was stored among papers at the Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock, AR. Judicial Watch, a pro-life legal organization, says the letter was used to gain FDA approval for RU-486 and described it as being "chronologically

and philosophically, the foundation document for the Clinton RU-486 files."

In the letter, dated Jan. 6, 1992, Weddington told then president-elect Clinton that programs to assist the poor would not be effective for years to come. "The problem is that their numbers are not only replaced but increased by the birth of millions of babies to people who can't afford to have babies," he wrote. "There, I've said it. It's what we all know is true but we only whisper it, because as liberals who believe in individual rights, we view any program which might treat the disadvantaged differently as discriminatory, mean spirited and . . . well . . . so Republican."

Weddington said the government would have to provide not only condoms and contraceptives but also "vasectomies, tubal ligations, and abortions . . . RU-486 and conventional abortions." He accused church officials, the military, and business owners of encouraging more births in order to meet their own needs for "parishioners," "cannon fodder," and "cheap labor."

"Our survival depends upon our developing a population where everyone contributes," the letter concluded. "We don't need more cannon fodder. We don't need more parishioners. We don't need more cheap labor. We don't need more poor babies."

Elliot Institute director Dr. David Reardon said that population control advocates have long seen RU-486 as a tool for controlling the number and "quality" of births, especially in the developing world. He points out that, while RU-486 is not safer, more private, or less expensive than surgical abortions when it is properly administered, it can be taken into "with relative ease" into developing countries, even when abortion is not legally available.

"Once it is brought into developing countries, RU-486 can be easily transported and distributed," he said. "To avoid trouble with the law, or the conscience of individual patients, these abortifacient treatments can be disguised under the euphemism of 'menstrual regulation.' And even if questions of safety arise, as they have in the U.S., the deaths and injuries suffered by women can then be blamed on 'oppressive' abortion bans that deny women access to 'safe and legal abortions.' For population control advocates, its a win-win situation."

The papers published by Judicial Watch also highlighted the strategy undertaken by the Clinton Administration to bring RU-486 to U.S. and gain speedy approval by the FDA. Reardon said that those concerned about the health and safety of women should continue to lobby the FDA to withdraw approval for the drug, both out of concern for women's safety and because of the potential for violation of women's rights.

"It's not just pro-lifers who should be concerned about this, but anyone who cares about protecting individual rights and freedom,"

he said.

If you would like to read the full text of the report including the letter discussed in the following article please visit [www.judicialwatch.org/5769.shtml](http://www.judicialwatch.org/5769.shtml) (Please note: the copy of Weddington's letter is at the very end of the document)

### ***MasterCard Support Ends This Month***

LifeCanada's contract with the Bank of Montreal's MasterCard affinity program ends July 31, 2006. This means that we will no longer receive quarterly payments from BMO resulting from our member's use of their LifeCanada MasterCards. We will greatly miss this income.

We are now trying to establish an affinity MasterCard program with another bank. Please e-mail the office if you would like to be notified when the new program is established at: [info@lifecanada.org](mailto:info@lifecanada.org)

Some of our supporters prefer to support LifeCanada directly. We are looking for 100 people to pledge monthly donations of \$10, \$15 or \$25 to help us replace the lost income. If you would like to sign up for monthly automatic donations [click here](#).

### ***Pro-Abortion Gates Foundation Gets Even More Cash***

As pro-life support dwindles, we learn that Warren Buffett, chairman and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway, will donate \$37 billion to the Gates Foundation, a pro-abortion foundation founded by Bill Gates and his wife Melinda. This foundation is already the largest in the world, valued at \$29 billion.

This is very worrisome to pro-life organizations because the Gates Foundation has a history of funding the abortion industry through Planned Parenthood in the US, of promoting abortion in third world countries, and funding groups to lobby the United Nations to advance pro-abortion proposals. Even the Planned Parenthood Federation of Canada has benefited from the Gates Foundation to the tune of \$1.3 million. Planned Parenthood is the largest abortion advocate organization in Canada and throughout the world.

### ***China's Trade in Organs***

Former Edmonton MP David Kilgour and lawyer David Matas have released a horrifying report on China's organ harvesting trade. The pair investigated reports that Falun Gong adherents are targeted by the Chinese government for live organ harvesting. The organs are sold to hospitals for transplants. They spoke to a woman whose husband removed corneas from 2,000 Falun Gong prisoners. They

had phone transcripts of people ordering organs and asking the seller if they were "fresh, alive ones." One conversation included the admission that the organs came from Falun Gong practitioners. (Falun Gong is a system of meditation and exercise). In a column in the Calgary Herald this week, Mr. Kilgour said he and his colleague documented 41,500 transplants for which there were unexplained sources. The pair recommends a full investigation by the UN or human rights' groups and call on the international community to shun China as a source of organs for transplants. The full report can be found at [www.david-kilgour.com](http://www.david-kilgour.com).

*This article is reprinted with permission from Alberta Pro-Life*

## ***Assisted Suicide/Euthanasia Make Headlines***

### **Britain**

The British Medical Association voted against legalizing physician assisted suicide and euthanasia in June. An overwhelming majority (84%) believe that the ongoing improvement of palliative care allows patients to die with dignity. Dr. Peter Saunders, campaign director of Care NOT Killing, said:

"The argument that decided this vote and the similar vote in the House of Lords last month is a simple one. For sick and vulnerable patients the danger is that the right to die could become a duty to die as they feel pressure, whether real or imaginary, from family, carers and society at large to request early death."

### **California**

California lawmakers have voted 3-2 against a bill which would have legalized physician assisted suicide. Democratic Senator Joe Dunn, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, cast the deciding vote. It was reported that Senator Dunn's reason for voting against the bill was that "he could not trust that future lawmakers would refrain from expanding the bill to allow persons not suffering from terminal illnesses to hasten their deaths."

### **Zurich, Switzerland**

*Neighbours want to evict "house of horrors"*

Residents of a housing complex in Zurich, Switzerland are upset by the practice of assisted suicide in their building. They say that it is upsetting to meet people in the elevator who are going to the Dignitas office for their planned death and then seeing their bodies emerge from the building in body bags. Residents, who refer to the building as the "house of horrors", are so upset that they are signing petitions and trying to have Dignitas evicted.

*Dignitas*, the controversial assisted suicide charity, has an apartment on the fourth floor where people routinely come seeking assisted suicide. According to a June 4, 2006 article in The Sunday Telegraph it appears that victims are traveling to Zurich from other countries seeking assisted suicide, such as Britain and Germany. Politicians have expressed concern that their country is gaining a reputation as a centre for "death tourism".

[Click here](#) to read the complete story

## **Canada**

### *Groups pressure Canada to legalize assisted suicide & euthanasia*

The push to legalize assisted suicide and euthanasia is coming to Canada. Dying with Dignity is hosting the World Federation of Right to Die Societies conference in September 2006. This is the first time that this international conference will be held in Canada. The goal of the conference is to increase support for assisted suicide and euthanasia. This conference will feature workshops aimed at increasing their membership and discussing ways to promote the legalization of assisted death. It is important that we be prepared to deal with the coming assault from right to die groups in Canada. LifeCanada has copies of the document *How Will You Say Goodbye To Someone You Love?* which we could send you if you would like to learn more. This is an excellent resource put out by the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition. Please email the office if you would like a copy at: [info@lifecanada.org](mailto:info@lifecanada.org)

### *Stem cells to sperm*

The London Daily Telegraph reported last week on a research project that has turned stem cells into sperm. A group at Newcastle University took embryonic stem cells from mice and injected the spermatogonial cells into female mouse eggs to create embryos. The embryos were then implanted in mice and produced seven babies. The resulting mice had problems consistent with cloned species, according to the Telegraph. Lead researcher Karim Nayernia said the research helps scientists studying male infertility and could eventually lead to lesbians bearing children who are genetically their own.

*This article is reprinted with permission from Alberta Pro-Life*

### *First Annual Gala Dinner*

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who purchased tickets for LifeCanada's "No Show Gala Dinner." We have posted photos of many of those who supported the dinner at:

[www.lifecanada.org/html/GalaDinnerPhotoGallery.html](http://www.lifecanada.org/html/GalaDinnerPhotoGallery.html)

We have good news for those of you who are perpetually late for

events. Since this is a "No Show" event, you can still purchase tickets and receive a complimentary copy of the DVD by Dr. Angela Lanfranchi which explains the link between abortion and breast cancer.

### ***Healing the Culture – A New Beginning***

Brochures for the 2006 pro-life conference in beautiful Vancouver are now available on-line at:

[www.2006prolifeconference.com/brochure.html](http://www.2006prolifeconference.com/brochure.html)

### ***Pre-Authorized Giving Plan***

LifeCanada is now able to accept pre-authorized monthly donations. This is a tremendous option for LifeCanada because it allows us to schedule our educational pro-life activities since we know in advance how much support is coming in each month. It is also easy for our supporters since they just complete a form, send in one cheque and then the pre-authorized amount is automatically deducted from their bank account. Donors maintain control of their donations by simply contacting us by phone, email or letter to let us know if they wish to make changes or cancel the plan.

If you would like to donate ten, twenty, fifty dollars or any other amount to LifeCanada each month, please contact us and we will send you the necessary form to complete.

### ***Become a Partner for Life***

We are actively seeking sponsors/advertisers for our newly-designed website ([www.lifecanada.org](http://www.lifecanada.org)) and for our bi-monthly newsletter. We do not have a charitable tax number but these ads can certainly be a business expense as you promote your business to our supporters.

Our rates for this project are reasonable. A business card ad in LifeCanada News will cost \$125 per issue or \$600 for the full year. Your sponsorship ad on our website will be posted for a year for a cost of \$500. We see this as a great opportunity to build a pro-life network across the country and help to secure LifeCanada's financial base.

For more information, please call LifeCanada's toll free number 1-866-780-5433 or email us at [carroll@lifecanada.org](mailto:carroll@lifecanada.org)

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