



LifeCanada E-Newsflash

Volume 1 no. 7

Canadians Embracing Life

July 18, 2005

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Pro-life Coalition Denied Intervenor Status

The Supreme Court of Canada has dismissed the Coalition for Life and Health's leave to appeal. As is normal practice, there were no reasons given for the dismissal.

As you may recall, the coalition of pro-life groups including LifeCanada, had applied to intervene as a third party in Morgentaler's lawsuit against the Province of New Brunswick. Morgentaler is suing the province for refusing to fund abortions at his private clinic in Fredericton. New Brunswick only pays for abortions that are performed in a hospital.

It is sad, indeed, that the pro-life voice will not be heard. The goal of the Coalition for Life and Health was to introduce testimony about the humanity and Charter right to life of unborn babies, the violation of women's rights through lack of informed consent, and the risk that abortion can cause lifelong serious harm to women's health. Included would have been testimony from women who have actually had abortions at Morgentaler's clinic.

Bloc Québécois MP Introduces Assisted Suicide Bill

On June 15, 2005, Francine Lalonde, Bloc Québécois member from La Pointe-de-l'Île tabled a private member's bill which would legalize assisted suicide and euthanasia.

Bill C-407: An Act to amend the Criminal Code (right to die with dignity) seeks to amend both section 222 and 241 of the criminal code which refer to homicide and assisted suicide. The Act would add new subsections which state that the criminal code is not in effect under certain circumstances. This means that Bill C-407 would legalize both euthanasia and assisted suicide.

The Bill states that persons as young as 18 years of age may be euthanized by a medical practitioner or assisted by a medical practitioner as long as they are suffering chronic physical and mental pain and "appear to be lucid".

Candidates for death with dignity need not be terminally ill and can refuse effective treatments for their chronic or physical pain. Some of the terms used in this bill are difficult to interpret and could lead to abuses. For example, what does it mean to "appear to be lucid" or to be "assisted" by a medical

Giving Plan

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practitioner?

The Dutch experience has effectively shown us that once we give one group of people the right to kill others it is difficult to control. Reports from Holland show that persons have been euthanized without requesting it even though supposed safeguards are in place. Vulnerable Canadians deserve our protection not “death with dignity” legislation.

New Assisted Suicide Case in Quebec

A Sherbrooke, Quebec man has been charged in the death of his 44-year-old wife, Marielle Houle. Ms. Houle suffered from Friedrich’s ataxia, a degenerative disorder of the nervous system. It is believed that her husband, Mr. Andre Bergeron, assisted her suicide by placing a plastic bag over her head which caused her to suffocate.

Friends and supporters of the family are calling on the government to legalize assisted suicide and euthanasia. Margaret Somerville, founding director of the McGill Centre for Medicine, Ethics and Law cautions us against changing the law. She states in a recent interview “An ageing society, scarce health care resources and euthanasia are a lethal combination. In the Netherlands [where euthanasia has been legal since the mid-1970s], even some disabled babies have been euthanized.”

National Pro-Life Conference Update

It has been decided that rather than having a banquet at the 2005 Montreal conference, we will gather at the Restaurant du Vieux Port, a large restaurant in Old Montreal which can accommodate up to 200 people. Conference participants will have an opportunity to visit Old Montreal and experience the region’s culture and cuisine. This promises to be a fun evening with entertaining stories presented by Pro-Life leaders. If you would like to join us for dinner please register for the conference early since seating is limited.

The conference brochure will be available shortly. If you wish to receive a copy, please email the office at carroll@lifecanada.org and we will send it out to you as soon as it is available.

LifeCanada’s Office Computer is in need of some Help!

As LifeCanada continues to grow and embark on new projects such as maintaining our own National Pro-life website, the main office computer has been required to run more programs that not only take large amounts of disk space, but require more speed. Our current computer which we were very

fortunate to have been gifted with several years ago is starting to show its age.

If anyone has a spare computer they would be willing to donate to LifeCanada, we would be very grateful. We are in need of a computer that is able to support Windows XP Professional as well as having a large enough memory to hold our entire database, financial records and website. If you are able to help in this matter please email us at: info@lifecanada.org

Advertising Opportunity in E-news Bulletin

Some of you have asked if it would be possible to advertise on the e-news bulletin. The LifeCanada board recently voted in favour of accepting paid advertisements. The cost of placing a business card advertisement would be \$100 for one month, which includes a \$50 administrative fee. Each additional month would cost \$50. Reductions are available for longer contracts. Six consecutive ads would cost \$300 and 12 ads \$500. Please contact the office if you would like to place an ad.

Letter from Health Minister

LifeCanada recently received a response from the office of the Minister of Health, Ujjal Dosanjh, to our letter dated January 26, 2004. No, that was not a typing error, the letter was dated 2004! Unfortunately, the Health Minister still did not answer the letter but referred to another letter we sent in April 2005. This is unbelievable!

Our original letter sought to alert him to the reality that the Canadian Health Network (CHN) displays very biased information on the topic of "Sexuality and Reproductive Health". This bias is not surprising since the information on abortion and related topics is provided by Planned Parenthood, an abortion rights advocate organization. Also not surprising is the fact that much of the health information currently available on the topic of abortion is omitted. We are greatly concerned that none of the pro-life or Christian crisis pregnancy centres are listed as offering help to women in unplanned pregnancies. The reason for this is that Planned Parenthood will only allow organizations which support "reproductive rights" and "freedom of choice" to be linked from the CHN website. LifeCanada has offered to share the responsibility of providing the information on CHN's website to ensure more balanced information in the area of abortion and related topics such as pre-natal development. Our offer has been ignored.

We will be writing Mr. Dosanjh, Minister of Health, again to let him know he still has not addressed our concerns. Thank you to e-news bulletin readers who have written Health Canada to request more balanced information on this topic.

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) 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

To Unsubscribe: please send an email to info@lifecanada.org