



LifeCanada E-Newsflash

Volume 1 no. 9

Canadians Embracing Life

September 16, 2005

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In this Issue:

- Globe and Mail Response Inadequate
- UN set to debate abortion rights once again
- Stem cells from fresh embryos used for research
- Rights of Pharmacists Threatened
- Book "Women's Health After Abortion" is for sale

Events:

- 2005 Annual General Meeting and National Conference
- Workshops

Globe & Mail Response Inadequate

The Globe & Mail has responded to our formal complaint to the Ontario Press Council concerning the unfair treatment of LifeCanada by the Globe and Mail and Ms. Mallick. Many of you will recall that the April 2, 2005 column by Ms. Mallick resulted in the Bank of Montreal's decision not to renew LifeCanada's affinity card program (Mastercard) when the contract ends in July 2006.

The response by Deputy Editor, Sylvia Stead, was supposed to redress our complaint so that the Ontario Press Council would not have to adjudicate it. Unfortunately, the response was totally unsatisfactory. Ms. Stead failed to address our concerns and to respond suitably to the points expressed in our original complaint. In keeping with the Ontario Press Council's protocol, we have advised the Press Council that the Globe & Mail's response is inadequate and await their response.

UN set to debate abortion rights once again

The United Nations will convene a global conference in New York in September 2005 to expand what are known as the Millennium Development Goals. Abortion rights advocates are attempting to use these goals to force governments to adopt liberal abortion laws.

A document, endorsed by more than 700 groups worldwide, was presented to the United Nations last Friday, September 9, 2005. LifeCanada was proud to be one of the signatories of the document which was presented at the annual United Nations Department of Public Information Conference in New York and is meant to effect the ongoing negotiations over the Millennium Development Goals.

Many of the aims of the Millennium Development Goals are commendable and seek to address urgent concerns such as combating the spread of HIV/AIDS and seeking ways to reduce child and maternal mortality. Unfortunately, abortion rights advocates are using these worthwhile goals to "promote reproductive and sexual rights" which are code words for abortion.

The pro-life/pro-family document which was presented seeks to influence delegates to choose positive options that will strengthen families, promote human rights, and provide much needed life-affirming healthcare options.

Stem cells from fresh embryos used for research

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- Pre-Authorized Giving Plan

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During the debates leading up to Parliament's passing of Bill C-6: An Act respecting assisted human reproduction, we were assured that research using human embryos would be limited to "leftover" embryos from in vitro fertilization procedures which were no longer needed by the couple. The reasoning was that it was better to use these frozen embryos for research than to destroy them. Also, an agency was to be set up to regulate the practice of assisted human reproduction to ensure that it was carried out ethically.

This agency is not even up and running yet and we learn that the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) secretly rewrote the research rules this past June to allow for the use of "fresh" (not frozen) human embryos for research purposes. How is it that the CIHR can amend the regulations without notifying the public? More importantly, is this not the reason the Assisted Human Reproduction Agency was set up? Furthermore, the Act itself established a three-year review of the provisions in the Act. This review should take place in 2007 and will probably take into account public opinion on issues such as embryonic stem cell research. Would this not have been the time to consider changes and allowing for public scrutiny?

LifeCanada is pleased to note that ethicists are speaking out against research using fresh embryos and calling for a moratorium on the practice. They are concerned that women who are asked to donate their fresh embryos may not realize that they could be diminishing their chance of getting pregnant later on. We hope that their voices will be heard.

Rights of Pharmacists Threatened

The Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council is presently considering a submission from the Ontario College of Pharmacists which would change the code of ethics of Ontario pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. One of the proposals seeks to take away a pharmacist's right to refuse to dispense drugs which clearly violate their religious and moral beliefs, a right guaranteed to all Canadians under Section 2 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. This would mean that pharmacists could be obliged to dispense the morning after pill, an abortifacient drug.

Conscience rights are an important tenet of health care professional ethics and need to be safeguarded. Please warn all pharmacists and pharmacy technicians that this change is being considered so they can speak up for their Charter rights.

Book "Women's Health after Abortion: The Medical and Psychological Evidence" for sale

The book by Elizabeth Ring-Cassidy and Ian Gentles is available from the LifeCanada office at a price of \$20.00 plus shipping. This book, based on over five hundred articles that have appeared in medical and other journals in recent years, is a wonderful educational tool. Please consider buying a copy and donating it to your local high school or public library.

Please email the office at info@lifecanada.org to order a copy.

Reminder: The 2005 Annual General Meeting and National Conference are coming up

Please plan to attend the LifeCanada Annual General Meeting in Montreal on Nov. 17. The AGM will be held in conjunction with the National Pro-Life Conference. This year's event will be held at St. Joseph's Oratory from Nov. 17 to 19. We have a terrific line-up of speakers on a host of subjects and a dinner in historic Old Montreal. The conference brochure is now available online at www.lifecanada.org. You can print off the registration form and mail it in. Or, if you just can't wait to register, you can phone the LifeCanada office and register by phone. Call 1-866-780-5433. The brochure includes information on accommodations near the Oratory. You can also print off copies of the brochure for your church or local group.

Workshops

Euthanasia Symposium

The **Euthanasia Prevention Coalition of Canada** presents Euthanasia Symposium #6 - Bill C-407: Threatens the lives of people with disabilities? The symposium will be held September 24, 2005 in Toronto at the Ramada Hotel (downtown) 300 Jarvis St., from 10 am to 4 pm. Cost (including lunch): \$50.00 per person, \$30.00 for students. Speakers will include Stephen Drake, research analyst for NOT DEAD YET, Mark Pickup, founder of Human Life International and Canadian disability activist, and Peter Aarssen, an elder planning consultant. To register, call the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition at: 1-877-439-3348.

We welcome E-Newsflash ads

You asked and we responded. The LifeCanada board recently voted to accept paid advertisements for our E-Newsflash. 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 at carroll@lifecanada.org or phone us at 1-866-780-5433 if you would like to place an ad.

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