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100,039 Abortions Reported in 2004

Statistics Canada finally released the 2004 abortion stats on July 13, 2007, after a delay of more than four months past the usual late-winter release date. The number of abortions reported in 2004 was 100,039, about 90% of the total amount for that year. The number does not include Canadian women who obtained abortions in the United States, or non-Canadian women who had abortions while in Canada. Nunavut and the province of Manitoba did not report abortions. Ontario women who did not submit a claim to OHIP for their abortions were also excluded from the report. Abortion clinics, with the exception of Alberta clinics, submitted only aggregate counts of abortions. As a result there were detailed reports for only 42,880 abortions.

Of those reports, 36,874 recorded the gestational age of the baby. Abortions under nine weeks accounted for 14,002, while 17,992 were performed between nine and 12 weeks and 3,125 between 13 and 16 weeks. There were reports for 1,755 abortions performed after 16 weeks gestation—four hundred and one were performed after 20 weeks, and 35 were reported as aborted at more than 25 weeks. There were records for five babies aborted at more than 33 weeks gestation.

Women in their 20s obtained the greatest number of abortions, accounting for 53 percent of the total number recorded. Teenage girls accounted for 17 percent, with reports of 304 girls aged 14 or younger obtaining abortions. Of the 42,880 abortions with detailed reports, 8,919 women had one previous abortion and 4,288 had two or more previous abortions.

United Nations Proposes International Pro-Abortion Campaign

The United Nations Population Fund has released a proposal calling for a four-year plan to increase awareness of reproductive rights—which usually includes abortion—in countries around the world. The initiative would work to “increase demand for sexual and reproductive health services and reproductive rights” as a response to a wide variety of socioeconomic problems, tailoring the program to suit the needs of differing cultures and regions.

The \$224 million program would target Africa, Central Asia, Asia and the Pacific, the Arab states, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean. The board of the UNFPA is expected to release a decision on the proposal in September.



Four Provinces Approve School-based HPV Vaccination

Provincial governments in Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Ontario have announced HPV vaccination programs for girls, under the federal government's controversial \$300 million funding program. The vaccine will be offered to grade six students in Newfoundland and PEI, grade seven students in Nova Scotia and girls in grade eight in Ontario. The vaccine is voluntary. Health Canada approved the HPV vaccine Gardasil in July 2006. Promoted as a cancer-preventative, the vaccine offers protection against four strains of the Human Papilloma Virus, two that are known to cause cervical cancer and two that cause genital warts. Other cancer-causing strains are not affected by the vaccine.

The vaccine has been strongly opposed by members of the medical community, pro-life groups and concerned parents over issues including a short trial period, unexplained side effects, lack of research into the vaccine's effectiveness and safety for young girls, and concern that immunization for HPV may encourage sexual irresponsibility in teenage girls by creating a false sense of safety.

Canadian Medical Association Maintains Opposition to Euthanasia/Assisted Suicide

The Canadian Medical Association continues to oppose euthanasia and physician assisted, according to a policy update issued May 29, 2007.

The CMA policy on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide states definitively: Canadian physicians should not participate in euthanasia or assisted suicide.

Conflicting reports earlier in the year suggested that the CMA would re-evaluate its policy on euthanasia and assisted suicide at the association's annual general meeting in August. The CMA's Committee on Ethics reviewed the policy following a resolution passed during the 2006 General Council meeting, and the updated policy was approved in May. The findings of that report were scheduled to be presented to members during the August meetings this year, but no further changes were anticipated.

Among the issues raised by the CMA in the policy update on euthanasia was the need for better palliative care services in Canada, concern for the safety of suicidal individuals, and a call for public input—the policy statement emphasized that any law change should take place through Parliament, not through the courts.

The CMA also warned of the difficulty of placing limits on assisted suicide and euthanasia laws once such legislation has been accepted, as seen in the Netherlands:

"If euthanasia or assisted suicide or both are permitted for competent, suffering, terminally ill patients, there may be legal challenges, based on the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, to extend these practices to others who are not competent, suffering or terminally ill," the policy statement warned.



From Sea Unto Sea—for Life! 2007 National Pro-Life Conference in Moncton, N.B.

Moncton Right to Life is hosting the 2007 national conference October 25 to 27, 2007 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Moncton, New Brunswick. LifeCanada will be holding its Eighth Annual General Meeting from 3:00 – 4:30 on Thursday October 25, 2007.

The 13 top speakers include:

- Rev. John Ensor, Baptist minister from Miami Fla, leader of a crisis pregnancy center initiative with HeartBeat International.
- Stephanie Gray, executive director, Canadian Center for Bio-Ethical Reform
- Mary Ann Kuharski, president of PROLIFE Across America, an organization known for posting positive pro-life messages on billboards across the U.S.
- Dr. Clem Persaud, professor of microbiology (retired)
- Dennis Savoie, deputy leader of the worldwide Knights of Columbus.

For more information or to download a registration form please visit the LifeCanada website: www.lifecanada.org

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.

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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 info@lifecanada.org