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## ***Help Promote LifeCanada E-Newsflash!***

LifeCanada's monthly news bulletin offers quick news reports on the latest developments in life issues throughout Canada and around the world. We provide information on current research developments, pro-life events and activities, news reports and much more. Please consider forwarding this monthly E-Newsflash to family, friends, and others who would like to be kept up-to-date and informed on life issues. Sign up for E-Newsflash [here](#).

## ***Conscience Rights Threatened for Ontario Doctors***

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario is considering a policy change that would prevent doctors from opting out of providing medical procedures for reasons of conscience. The draft policy would require doctors to "set aside" their moral or religious objections to certain medical procedures. Refusing to provide services for patients on grounds of conscience might constitute violation of the Ontario Human Rights Code or professional misconduct.

"As a physician's responsibility is to place the needs of the patient first, there will be times when it may be necessary for physicians to set aside their personal beliefs in order to ensure that patients or potential patients are provided with the medical treatment and services they require," the statement reads.

"Physicians should be aware that decisions to restrict medical services offered, to accept individuals as patients or to end physician-patient relationships...based on moral or religious belief may contravene the Code, and/or constitute professional misconduct."

The policy change was put forward in response to recent changes to the Ontario human rights system that will allow for greater individual access to the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal. The draft policy was quietly buried among other material issued by the CPSO and only came to light one day before the deadline for input on the issue, August 15. That deadline has now been pushed back until September 12, 2008.

Please consider contacting the CPSO with comments and feedback, at:  
<http://www.cpso.on.ca/Feedback/feedback.htm>, or by contacting:

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## ***Canadian Medical Association Opposes Bill C-484***

Canada's largest body of doctors has come out in opposition to Bill C-484, legislation which would make it a separate crime to kill or injure an unborn child during an attack on the mother. The Canadian Medical Association issued a statement yesterday saying the organization opposes the proposed bill and "any legislation that would result in compromising access for women to the medical services required to terminate a pregnancy."

Bill C-484 explicitly excludes abortion. The bill's backers worded the measure carefully to ensure it could not be applied to abortion situations or any action taken by the mother that would cause the death or injury of the unborn child. The bill was brought forward by MP Ken Epp after a series of violent deaths of late-term pregnant women left their families calling for justice for the unborn children killed in the attacks.

## ***Oregon Offers Suicide, Refuses Treatment Coverage for Terminal Cancer Patients***

The Oregon State Health Plan won't pay for cancer treatment to prolong life if a patient's prognosis is considered terminal, with a less than 5% chance of surviving for five more years of life. The government health insurance does, however, offer coverage for assisted suicide.

The *Register/Guard* reported in June on a letter from Health Plan officials received by two Oregon patients with terminal cancer, one aged 64 and the other 53. The letter informed the patients that their prescribed drugs for treatment would not be covered under the Plan, but that the Plan "would cover palliative, or comfort, care, including...doctor-assisted suicide."

Along with examples of comfort/palliative care, the state's prioritized list of health services identifies, "Services under ORS 127.800-127-897 (Oregon Death with Dignity Act), to include but not be limited to the attending physician visits, consulting physician confirmation, mental health evaluation and counseling, and prescription medications."

In 2007, 49 people committed state-sponsored suicide by lethal overdose in Oregon, under the Oregon Death with Dignity Act. Since 1997, when the Act was passed, a total of 341 people have died from assisted-suicide.

## ***Morgentaler Granted Standing in New Brunswick Court***

Henry Morgentaler has been granted standing in his lawsuit against New Brunswick over the province's refusal to pay for abortions at his Fredericton clinic. On August 1, 2008, Court of Queen's Bench Judge Paulette Garnett permitted Morgentaler to represent women in his lawsuit against the government of New Brunswick because no women had come forward to seek standing in the case. While she acknowledged that Morgentaler did not fit the normal requirements for public interest standing (not being a pregnant woman seeking an abortion), she found him a legitimate representative to bring legal action against the province. "There are many valid reasons why women who have had abortions at the Fredericton clinic would not or could not bring this challenge. Dr. Morgentaler is therefore a suitable alternative person to do so."

Judge Garnett's decision appeared to discount Morgentaler's financial interest in the case. Gross annual revenue from Morgentaler's across-Canada chain of abortion clinics exceeds \$11 million, according to a report from 2002 published in Ottawa's *Le Droit* newspaper. Government funding for



abortions at his New Brunswick clinic would conceivably allow him to draw clients who now seek abortions where the cost is covered.

## ***Book Now for the 2008 International Pro-Life Conference***

Register now to book your place at the 2008 international pro-life conference, "Creating a Culture of Life Around the Globe". Held in Toronto on October 2-4 at The Marriott Toronto Airport Hotel, the conference offers an exciting line-up of top speakers from Canada, the U.S., India, The Netherlands, the UK and much more.

US Attorney Richard Thompson with the Saint Thomas More Law Center will speak on the increasing assault on freedom of speech in North America. Saskatchewan's Dr. Sheila Harding will speak on the eroding doctor/patient relationship in Canada, in light of the increasing push to legalize euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide.

Don't miss this important opportunity to learn about current pro-life developments, be inspired by the courageous work of international activists and network with pro-life workers from around the globe! [Click here for more information.](#)

## ***Note! Assisted Suicide Flyer now available***

*(We apologize for the broken link to the flyer in last month's issue. The flyer is available at the link below.)*

With a bill to legalize euthanasia and assisted suicide now before Parliament, it is increasingly important to educate the public on the truth about such legislation, the dangers it poses to the most vulnerable in our society and the erosion of the physician/patient relationship. LifeCanada has endorsed a flyer that provides basic information on the dangers of assisted suicide and euthanasia legislation, produced by Respect Life Education Movement, based in Montreal, Quebec. The flyer can be used as a newspaper ad, printed in your local pro-life newsletter, distributed to your contacts or posted in your community. To download the flyer, [click here](#).

## ***New! Updated Pro-Life Postcards***

LifeCanada's "Abortion: Have we gone too far?" postcards have been updated to include the latest statistics from Statistics Canada on late-term abortions, from 2005. Distribute the cards in your local parishes and communities. The cards are available for a small fee through the LifeCanada office (.10 per card, plus shipping). Call 866-780-5433 or email [info@lifecanada.org](mailto:info@lifecanada.org) for more information. [Click here](#) to see a sample.

## ***Get in-depth stories on current life issues: Subscribe to LifeCanada News***

For thoughtful, well-researched information on current developments in Canada's pro-life movement, subscribe to our bi-monthly newsletter *LifeCanada News*. The newsletter provides in-depth information on current life issues and offers insightful commentary on developments in our society that impact respect for life in Canada. We cover difficult topics such as the ethics of end-of-life care, what's wrong with In Vitro Fertilization therapy, and why the crime of rape does not justify abortion.

Educate your community on current life issues by giving your pastor, parish priest or other community leader a gift subscription to the newsletter.



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If you would like to donate twenty-five, fifty, one hundred dollars or any other amount to LifeCanada each month, contact the office at 866-780-5433 or email us at [info@lifecanada.org](mailto:info@lifecanada.org) to obtain a pre-authorized donation form.

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

Invest in the work of creating a culture of life in Canada by advertising on our website at [www.lifecanada.org](http://www.lifecanada.org) or in our bi-monthly newsletter *LifeCanada News*. Take this great opportunity to build a pro-life network of organizations and businesses across the country and help secure LifeCanada's financial base.

A sponsorship ad on our website - \$500 for one year. A business card ad in *LifeCanada News* - \$125 per issue or \$600 for six issues.

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

Note: LifeCanada does not have a charitable tax number.