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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](#).

## ***Judge Orders Continued Care for Golobchuk, Calls for Trial***

A precedent-setting Manitoba case will go to court, after a Manitoba Judge upheld an injunction preventing doctors from removing an 84-year-old man from life support. Justice Perry Schulman said Samuel Golobchuk must receive all necessary care, including ventilation and feeding tube, until the case has come to trial. The elderly Jewish man became the centre of an end-of-life controversy earlier this year when his doctors wanted to take him off life support. His family disagreed and eventually sought a court injunction to prevent doctors from ending Mr. Golobchuk's life. The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba issued new guidelines at the end of January 2008, giving physicians the authority to make the final decision on when to continue with life-support. The guidelines classified feeding tubes as life-support.

## ***Canada's Age of Sexual Consent Rises to 16 from 14***

The age of sexual consent in Canada has finally changed to 16 from 14, after years of effort from MPs and supporters. Bill C-2, the *Tackling Violent Crimes Act*, passed the Senate by just 3 votes and was signed into law February 28. Nineteen Senators voted in favour of the bill, 16 voted against it, and 31 Senators abstained (all Liberals but one). Twenty-seven Senators failed to show up for the vote. The measure had passed the House of Commons on November 28, 2007. Prime Minister Stephen Harper made the bill a confidence vote by stating he would call an election if the measure had not passed the Senate by March 1, 2008. The bill was celebrated by children rights groups and law enforcement officials as a victory in the battle to protect Canadian children from sexual predators. At 14, Canada's age of consent was one of the lowest in the Western world, making Canadian children a target of online international sexual offenders. The bill contains a "close in age" clause that exempts young people from prosecution for under-age sexual activity if there is less than five years difference in their ages.

## ***Bill C-484 Passes Second Reading***

The Unborn Victims of Crime Act passed second reading in Parliament March 5, bringing the measure one step closer to becoming law. Introduced by Conservative MP Ken Epp, the private member's bill would allow separate charges to be laid when an unborn child is killed or injured during an attack on the mother. Multiple petitions including a total of 10,000 names have been presented in Parliament in



support of bill C-484. Seventy-two percent of Canadians support the legislation, with support rising to 75 percent among women, and 79 percent among youth.

"Studies show that pregnant women are much more vulnerable to attack and the attacks are more vicious," MP Kenn Epp said in a statement in the House on March 14. "My bill would protect them. A woman should not be left to stand alone in defence of her life and the life of her child."

The bill now passes to committee before heading to the Senate for a vote. The all-party Justice and Human Rights Committee will examine the bill later on in March.

## ***UK College of Psychiatrists Says Abortion Can lead to Mental Illness***

A new statement by the Royal College of Psychiatrists warns that women should not be able to obtain an abortion unless they have been informed of the associated risks to mental health. The College recommended including the risk of depression in abortion information brochures, stating, "Consent cannot be informed without the provision of adequate and appropriate information." Issued March 14, 2008, the position statement called for additional reviews to consider further if there is evidence for psychiatric fallout from abortion. The statement is a marked divergence from the College's previous statement of 1994, when the College found "no evidence" of an increased risk of major psychiatric disorder or of "long-lasting psychological distress" following abortion.

MPs in the UK will soon vote on a proposal to reduce the upper limits of abortion "for social reasons" from 24 weeks to 20 weeks, in the light of new developments in pre-natal care and better understanding of fetal development. Sixty percent of UK women support the proposed legislation, with only 28 percent indicating they would prefer the current limit to stand.

More than 90% of abortions in the UK are performed on the grounds that continuing the pregnancy would constitute greater mental strain than abortion.

## ***Liberal MP Wants an End to Human Rights Commissions' Assault on Free Speech***

A Liberal MP known for his work on human rights issues has introduced a motion that would protect free speech from the increasingly aggressive attention of Canada's Human Rights Commission (HRC). Dr. Keith Martin, MP for the BC riding of Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca, introduced private member's motion M-446 on January 30, 2008, calling for the removal of subsection 13(1) of the Canadian Human Rights Act from the Act. The subsection deals with so-called "hate speech" against individuals or groups, declaring any messages as "discriminatory" that are "likely to expose a person or persons to hatred or contempt" if those persons "are identifiable on the basis of a prohibited ground of discrimination." The subsection provides legal grounds for claims of human rights violations by members of special interest groups against any statement made in opposition to their group. Dr. Martin's concern over the powers of the Human Rights Commission is evidence of a growing awareness among Canada's leaders that the HRC has over-stepped the bounds of a democratic nation. High-profile cases currently before the HRC include complaints against *Maclean's Magazine*, *Catholic Insight* and the Christian Heritage Party. A case against *Western Standard* editor Ezra Levant was dropped last month after Levant published a scathing condemnation of the HRC on YouTube. The video clip was seen by more than 500,000 viewers.



## *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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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](mailto:info@lifecanada.org)