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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](#).

Poll finds Canadians conflicted on end of life issues

A new Environics poll has found Canadians split on the question of palliative care versus euthanasia. When asked if they would choose palliative care over euthanasia at the end of their lives, 44% of Canadians polled said they would choose palliative care with an equal number choosing euthanasia.

"It is note worthy that older Canadians polled were more likely to choose palliative care," reported Dr. Delores Doherty, president of LifeCanada, the group that commissioned the poll. Among those over 60 years old, 51% of respondents would choose palliative care and 36% would choose euthanasia. "This suggests that those closer to the end of their lives have a different perspective on illness and dying."

"We find the poll support for euthanasia alarming and wonder if those polled realize that this is the deliberate ending of their lives. The conflict evident in the results reflects the fear people have of dying in misery. It also highlights the failure of the health care system to make palliative care equally accessible throughout Canada. The provision of quality end-of-life care must be a greater priority in this country."

Palliative care provides effective pain-management, support, and care when a person is dying. Research shows that good palliative care can reduce the demand for what some call 'mercy-killing'. "The experience in other jurisdictions where euthanasia and/or assisted suicide are legal has shown that many of those who "choose" euthanasia are depressed and need treatment, not killing. In addition, many vulnerable people have been killed without their consent in countries like Holland, which has had legal euthanasia for many years."

The Focus Canada poll of 2023 Canadians was conducted between September 24 and October 21, 2008. It is considered accurate 19 out of 20 times, with a margin of error of +/-2.2%. LifeCanada, the national educational pro-life body, has commissioned an annual poll on life issues since 2002.



Poll shows a solid majority of Canadians want legal protection for unborn children

A new Environics poll shows a majority of Canadians want legal protection for the unborn child at some point before birth. This is consistent with survey results over the past seven years.

Canada remains the only country in the developed world with no legal limits on abortion throughout all 9 months of pregnancy. Yet, almost 6 in 10 respondents support legal protection for unborn children at some point before birth. Only 33% support the current situation of protection only after birth. Once again, women polled showed far more support for protection from conception on than men did: 33% versus 24%.

A majority of Canadians support informed consent requirements before an abortion that would be consistent with the informed consent expected and provided before any surgical procedure. Almost two-thirds, 65%, of respondents agree that women considering abortion should be informed of the risks and possible consequences of the abortion procedure.

"The hopelessly inadequate information most women receive before an abortion is appalling," said Dr. Delores Doherty, president of LifeCanada, the group that commissioned the poll. "Many women who have had abortions feel betrayed by the doctors involved in their abortions and some are considering class action suits."

The poll also asked how Canadians feel about tax dollars funding a procedure that is predominately performed for social reasons, rather than medical necessity. Only 3 in 10 support the current situation of tax funding for most of the roughly 100,000 abortions performed annually. Half prefer public funding only in cases of medical emergencies and two in 10 think payment should be a private responsibility.

"Despite years of polls consistently showing Canadians want changes in our abortion policy, elected officials in every party continue to ignore the issues or worse, shut down discussion and debate," said Dr. Doherty. "This is a sad state for a democratic nation. It is past time for our political leaders to acknowledge and take action in line with the expressed will of their constituents. The issue is not going to go away!"

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Sign Petition to the UN for the Unborn Child

December 10, 2008 will mark the 60th anniversary of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. Abortion activists have made known their intention of presenting the United Nations with a petition on that date, seeking the declaration of abortion as a universal human right. The Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute (C-FAM) is circulating a petition to the UN calling for the right to life of the unborn child to be recognized under the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. Organizers initially aimed to get at least 50,000 names on the petition. At time of writing there were 128,322 names on the English language petition, with an additional 161,718 on the petition in other languages for a total of 290,040 names. The petition will be presented to the UN on December 10. Please consider adding your name if you have not already done so, and forwarding the petition to your contacts. [Click here](#) to sign the petition.



Report Says Human Rights Commissions Should Drop 'Hate Speech' Investigations

A report commissioned by the Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC) has recommended that "hate speech" should be investigated by police, not the CHRC. Windsor law professor Richard Moon was handpicked by the CHRC to investigate the regulation of hate speech, particularly on the Internet, after 6 months of increasing public criticism over the CHRC's handling of language complaints. Moon's findings support recent calls for controversial section 13 to be dropped from the *Canadian Human Rights Act*, saying the section unduly limits free speech. Enforcement of language control under section 13 would require "extraordinary intervention" by government and would "dramatically compromise the public commitment to freedom of expression," the report found. "Hate speech should continue to be prohibited under the Criminal Code but this prohibition should be confined to expression that advocates, justifies or threatens violence." The Criminal Code already prohibits the willful promotion of hatred against an identifiable group.

Moon also called for the inclusion of intent in factors determining hate speech. Under the current Human Rights Code, whether or not the accused intended to offend is not factored in. Demonstrating that an individual or group felt offended by comments and/or that their personal dignity and self-worth was undermined is sufficient to warrant a ruling against the accused.

UK Down's Syndrome Birth Increase Due to Older Maternal Age, Not Fewer Abortions

Are parents in the UK who receive a prenatal diagnosis of Down's syndrome increasingly opting to keep their child? Not according to the National Down Syndrome Cytogenetic Register (NDSCR). The number of babies born with the genetic condition in Britain has increased to 749 in 2006 from a low of 594 in 2000, an increase of about 15 percent. A survey conducted jointly by the BBC and the Down's Syndrome Association suggested that greater acceptance by society and a more positive portrayal in the media of people with the condition were factors encouraging parents to resist pressure to abort their children. The NDSCR, however, suggests the increase is due to greater numbers of older women having babies. If prenatal testing and abortion were not practiced, the NDSCR estimates, 1454, instead of 749 babies would have been born with Down's syndrome in 2006, based on an estimated 7 percent increase in maternal age over 35 since 1989. Down's syndrome is associated with older maternal age. According to the NDSCR, 92% of women who undergo prenatal testing and receive an adverse diagnosis decide to abort the baby, and that number has not changed since 1989.

New! Abortion/Breast Cancer Business Cards

Educate your community on the link between breast cancer and abortion with these small colorful cards. [Click here](#) to view a sample. The cards are available from the LifeCanada office—call 866-780-5433 or email info@lifecanada.org for more information.

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. Call the LifeCanada office at 866-780-5433 or email 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.

LifeCanada News is a bi-monthly publication—subscribers receive six issues per year at an annual cost of \$15.00. Bulk rates are available. Contact the LifeCanada office at 866-780-5433 for more information.

Pre-Authorized Giving Plan

Become a monthly donor and support pro-life education at the national level! Monthly donations are a hassle-free way of investing in pro-life work throughout the year. Just complete a donor form, send in one cheque to the office, and the pre-authorized amount will be automatically deducted from your bank account each month.

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 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 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

Note: LifeCanada does not have a charitable tax number.

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