



LifeCanada E-Newsflash

Volume 2 no. 11 *Canadians Embracing Life* November 22, 2006

LifeCanada

376 Churchill Avenue N.
Ottawa ON
K1Z 5C3

613-722-1552
1-866-780-5433
Fax: 613-722-2201

info@lifecanada.org
www.lifecanada.org

In this Issue:

- New Environics Poll Confirms that Canadians Support Legal Protection for Unborn
- Another Successful Advertising Campaign
- ABC Ad Campaign Goes International
- Healing the Culture was a Great Conference
- Speaker Fr. Robert Spitzer Addresses Morality of Bill C-338
- IACHR Agrees to Hear Demers vs. Canada
- Government Pursues Dispute with New Brunswick Over

We invite you to forward this E-Newsflash to anyone who might be interested in these news items

New Environics Poll Confirms that Canadians Support Legal Protection for Unborn

The fifth annual poll on Canadians' opinions on abortion has found that almost two-thirds of the 2,021 people surveyed by Environics Research Group support laws to protect human life before birth.

Only three in ten support the current Canadian policy in which there is no legal protection for human beings at any stage of development before birth.

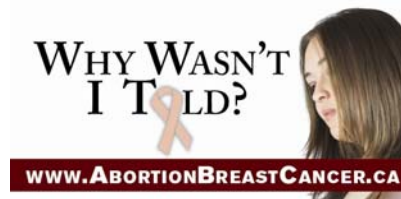
The poll was commissioned by LifeCanada, the national educational pro-life group, and includes questions on parental consent for abortion, informed consent and views on tax-funding of abortion.

To continue reading LifeCanada's press release click here

Click here to see the poll results

Another Successful Advertising Campaign

LifeCanada and many local and provincial educational pro-life organizations launched the second national advertising campaign to expose the link between abortion and breast cancer. Many ads continue to be display throughout



November and even early December. Most groups chose to us the ad seen in this message. Our hope is that women will be told before they agree to have an abortion that choosing abortion could increase their risk of developing breast cancer later in life. Women who have undergone an abortion procedure also need to be told about the risk so they can seek regular and early breast screening to protect their health. Early detection and diagnosis leads to a better outcome and a better chance for a full recovery.

Almost thirty ads have appeared on transit shelters, billboards, city

Funding of
Morgentaler Clinic

- US Supreme Court
Tackles Partial Birth
Abortion Ban

How you can help:

- Pre-Authorized
Giving Plan
- Partners for Life

Unsubscribe:

- Unsubscribe

Give someone a gift
for Life

For only \$20.00 we will
send that special teacher,
physician or friend six
issues of LifeCanada News
as well as a card informing
them of your gift. Just
send us the person's name,
address and \$20.00.



buses and even a bus bench in Canadian cities. Some groups have also run the ads in their local newspapers. This has generated much interest – a British Columbia resident tried unsuccessfully to have a billboard sign removed which caused much media interest and a story on CTV evening news. Thousands of Canadians logged on to the AbortionBreastCancer.ca website and viewed the information for themselves. Emails to the office this year have been less confrontational and more focused on obtaining more information. This may be because the breast cancer research groups did not respond with a ridiculous threat to sue us for using the pink ribbon as they did during the 2005 campaign. LifeCanada has obtained legal copyright status for our ads to protect our right to use them to promote this life saving message.

ABC Ad Campaign Goes International

LifeCanada has been approached by pro-life organizations in New Zealand and the United States to consider making our ad campaign and the AbortionBreastCancer.ca website available internationally. We have agreed. This past Sunday, an advertisement appeared in New Zealand's Sunday Star Times which prominently displayed LifeCanada's website. The number of hits from New Zealand and Australia has increased as a result of the ad.

Healing the Culture was a Great Conference

Almost 400 delegates attended the national pro-life conference in Vancouver, November 16 to 18, 2006. Pro-lifers from all provinces and even the Yukon were inspired by the exceptional speakers from Life Principles who provided insights and practical tools for effectively *Healing the Culture*. Fr. Robert Spitzer and Camille De Blasi Pauley addressed six plenary sessions in which they presented the Life Principles and showed us how to effectively apply them to our pro-life work so we can become effective agents of cultural change.

Many representatives of pro-life groups purchased videos and books so anyone interested in learning more about *Healing the Culture* should contact their local pro-life group to see if they can borrow the resources.

Speaker Fr. Robert Spitzer Addresses Morality of Bill C-338

Fr. Robert Spitzer, president of Gonzaga University and founder of the Center for Life Principles, was asked to respond to a question from the floor at the national conference in Vancouver about whether pro-lifers should support Bill C-338, a private member's bill introduced by Liberal MP Paul Steckle, which would ban abortions after 20-weeks gestation. He responded affirmatively.

At a subsequent interview, he elaborated on his response. He said that the bill was a "perfect example" of the double effect principle, that is, that the good effect (saving some babies) outweighs the evil (including abortion in the law) and that the intent of the bill is to achieve the good effect. When asked whether pro-life people should support the bill, Father Spitzer said, "Morally you can't do otherwise." He added that the ethical principle of the lesser of two evils also applies. Although there is currently no law that says abortion is legal, there are over 105,000 abortions performed in Canada each year and most are fully or partially paid for by taxpayers. Fr. Spitzer said that any arguments which use St. Thomas Aquinas to oppose this law are misinterpreting the saint.

LifeCanada has taken a public position in support of Bill C-338. Even though this bill does not outlaw all abortions, it is definitely a step in the right direction. Since it is not possible to ban all abortions at this time, we believe that Bill C-338 provides an incremental step towards our ultimate goal of protecting all human life from conception to natural death.

IACHR Agrees to Hear Demers vs. Canada

Jim Demers of Nelson, BC, will have his petition to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights heard on the grounds of free speech. Mr. Demers, as reported in the last issue of LifeCanada News, appealed to the IACHR after the Supreme Court of Canada refused to hear an appeal of his case. Mr. Demers was convicted under British Columbia's draconian bubble zone legislation after he held up a sign in front of the Every woman's Health Centre in Vancouver which read, "Every person has the right to have his life respected. This right shall be protected by law, in general, from the moment of Conception. Art. 4-1 American Convention of Human Rights." He spent seven weeks in jail awaiting trial. He asked the IACHR to hear his case, arguing that his conviction violated eight articles of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man. ("American" refers to North and South America.) Earlier this month the commission informed Mr. Demers that it will accept his petition on two of the grounds, freedom of expression and freedom of association. Mr. Demers has two months to file any additional information and the IACHR will then proceed to work with the petitioner and the government of Canada to reach a settlement of his complaint. If you would like to help defray Mr. Demers' legal costs for this process, you can reach him at Jim Demers, c/o Nelson Right to Life Society, Box 324, Nelson, BC V1L 3Z2.

Government Pursues Dispute with New Brunswick Over Funding of Morgentaler Clinic

The Conservative government has decided to continue the dispute over New Brunswick's refusal to fund abortions performed in clinics. The province has chosen to only pay for abortions performed in

hospitals. The former Liberal government had initiated a dispute resolution process to force the government of New Brunswick to fund all abortions. The new Conservative government could have chosen to drop it. Pro-lifers are particularly concerned about this process since it could set a precedent which would be applicable to other provinces.

The battle over abortion in New Brunswick has escalated in recent months. It has resulted in 200 articles, letters to the editor and opinion articles in local newspapers in the past six months. Two hospitals have stopped providing abortions because doctors are no longer willing to perform them. Last month, Mrs. Suzie Ryan was arrested for silently holding an image of an aborted child in front of the Morgentaler clinic in Fredericton and charged with displaying obscene material and corrupting morals. This is the first time a pro-life person was charged for simply displaying an abortion image in a public place. Mrs. Ryan was scheduled to appear in court last Friday but it was postponed pending a review by the Crown. According to today's CBC news report, the police force is in "unchartered legal territory" since no case law exists to support the charge of "obscenity" to prosecute political protests.

It is really important that provinces such as New Brunswick retain the right to limit funding to abortion. If they lose this dispute it would have repercussions for the rest of Canada. Please consider writing to the Prime Minister and the Health Minister to ask them to drop the federal government's dispute with New Brunswick and let them settle the issue of abortion funding. The addresses are:

Right Honourable Stephen Harper
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A
Email address: Harper.S@parl.gc.ca

Hon. Tony Clement
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6
Email address: Clement.T@parl.gc.ca

US Supreme Court Tackles Partial Birth Abortion Ban

On Wednesday, November 8, 2006, the United States Supreme Court heard arguments regarding the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act which was passed and signed into law by President Bush in 2003. The ban was declared unconstitutional by lower courts because it does not provide an exception for the health of the mother.

The partial birth abortion ban passed in 2003 did provide an exception to save the life (not health) of a mother. In 2003, doctors

explained that partial birth abortions were not necessary to address health issues during pregnancy and that the procedure itself could be harmful to women's health.

Partial birth abortion is a particularly repulsive procedure in which a child is partially delivered feet first and the brains are suctioned out through an opening in the skull while the head is still in the birth canal. The Guttmacher Institute, which is the research arm of Planned Parenthood in the US, reports an estimated 2,227 cases of partial birth abortion for the year 2000.

The ruling by the US Supreme Court justices is expected to take several months.

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