

# The Rose



THE PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER FOR ALBERTA PRO-LIFE ALLIANCE ASSOCIATION

JUNE 2005

## Planned Parenthood gets weirder

**By Joanne Byfield**

Planned Parenthood of Alberta (PPA) launched a new initiative in February funded in part with your tax dollars. I like to repeat that whenever I write about PP groups, whether they are federal, provincial or local, because they are almost entirely funded by tax dollars, doled out by various levels of government. Planned Parenthood gets very little support from individuals spending their own cash. They rely for the bulk of their projects on governments and foundations, again funded by wealthy individuals and corporations but

doled out by others. Furthermore, what money they do get from individuals is tax deductible because they can issue charitable tax receipts.

Anyway, their latest tax-funded project is a website and campaign called "Won't get weird." The project targets young people. The odd name is supposed to imply, I think, that unlike your parents, PP and their affiliated groups and clinics will welcome your questions about sex and encourage you to realize your full sexual potential. (It seems ironic that a group called "Planned Parenthood" targets so many of its programs at youth and then encourages

them to use birth control pills, condoms and abortions to avoid parenthood.)

Just in case the teens don't get the message, almost every page reassures that the folks at PP and the clinics and agencies listed on the site offer "youth-friendly, non-judgmental and confidential" advice and information. There's an entire section on consent and confidentiality and the rights of young people in these areas. The FAQ section (Frequently Asked Questions) contains set up questions advising youth that in most cases the information they give will be kept confidential unless the physician has a

reassured that the clinics and counselors promoted on the site are all "youth-friendly and non-judgmental" with the clear implication that they won't tell your parents.

Parents are advised that their underage children have rights to confidentiality and that they can be considered "mature minors" and therefore capable of making their own decisions. Parents

do not have the right to information about their children from physicians or other professionals.

For those youth who can't or don't access the website, [www.wont-getweird.com](http://www.wont-getweird.com), PP has radio and TV spots and a series of posters to promote the campaign.

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**New website launched by Planned Parenthood, funded in part with your tax dollars.**

compelling reason to divulge it, such as the youth has a reportable disease, like AIDS. It advises teens to ask the physician, counselor or teacher BEFORE divulging any information, whether that person will keep it confidential. PP helpfully advises that anyone can buy condoms. One doesn't need to be 18 nor can a pharmacist demand ID. Youth are

## Repeat abortions increase in Alberta

**By Joanne Byfield**

APL's annual Freedom of Information (FOI) request on the number of repeat abortions shows that more Alberta women are having multiple abortions. In late May, Alberta Health released the numbers. There were 10,577 abortions in 2003 and 39% of them were done on women who had already had one or more abortions. That is 4,160 women who have had more than one abortion in the province of Alberta. That's an astonishing 8% increase over the number of repeats in 2002.

These aren't just second abortions. The printout from Alberta Health breaks them down in categories from "one previous abortion" up to "four or more previous abortions". The 108 women in that latter category have had at least five abortions and some have had more. There are two teens in that category; one is between 15 and 17 years old and the other is 18 or 19. It is difficult to imagine a teenager having 5 (or more) abortions. In total, 441 teenagers had repeat abortions in 2003, including 59 girls aged 15 to 17 who had their second abortion. Thirty-two girls under 15 had abortions in 2003, none of them repeats.

The repeat rate among teens is disturbing. Who is getting these girls pregnant? Is anyone checking to see if it is older men? Are these cases of sexual abuse? Do the parents know these girls are having abortions?

There are many documented effects of abortion on women. Less well-documented are the effects of abortion on teens and especially repeat abortions. Is anyone studying this growing phenomenon? What does this invasive, hormonally disruptive procedure do to the physiology of young developing girls and why do we allow it to continue without adequate research? In fact, we not only allow it, we encourage it by paying for the procedure and using tax dollars to support groups like Planned Parenthood to promote sexual activity among young people.

Taxpayers, of course, pay for all of these abortions, whether it's the first or the fifth or tenth. Of course, they're all medically necessary right?



### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

If your membership is close to expiring (check expiry date on mailing label) we would like to encourage you to send in your renewal! Some groups need to mail membership renewals directly to their local pro-life group. Please check info on coupon on back page.



# The winners are...

Alberta Pro-Life is pleased to announce the winners of our 2005 essay contest. The first place winners receive \$300, the second place winners, \$200 and the third place winners, \$100. Congratulations to all and our thanks to all those who participated in the contest. We'll share the winning essays in our September issue of *The Rose*. Thank you also to our judges Liz Stolee and Joanne Byfield.

### Junior High Winners

1st prize - James Rebstock, Edmonton

2nd prize - Laura Antonio, Edson

### Senior High Winners

1st prize - Natasha Schmale, Winfield

2nd prize - Michelle Phillips, Edmonton

3rd prize - Karla Bienert, Wanham

## What is Alberta Pro-Life?

Alberta Pro-Life represents the pro-life position at the provincial level. We inform citizens, lobby politicians and work with local and national groups to effect change in our society.

Our members include individuals who have joined Alberta Pro-Life and local groups throughout the province who are either affiliates or amalgamated with us.

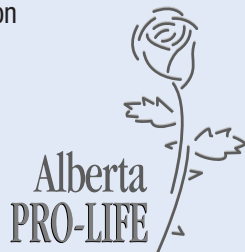
If you wish to become a member or would like more information about our activities, call our office at:

Phone (780) 421-7747 Fax (780) 421-7749

or toll free at: 1-877-880-5433

e-mail: [apl@albertaprolife.com](mailto:apl@albertaprolife.com)

Website: [www.albertaprolife.com](http://www.albertaprolife.com)



### Executive of Alberta Pro-Life

President - Henny van der Gugten  
Spruce Grove  
[hvander Gugten@telus.net](mailto:hvander Gugten@telus.net)

Vice-President - John Harder  
Calgary  
[harder@telus.net](mailto:harder@telus.net)

Treasurer - Erna Moedt  
Taber  
[emoedt@telus.net](mailto:emoedt@telus.net)

Secretary - Irene Vanderveen  
Edmonton  
[maplecement@shaw.ca](mailto:maplecement@shaw.ca)

### Directors of Alberta Pro-Life

Mark Smith  
Drayton Valley  
[mismith@incentre.net](mailto:mismith@incentre.net)

Gerrit Top  
High River

Trina van Straten  
Stettler  
[beanawind@yahoo.com](mailto:beanawind@yahoo.com)

Jill Cahoon  
Tofield  
[abccahoon@telus.net](mailto:abccahoon@telus.net)

Alie Vogelzang  
Barrhead

Michelle Goodliffe  
Grande Prairie  
[mnakmcg@telus.net](mailto:mnakmcg@telus.net)

Neil Kinderwater  
Stettler  
[neilkinderwater@yahoo.ca](mailto:neilkinderwater@yahoo.ca)

Corry Morcos  
Edmonton  
[ctmorcos@hotmail.com](mailto:ctmorcos@hotmail.com)

Anne Arseneau  
Tofield  
[anne.arseneau@spac.ab.ca](mailto:anne.arseneau@spac.ab.ca)

### Staff Contacts for Alberta Pro-Life

Patty Nixon (office)  
780-421-7717  
[apl@albertaprolife.com](mailto:apl@albertaprolife.com)

Theresa Nugent (office)  
780-421-7747  
[apl@interbaun.com](mailto:apl@interbaun.com)

Joanne Byfield (home)  
780-939-5940  
[joannebyfield@compusmart.ab.ca](mailto:joannebyfield@compusmart.ab.ca)

RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO:  
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## APL elects new executive



**Henny van der Gugten**  
President, APL

The board of Alberta Pro-Life Alliance Association elected a new executive at its first meeting following the April 29th Annual General Meeting. The new president is long-time board member and pro-life stalwart, Henny van der Gugten of Spruce Grove; vice-president and past president is John Harder of Calgary; secretary is Irene Vanderveen of Edmonton; treasurer is Erna Moedt of Taber.

We thank all of them for agreeing to fill these positions and trust that they will have a productive year. The rest of the board members, including some new additions, are listed at the bottom of this page.

## Our new office assistant



**Theresa Nugent,**  
APL's office assistant

Alberta Pro-Life is very pleased to welcome Theresa Nugent as our new office assistant. Theresa started work in mid-May after completing her final year and earning her B. SC. in kinesiology at the University of Calgary.

Theresa was an active member of the University of Calgary Campus Pro-Life group and was the group's president for the latter part of the 2004-2005 academic year. It was during her presidency that the group tangled with the students' union and the university administration over the Genocide Awareness Project (GAP). (Read all about it on page 6 of this issue.)

Theresa will be assisting Executive Director Patty Nixon in various tasks including maintenance and updating of the database, managing and promoting display ads for *The Rose*, and other projects as assigned. She has already helped with research for the article on the morning-after pill in this issue. Welcome aboard Theresa!

## Planned Parenthood gets weirder

Continued from page 1

In an April 2005 article in the *St. Albert Gazette*, Planned Parenthood Alberta executive director Laura Wershler said the group set up the site to reduce unintended pregnancies and the rate of sexually transmitted diseases. Not only that, she said that rural areas are of particular concern because young people have a harder time getting accurate sex information. "Youth in rural Alberta have a much more difficult time accessing the information they need," she said. "When everyone knows everyone in a community, the options for confidentiality aren't there."

Confidentiality and access to accurate information are not the same thing. She suggested that they are. The real issue here, I think, is that PP wants to ensure that kids can be sexually active without interference from parents or neighbours who might not approve. There is little indication that PP's programs ever have or ever will reduce pregnancies or STDs. Almost all the sex education programs in our schools are based on a Planned Parenthood model and have been for at least two decades. Throughout that time, teen pregnancies have increased and the rate of STDs has skyrocketed. Syphilis and gonorrhoea, which were almost eradicated thirty years ago, are common now. If PP was truly interested in reducing pregnancy and disease, they would be spending our tax dollars advising our children to abstain from sex until marriage.

And speaking of tax dollars, the Won't Get Weird site was funded by the Wild Rose Foundation (Alberta government using your tax dollars), Alberta Lottery Fund (Alberta government), the Calgary Foundation and the Edmonton Community Foundation, both non-profit societies funded by donations from individuals and corporations. The site lists the province's two private, for-profit abortion clinics under the

"Pregnancy Options" section but no pregnancy counselling or Birthright centres. This is what passes for "accurate information" on this publicly funded website. (For more information on PP and your money, see the Pro-Life Primer on page 3.)

# Pro-Life Primer

## Where does Planned Parenthood get its money?

*By Theresa Nugent and Joanne Byfield*

As we noted in the story on the front page, much of PP's money comes from government sources—federal, provincial and municipal. Some of it comes from foundations which in turn get their money from family foundations, bequests and individuals.

Much of the work they do is considered educational. In the U.S., Planned Parenthood operates abortion clinics. PP in Canada does not. They refer for abortions but they don't actually perform them. They have close ties to the private abortion providers and groups like the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League and they do lobby for more access to abortion.

Planned Parenthood groups have charitable status. That means they can issue tax receipts to donors who in turn can deduct a portion of their donations to reduce their income tax.

Despite the fact that many of their activities target teens and promote condoms, contraceptives and so-called "safe

sex", they are not considered controversial. Pro-life groups that encourage abstinence and offer support to women in crisis pregnancies are considered controversial and not "balanced" in their approach.

Here is a list of Alberta government funding to PP over the last six years.

- Between April 2001 and March 2005 the Wild Rose Foundation gave \$89,983 to Planned Parenthood of Canada and Planned Parenthood Alberta
- The Calgary Foundation donated \$41,600 to PP Alberta in two grants, one in the fall of 1999 and one in 2003
- The Edmonton Community Foundation gave PP Association of Edmonton \$5,000 in 2003
- The Alberta Lottery Fund gave a whopping \$1,036,054 to various PP projects throughout the province between 1998 and 2004

## No prescription needed for MAP

*By Joanne Byfield with files from Theresa Nugent*

Health Canada announced in April that Levonorgestrel, known as the morning-after pill (MAP), would be available from pharmacists without a prescription. The MAP, which is about 60 times stronger than a birth control pill, is actually two pills to be taken 12 hours apart within 72 hours of intercourse.

Promoters say it will prevent pregnancy. In fact, the MAP is not clearly understood and can work in three ways: it may block ovulation; it may prevent the egg and sperm from uniting; or it may alter the lining of the uterus so that an embryo cannot implant. This last mechanism will cause an abortion.

Proponents of the drug deny that the MAP causes abortions. Although pregnancy has always been defined as beginning at the moment of conception (and still is in most medical texts on embryology), abortion advocates and many medical professionals now define pregnancy as beginning with implantation in the uterus, which occurs about five days after conception.

Under the new rules, women and teens (there is no age restriction or parental consent required) can obtain the drug by asking a pharmacist. They will be interviewed to determine if they are suitable candidates. The MAP costs just over \$40 at a pharmacy. However, in Edmonton, the Capital Health Centre's Birth Control Centre (and probably others in the province) will dis-

pense it for free to youth or for those who do not have a drug plan. It is unclear whether the MAP will be covered under drug plans.

There are no restrictions on how many times a

woman or teen can get the drug, nor any reporting mechanism to prevent women from going to different pharmacies to get repeated doses. The consumer information included in the package warns that the drug should not be used repeatedly but without any controls on distribu-

tion, some women and especially teens will undoubtedly use it repeatedly.

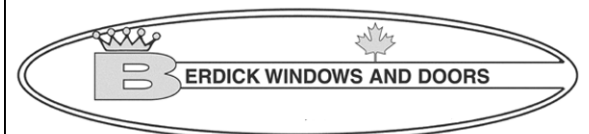
It is odd that Health Canada would change the role of pharmacists for an abortion-causing drug. Pharmacists will now be "prescribing" drugs for a condition—pregnancy—that has not been, nor can it be, diagnosed. Furthermore, pregnancy is not a disease or pathology and there is no health reason to bombard a woman's body with massive levels of hormones to treat this condition. Pharmacists will now be dispensing powerful drugs that could have harmful, long-term effects on women to accommodate a desired lifestyle.



### DEVONIAN

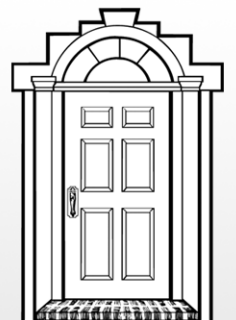
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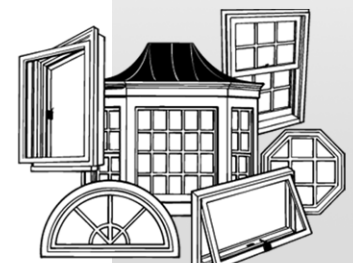
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# LifeCanada and MasterCard

**By Joanne Byfield**

For several years now, LifeCanada and the Bank of Montreal have offered an affinity credit card, the Mosaik MasterCard, to all members of LifeCanada. Our group receives a small fee for promoting the card and a small percentage whenever our cardholders make a purchase on their cards. In fact, the Bank of Montreal (BMO) had this same arrangement with our predecessor group, Alliance for Life since about 1990. The bank has similar arrangements with many groups, including some political parties, unions and other interest groups.

However, in early March of this year, a group of abortion activists discovered that LifeCanada had this relationship with BMO and began to lobby through online networks to get the bank to drop our affinity card. They encouraged their members to boycott the bank. The plan would probably not have attracted much attention except that the group, which seemed to have started in BC, contacted a reporter at the *Montreal Gazette*, Sue Montgomery, who wrote about the boycott. Her story was picked up by about 10 other CanWest newspapers. A couple of weeks later, *Globe and Mail* columnist Heather Mallick wrote a vicious and inaccurate column about the arrangement and urged others to boycott.

The bank, which had received a number of calls up to this point, began receiving many calls after the Mallick piece. In early April, BMO informed us that they would honour our existing contract until it expired in July of 2006 but would not renew it after that.

The affinity card program provided us with much-needed revenues and will be missed. We are, of course, looking for ways to replace that money.

We have received many calls and emails from people, some members and others who had not heard of LifeCanada until this media campaign began, asking



what they could do. Most have focused on the bank as the problem. While we understand the anger, the board of LifeCanada has agreed that the real problem here, and an ongoing one at that, is the media. This boycott would not have been effective if it weren't supported and promoted by Canada's pro-abortion media.

Pro-life and pro-family people often launch boycotts against companies that offend our principles. Occasionally they are effective (more often in the U.S.) but in most cases only a small number of people hear about and support the boycott. The mainstream media generally don't hear about or cover these initiatives. In the case of the LifeCanada MasterCard, the media promoted and supported the boycott and ultimately made it successful.

LifeCanada has urged supporters to target the media. It is too late now to complain to them about the card. However, the media are an ongoing problem for pro-life groups in that they consistently ignore and censor our messages. We must call them to account for this and let them know when they have failed to do the job. For example, the huge marriage rally in Ottawa in April that attracted 15,000 Canadians was entirely ignored by the *Globe and Mail*. Ditto the March for Life in May that drew close to 6,000 people.

We must be vigilant. That means we need to keep track of what they do and let them know when they don't do the job well. We need to write to the publisher, the editor in chief and the other editorial decision-makers. In the long run, taking the media to task will, I think, be far more beneficial to all of our causes, than simply reacting to the bank in this one instance.

For more details on this, you can go to the LifeCanada website at [www.lifecanada.org](http://www.lifecanada.org).



**Award winner Anne Pinkoski with presenter Edna Bonertz**

## Courage to serve

**This year's winner of the Courage to Serve award is Anne Pinkoski of Drayton Valley. Anne was a long-time member of the Alberta Pro-Life board and has done outstanding work teaching and developing youth leaders in our province. Anne was a leading force in the Drayton Valley Youth for Life group which sponsored an annual conference drawing young people from across the province. That group led many young people to pro-life activities. Many of the pro-life youth leaders in our province were formed and nurtured through this process. Our congratulations and heartfelt thanks to Anne for her years of dedication to this work.**

# LIFE CANADA update

**by Joanne Byfield**

Our brochure on the health effects of abortion is ready. We have already had a terrific response from groups who want to order copies for distribution. To order copies, contact our office at [info@lifecanada.org](mailto:info@lifecanada.org) or phone toll free 1-866-780-LIFE (5433). We have already sent copies to member and associate groups and to all the MPs. The brochure is also available in French.

We are very pleased with the response to our national billboard campaign scheduled for October. We have about 35 billboards that will appear across the country to promote awareness of the link between breast cancer and abortion. The consistent message appearing right across the country will be very effective in our ongoing efforts to educate Canadians.

We also work to educate our parliamentarians. In April, we sent a letter to all 308 MPs to draw their attention to a recommendation from British abortion providers that the limit for legal abortions in that country be reduced to 20 weeks gestation from the current

limit of 24 weeks. We pointed out that Canada has no limit and that abortion is legal until birth and encouraged MPs to reconsider Canada's position. We had positive feedback from several MPs and an expression of interest in pursuing the issue. We have also been invited to participate in the monthly meetings of the Parliamentary Pro-Life Caucus.

Six of the board members of LifeCanada traveled to Ottawa for the annual March for Life where we joined almost 6,000 other pro-life Canadians to witness to the sanctity of human life. This was an inspiring event which included thousands of youth and as we marched through downtown Ottawa, stopping traffic at intersections, we did provide a peaceful witness to our beliefs. Following the march, 12 women and three men stood on the steps of the Parliament Building and gave their testimony about the effects of abortion on women. It was a very moving event.

We will be commissioning a national poll again in the fall on where Canadians stand on abortion. In addition, we sponsored, with several other pro-life groups, an on-line poll on euthanasia and assisted suicide earlier

this year. This is a different kind of poll in which respondents are asked a number of questions, given information about the subject and then polled again. We are awaiting analysis of the results.

Planning continues on the national pro-life conference which will be held in Montreal from November 17 to 19.

Finally, in my last update for *The Rose*, I gave a plug for the LifeCanada Mosaik MasterCard. Many of you will already know that the card sponsor, the Bank of Montreal, will not renew our contract for the affinity card when it expires in July 2006. (See story above.) The loss of this revenue will seriously affect LifeCanada and we hope that we can offset this loss through other programs. We are promoting our Partners for Life initiative which invites groups, businesses or individuals to sponsor our website and/or newsletter. We have also introduced a monthly donor program for those who wish to participate. Please call or email us if you are interested in supporting our work.

**Joanne Byfield is President and the Alberta director on the board of LifeCanada.**

# Life 2005



*APL Past President John Harder and wife Louise.*

## ANNUAL PRO-LIFE CONFERENCE

*Our annual provincial pro-life conference was another great success. We were educated and moved by our speakers, entertained at our Friday night Alberta Birthday Bash and revitalized and motivated by the weekend event. Our special thanks to Lethbridge Pro-Life Executive Director Cheryl Boehr for her tremendous job as M.C. for the conference, to Neil van der Gugten for his role as banquet M.C. and to Bonnie Bredo for organizing once again, a terrific and successful silent auction.*



*Our hard working staffers Theresa Nugent, left and APL Executive Director Patty Nixon, right*



*Conference M.C. Cheryl Boehr*



*From L to R: U of C's Josh and Theresa Nugent and APL Board members Trina van Straten and Neil Kinderwater*



*Speaker Joanne Byfield*



*APL Treasurer Erna Moedt*



*Pro-life youth Natalie Vanderveen*



*Life 2005 speaker, Stephanie Gray, center, with youth activists from U of A, U of C and Rock for Life*

# Unveiling "Choice" on the University of Calgary Campus

By **Josh Nugent**

**After the University of Calgary administration denied Campus Pro Life (CPL) permission to present the Genocide Awareness Project, we needed a new strategy. With the help of the Canadian Center for Bioethical Reform (CCBR), we launched "funky GAP" to work around corrupt university rulings.**

U of C administration made it clear that graphic depictions of atrocities—where the sanctity of human life has been traded for convenience and human beings are exploited—was too political and too controversial to be permitted on our campus. Ironically, GAP was planned for the week after the Student Union-sponsored sex show that had mostly nude exotic dancers parading through the food court (but sex sells, right?) The university administration was determined to keep us off campus. Fortunately, we were more determined.

The day before GAP we held our last training session and awaited the arrival of student volunteers from Edmonton. Their commitment was tested, as they twice hit the ditch on their trip in a terrible snowstorm.

Thankfully no one was hurt and they arrived safely to help us.

On Tuesday morning at 6:45, in freezing winds and blowing snow, members from U of C and U of A Pro-Life clubs took their GAP signs to every major university entrance. Shortly after setting up, a car began honking, but to our surprise the driver wasn't flipping us the bird, he wasn't yelling obscenities, or swerving his car in an attempt to hit us. He smiled and gave us a thumbs-up. One woman rolled down her window after looking at the abortion breast cancer link and asked, "Is that true? Why aren't people being told?" At 9:00 AM when we all met up again, everyone else had similar stories, honks were accompanied by smiles of encouragement and thumbs up, not the finger we had all been expecting. The support far outweighed the few comments of disagreement; people were happy we were there.

From there we moved to the campus C-Train station, the busiest entrance to U of C, which has 29,000 people pass through it per day. The GAP signs were set up 3 inches off university property and volunteers stood by handing out literature and engaging in discussion with those who stopped. When volunteers were not handing out literature or speaking with students and faculty, they stood quietly and confidently in front of the signs praying for all those who would be exposed to the truth that day. People were shocked and surprised to be greeted peacefully and respectfully. They would take two or three steps and then routinely stop and look back to say "thanks". This wasn't "thanks I am now converted," after all they hadn't even read the pamphlets yet. In most cases it wasn't even a "Thanks I'm on your side." It was "Thanks for respecting me in your attempt to educate me, and taking the time to say a few kind words." One student we had never met came running down the steps to tell us, "People are reading them (the pamphlets); they aren't just throwing them out or

sticking them in their bag. Most of these people are reading them before they even get to the C-Train platform. It's working."

Another student we had never met expressed his appreciation: "This is so important that you guys are here. Thank you so much for being here. You guys need to do this all the time, every month, no, every week; people can't forget about this. It's so important; they need to see the truth." GAP accomplishes that. It shows the truth of what abortion really is. It depicts the horror that needs to be unveiled when we deny any group of human beings personhood status.

Some people did disagree with the comparisons. A city policeman showed up mid-morning to say a complaint had been registered. Then he said to me, "I don't know why they registered the complaint with us; you're on public property and you have every right to peaceful assembly such as the way your group has been conducting yourselves. If anyone causes any problems for you just let us know." Needless to say that was encouraging for us.

Although we were committed to peaceful assembly, tragically not all Calgarians were. Near the end of



**The GAP volunteers: Tired, hungry but mission accomplished**

the day a student came and destroyed 3 of our 6 signs. None of us retaliated. We, and the media, captured the whole thing on camera, including repeated belligerent and obscene outbursts from the vandal. The police arrived and arrested him. There was already an outstanding warrant for his arrest. We immediately fired off press releases which led to massive media coverage from secular sources. After the police left, a second person came and tried to destroy one of the signs. He didn't succeed and fled.

So a very cold and hungry group left the campus at 6 p.m., 11 hours after they began. Most hadn't eaten that day or slept the night before. No one complained. That night, head of university security Lanny Fritz, phoned us to advise us that we could not bring our signs onto campus the next day. Not even in trucks, we were instructed. They had heard our plan to drive the signs on campus in the back of trucks. We had booked a private security company to protect us the next day, but U of C security found out who we hired and cancelled them, claiming they have exclusive right to provide security on campus! The problem for us was that campus security was hostile to us. Natalie from CCBR spent most of the night trying unsuccessfully to find a private company to protect us.

On Wednesday we wanted to be more visible, and make it clear to the university that our original proposal to be on campus should have been allowed. Early in the morning, two of our executive went to meet with a pro-life lawyer. The rest of the members went onto campus to put up 8 1/2 X 11 inch (the size permitted by the students union and university administration) graphic images on all the poster boards. Security guards were waiting, and immediately ripped down our posters and banned all volunteers—student and non-student—from campus. (The U of C students were banned until their next class.) Campus officials later denied this in the newspaper and during the CTV news broadcast.

Our lawyer immediately sent a letter of protest to the university, and advised us that the university had no authority to remove a truck parked at a plugged parking meter, even if that truck had GAP signs in the back of it. So we left the lawyer's office to serve the university with his letter. We also planned to drive a truck, complete with signs, onto the campus. Once again, campus security was out in force. In police style, barricades were set up at university entrances and security guards were stopping vehicles to check them for pro-life paraphernalia. For over an hour, three security vehicles with two guards in each continuously circled the parking lot we were in with the signs. This was the same security force that denied having the manpower to protect us if we were to set foot on campus with the signs.

Things changed once the university had the letter from the lawyer. Their bluff called, they removed the barricades at all entrances except those at the administration and students' union buildings. In a final pathetic attempt to block our access to the heart of the university, the last barricade was renamed a "detour." All vehicles were turned away whenever our truck was in the line up of cars. When we drove off they would let cars through. When we returned, so did the "detour." In response to media inquiries about the inconvenient blockade, the astute security guard replied on camera, "Today's just a detour day". It took six security guards to man this detour and to keep our truck off campus.

The other half of our group manned the signs at the main university entrance. A group of pro-choicers showed up for a counter protest, trying to get vehicles to honk in support of killing babies. Our volunteers—36 hours after they started and with little food or sleep—refused to leave until the pro-choicers left. Even then this group of frozen, tired, and starving activists all jumped at the opportunity to drive the truck with the signs through downtown rush hour traffic, instead of going home.

Does GAP really reach people? We estimate that a minimum of 60,000 people saw our signs. In addition, the audiences of 5 news broadcasts, 2 radio stations, and 1 live radio debate, and readers of the campus newspaper (front page coverage), 2 magazine articles, and 3 newspaper pieces heard our message: "Abortion kills a human life."

How important is GAP? Well, as one of our volunteers put it: "Monday night I was terrified, I didn't think I could do it. I did not want to stand in front of those signs. By this afternoon (Wednesday) I knew there was no way we were leaving before those pro-choicers, and I knew I was willing to be arrested before I would walk away."

To that individual and all those who made GAP possible, thank you so very much for your courageous and noble effort in defending the most innocent members of society. If you want to take part in something that could change peoples' minds and save lives, while improving your own life in the process, I urge you to consider doing GAP.

# U of A Campus Pro-Life Update

**By Chuck Marple**

Another year of the Edmonton Campus Pro-Life (CPL) group has so quickly passed us by. This year the group started off regrouping from the Genocide Awareness Project (GAP), which we fought tirelessly to set a precedent for the project to appear on campus. Freedom of speech (even on a university campus) was sadly placed on the back-shelf out of reach, when our final appeal to the university was rejected in September.

Following the GAP rejection, CPL was left regrouping and reorganizing to focus on our mission and values for the upcoming year. Our president Chuck Marple envisioned that we needed to focus on outreach to pregnant mothers on campus, giving them more positive support systems. However, as with all big dreams we never reorganized enough to entirely accomplish this mission. We soon realized that we needed to start with baby steps, so that eventually these steps would develop into adult steps with commitment from the group. We still keep this mission at the forefront of our thoughts but in the meantime we were also able to accomplish a few other pro-life activities on campus.

In conjunction with the week the GAP project was held on the Calgary campus this year, Edmonton Campus Pro-Life launched an advertising campaign in the Gateway, the free campus newspaper. It is said that it is one of the best sources of media for the campus community, especially for all of those starving studying students with no T.V. or for those who just can't fit in time to watch T.V. We felt that this project was an effective advertising campaign, reaching much of the campus community. Because we did it over the Easter weekend, many if not all of the papers were taken off of the stand. The advertisement that we placed in the newspaper is entitled "The Persons Poster" from the National Campus Life Network. The poster talks about laws that have been passed throughout history declaring certain groups of people such as the slaves, women, Natives, and Jews as non-persons. The poster ends with a quote by the Canadian Supreme Court (1997) saying, "The law



Rock for Life/U of A Campus Pro-Life man the YC2005 booth.

of Canada does not recognize the unborn child as a legal person possessing rights." In red writing the poster then claims that, "Sometimes the most important lessons take the longest to learn."

During the next couple of weeks, CPL also participated in a creative littering campaign. After meetings, members of the group picked an area of campus to plaster with posters from the Feminists for Life group. Some of the posters stayed up while others were torn down in a matter of hours. However, our philosophy was that in order for the posters to be taken down someone had to read them, which meant that at least they were getting the message to take home and contemplate.

Other ways that we tried to educate the campus community this year was through a table set up every Friday in the Student's Union Building. Here we also were able to recruit members to join the group. Now that it's the end of the year it seems as though we will have a committed group to work towards our goals next year. I look forward to starting up again in the fall for yet another year on the University of Alberta campus. On behalf of Edmonton Campus Pro-Life we would like to thank all those who have supported us this year and we continue to ask for prayer support.

## Edmonton Rock for Life Update

**By Michela Barter**

Tuesday, April 26th was pro-life T-shirt Day. A group of nine Rock for Lifers walked through West Edmonton Mall (WEM) wearing pro-life shirts. Rock for Life chapters across North America were wearing the same T-shirts that day; all walking bill-boards for the pro-life movement.

The group at WEM did not meet with much response, aside from a few comments, both positive and negative. Many people did see the shirts, however, and if we touched one life that day, it was worth the effort.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 says: 'Pray without ceasing.' When Rock for Life was first established here in Edmonton, we decided that helping to close the Morgentaler clinic was our short-term goal. Rock for Life maintains that goal, and we have worked towards it mainly through our Mercy Services and 'Operation Mercedes' prayer services.

Now that the Royal Alexandra Hospital is no longer performing abortions, the Morgentaler Clinic will be extending their hours, and we feel that now, more than ever, pro-lifers need to bring their prayers and presence to the doors of the abortion clinic.

Beginning this summer, Rock for Life would like to hold Mercy Services on a weekly basis, as well as make the 'Operation Mercedes' a monthly event. Prayer is our ultimate weapon, and by the hand of God working through us all, we can bring an end to abortion in our city and our country.

We invite you to join us to pray. Watch for a Mercy Service schedule in Alberta Pro-Life's weekly email up-date

## Be present and prayerful

Since mid-May the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton has stopped performing abortions. Instead, all abortions are contracted to the private, for-profit Morgentaler Clinic in Edmonton. In fact, almost all of the roughly 5,000 abortions performed in northern Alberta will now be done at this site.

There are several prayer vigils each month across from the clinic (See Calendar for more details.). These are not demonstrations or protests. People gather to pray for an end to abortion and for everyone affected by abortion.

The clinic is protected by an injunction. These prayer vigils do not violate the injunction. They are held across the street on the sidewalk well outside the restricted area. Anyone who violates the injunction will be jailed.

Prayer is our most powerful and effective tool. It can move hearts and minds when arguments, signs and protests harden them. Please join these prayer vigils whenever possible and spread the word to others.



Before  
I formed you  
in the womb,  
I knew you,  
and before you  
were born,  
I dedicated  
you.

Jer 1:5

**R** Western Catholic  
REPORTER

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# news from groups

**AIRDRIE & DIST. PRO-LIFE**  
Ph: 403-948-3127  
bmelik@shaw.ca

**CALGARY PRO-LIFE ASSOC.**  
Ph: 403-243-0691  
pro\_life@telusplanet.net

**CAMROSE PRO-LIFE**  
Ph: 780-672-7110  
bluesky@nowfast.com

**CHOOSE LIFE ATHABASCA**  
Ph: 780-675-4442  
ARCPam@athabascau.ca  
April 2nd, the video "Sex Has A Price Tag" was shown to teens and public at the Nancy Appleby Theatre in Athabasca. Only 50 people came out, but the video was very well received by those who attended. All pastors who are part of the Athabasca Ministerial Association, as well as some who are not, spoke on pro-life issues Sunday, April 3 in Athabasca. Advocacy for pro-life was accomplished through articles in the local paper in Athabasca; one, by one of our Pastors in a weekly article called "Pastor's Pen", and another through a letter to the editor by our President, Ron Gordon. A sign along Hwy 2 south of Athabasca has been erected (a billboard of sorts) with words promoting a positive attitude towards life using pro-life quotes.

**C.H.I.L.D.**  
Citizen's Helping in Life's Defense  
Ph: 780-962-8108  
sheila053@yahoo.ca

**DRAYTON VALLEY RESPECT FOR LIFE**  
Ph: 780-542-7546  
matt64888@hotmail.com

**EDMONTON PRO-LIFE**  
Ph: 780-425-1637  
edmpl@interbaun.com  
www.edmontonprolife.org  
Edmonton ProLife had their AGM on May 3rd followed by guest speaker Ernest Phillopos, (see article this page). We will be hosting a presentation by Dr. Patrick Carroll on August at 7:30 in the Faculty Lounge at St. Joseph's College at the University of Alberta. Dr.

Carroll is with the Pension and Population Research Institute in Britain and will speak on the link between abortion and breast cancer.

**FORT McMURRAY PRO-LIFE**  
Ph: 780-791-0306  
kimquilts@shaw.ca

We have sent outlines of school presentations that we have available for grades six and eight classes. Our presenters have been active giving presentations at both levels. Please join us at our next meeting!

**GRANDE PRAIRIE VOICE FOR LIFE**  
Ph: 780-538-3344  
vfl@telusplanet.net

We had Panic Squad April 8th for our Spring Youth Event and had the best turn out in Voice For Life's history. We had approximately 400 people—youth, families and adults. We had a couple of local youth who started the evening with a little comedy and then the Panic Squad did a 90 minute comedy show. They were really funny and very well received. We made approx \$2,000 for our fundraiser although the event was really to promote awareness.

**HIGH RIVER PRO-LIFE**  
Ph: 403-652-1342  
highriverprolife@shaw.ca

**LAKELAND PRO-LIFE**  
Ph: 780-639-3601  
rlriette@telusplanet.net  
This is a report from one of the volunteer coun-



**Lakeland Pro-Life display**

selors at our Pregnancy Problem Centre. "What a blessing to be part of a team of warriors for the Lord's innocent ones, the unborn. The Holy Spirit always is inspiring and His presence felt at every call and at every appointment. Prayer is what enables me to serve God in this capaci-

ty. All those who pray for the clients and the unborn, as well as for the Holy Spirit's guidance at each appointment, enable me to do what little I do. It enriches my prayer life and enables me to reach out to others with the confidence that the Holy Spirit will provide the words and the video choice required for the client. The well-being of the client and the unborn are of utmost priority. Making the client feel at ease and welcome, leading these people to see God's creation and into His Word, always gives hope that one more person will walk according to God's word. Over the past year I have witnessed hearts and minds change from thinking abortion is the answer to wanting to bring the baby into the world with love. Many of these desperate people just need a listening non-judgmental ear. They need to hear the truth, God's Truth. There have been more male callers than I have witnessed before, most of them wanting information on the "Morning After Pill". What an opportunity to educate them on respect for human life, respect for themselves and for the lady friend, marriage, as well as the conception of new life. There were a few young teenagers but for the most part clients are in their twenties and thirties. We have had some hardened

in His Ways and enlighten our heart to serve Him even more faithfully."

**LETHBRIDGE & DIST. PRO-LIFE**  
Ph: 403-320-5433  
lprolife@shaw.ca

On May 20, we held an event for youth called "Rock the Cradle" at The Gate in downtown Lethbridge. Admission was \$7.00, or \$2.00 and a baby item. It was designed to appeal to young people who have a leaning towards the heavier metal version of Christian rock. Four local bands volunteered their talent. During the show, there was a power point presentation which focused on the nature and development of the unborn child, the tragic loss of life brought on by abortion in our country. The youth were encouraged to make a difference. (Let us know if you would like a copy of this power point!) Proceeds will be going towards a crisis pregnancy centre in Lethbridge. After the show, there was a candle light vigil in the Galt Gardens with Maria Lee speaking and Candice Lacroix sharing her song, "A Baby's Cry" now on CD. On May 20, Immanuel Christian School Junior and Senior High Students held their Hike for Life. We are thankful to the students and staff at Immanuel who have so diligently continued to support Lethbridge and District Pro-Life both philosophically and financially. We are gearing up for our annual Hike for Life and hope that this year's event will be our biggest hike yet!

**MEDICINE HAT PRO-LIFE**  
Ph: 403-527-7434  
gibach@telusplanet.net

**PEMBINA PRO-LIFE**  
Ph: 780-674-2952  
bdening@telusplanet.net  
We are focusing all our attention on the upcoming ASLAN youth conference on October 29 which we are hosting. Our guest speaker will be Wendy Lowe, the dynamic executive director of the Calgary Crisis Pregnancy Centre. The conference will be held in Westlock at St. Mary's School.

**RED DEER PRO-LIFE**  
Ph: 403-340-2229  
bonnie@rttinc.com  
Red Deer and District Pro-Life had their AGM on May 18 and elected the new executive as follows: Interim President: Bonnie Bredo, Secretary Treasurer - Charmaine Hollings,

Corresponding Secretary - Marie Ottosen, Pastoral Liaison - Don Ottosen, Interim Education Co-ordinator - Adriana Lagrange, Membership Coordinator - Ed Shields. We are looking for a President, Vice-President and Education Coordinator.

**TABER PRO-LIFE**  
Ph: 403-223-8452  
petesk6@hotmail.com

Taber proclaimed the week of May 1-8 as Respect for

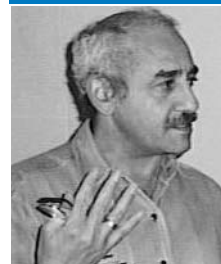
Life Week. We delivered a rose to a new mother at the hospital that week. A local clergyman wrote, at our request, a letter to the editor on the issue of abortion asking the question, "When did the fetus cease to be human?"

**WAINWRIGHT LIFE MATTERS**  
Ph: 780-842-6135  
bkmill@telus.net



**Taber Pro-Life billboard**

## Treating Fragile Newborns



**Stollery Children's Hospital Dr. Ernest Phillopos**

### By Corry Morcos

Many of us have been concerned by the reports coming out of Holland regarding the Groningen Protocol which allows Dutch doctors to either actively or passively euthanize newborn children, many for seemingly minor "defects".

Edmonton ProLife asked Dr. Phillopos, a neonatologist at Edmonton's Stollery Children's Hospital to give us an overview of the management of sick newborns in the Capital Health Region. He gave an excellent power point presentation.

In 2003, out of total admissions of 2,121 babies, 44, or 2.6%, died. Approximately 25% die despite full aggressive support, usually from lethal malformations. Those babies who died fell into four categories: no chance of survival; a very poor prognosis despite dependence on intensive care; a very poor prognosis NOT dependant on intensive care; no medication.

Genetic malformations such as Trisomy 13 and 18 are the most serious and 85% of those babies are miscarried or stillborn. Out of 700 or 15% born alive, 50% die within 1 week, 90% within the first year. Total palliative care and support is given in the home surrounding. If no sucking or swallowing is possible, the comfort of the baby is taken into consideration. A gastro-intestinal feeding tube is usually not inserted; babies are not uncomfortable when dehydrated. Trisomy 21 or Downs Syndrome is treated normally in all aspects in North America.

Some of the major problems encountered in very sick babies at birth are: heart valve problems, asphyxia (often through cord prolapse), severe diarrhea, and certain skin disorders.

Dr. Phillopos stressed that the parents are involved in all decision making, and that even when the medical team suggests palliative care but the parents insist on aggressive medical intervention, their wishes are granted, with a delayed passing away of the babe. Religious views of the parents do not seem to influence the decision making. Costs are never taken into consideration by the health team.

We are very heartened by the knowledge that in Edmonton, no cost is spared to treat an infant if there is the slightest chance of survival. A team of experts is dedicated to preserve life with the best possible outcome. We can express our support to the medical team and health authorities for their stand for life, and be ever vigilant we do not go down the slippery slope, as in Holland.

# CALENDAR OF events



Edmonton Prolife holds a **prayer vigil at the Morgentaler Abortion Clinic the last Thursday of every month** from 4 PM to 5 PM. Please join us at 12409 109A Avenue. Call 425-1637 for more information.

**June 22 - Red Deer Pro-Life will hold its monthly meeting** at 7:00 P.M. at St. Mary's Church.

**July 14th - Operation Mercedes at the Morgentaler Clinic in Edmonton** from 6:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. This is a prayer vigil to pray for an end to abortion and for all those affected by abortion. The vigil is across from the Morgentaler Clinic at 12409 109A Ave. Operation Mercedes is organized by Edmonton Rock for Life.

**July 20-24 - Red Deer Pro-Life will be putting a booth in the Westerner Fair Days.** Call 343-2815 if you are interested in helping us in any way.

**July 21-30 - Once again Edmonton Prolife will be hosting an information booth at Klondike Days.** We are looking for volunteers to sit at our booth for a shift. We still have a good selection of times available. Please call Karen at the office, 425-1637. The success of this public display promoting respect for life depends on your support.

**August 15 - Edmonton Prolife will host an evening with Dr. Patrick Carroll**, a researcher for Britain's Pension and Population Research Institute. Dr. Carroll will speak on the link between abortion and breast cancer at 7:30 PM in the Faculty Lounge at St. Joseph's College, U of A, 11325-89 Ave. Parking available in the Education Building parking garage for \$3.75/evening. For more information, contact 425-1637.

**September 17 - Make plans to participate in Edmonton Prolife's annual walkathon.** Pledge forms will be available early August. This is our main fundraiser, so please consider supporting us. Bring along your whole family and turn it into a "funraiser". For more information, call 425-1637.

**October 29 - ASLAN Pro-Life Youth conference** in Westlock at St. Mary's School featuring guest speaker Wendy Lowe of the Calgary Pregnancy Care Centre. For more information, contact Christie at 780-674-3862 or email ichthys@telusplanet.net or see ad page 10.

**January 26 and 27th, 2006 - Theresa Burke, co-author of Forbidden Grief**, will be coming to speak at the Lethbridge and Taber AGMs.

## A nurse's view of the Terry Schiavo case

By **Beverley Mably**

The human family suffered a terrible loss when Terri Schiavo was deliberately starved to death, ironically in one of the richest nations in the world. Once again the culture of death reared its ugly head. I'm surprised that nurses have been silent on this situation. As nurses, our job is to care for people. Killing human beings does not fit the definition of "care."

Palliative care and hospice programs should respect life and not intentionally hasten death. Caring for dying individuals and their families includes medical, informational, emotional, psychological, and spiritual support. Symptom management strives to make an individual's last days as comfortable as possible.

The goal of palliative and hospice services is to respect the lives of the terminally ill, relieve suffering and allow death in its own time. These goals were sadly lacking in Terri's last days. Consider the following:

1) Terri was not terminally ill. She died because she was deprived of food and water which are basic human needs, not medical treatment.

2) Terri was not on life support. She was being fed just as infants, many disabled and many elderly people are fed who are unable to feed themselves.

3) As far as we know, Terri was not suffering until her basic needs of food and water were withheld. At that point, she was reportedly given morphine to alleviate her discomfort.

4) Death did not come in its own time. It was brought on by starvation.

Sadly, the human family failed to support one of its weaker members. As nurses, we do not have to accept a culture of death. We must choose what we will value. In my opinion, no life is less worthy to be lived than any other. The worth of an individual should not be judged by what he or she can contribute to society. Life is precious. I affirm the value of all human life.

**Beverley Mably is an RN from Okotoks, Alberta.**

## Babies' Breath Service

By **Suzanne Rabel**

After reading the article entitled Babies' Breath for Mothers Day in the March 2005 edition of *The Rose*, Wetaskiwin Pro-Life decided to try this in their community. Three churches responded to the request for recognition and prayer for the unborn by giving out sprigs of babies' breath to everyone in the parish before their service began. The response was overwhelmingly positive, with not only the Moms wearing the flowers but the guys too.

The original idea was to meet at the local cenotaph to pray and hand out babies' breath on the Saturday before Mother's Day. However, by doing this at the church services on Sunday instead, many more people participated.

## 2006 HELP SAVE A LIFE CALENDAR

Coming soon!



Would you like to place an advance order for a bundle of the 2006 pro-life calendars for your youth group or church? You can use them as special gifts for church leaders, or you can use them for fundraising as well. Discount prices are available for church groups depending on the quantity purchased. If you're interested in getting more information on placing an advance order call the APL office toll free at 1-877-880-5433.

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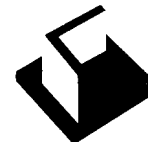
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# Life Digest

**We would like to acknowledge the invaluable assistance of Pro-Life Enews for much of this information. You can subscribe to this daily news service at [www.interlife.org](http://www.interlife.org).**

## Conclusive evidence that abortion increases premature births

A large study of 2,837 births has provided "conclusive evidence" that induced abortion increases the risk of subsequent premature births. The French study was reported in the *British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*. Women who have abortions were 1.7 times more likely to have an "extremely premature" delivery at less than 28 weeks gestation. Such babies often die soon after birth and many experience severe disabilities. In addition, post-abortive women are 40% more likely to have a "very pre-term" delivery, defined as less than 33 weeks gestation. Abortion appears to increase the risk of the common causes of preemie births including premature rupture of the membranes, spontaneous labour and an incorrect positioning of the fetus. Epidemiologist Dr. Caroline Moreau, the study's lead researcher, was quoted in the *Telegraph* as saying: "Clearly there is a link. The results suggest that induced abortion can damage the cervix in some way that makes a premature birth more likely in subsequent pregnancies."

## Korean cloning success provokes cry for Canadian legalization

Researchers in Canada are lobbying the federal government to legalize cloning in the wake of an announcement that Korean scientists had used cloning to create embryonic stem cells for research. The news was hailed as a great advance that would lead to healing a host of conditions, including spinal cord injuries, diabetes and congenital immune deficiencies. Canadian doctor and bioethicist Peter Singer wrote a column for the *National Post* arguing that Canadian researchers would leave the country to pursue this life-saving technology. He described the cloned embryos as a "clump of a few dozen cells" and urged the federal government to

rethink its ban on cloning in the new reproductive technology law. That law will be reviewed in two years and this campaign will increase in volume so that when the review takes place, the clamor for legal cloning and killing will be deafening.

## Phone in your abortion

A Washington DC radio show called *Elliott in the Morning* last month ran a contest for callers to see who had the most abortions. This was in response to news reports about the high rate of repeat abortions. According to a story in *National Review* magazine, one woman asked for a T-shirt after reporting her mother-in-law's 10 abortions (one self-administered). Another caller said she had an abortion after her second cousin impregnated her when she was 13. The prize, however, went to K-Dog who phoned in to brag that between his two wives, he was responsible for 16 abortions. His call was followed by his second wife who phoned in to confirm she'd had five. Welcome to the culture of death.

## Russian women dying from abortion

There are 2 million abortions a year in Russia. That number far surpasses the 1.5 million births in the country annually. Equally disturbing is the fact that 30% of abortions end in the death of the woman according to the Russian Women's Health Centre director Vladimir Kulakov. In addition, he said, the surgery often results in infertility and Russia now has 6.5 million infertile women.

## Aborted babies sold for beauty treatments

The London newspaper, *The Observer*, reported in April that abortion clinics in the Ukraine sell aborted fetuses to beauty salons in Russia. The salons use them for "fetal therapy" and "youth injections" promising to rejuvenate skin and cure some diseases. The clinics can sell the fetuses for up to \$10,000 US though it is believed that women are paid about \$200 to sell their fetus or to convince them to have an abortion. They may be paid extra if they have a late abortion. Some women are never told their aborted baby will be sold for such uses.

# Frustrating FOIPP process

**By Don Duncan**

At the end of a process that covered a period of almost two and one-half years (Sept. 10, 2002 - Feb. 24, 2005) I was charged \$418.50 and told that there was no information that could be released with my request for documentation that "All abortions are medically required." I supposedly was to feel grateful that I did not have to pay another \$418.50, the other half of the fee.

Shortly before that the Information and Privacy Commissioner had found that the payment of abortion fees by the provincial government is not a public issue. What, one wonders, would be considered a public issue?

It all began when I read in the August 12, 2002, *Alberta Report* that Premier Klein claimed he had been "informed officially that all abortions are medically required." Having had numerous vague and evasive responses to requests for proof or documentation of this position, I now thought I would be able to get evidence of what I considered, and still do, an untrue statement.

Naively, I wrote the Premier and asked for a copy of that "official" notice.

I thought that it would put an end to the ridiculous assertion that physicians, under the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) guidelines, are, in every case, making a determination of whether or not an abortion is "medically required." Any reading of that guideline will clearly show that it does not mention whether or not the procedure in general or individually is medically required.

I thought it would ease my anger and frustration to the response of May 25, 2000 from the then Minister of Health and Wellness, G. Mar, wherein he said "Abortion services have been deemed medically necessary services and are, therefore, covered by the AHCIP." It didn't.

At the time I was dismayed that the government would continue to say the CPSA makes the determination, when by "deeming" all abortions medically required the government is really saying it is a non-issue.

As an aside, I also have in my possession letters from the CPSA confirming that it is the provincial government and the Alberta Medical Association that decide if a service is to be insured and a letter from the AMA saying it is the CPSA that decides. Every one indicates the other does the deed when in fact no one does. It has become a given, a head-in-the-sand avoidance of the truth.

The province says the devil (read the federal government) made me do it.

The feds say it's the province that decides what is medically necessary but withholds transfer payments from Alberta because it didn't pay for services it had one time, seemingly, felt not medically required.

How does one deal with such buck passing and deception?

As the pro-life movement has always done—keep on plugging away. Keep pushing our elected officials to be honest and forthright and not resort to political mumbo jumbo. Keep trying to elect people that will stand up for what is morally and factually right and not what is the politically correct stance of the day.

I will lick my wounds and start some other initiative in a day or two.

## A.S.L.A.N.'S ANNUAL PRO-LIFE YOUTH CONFERENCE

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Presented by Wendy Lowe, Executive Director of the Calgary Pregnancy Care Centre. Wendy speaks throughout North America on crisis pregnancy issues and youth sexuality, challenging young people to abstinence. Wendy has just finished co-authoring a book on adoption titled, "Affirming the Birthmother's Journey."

This pro-life youth conference is geared for junior and senior high ages. Chaperones are required for all youth attending. Registration forms will be mailed out to previous conference attendees as well as to local pro-life groups. Online registration will also be available, as well as additional details for the conference. The youth registration fee will be \$20/day per youth.

For advance registration or more information, please call:  
Christie @ 780-674-3862



Sat. Oct 29  
8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Saint Mary's School,  
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Music by: "Profile"

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Pembina ProLife

# Morgentaler's honorary degree

**By Will Johnston**

**On June 6th, the University of Western Ontario in London awarded Henry Morgentaler an honorary degree at the annual convocation ceremonies. The announcement made in early spring prompted an unprecedented protest from students, faculty, alumni and the public. The university lost millions of dollars in donations, including one \$2 million bequest, over this controversial decision. Demonstrations were held on campus, at university president Paul Davenport's house and junior high students at a track meet held at UWO wore black armbands to signal their disapproval of the award.**

This article appeared originally in the *London Free Press* on June 1, 2005.

Donald McDougall, chair of the University of Western Ontario board of governors, is to be congratulated and thanked for his firm stand against the recent action of a committee of the UWO senate. If Henry Morgentaler had become notorious for illegally supplying women with a drug which 17 studies have linked to breast cancer and which increases the chance of dangerous future premature delivery, placenta previa, ectopic pregnancy and low birth weight, and which is harmful to the point of increasing the suicide rate for depressed or thought-disordered women, it is not likely the UWO senate would have been fooled into honouring him. Strangely, because that "drug" is the procedure called induced abortion, he will be declared a doctor of laws, *honoris causa*. The UWO news release announcing this reads like a tract full of the shrill euphemisms of the abortion partisan, where the concepts "child" and "dead" need not intrude.

Up until now, people who celebrate Morgentaler have been narrow ideologues of the abortion subculture, and so it is a surprise to see a university body, which could be expected to represent a broader constituency, so eager to identify with such extremism. Morgentaler is indeed an unusual man. A little more than 20 years after narrowly escaping death at the hands of a system that operated by obtaining a tacit public agreement to ignore the humanity of its victims, Morgentaler turned away from the practice of medicine to do abortions.

His disregard for the law was lauded by some as courage, while for others it seemed more obviously a shrewd calculation of the way the wind was blowing through that part of the power elite who were impatient to endorse a disregard for the unborn child, far beyond anything for which they could obtain a democratic mandate. That elite protected Morgentaler and admired the transgressions that could soften the ground for their own legislative agenda. After his Supreme Court conviction, then-Justice Minister Ron Basford ordered a retrial to obtain the preferred result. Morgentaler's medical competence had come into question more than once. For example, in removing his licence to practise in 1976, a medical review panel censured him for "not holding a valid interview before an abortion, for failing almost completely to gather a case history of his client, for failing to perform the necessary pregnancy test or blood test, for not obtaining pathological examination of the 'tissues' removed and for failing to follow up the state of health of his patients afterward."

The perversion of UWO's honorary degree-granting process, which could deliver an endorsement to Morgentaler, is typical of the perversion of our public life which the prevalence of abortion has caused. Honesty is replaced by euphemism; serious political discourse on many other issues is distorted by irrelevant allusions to the participants' opinions about abortion; women truly harmed by the procedure are marginalized by the very feminists one would expect to be most supportive of them. The collegiality and integrity of the medical profession have been impaired. Eugenic concepts that fell into well-earned disgrace during the course of the 20th century have been revived. Across our nation, there are playgrounds empty of the voices Morgentaler stilled forever, there are schools bereft of the striving of the young who were made into nothing by him, there are women injured, not just in ways they can feel every day, but in ways they have no way of knowing.

A university is a place from which to reach for everything that is honourable and beautiful and true, but on the day the University of Western Ontario is visited by Morgentaler, the ill-advised applause will make that university into something less.

**Dr. Will Johnston is president of Physicians for Life and a family doctor in Vancouver.**

## Abortion - Breast Cancer Link

*Special Guest Speaker:*  
**Dr. Patrick Carroll, U.K.**  
**will speak on the ABC Link**

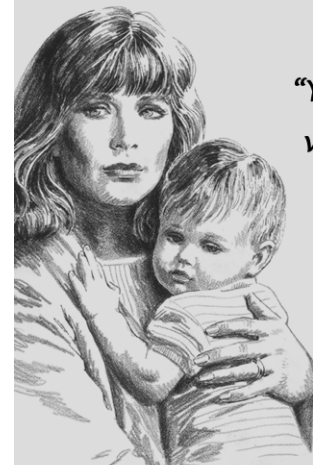
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*"Yahweh called me  
when I was in the  
womb, before my  
birth he had  
pronounced my  
name."  
(Isaiah 49:1)*

**Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council**

website: [www.cwl.ab.ca](http://www.cwl.ab.ca)  
email: [cwlabmk@cwl.ab.ca](mailto:cwlabmk@cwl.ab.ca)

## Study links repeat abortion with abuse

A study published in the March 2005 edition of the *Canadian Medical Association Journal (CMAJ)* found that, "Women undergoing repeat abortion were more likely than those seeking a first abortion to report having been physically abused by a male partner, having experienced sexual abuse or sexual violence and having experienced substantial conflict with the man involved in their current pregnancy."

Researchers, who surveyed over 1,100 women, also found that, "Women presenting for a third or subsequent abortion were more than 2.5 times as likely as those seeking a first abortion to report a history of physical abuse by a male partner or a history of sexual abuse or violence."

The researchers conducted the study in London, Ontario in 1998 and 1999. They reported that, "There is little evidence to suggest that women seeking repeat abortion are using pregnancy termination as a method of birth control." That assumption is presumably based

on their findings that a slim majority of the women, 55.3%, said they were using some form of contraceptive when they got pregnant. Of those using contraceptives, 60% said they were using condoms and almost 40% were using oral contraceptives. (It does make you wonder about all the claims of effectiveness for the pill and condoms, doesn't it?)

The study further stated, "Evidence also does not indicate that women seeking repeat abortion are psychologically maladjusted." This would seem in contradiction to studies by Dr. David Reardon that show post-abortive women experience depression, drug and alcohol abuse and suicide attempts. Dr. Reardon's work has been published in many medical journals, including the *CMAJ*.

The March study concluded that women presenting for repeat abortions should be screened for possible abuse and violence and if necessary redirected for counseling.

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# Why we wear shirts with pro-life messages on them

**By Mark Isinger**

If you wear a pro-life t-shirt, chances are that you will be confronted for it, if you haven't already. As wearers of these shirts, we need to be prepared to counter any objections or questions about doing so. If we are not, we jeopardize the integrity of our message and our character. In all my experience, objections to pro-life shirts (usually well-intentioned) can be placed in two categories. Here they are:

**Objection 1: "These shirts will provoke acts of violence against women."**

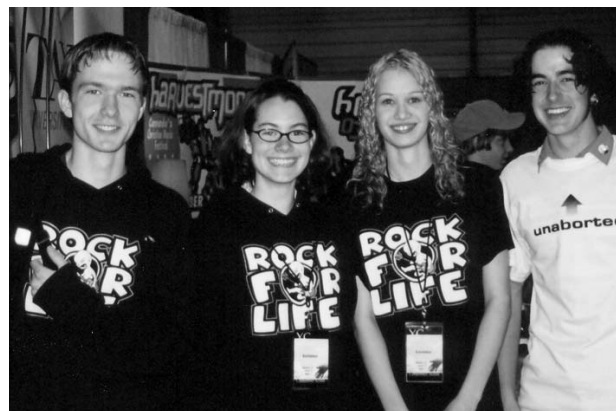
**Answer:** Our shirts are not drawing attention to the actor, but the act. "Abortion is Homicide" is referring to the crime. "I survived" also refers to the crime, as does "Abortion is World War 3." This is the same rhetoric that critics used against Mel Gibson's "Passion of the Christ", that it would provoke acts of violence against Jews. To date, that movie has sparked little, if any negative behaviour of note towards Jews. As well, in the case of "Abortion is WW3" - also our most controversial shirt - our shirts go so far as to call women victims of abortion, as they indeed are. We cite weapons on the shirt, but it is very clear that those weapons are not physical, like bombs and guns. The weapons referred to are apathy and deception. So, in any regard, we are not encouraging physical violence against ANYONE. Rather, we are calling abortion a war that must be fought, and fought with truth and conviction, not weapons.

**Objection 2: "These shirts condemn women who have had abortions and will cause them to be suicidal."**

**Answer:** Before anyone can begin the path to healing, they have to confront what's hurting them. These shirts definitely have the potential to confront. If they

didn't, we wouldn't be wearing them. My wisdom teeth would not get better or go away if I just ignored them, and so I had to get through the initial pain of having them removed, and now I am a more functional, healthy person. Indeed, if abortion is simply the removal of "uterine contents" as it is to some people, then what's the big deal over recalling that experience? It would simply be like looking back on my wisdom teeth experience, and our shirts are no big deal in the first place. If, however, abortion is more than that, then a woman may definitely be confronted with her hurt. Now, she has two choices: she may face it and rebound towards healing and reconciliation, or she may fall deeper into despair. The Bible contains two very concrete examples

of this. Both Peter and Judas were confronted with something they felt terrible about: their rejection of Christ. Peter rebounded, willingly accepted Christ's forgiveness, and went on to become one of the greatest leaders of the church. In fact, Christ concretely gave him the chance to revoke all three denials (see John 21:15-18). Judas, on the other hand, despaired of God's mercy and killed himself (Matthew 27:3-8). Whenever we wear our shirts, we must always pray that God uses them to speak to people who need to hear this message, and that if they hear it, they will accept his love and mercy, for it is there. Always pray before wearing your shirts. Remember, ignoring abortion does not spare a woman hurt, it spares her healing.



**Heather Gemmen and daughter Rachael.**

It's tough to describe this book. Intellectually, it is a pretty easy read—a generally straight chronological story of Heather Gemmen's true story. It's a gripping tale and fairly easy to read in several hours. But, it is an emotional ride that will evoke tears for many readers.

Heather Gemmen was born in Canada but has lived for many years in the United States. She, and her daughter, represent those "rare cases" we like to dismiss as statistically insignificant—the pregnancies that result from rape. Their story plants us squarely in the emotional and psychological dilemma that must face every woman, and there are thousands of them, who are victims of

## Books to read

### **A Startling Beauty: My Journey from Rape to Restoration**

By Heather Gemmen  
Published by Life Journey,  
an imprint of Cook  
Communications Ministries,  
2004

**Reviewed by  
Joanne Byfield**

rape. (When you have over 105,000 abortions annually in Canada and more than a million a year in the U.S., even a fraction of them resulting from rape constitutes a huge number of women and children.)

Mrs. Gemmen was raped at knifepoint in her own home with her children asleep in the next room. She was raised in a strongly religious and pro-life family and is herself pro-life. She was urged by husband, family, clergyman, prayer group, and doctor (a close friend) to take the morning-after pill to ensure she wasn't pregnant. After a couple of days of anguish and reluctance, she did. Again, she became a statistic—one of the many for whom the pills did not accomplish the intended task. Two months later she discovered she was pregnant. More anguish and pressure to abort.

There is, in addition to the pregnancy "problem", her terror at being at home, the response of her husband and friends to her situation, ongoing tests for HIV/AIDS, the police investigation and more.

As the title proclaims, she and her family do move on, heal and eventually triumph over this horrifying event. Heather Gemmen is now an author, children's writer and a public speaker. She travels across North America sharing her story with others.

Startling Beauty is a sometimes grim yet ultimately positive story that should remind us that statistics are, in the end, just numbers. The real story behind them is what matters.

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