

The Rose



THE PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER FOR ALBERTA PRO-LIFE

MARCH 2002

TAX-FUNDED ABORTIONS

By Patty Nixon

Abortions are paid for because the provincial government wants to pay for them, and for no other reason. Many of our members are quite familiar with the "passing the buck" routine that has been going on for years on the issue of who decides whether abortion services get funded or not. As one MLA recently commented, "No one wants to own the issue".

The release of the Mazankowski Report has opened wide the doors for a renewed debate on healthcare, and APL's goal is to draw attention to a gross misuse of taxpayers dollars, the funding of abortion-on-demand.

Since last November, when the media reported that the Mazankowski Report was coming, Premier Ralph Klein has gone on record saying that the funding of abortion services will not be on the list of items being considered for deinsuring, and recently on the Dave Rutherford Radio Show he stated that Alberta must fund abortion services because the federal health ministers have said that the provinces must pay for them. (Former Health Minister Alan Rock did say that but he did not have authority to enforce it under the Canada Health Act.)

There are lots of contradictions taking place right now on this issue, but they are all on the side of the government. Inaccurate and misleading statements on the topic of deinsuring abortion are common. For exam-

ple, one MLA stated in a letter to a constituent that, "The problem arises when doctors prescribe abortions as 'medically necessary'. (Doctors do not write prescriptions for abortions).

Another MLA stated that, "Abortions are a mandated service under the Canada Health Act." (They are not. The Canada Health Act has no list of services that must be insured.) One other common response is, "It is not the federal or provincial government that deems medical necessity, but the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta." (In fact, it is entirely up to the provincial government to decide what services will be covered.) These are just a few of the examples of the types of responses coming from govern-

ment members. In some cases there are fragments of accurate information, but they are mixed together with other statements that are irrelevant to the issue all together.

Certainly government is hoping that the issue of tax-funded abortions will quietly go away and counting on the fact that although you may find time to write them one letter, you may not find time to follow up their responses with another letter asking for documentation to support their claims. It is important to do the follow up letters, but it is even more important for constituents to take the time to go and visit their MLAs. It is one thing for an MLA to write you a

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TAX-FUNDED ABORTIONS

THE FACTS .

Albertans are being asked to consider alternate forms of healthcare delivery due to escalating costs. Abortion should be deinsured because women choose to have abortions for personal reasons, not medical reasons. Polls consistently show that the majority of Albertans (and Canadians) support deinsuring abortions.

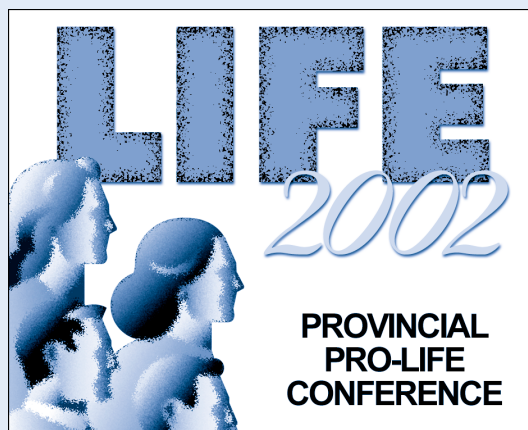
Why are Albertans paying for abortion-on-demand?

How many are we paying for?

Who decides whether abortions are paid for?

Is abortion healthcare?

These brochures are available by calling APL toll free at 1-877-880-5433



Coming Soon!

We would like to invite you to attend the Annual Provincial ProLife Conference - **Life 2002 - A Voice for the Vulnerable** - taking place on May 24 & 25th in Edmonton at King's University College. This is a great opportunity to learn more about prolife issues and how you can make a difference right in your own communities. Check out the great line up of guest speakers and special Youth features as well on page 4 and 5.

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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.



Tax-Funded Abortions

Continued from page 1

letter with only part of the relevant information, but it is quite another thing for them to do this same strategy while you're sitting across the table from them and there's no assistant handy to formulate a response to your questions.

There is no longer any place for government to hide. The Government of Alberta is determined to implement the recommendations of the Mazankowski Report and the first list of services to be delisted will be announced in August. The spillover will be that the once-muddled lines of provincial and federal jurisdiction will be exceptionally clear.

There is substantial documentation already available that clearly states the funding of medical procedures is solely the responsibility of the provincial government. Alberta Pro-Life has put together a "Facts" brochure on tax-funded abortions highlighting all of the relevant documentation. This brochure is an important tool to have with you when you visit your MLA and they begin to make claims that their hands are tied. To get copies of this brochure, please contact the APL office toll free at 1-877-880-5433. You can also request a larger quantity for your local church as well.



Pro-Life News from Campuses & Youth Groups

Campus Pro-Life University of Calgary
campusprolife@hotmail.com

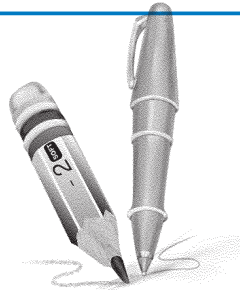
Hey, all you pro-lifers out there! It is awesome that you are involved in helping to save lives in our great province. Recently one of our club members checked out a Planned Parenthood talk where it was said that the abortion rate in Alberta is lower than the national average. If our opponents are saying that, one might well believe it. Be encouraged to keep on investing your energy in speaking out for the right to life. Pro-Life students at the U of C are standing and working alongside you in a club that is growing, and has great expectations. Presently we are involved in a poster campaign and we'll soon be spreading the word about deinsuring abortion. Please keep us in your hopes and prayers. Campus Pro-Life works to raise public support for the pro-life view, beginning with students at the university. If you would like to in any way support us in this work, or know somebody who wants to get involved with our club, contact Andrea Kettle at campusprolife@hotmail.com or (403)293-3137.

Rock for Life Canada
youth_for_truth@hotmail.com

Rock for Life, a youth division of American Life League, has for the past eight years, promoted a culture of life through music and education of today's youth. Just this past year, two Alberta teens have started 'Rock for Life Canada'. Through this, they hope to encourage many teens and young adults to stand up for the unborn and tell our country and our world to "stop killing our generation!" - Rock for Life. Right now they are promoting a Rock for Life youth pledge, for people age 13-30, which they plan to present to the Prime Minister, and Minister of Health with 100,000+ signatures:

We are a loud and determined voice for TRUTH AND LIFE in this culture of death. We stand on the truth of Jesus Christ, whom all of our strength comes from. We stand for the protection of all human life from conception (fertilization) until natural death, with NO EXCEPTIONS, no compromise, and no apologies. We are fed up with the lies that MTV, Planned Parenthood, and our government are pushing down our throats. We will no longer sit silently by as our generation is being systematically SLAUGHTERED through surgical and chemical abortion. This is OUR generation, these are OUR brothers and sisters and we commit to fighting for their lives. You will not silence our message, you will not mock our God, and you will stop killing our generation! If you would like to get involved, sign the pledge, or help collect signatures please contact Mark Isinger, (780)467-8410 or Joanne Pollock, (403)931-3884.

Letters to the editor



Here's why people should vote for Stockwell Day:

- 1 He honors God
 - 2 He is Pro Life
 - 3 He is Pro Family
 - 4 He is Pro Canada
 - 5 He has gone through fire and come out stronger
- This is the kind of man we have been looking for. VOTE FOR STOCKWELL DAY.

Henny van der Gugten,
 Airdrie AB

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 Website: www.albertaprolife.com

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life digest

Abortion promoters lose one

British Columbia's Pro-Choice Action Network (Pro-Can) complained last fall to Advertising Standards Canada about an ad that ran in the *Surrey Now* newspaper and in the *B.C. Catholic*. The ad was bought by Surrey-Delta Pro-Life Society and informed readers about the more than two dozen scientific studies that have linked abortion with breast cancer. Pro-Can argued that the ad was "inaccurate" and "scare-mongering". The group admitted that the ad "appears factual and scientific to an uninformed layperson."

Unfortunately for the group, Advertising Standards Canada must consist of uninformed lay people. In late December, ASC said it would not handle the complaint because there were "serious and noteworthy considerations in the dispute" which are "complex and beyond the resources and expertise" of ASC. In April 2000 the pro-abortion group objected to an ad from Burnaby Pro-Life that featured the "baby parts racket" including a price list for fetal parts that a broker offered to abortion clinics. ASC upheld that complaint and said Burnaby Pro-Life should not run the ad. ASC has no power to enforce its decisions.

Mom not responsible for murdering daughter

A Quebec judge found Rachel Capra-Craig not criminally responsible for the death of her 14-year-old daughter Chelsea. Chelsea suffered with Rett's Syndrome and required constant care. Her mother had refused any help for the child. Mrs. Capra-Craig fed Chelsea a lethal dose of ground up pills. Court heard that the woman wanted to kill herself and did not want to leave her daughter behind. She was also convinced that her husband was molesting the child. In fact, James Craig was arrested at the scene because she told police he had molested the girl. There was no evidence that Mr. Craig had ever molested his daughter. Psychiatrists testified that Mrs. Capra-Craig was delusional, paranoid and depressive and had suffered with depression for years. She was sent to a psychiatric unit where she will stay until authorities decide she is not a danger to herself or society.

A doctor of conscience

The disciplinary committee of College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario is accusing Barrie, Ontario Dr. Stephen Dawson of compromising his patients' mental, moral and physical health. His offense? He refuses to prescribe contraceptives or Viagra to unmarried people. Dr. Dawson is a Christian who believes he would be promoting premarital sex if he prescribes contraceptives to single people. The college says he must refer them to other doctors. He argues that they can find doctors on their own since contraception is not a specialty and he would still be involved if he refers them to others.

Penalties range from a reprimand to suspension or revocation of his license to practice.

Unborn babies now included as children for health insurance

U.S. Health Secretary Tommy Thompson caused an uproar in that country when he announced a change in the coverage of health care programs. Mr. Thompson said in February that State Children's Health Insurance Programs would include unborn children so that pregnant women could access the fund. Abortion advocates like Planned Parenthood and the National Organization for Women (NOW) were hysterical in their reaction to the decision. They saw it as an attack on abortion rights. The optics were a tough sell for these advocates for women. How pro-woman can you be if you object to a program that increases access to health insurance for pregnant women?

Out of body wombs

Scientists say they have created an artificial uterus and experimented with embryos to see if they would attach to the wall. Dr. Hung-Ching Liu at Cornell University removed cells from the endometrium and

grew them in a lab using hormones and growth factors. Researchers grew them on a "scaffold of biodegradable material" and then put embryos "left over" from IVF programs into the scaffold. Dr. Liu says the embryos did attach to the wall but the experiment was stopped after six days. He says they will now repeat the exercise for 14 days, the legal limit for experimenting on embryos. He says they want to see if the embryos "put down roots and veins into our artificial wombs' walls, and see if their cells differentiate into primitive organs and develop a primitive placenta."

Planned Parenthood sued for genocide

The world's largest abortion provider, Planned Parenthood, is facing a class action suit in St. Louis for mass fraud and genocide. The suit alleges that PP committed fraud by failing to inform women of the risks from abortion and the genocide charge is based on the group's targeting of low income and minority women for abortions. The primary plaintiff is Nicole Smith, a black woman from Illinois, who says she was pressured by a PP counsellor to have a second trimester abortion and that she was not told of any risks. She changed her mind about the abortion after a doctor inserted laminaria, a chemical that causes dilation, into her cervix. She asked them to remove it but was told to wait until the following day. Ms. Smith, a mother of three, went to the hospital where the laminaria was removed but her baby died in utero.

FROM THE EMAIL BOX...



I thought that an experience my son and his associate Paul Green have recently had might be of interest to you and to other supporters of pro-life. Paul gave me his permission to share this.

My son Roger and Paul are both psychologists in private practice who share office premises in the west end. Because they are facing a rental renewal at the end of December, they have been considering possible alternative locations.

Their real estate agent phoned them the other day saying that she had the perfect building for them in the west end where they wish to remain - a former medical laboratory, ideally located in an area that was experiencing renewal and redevelopment.

So off they went for a look. On entering the agent began her pitch offering suggestions about how the building could be modified, advantages of location and so on as agents do. Paul, in the meantime, became very agitated and was clearly uncharacteristically disturbed. He sensed pain and great suffering and death all about him, he said, and he could not possibly work there. Yet he could make no sense of it for if indeed previously this had been but a medical laboratory, there should have been but little, if any, of that. His unease continued to grow and he repeated that he could not possibly work there, no amount of new carpeting, paint, etc. would change things. Even when the agent suggested razing the facility and rebuilding Paul was adamant that even that would change nothing. He could not possibly work there.

So they cut their visit short but as they were leaving, Roger and Paul spied a box which had been left behind by the previous tenant. It was marked - you may have guessed - Morgantaler's Clinic. The atmosphere was so oppressive, the pain and suffering and presence of death so palpable that it took Paul several days to get the experience behind him.

It may take some time for that building to find a new tenant. It would be interesting to know what eventually becomes of it.

Therese Gervais

Psalm 139:14
I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.
KJV

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LIFE 2002

PROVINCIAL PRO-LIFE CONFERENCE

Friday, May 24
& Saturday, May 25
Edmonton, Alberta
King's University College
9125-50 Street

A Voice for the Vulnerable



A CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY ALBERTA PRO-LIFE

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: WESLEY J. SMITH

Wesley J. Smith is the author of *Forced Exit: The Slippery Slope from Assisted Suicide to Legalized Murder* (1997), a broad-based criticism of the assisted suicide/euthanasia movement which was published in 1997. His current book is *Culture of Death: The Assault on Medical Ethics in America*, a warning about the dangers of the modern bioethics movement. "Culture of Death" was named one of the Ten Outstanding Books of the Year and Best Health Book of the Year for 2001 (Independent Publisher Book Awards). Smith has been a committed defender of the equality and sanctity of human life since 1993. He is an attorney and consultant for the International Task Force on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Courage to Serve Award 2002

This year's recipient will be announced at the conference. To get nomination forms, please contact the APL office. Nominations must be in by April 15, 2002.

The auction items will be on display beginning at Noon on Friday until Saturday at 5:00 pm. Bidding numbers will be assigned when you register and must be used for all bids. To donate an auction item, please call the office.

The winners of the 2002 Provincial Essay Contest will be announced at the conference.

Exhibitors

We welcome pro-life/pro-family exhibitors for this conference. To obtain information on costs and availability, please call the office.



ALBERTA PRO-LIFE'S



FRIDAY, MAY 24

- 10:00 am Registration Begins
- 12:00 pm President's Luncheon Meeting
Silent Auction opens
- 1:30 pm Annual General Meeting for Alberta Pro-Life
- 3:00 pm Lawrence & Charlotte Cooper – *"Our Journey with Angie"*
- 5:00 pm Supper
- 6:30 pm Father Tom Lynch – *"What it means to be a Voice for the Vulnerable"*
- 7:30 pm **Back Page Challenge** – Meet some of Alberta's finest Media Personalities!
- 8:30 pm Reception – *Tea, Talk & Treats*

AND

Youth Nite with Mark Mallett

A special evening for prolife youth delegates...

MUSIC,
MANNA
& MUCH
MORE



SATURDAY, MAY 25

- 7:00 am Mass/Prayer Meeting
- 7:30 am Breakfast
- 9:00 am Dick Sobsey – *"Killing Children for their Own Good"*
- 10:30 am Break
- 10:45 am Wesley J. Smith – *"Big Lies of the Assisted Suicide Movement"*
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:30 pm Father Tom Lynch *"Is it morally justifiable for proliferators to work on a political compromise on abortion?"*
- 3:00 pm Panel Discussion with Link Byfield, Dr. Will Johnston, Norman Spector & Jason Kenney – *"Should there be a political compromise on abortion, and what would it be?"*
- 5:00 pm Closing Remarks
- 5:30 pm Buffet Dinner
- 7:00 pm Keynote Speaker: Wesley J. Smith – *"Creating a Caste of Disposable People"*

ESSAY CONTEST

ALBERTA PRO-LIFE

2002 Essay Contest

topic: "What would you say to Michael J. Fox to convince him that embryonic stem cell research is not the appropriate approach to curing diseases like Parkinsons?"

\$1200 in cash prizes will be awarded in two categories:

Grades 7 to 9 and Grades 10 to 12	1st Place – \$300 each
	2nd Place – \$200 each
	3rd Place – \$100 each

★ Winning entries will be published in *The Rose*, the quarterly newsletter of Alberta Pro-Life Association.

★ All winners will receive paid registration to a pro-life youth event in the next year.

★ All entries will be considered for publication on our web page as well as other local, provincial, national and international pro-life publications.

contest rules

All entries must be received by midnight, April 12, 2002. Only entries submitted in e-mail format to apl@albertaprolife.com will be considered and a complete bibliography must be included. Please send attached files in a "text only" format. Essays must be not less than 500 and not more than 1000 words, and word count must be posted in a header that also includes first and last name of student, birth date, grade level, names of parents/guardians, school/home school, mailing address and phone numbers. Any entry without complete information may be disqualified.

All decisions by the panel of judges are final. Winners will be notified by e-mail/ phone/mail. All entries become the property of Alberta Pro-Life Association and their affiliated groups upon submission.

Contact info: ph: 780-421-7747
Toll Free: 1-877-880-5433
Email: apl@albertaprolife.com
www.albertaprolife.com

OPEN TO ALL ALBERTA STUDENTS IN GRADES 7 TO 12



Courage to Serve Award

This year's deadline is April 15th for nominations for the Annual Courage to Serve Award. Submissions may be sent to the board of Alberta Pro-Life via fax (780-421-7749) or by email (apl@albertaprolife.com).

We need the name of the nominator, and contact information for the nominee as well. We also ask that you give as much information as possible as to why you believe your nominee should be the recipient of this award. Alberta Pro-Life seeks to honor a pro-life Albertan annually to show their appreciation for their efforts towards restoration of Respect for Human Life in the Province of Alberta.

REGISTRATION

Registrations can also be done on-line at www.albertaprolife.com

CONFERENCE FEES

- Adults \$65 each before May 18, \$75 after
- Students \$25 each (under 25 yrs. old)

MEALS

Please check off which meals you'll need

Friday, May 24

- Lunch \$7
- Supper \$8

Saturday, May 25

- Breakfast \$5
- Lunch \$7
- Pizza Feast \$5 (youth)
- Buffet Dinner \$10

Total Conference Fees _____

Total Meals _____

TOTAL COST _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

- Cheque
- Visa
- MasterCard

SIGNATURE _____

CARD NO. _____

EXPIRY DATE _____

NAME _____

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CITY/PROV _____

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EMAIL _____

- Please check if you're planning on attending the **Annual General Meeting of Alberta Pro-Life**. A Member's Pack will be available to all active members at the registration area.

Accommodations are available at King's University College. Rooms are dorm style, so you may wish to bring additional bedding for improved comfort. Please call early to book a room as spaces are limited. Phone (780) 465-3500.

LIFE 2002 SPEAKERS

Lawrence and Charlotte Cooper live on an acreage north of Stony Plain. They love to travel and have lived overseas...but their most fascinating and enriching journey has been as parents of two chosen daughters, Angela and Carrie. Their princesses, now 21 and 18 years old, do not walk or speak, but they are their "silent teachers". The Coopers are having a great ride and they wouldn't have missed it for anything!

Father Tom Lynch is a Professor of Moral Theology and Ethics at St. Augustine's Seminary in Scarborough, Ontario.

Dick Sobsey is a Professor of Educational Psychology and Director of the JP Das Developmental Disabilities Centre at the University of Alberta. He is internationally known as an award-winning researcher on violence

against children and adults with disabilities. He is the author or co-author of many articles and books including "Violence and Abuse in the Lives of People with Disabilities" and "Educating Children with Multiple Disabilities." He is the father of two school-age children, including an eleven-year-old son with a severe global developmental disability.

Mark Isinger and Joanne Pollock are both part of Rock for Life, a youth division of American Life League. Rock for Life's goals are to promote a culture of life through music and education. Mark and Joanne have just started Rock for Life Canada and have also had spoken to many schools, churches and youth groups on pro-life issues.

Mark Mallett released his first gospel music CD, *Deliver Me From Me*, in 1999 and it has since been nominated for six awards. Mark is touring Canada and has appeared on Vision TV, the Miracle Channel, and 100 Huntley Street. Previous to his music career, Mark was an award-winning TV journalist. He currently lives in Edmonton with his wife Lea and their five children.

Link Byfield is editor and publisher of the *Report Newsmagazine*. Mr. Byfield lives near Edmonton. He is married to Joanne and they have four children.

Norman Spector served as deputy minister to B.C. Premier Bill Bennett and as secretary to the federal cabinet for federal-provincial relations, before being named chief of staff to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. He is now a columnist and political commentator.

Dr. Will Johnston is a Vancouver family physician who has an interest in political philosophy, history, delivering babies, care of the elderly, and other topics germane to the life issues. He is President of Canadian Physicians for Life and Co-Chair of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition of BC.

Jason Kenney was first elected to Parliament in June of 1997 as the member for Calgary Southeast. He served as Official Opposition Critic for National Revenue, and since 2000 has served as the Official Opposition's Finance Critic.

Lila Gault is the M.C. for Life 2002. She is a strong advocate of prolife education and has been involved with Grande Prairie Voice for Life for five years. Lila is a graphic designer and lives with family and husband of 21 years in Grande Prairie.

Welcome to Canada

A Canadian Parable

by Joel Soodsma, Rocky Mountain House, AB



willing to die so another person could live. Bringing dead (or nearly dead) immigrants into Canada seemed to offer hope that this need would be met. Eventually we discovered that if immigrant stem cells were harvested early enough in the journey, we could possibly manufacture just the pieces we need!

Once upon a time, Canada eagerly awaited the arrival of all immigrants. The immigrant journey to Canada took about 9 months. Upon arrival, they became full citizens. Immigrants were sponsored by people who lived in Canada. As a sponsor of a person coming into Canada, one agreed to help him/her with the transition. The new people needed food and shelter, help with the language, "culturizing", and a good supportive home until they were able to go out on their own. Some Canadians eagerly became sponsors. They looked forward to the experience, both the joys and the heartbreaks. Others came to this role with little or no forethought. At some point in their lives, nearly all Canadians personally sponsored an immigrant, some as many as 12 or more.

During the journey to Canada, some of the expected arrivals died. Sponsors would learn of this only when the immigrant ship arrived at the port. Instead of an immigrant to bring home, they would be met by a dead body. They were victims of poor health, or some other unknown disaster. When this happened, the sponsors would feel a deep sense of loss. They would inevitably grieve, then seek to sponsor another person.

As the 9 month journey progressed, some sponsors decided that this was not what they wanted to do with their lives. These people would try to find a way out of their commitment, before the immigrant arrived. All sponsors realized, that once the journey began, there was no going back for the immigrant. They had virtually no communication with the immigrant en route. Some sponsors would find other Canadians to take their role. There were many who were waiting in line to be sponsors for new Canadians.

As technology increased, the knowledge of new immigrants skyrocketed. Some people devised a way to cause the immigrant to die before he arrived in Canada. This was welcomed by sponsors who wanted out of the job. That's when a trained professional would suggest terminating the immigration procedure. Termination was a relatively private matter between the sponsor and her doctor. The procedure was paid for by the government, nobody else needed to know. The immigrant would be killed and the body discarded upon arrival in Canada.

This caused some citizens to wonder, "Is it legal to kill immigrants?" The trained professional assured them that since the expected arrival was not a citi-

zen of any country, the person had no rights; therefore, there was no crime. This rationale was adequate for many sponsors, and brought immediate relief to many anxiety-stricken sponsors.

The process of bringing new people into Canada continued. Arrivals were welcomed and immigration proved to be a great way to build strong families and communities. "Every immigrant was a wanted immigrant!" Most arrivals were healthy, but there were always some who had been injured along the way. Most were loved by their sponsors, and received what they needed to become productive Canadians. But occasionally some sponsors were not adequate. This caused much pain and suffering to the immigrant. However, once in Canada, the immigrant could not go back. So the immigrant had to make the best of it.

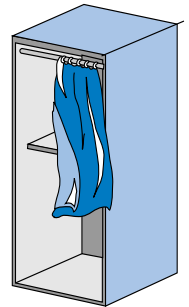
Then Canada discovered that those who arrived dead (or nearly dead) were able to make a valuable contribution to Canada as a dead immigrant. We could use pieces of their bodies to help Canadians! This was a soothing relief for the aching spirit of many sponsors who had terminated their immigration. Others saw this as a renewable supply of scarce human tissue. Prior to this, Canada had a pitifully poor supply of spare human tissue. Most people had enough;

but when a person needed an organ replaced, there was very little hope that they could get one. The Charter of Human Rights made it impossible to take body parts from others; and Canadians just weren't

Canada is moving closer to the day when every immigrant will be a wanted immigrant. Some we want alive, others will be welcome to die en route.

Tell me, is it time for the Charter of Human Rights to preserve the life of 'immigrants'?

APL's Website Poll Results



The questions that were posted on the APL website in December have revealed some interesting results. Voting Booth #1 was "How often have you heard a sermon or announcement on a prolife topic in your local church?" Of the 122 responses we received 29% of the respondents said "never", and 36% said "once a year". While it is encouraging to know that there are in fact churches who are mentioning prolife issues, it is discouraging to see that one third of the people who voted say they never hear anything mentioned in their churches, not even an announcement of an event! 48% of the people who visited our voting booth were of the Catholic faith.

The second question asked, "Which of the following efforts do you think would have the most impact in changing the current government policy, which supports the funding of all abortions?" Of the 124 respondents, 43% said that a personal visit to the MLA would have the most impact, with "petitions" coming in second at 22%. Interestingly, the poll respondents thought that "phone calls" to MLAs would have the least impact with only 4% of respondents selecting it.

If you have suggestions for the website Voting Booth, please submit them by fax to 780-421-7749 or by email apl@albertaprolife.com

NATIONAL HELPLINE 1-800-665-0570

The Crisis Pregnancy Centre of Winnipeg has taken over the operation of the toll free helpline.

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News from Groups

Airdrie & Dist. Pro-Life
Ph: 403-948-8721
kboccabella@shaw.ca

We had a great response to the tax-funded abortion radio ads that we ran in our area! For date and location for the next meeting, please just give us a call.

Calgary Pro-Life Assoc.
Ph: 403-243-0691
pro_life@telusplanet.net

Camrose Pro-Life
Ph: 780-672-7110
brwilson@cnet.ab.ca
Camrose Prolife will be hosting a Dessert Night on April 6th. Our keynote speaker will be Mark Pickup. His talk will be "To be or not to be, the Human Family" (a disabled man's plea). The evening will start at 7:00pm. It will take place at Chuck Maclean Art's Centre, 4809 52 St. in Camrose, which is on the west side of the Camrose Co-op. For more information on tickets and prices call Brian Wilson at 780-672-7110 or by email (above address).

Choose Life Athabasca
Ph: 780-675-4442
rvgoptl@telusplanet.net
After a down time, as it were, we are moving forward again. We've not actually been totally asleep, as our name has been before the community in that (as we mentioned last month) people have had the opportunity to encourage donations to our organization via Super A Grocery here. People deposit their sales slips and a vote for their preferred organization. We are very grateful for the support we've been receiving, and the comments to indicate that we have friends of whom we were unaware. We are working with the administration of the local high school and grade seven school to attempt to have Mark Isinger and Joanne Pollock to do their presentations at the schools. We are also planning to host a dinner at which Don Lee, APL President will speak. The expected date is March 22. We are also doing what we can (with a view to doing more) for a couple of teens who are pregnant. A compassionate lady has been hosting them in her home. The situation has exposed our need to be more fully prepared to come alongside girls in crisis pregnancies, in the most helpful ways.

Citizen's Helping in Life's Defense
Ph: 780-962-8108
tjwill@telusplanet.net

Drayton Valley Respect for Life
Ph: 780-542-7546
mlsmith@telusplanet.net

Edmonton Pro-Life
Ph: 780-425-1637
epl@albertaprolife.com
The various Teachers Conventions held in Edmonton have been keeping us very busy. Tons of great information is available for the many thousands of teachers who attend. There are some wonderful teachers out there who find our information very helpful. Our goal is to someday be able to provide a fulltime educator who could go into the schools to assist the teachers even more. We have also decided to have a booth at the Women's Show called

Women in Motion, to be held April 13 and 14 in the Agricom. What a wonderful opportunity to give our message to this community! We are looking for volunteers to help us out. And, once again, the big project coming up is to have another successful 10-day information booth at Klondike Days - July 18 - 27. We rely very heavily on our dedicated and energetic volunteers for this one - 60 of them! Please give us a call soon to get the time-slot you want! A big thank-you to all the knitters of baby hats and socks. Another 150 sets were just donated to the Royal Alexandra Hospital and are hugely appreciated. Keep up the good work! Please look out for a pamphlet called "Tax-Funded Abortion: The Facts", coming to your church. This timely brochure is also available at the office if you would like to give them to your church congregation. Please give us a call at 780-425-1637.

Edson Action for Life
Ph: 780-723-5372
flicker@telusplanet.net

Fort McMurray Pro-Life
Ph: 780-791-7777
rmarthur@telusplanet.net

Fort Saskatchewan Pro-Life
Ph: 780-992-1507
donald40@hotmail.com

Grande Prairie Voice for Life
Ph: 780-538-3344
vf@telusplanet.net
Walkathon and "Dancing with Zoe"

encore presentation are being planned for June! Please give us a call for the details.....we've been very busy getting plans ready.

High Prairie Pro-Life
Ph: 780-925-2014
rjkcjbeaudoin@yahoo.ca

High River Pro-Life
Ph: 403-395-2106
rayfree@telusplanet.net
We have made plans to have a display table at the Trade Fair in High River on April 26th & 27th. This gives us the opportunity to chat with the public about the perils of abortion and euthanasia. Again we will have on display the models of the fetuses, showing the nine months of development. Many stop by to view these.

Lakeland Pro-Life Association
Ph: 780-639-3601
rlirette@telusplanet.net

Leduc & Dist. Pro-Life
Ph: 780-986-1917
laureen@quixnet.net
Special thanks to Joanne Hatton for coming out to speak at our annual general meeting. Regrettably we have decided to discontinue Leduc & District ProLife effective immediately. For any of our members in the area, please feel free to give us a call anytime for information and materials. Thanks to all those people who have been faithful for many years.

Lethbridge & Dist. Pro-Life Assoc.
Ph: 403-320-5344
lproulife@telusplanet.net

We held our AGM in early February with guest speaker Sue Martinuk. Her topic title was "Making Babies in the 21st Century" and she spoke to a group of over 200 people. We also just finished doing a display booth at the Southern Alberta Teacher's Convention promoting our Celebrate Life Curriculum (grades 1-6). We are working on the junior high curriculum right now. In March we will be having a Bake Sale on the 14th, 15th & 16th, and then coming up on May 26th, will be the Annual Hike for Life. Please call the office for pledge forms for the hike. Also, a special thank-you to Dr. Jim Doyle for speaking on the Insight Program (Miracle Channel) on stem cell research in early February.

Medicine Hat Pro-Life
Ph: 403-527-6743
hortence84@hotmail.com

Pembina ProLife
Ph: 780-674-2952
bdening@telusplanet.net
Our name has changed!! Instead of Barrhead Pro-Life, we call ourselves Pembina Pro-Life to reflect Westlock and Mayerthorpe entering our group. We are planning two events this spring. One is our general meeting in April where some new executives will be elected and the year's work will be summarized and presented. Unfortunately the details of our guest speaker have not yet been finalized. The other event is going to be for our local youth. Once again, details will follow.

Red Deer Pro-Life
Ph: 403-340-2229
louiseo@telusplanet.net
Red Deer ProLife will be running their annual booth at the Westerner

summer fair in late July. Also, our Annual General Meeting (date yet to be decided) will be held in the spring. That's all for now! Give us a call anytime for more information.

St. Paul Pro-Life
Ph: 780-635-3922
cadrin@incentre.net

Taber Pro-Life Assoc.
Ph: 403-223-8452
emoedt@theboss.net

We were very pleased with the turn out at our February Annual General Meeting. Several local dignitaries attended and enjoyed the guest speaker Sue Martinuk. We also gave our annual gift to the New Year's Baby in Taber! Two contests are currently running, and the deadline for both is April 26th. The first one is for Senior High students: "Design-a-Webpage" contest - prize is \$150 & the second one is for Elementary & Junior High students "Design-a-Bench" contest - prize \$75. For more information please contact Sheila Ypma at the above phone number.

Three Hills & Dist. Pro-Life
Ph: 403-443-5356
bruby@telusplanet.net

Wainwright Life Matters
Ph: 780-842-6135
Special thanks to Joan, Doreen & Linda for helping out with the Family Day Carnival this year! We will be having a booth at the Trade Fair in April, and will also be having the carnation sale for Mother's Day and the pen sale for Father's Day. We are also looking for a new location for our adoption sign too. Please give us a call if you're interested in participating!

Wetaskiwin & Dist. Pro-Life
Ph: 780-352-6893

★ I often think
of the
heavens Your hands have made
and of the
moon and stars You put in place
Psalm 8:3

★ And
of
each
little child!

★

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Killing Not a Way to Solve Problems

Anonymous

There comes that difficult moment in the life of a Boomer parent when a child, hearing the word on TV, asks, "What's abortion, Dad?" This is a child, very probably; whose self-esteem has been nurtured in a child-centered classroom where all forms of violence are frowned upon and the mental and physical health of the child is a paramount platform of the curriculum. Thus, when you explain that abortion is the termination of a pre-human life form, she looks at you askance. When you say that it's the killing of a baby before birth, she'll grimace - as all of mine have - and say, "Ugh, that's horrible!" No, you'll counter, it's not horrible because it isn't really a baby until born. How come it's not a baby, she'll ask? She'll recall how she felt her sister kicking inside mommy's tummy, or those ultra-sound pictures she saw, or how her aunt Hyacinth had put headphones on her gravid belly so the "baby" could listen to classical music. By now you haven't the energy to explain the rulings of the Supreme Court, or how her foremothers fought valiantly to be given the "choice" to terminate a pre-human life form, or how the 115,000 Canadian mothers a year who now make this choice couldn't be wrong. And you certainly haven't the heart to tell this maddeningly inquisitive little girl, whose mother's eyes are now looking at you accusingly, that she herself was an

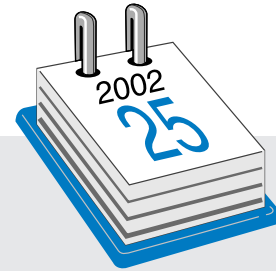


unplanned pregnancy, that she came at a time of financial duress, and that but for the grace of - well - a last-minute change of heart she nearly ended up in a medical waste bin. No, you feel, that might somehow countermand all the fine and good mental health work that's been going on from Mr. Rogers on upwards. Positive self-image and a brush with a clinical vacuum could send conflicting messages. Self-interest never too far beneath the Boomer surface, you also feel it unwise to plant in your child the slightest germ of a belief that some lives are not quite as human as others.

What happens 30 or 40 years down the road when you are a bed-ridden burden on a health care system which, creaking under the weight of Woodstock gone ugly, can no longer support you? Will your daughter pick that moment to recall the alacrity with which you and your generation terminated - or almost terminated - equally bothersome burdens like her wee self? Will her "choice" be to administer a nice injection of Nembutol to their decrepit old papa? We shouldn't run this risk. So with health care reform once more on the agenda, and health minister Gary Mar musing out loud about de-insuring as yet unnamed medical procedures, abortion should probably be first on the list. Never mind that abor-

tion - as former health minister Shirley McClellan put it in 1995 - is generally not a medical procedure, and that most abortions are had by women in their 20s whose health is not threatened. Never mind even that Alberta's 10,000 abortions a year cost the taxpayer more than \$5 million.

What we should be minding is our own and our children's futures. Only through drastic reforms can the medical system last long enough to be there for us when we need it - and without taxing our children to death. And these reforms will have to include the removal of coverage of luxuries like sexual dysfunction treatments and abortions. What's more important here, though, is that the government not be paying for something that strikes my children and roughly half of the adult population as an inappropriate, lazy and brutal means of correcting a sexual error. In 1995 when there was an impetus in caucus to de-insure abortion, Klein felt it too controversial a move and reined his government in. "This is something that can only be decided between a woman, her doctor and God," recited the premier. I would estimate that about 60 per cent of the Tory caucus would favour de-listing abortion and this time the election is four years away. So perhaps there's an opportunity to send a small sign to our children and future keepers that killing - even if it's just a fetus or an incontinent and senile old fart - isn't always the best way to solve our problems.



calendar of events

March 14, 15 & 16 - Bake Sale for Lethbridge & District Pro-Life. Call the office to make donations and for location of the sale. 403-320-5433

March 15 & 16 - AFWUF's 20th Year Anniversary Conference being held in Red Deer, Alberta. Call 403-228-2190 for more information on speakers and to register.

April 5, 6 & 7 - APL & Rock for Life have a display booth at the YC 2002 Conference in Edmonton.

April 6th - Camrose ProLife is hosting a Dessert Night with Mark Pickup. Please call 780-672-7110 for tickets. Come out to hear a very moving presentation by Mark, "To Be or Not to Be, the Human Family".

April 12th - Deadline for Provincial ProLife Essay Contest.

April 12 - Pembina Pro-Life is having a meeting at the Glenreagh Hall (1 mile north of Barrhead and 1 mile west) with guest speaker Joanne Hatton. Joanne will be talking about Embryonic Stem Cell Research. The meeting starts at 8 p.m. Please call MaryAnn Denning for additional information at (780) 674-2952.

April 15th - Deadline for Courage to Serve Nominations.

May 11th - National March for Life in Ottawa 2002 - "Let Them Live" Sponsored by Campaign Life Coalition. Call 1-800-730-5358 for more information or visit www.lifesite.net for details.

May 24 & 25th - Life 2002 Provincial ProLife Conference in Edmonton.

May 26th - Hike for Life hosted by Lethbridge & District ProLife Society.



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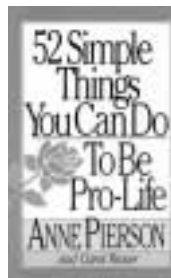
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