

# The Rose

Alberta  
PRO-LIFE



THE PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER FOR ALBERTA PRO-LIFE ALLIANCE ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER, 2003

## Life 2003 A Great Success

by Joanne Byfield

The banners are down, the books balanced and the volunteers and staff who worked on Life 2003: Silent No More have all recovered from the frantic activity of the three day conference. Alberta Pro-Life, which hosted the conference, is gratified at the turnout and very positive response from the close to 500 people who attended the event from all across the country. "We were so pleased to have representatives from every province across the country," said APL President Joanne Byfield. "The next challenge will be to entice some people from the territories."

When all the numbers were tallied 470 people attended the conference and banquet. That number included an astounding 179 young people. Physicians for Life sponsored 19 medical students to attend. The energy and enthusiasm of these youth delegates and speakers were without question the highlight of the conference.

From the first event, a very well attended prayer vigil at the Morgentaler Clinic in Edmonton, to the final banquet with guest speaker David Reardon, the conference truly reflected our theme of



*Conference speakers (l-r order): Joanne Pollack, Mark Isinger and Bryan Kemper. The youth participation was a highlight of this year's national conference.*

"Silent No More." For many people, the testimonies of five very brave women about their personal abortion experiences injected a very real and human face to complement the educational and factual presentations by other speakers. For others, the youth component that combined music, worship and again, personal observations by young people about their exposure to pro-life activism was uplifting, encouraging and an affirmation that the movement will continue for many years to come.

We've put together a photo album of the conference on pages 6 and 7. If anyone would like to

buy CDs of the entire conference or specific speakers, contact Alberta Pro-Life or visit the website of [www.kennedyrecordings.com](http://www.kennedyrecordings.com). Next year's national pro-life conference will be in Winnipeg on October 14, 15, and 16. Mark your calendars.

Alberta Pro-Life and the conference co-sponsors LifeCanada, Campaign Life Coalition and Euthanasia Prevention Coalition would like to thank all those who attended this year's event. In addition, Alberta Pro-Life thanks those who made generous donations to our Silent Auction. We were overwhelmed by the terrific variety and quality of the offerings.

## Canadians are not pro-choice

by Joanne Byfield

For the second year in a row, a Leger poll has demonstrated that the majority of Canadians are not pro-choice, as abortion advocates like to assert. The poll was initiated by LifeCanada, in cooperation with provincial pro-life groups and Physicians for Life, and asked over 1500 Canadians about several issues in October 2003. The results are very encouraging for pro-life Canadians and should be used to focus priorities for the movement.

Leger polled Canadians about their views on when life begins, embryonic stem cell research (ESCR), legal protection for the unborn, informed consent, consent for minors and tax-funded abortion. Two of the questions, legal protection for the unborn and tax-funding, were also asked last year. By repeating the same questions, one can see how consistent the opinion is and whether certain activities might affect public opinion.

These are some of the poll highlights. (To view the entire poll results, go to [www.lifecanada.org](http://www.lifecanada.org) or

contact Alberta Pro-Life.) On the question of when the law should protect human life, 63% thought there should be some protection before birth, 37% said at conception, 21% said after three months and 11% said after six months. Only 28% said there should be no protection until birth. Even more encouraging, the number supporting some legal protection was up from 56% last year. That is a significant jump. In Alberta, more than two-thirds, 67% said there should be protection before birth, compared to 62% last year.

The poll also asked about the use of embryonic stem cells for research and pointed out that ESCR results in the destruction of the human embryo. Respondents were asked if they supported such research or an ethical alternative that would not destroy embryos. Only 21% of Canadians thought ESCR was acceptable. 37% said they preferred ethical alternatives to embryos and 33% said it was not acceptable to destroy embryos for research. In Alberta, 22% supported

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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





# APL Board News

## With Deepest Sympathy



*This fall two of our board members lost their spouses due to illness. The Board of Directors of Alberta Pro-Life would like to extend their deepest sympathy and condolences to these families during this difficult time.*

*John Sealy, husband of Val Sealy, passed away on October 7th*

*Vernie Gordon, wife of Ron Gordon, passed away on December 6th*

*"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."  
Psalm 23:6*

The Board of Directors for Alberta Pro-Life meets three times a year in face-to-face meetings, and in addition holds an average of 5 or 6 phone meetings. Here are some of the recent business items resulting from the last board meeting held Saturday, Nov. 6th.

- 2004 Budget discussions continued, followed up by an afternoon of budget considerations for the upcoming year. The 2004 budget will be finalized at the next board meeting on January 9th.
- Some funding was approved for legal case pending in New Brunswick and Denise Mountenay's Silent No More Canada expenses assisting with this case. See story inside The Rose.
- A motion was passed to purchase the G.A.P. (Genocide Awareness Project) signs to be loaned out to Alberta university and college campuses. You can read about the U of A's plans on this inside The Rose as well!
- In May 2004, there will be a one-day provincial conference held in Edmonton. A smaller provincial conference was recommended in light of the recently held national conference.

### Special Note:

Alberta Pro-Life is actively seeking new members for the provincial board of directors. In May of 2004, we will lose three board members because their terms are up. Under the by-laws of Alberta Pro-Life, no director can serve more than six consecutive years. Leaving the board will be Anne Pinkoski, of Drayton Valley, Bonnie Bredo of Red Deer, and Joanne Byfield of Riviere Qui Barre. Board members of Alberta Pro-Life must be active members. If you are interested, please submit a brief summary of your pro-life experience to Bonnie Bredo by email at [lbredo@rttinc.com](mailto:lbredo@rttinc.com).



*Several Board members at the September 2003 board meeting in Red Deer.*



*Trina Van Straten and Bonnie Bredo at the September 2003 board meeting in Red Deer.*

## 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)



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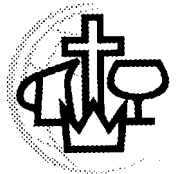
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# Canadians are not pro-choice

Continued from page 1

the destructive research, 40% preferred the ethical alternatives and one-third opposed ESCR. This finding contradicted most other polls that have been reported on this subject. The most likely explanation for this is that unlike most other polls, the LifeCanada poll tells respondents that the research destroys the human embryo. Most polls simply tell people about the possible benefits of the research.

On the question of informed consent, which includes information on fetal development and complications and side effects of abortion, 69% of Canadians and 72% of Albertans agreed that there should be laws requiring doctors to give women this information before performing abortions. This is an area of provincial jurisdiction and it is essential that our politicians, especially Health Minister Gary Mar, understand that almost three-quarters of Albertans want this kind of law.

The poll also asked about parental notification and consent before minors can obtain an abortion. At present, teenagers can have abortions without telling their parents. The Alberta Pro-Life office has heard from two parents in the past year whose daughters, aged 14 and 15, had abortions without their knowledge or consent. Two-thirds of Canadians and 73% of Albertans said parents should either be notified or give consent before their daughters can have an abortion. Again, this is a provincial government responsibility.

Finally, on the question of paying for abortions, another provincial issue, 76% of Albertans and 68% of Canadians disagreed with the current policy of taxpayers paying for all abortions. Last year, 72% of Albertans said abortions should not be paid for by taxpayers, except in medical emergencies or in cases of rape and incest. The increased support for deinsuring abortion is

encouraging but once again, our politicians need to hear about the poll. Albert Pro-Life ran radio ads last year across the province urging people to contact MLAs to tell them to deinsure abortion. These ads and our brochures may have helped push support higher.

The only downside to the Leger poll is that no mainstream English media outlet reported the findings as a news story. One French newspaper in Quebec did. Two sympathetic columnists, Sue Martinuk in the Vancouver Province, and Rory Leishman in the London Free Press, did write about the poll. In addition, two letters to the editor citing the poll have run in B.C. and Saskatchewan.

The media blackout of the poll means that we must find ways to get this information to the public. That will require letters to the editor, calls to radio talk shows and paid advertising in newspapers and on radio. Alberta Pro-Life has already run a one-week campaign in the past month to publicize the findings about tax-funded abortion. We would love to run an ongoing radio campaign throughout the year but we need funding to do that. We invite any individuals or local groups to make a donation to this cause.

We would also urge local pro-life groups to buy ads in local newspapers to promote the findings of the poll or to run ads (You can use ours now on our website at [www.albertaprolife.com](http://www.albertaprolife.com)) on your local radio stations.

It is so important for us to ensure that Albertans and Canadians learn the results of this poll. Pro-life opinion is not fringe or marginal. Many people share our views on life issues. It is our job to continue educating and supporting them.


## Silent Auction 2003 A huge success!



This annual auction has become a key feature in our provincial conferences, and this year with a national audience, made this year's auction the best success yet! We raised \$4500 for pro-life work right here in Alberta! A very special thank-you goes to Bonnie Bredo, from Red Deer, who volunteers each year to organize this event and we are so thankful that she is exceptionally gifted at this task! We also want to thank the many, many donors who contributed items this year. Each year holds its unique items, and this year was no exception all the way from Edna Bonertz's hand-painted rock (quite a race was going for that rock!), Taber's hand made quilt, to a fabulous fly fishing trip in northern B.C., to a trip to Ottawa to spend a couple of days touring the House of Commons! There were beautiful gift baskets, dolls, camping items, and even some prime cuts of Alberta beef. We appreciate every item, small or large that was donated, and your generosity in bidding for these great items was displayed over the course of the weekend conference.

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# Life Chain 2003

*On Sunday, October 5th Life Chains took place all over Alberta! Thousands of Albertans gathered to stand together for a one-hour peaceful protest against abortion, and many will testify that for the first time in many years we had beautiful warm weather to stand outside in! A very special thank-you to the many volunteer organizers who help make the Life Chains happen in their communities.*



*Participants of Edmonton's Life Chain.*



*Participants of High River's Life Chain.*

## Life Canada Update

*by Joanne Byfield*

We've had a busy and rewarding fall at LifeCanada. In October, our new executive director, Carroll Rees, was hired. Carroll has been executive director of Action Life in Ottawa for many years. Her experience will be a great asset for us. Along with office manager, Karen Young, we now have a good team to proceed with our educational work across the country.

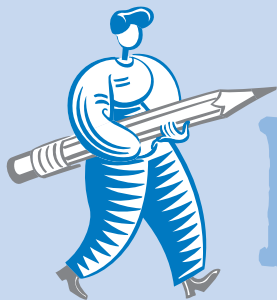
We also commissioned our second annual Leger poll to measure the opinions of Canadians on certain life issues (for results, see cover story and page 3). Most of the provinces and Physicians for Life worked with us to help pay for this initiative. We will be conducting polling annually to assess trends and try to measure the effects of various media campaigns. Our poll received little media attention so one of our goals for this year is to develop a strategy to get this information into the hands of Canadians. We see this as crucial to our role as a national educational group.

LifeCanada was co-sponsor of this year's very successful national pro-life conference in Edmonton. Our AGM, held in Edmonton before the conference, was well-attended.

We are hoping to make a presentation to the Senate committee that will be studying Bill C-13, the Assisted Human Reproduction Act. The bill will probably be back in the Senate once Parliament reconvenes after Christmas.

LifeCanada has just received copies of a new video produced by Dr. Joel Brind on the link between breast cancer and abortion. LifeCanada is the Canadian distributor for the video, which costs \$30 (or \$25 apiece for three or more). Carroll Rees has included Canadian statistics and information to accompany the video. Please contact LifeCanada to purchase copies.

We encourage all local groups to join LifeCanada. Individuals can also help LifeCanada by supporting our affinity MasterCard program or by becoming a monthly donor to our organization. Call the office toll free at 1-866-780-5433 or go to [www.lifecanada.org](http://www.lifecanada.org)



## 2004 Essay Contest

**Topic:** "Do you think women might change their minds about abortion if they were fully informed before they give consent for the procedure? What information should be included and should the law require such information be given to abortion-minded women?"


Full contest information is available at [www.albertapro-life.com](http://www.albertapro-life.com). The contest is open to Alberta students in junior & senior high school. The deadline for submissions is April 5, 2004. Cash prizes!

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# LIFE DIGEST

compiled by Joanne Byfield

## There's still hope to defeat Bill C-13

For more than a year now, Bill C-13, The Assisted Human Reproduction Act, has been on the verge of becoming law. The bill, which will legalize embryonic stem cell research, has passed the House of Commons but not the Senate. Since parliament was prorogued in November, it is unclear what will happen. Paul Martin, the new prime minister, could re-introduce the same bill and send it to the Senate, or he could introduce an amended bill or scrap the bill entirely. Speculation is that the bill will be reintroduced as is and will have to go back to first reading in the Senate. Several groups and some MPs hope to convince the Senate to split the bill, so that the ban on cloning will be voted on separately from the rest of the provisions. (There are some problems with the definition of cloning in that it will not cover all the technologies that can produce cloning.) It is important to contact your provincial senators to urge them to oppose embryonic stem cell research, which kills the developing embryo. For list and contact numbers for Alberta's Senators, go to <http://www.parl.gc.ca/common/senmemb/senate/isenator.asp?sortord=P&Language=E>

## Is a cleft palate justification for death?

An Anglican curate in Great Britain has won the right to challenge the legality of a late-term abortion after doctors determined the baby had a cleft palate. The curate, Joanna Jepson, was born with the same condition and argued that police should have investigated the abortion because under British law abortions over 24 weeks are illegal unless there is evidence that the baby would be "seriously handicapped." Rev. Jepson says that although a cleft palate requires surgery to correct, it cannot be considered a serious handicap. The incident has ignited a public debate about the issue of abortion and in particular using abortion to eliminate people with disabilities. Rev. Jepson says she has been encouraged by the amount of public support she has received.

## Terri Schiavo's fight continues

On December 19, lawyers for Michael Schiavo were scheduled to appear in court to argue that the Florida legislature violated the state constitution by passing "Terri's law". The law, supported by Florida governor, Jeb Bush, ordered doctors to restore the feeding tube to Terri Schiavo. The tube had been removed six days earlier by her husband, Michael. Mrs. Schiavo's parents and her husband, who is living with another woman with whom he has fathered two children, have been fighting for years over Terri's treatment. She has been severely disabled since she collapsed in 1990 at the age of 27. She is not on life support but cannot swallow on her own and requires a feeding tube to live. Since 1998, her husband has been trying to have her feeding tube removed and has denied all rehabilitation therapy for her. The Florida legislature also ordered an investigation by a guardian who reported early in December that Terri was unlikely to recover but she should be tested

to determine if she can be taught to swallow. For more detailed information on her situation, see [www.terri-fight.org](http://www.terri-fight.org). Alberta activist Mark Pickup, founder of Human Life Matters, has worked very hard to assist Terri's family in raising awareness of the case and tried this past fall to have the Canadian government offer asylum to Terri Schiavo.

## RU-486 kills another pregnant woman

Holly Patterson of Livermore, California, died in September after taking the abortion pill RU-486. Holly was 18 years old and her parents were unaware she was pregnant. A coroner's report said she died from "septic shock, due to endomyometritis due to therapeutic drug-induced abortion." RU-486 is in fact a combina-

tion of drugs, mifepristone and misoprostol, which taken in combination cause an abortion up to seven weeks of gestation. The drug causes severe pain and bleeding as it aborts the implanted embryo and causes contractions to expel the dead baby. Holly went to the emergency department four days after taking the pills she got from a local Planned Parenthood clinic but her symptoms of pain and bleeding were consistent with the expected side effects of the drugs. She was sent home and returned three days later vomiting and in severe pain and died that day. Many groups in the U.S. have complained that the drug was approved without appropriate long-term studies on its safety. A young Canadian woman died in 2001 during trials of RU-486 by Vancouver's Dr. Ellen Wiebe. Health Canada investigated the death but will not release their findings to the public. The government department claims that the findings belong to Dr. Wiebe.

# CALENDAR OF events



## January 28th

Edmonton Prolife asks you to join your fellow citizens for one hour in showing solidarity with the unborn as we mark the 16th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision to decriminalize abortion in Canada. We will meet in front of the Edmonton Law Court buildings. Signs available at 11:30 p.m. Call the Edmonton Prolife office at 780-425-1637 for more information.

## January 23-35th

Alberta Pro-Life will be one of many exhibitors at Edmonton's Breakforth Conference being held at the Shaw Conference Center.

## January 24th

Edmonton Prolife is hosting a "Life Principles" Saturday workshop with an overview of the "Life Principles" video series. Call the Edmonton Prolife office at 780-425-1637 for more information or to register.

## Feb. 13-15th

Rock for Life Southern Alberta is hosting a leadership training and activism weekend at the Peacefield Retreat Center, near Millarville. Although the workshop is already filled, you can contact Joanne Pollock to go on a waiting list, or if you'd like to just join them for the activism portion of the weekend, you can get the information by contacting her at [joannapollock@catholic.org](mailto:joannapollock@catholic.org) or by phone at 403-931-3884.

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# THE SPEAKERS



*Dr. Janet Epp Buckingham of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada*



*Scott Klusendorf from Stand to Reason*



*Keynote Speaker Dr. David Reardon of the Elliot Institute*



*Bioethicist Richard Doerflinger of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops*



*Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director for the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition*



*Heather Stilwell, Surrey School Board Trustee, participated in the Friday Panel Discussion with Mary Ellen Douglas (CLC), Hermina Dykxhoorn (AFWUF) & Karen Murawsky (CLC)*



*Ted Byfield of the Christian History Project*



*Focus on the Family's Derek Rogusky*



*Rock for Life founder Bryan Kemper*



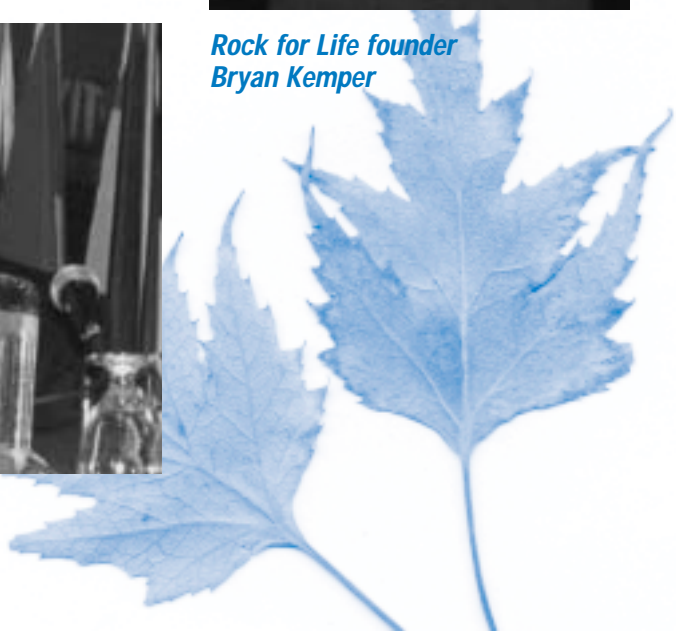
*Our political panel Stockwell Day and Pat O'Brien*

# Life

*A special thank you to Kevin and Sandy L... Life Edmonton... pictures in this*



*Many thank you to people who helped make this national conference a success! Volunteer your time and talents and promote their efforts with pleasure to help make this national conference together nearly 50 years all over Alberta. Thanks so much*





# THE YOUTH

# 2003

Thank you goes to Drayton and Rock for many of the centre spread.



*Suzin Pinkoski of Drayton Valley*



*Janelle and Jason Reinhart of Life Vision Communications*



*Youth delegates spread the message of life at West Edmonton Mall*



*A rare moment of relaxation at the conference*

us have gone out helped make the conference such a success. Members gave of their time to help organize the conference, and it paid off. It was a great success this year's conference and bring 1000 proliferers from across the province and Canada. Thank you for coming!

# OTHER FEATURES



*Photo Contest winning picture taken by Stephanie Gray - Toddlers for Life!*



*Our Back Page Challenge Panel: (l to r) Joe Woodard, Wade Sorochan and Link Byfield with moderator Joanne Byfield*



*The mystery guests who stumper our panel: (l to r) Alliance MP Stockwell Day, disability activist Mark Pickup and Alberta's Mad Cow (Angela Kurzitzka!)*



*Manitoba's Laverne Hudson invites everyone to the 2004 national conference in Winnipeg*



# news from groups

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**CHOOSE LIFE ATHABASCA**  
Ph: 780-675-4442  
wurfel@telusplanet.net

**C.H.I.L.D.**  
Citizen's Helping in Life's Defense  
Ph: 780-962-8108  
sheila053@hotmail.com  
C.H.I.L.D. sponsored two adults to attend the national conference in early November and after a brief hiatus meetings will be resuming in January of 2004. We are never short of ideas of what we'd like to be doing, but definitely looking for people who could join us to lighten up the workload in our area. We would very much like to work on organizing a youth contingency to attend the upcoming Drayton Youth for Life

conference next October. If you have some good contacts with the youth in our churches, we need you!

**DRAYTON VALLEY RESPECT FOR LIFE**

Ph: 780-542-7546  
matt64@telus.net  
It has been a hectic beginning, but I am grateful, that obviously God had His Hand upon us. Since our last A.G.M., when we considered other options, it was gratifying that most of our executive positions have been filled, and would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have volunteered. Kathy Haglund, Doris Reid and Marguerite Rougeau have volunteered to help out Angela as phoners. The national conference was a huge success and I am delighted to be able to come back with so much new (as well as existing) material and information. Also the sessions were excellent and most informative. A complete set of CD recordings is available

(of the conference) from myself, as well as a video with learning library, "Making Abortion Unthinkable". We are also checking out the possibility of putting a pro-life message on van, as in large tractor-trailer, that travels all over Canada and United States, and we are working on getting the costs of applying the message and the fee to the truck owner.

**EDMONTON PROLIFE**  
Ph: 780-425-1637  
edmpl@interbaun.com  
www.edmontonprolife.org

Life would like to extend our wishes for a blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year. We have experienced a lot of excitement as well as many changes this past year. Education continues to be our top priority and in the past four years we have had the privilege of presenting our programs to well over 13,000 students/adults in the Peace Region. The biggest adjustment we experienced was the restructuring of the Executive Director and Educator positions into one position. In September we happily welcomed our new Community Educator Amy Hansen, and sadly said farewell to Cristal Morin and Lila Gault as they moved on to new things. Finally, we had a few changes to our board as Clem Jaeger and Angie Werk both felt it was time to take a step back. We appreciate all that they did for Voice for Life and wish them bless-

allowing us to encourage a respect for Life in all of its wonderful and challenging stages. We sincerely wish you all the best.

**HIGH RIVER PRO-LIFE**  
Ph: 403-395-2106  
rayfree@telusplanet.net  
As times flies by we do well to reflect on the past two months and show what High River Pro-Life has experienced in that time. In October we had a very successful apple sale as our yearly fundraiser. 260 - 40 lb. boxes were sold at a profit of \$10 per box. Hats off to the person who volunteered to pick the apples up at Creston for free and those who did all the selling locally and especially those who bought from one to five boxes. Besides the regular pro-lifers there were many who helped in the sale to make it a two-day event. Four adults and at least six youth attended the national conference from High River. It takes a lot of organizing to put on an event like a national conference. There is real organizational skill involved to find speakers and volunteers to come forward to relate to their experiences. High River Pro-Life would like to send a big bouquet to those who did this. We also sponsored in part the youth who went to the conference, while someone provided a traveling van for free. It was just in the last week before the conference that everything fell together. We thought after much campaigning that it would be only the regulars who would go up, but we were pleasantly surprised to see that many youth came! We had the youth at our local meeting in November relating to the experiences and insight they received from the speakers. They were very impressed and especially in the Saturday program it was in their words "very cool". Hats off to all the youth at the conference. It is a great reward to see so much interest in pro-life by youth. "We know to who to give the glory."

**LAKELAND PRO-LIFE**  
Ph: 780-639-3601  
rlirette@telusplanet.net

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

Lethbridge and District Pro-Life plans to expand its educational efforts by encouraging and supporting the development of post abortion counseling through Project Rachel. They will be placing information racks in public washrooms in an effort to inform the public of the services of Project Rachel. Winners of the Elsie Alexander Scholarship for 2003 were Bethany Moerman of Lethbridge and Srecko Pontavich of Coalhurst. Congratulations!

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

**PEMBINA PRO-LIFE**  
Ph: 780-674-2952  
bdening@telusplanet.net  
The board is in the process of planning a one-day youth event for the spring. Any ideas and/or volunteers from the area are more than welcome! Also, we're busy "cleaning up" our signs. They've been vandalized three times now (which means that at least we know our message is being read :)

**RED DEER PRO-LIFE**  
Ph: 403-340-2229  
lbredo@rttinc.com  
Red Deer and District Pro-life are making up wall posters of fetal development to distribute to churches, schools and doctor's offices. We meet every 4th Monday at Parkland Christian Church for our meetings. Everyone is welcome. Our next meeting is January 26, 2004 at 7:30 at Parkland Church. Call to 340-2229 to confirm.

**TABER PRO-LIFE**  
Ph: 403-223-8452  
emoedt@theboss.net

**WAINWRIGHT LIFE MATTERS**  
Ph: 780-842-6135  
kdcam@telusplanet.net  
I'm pretty sure that we will have our Family Day Celebration again this year, I think it is the 7th or 8th year now! It will be coming up in February, so we are busy getting our plans together. Any helpers would be very welcome! Wishing all of our members and volunteers in our area very Merry Christmas!

**WETASKIWIN & DIST. PRO-LIFE**  
Ph: 780-352-6893





Participants of Edmonton's Life Chain

**FORT McMURRAY PRO-LIFE**  
Ph: 780-791-0306  
pslawr@telus.net  
Our bazaar table at the Fr. Mercredi Christmas Bazaar on November 22nd, was a success with many people looking at our display of fetal models. Fort McMurray Pro-Life supporters were very generous providing us with baking to sell. A pamphlet on stem cell research is being distributed to schools and churches. We also produced and distributed a local newsletter

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

ings in their new pursuits! We are pleased to announce that although Cristal is no longer on staff with us she will continue to be with us for a while, to fill the position of Vice President. As a non-profit organization we have been very focused on fundraising to meet our educational goals. The highlight was definitely our fall banquet with Dr. Darrel Reid (President of Focus on the Family Canada) as our guest speaker. With close to 200 people and over \$6000 raised, the banquet was a great success! We would like to send a huge thank you to the many churches, volunteers, and businesses for your faithful support in

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada —**  
protecting the sanctity of human life.

*"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  
email: cwiabmk@cwl.ab.ca



# My Hero, My Mom

Twenty-four years ago my mother left home and moved across the country. Years of rules and religion forced upon her by overbearing parents and their cultish community finally caused her to give it up and venture out alone. On a family vacation to Ontario she decided she wasn't going home. Just 17 years old and thousands of miles away from home, my mom was finally free.

With her life of chains and restrictions left behind she moved on to be free and wild. She became a biker, and a got a steady boyfriend years older than herself. I have been told many hilarious stories about the time she spent frolicking, and goofing off. Of my dad doing stupid stunts, and the many times they put their life in danger, yet always came out alive. As reckless as she was though, my mom did only have one boyfriend during this time. And although she had never finished high school, or had any formal training, she managed to live comfortably.

It was about 4 years later when she got pregnant. She told my father the news, and was turned away. Didn't they use protection? It couldn't be his. They'd used protection. She must have cheated on him. She did something wrong.

Instead of love and support, she was rejected by the man she loved. His answer to her problem was abortion. It wasn't his, so he didn't care.

My mother thought differently though. The problem now was where could she go? She had left home at 17, rejecting her parents and their beliefs, and shaming them in front of all their peers. Her boyfriend and love of her life wanted it gone, or her gone. And she couldn't support herself. She hadn't even finished high school! My mom was in a hopeless situation.

At 21 years of age, my mom went back to British Columbia. Going home she realized she was accepting, and telling everyone that she was a failure. She went back to her hometown to face the judgement of everyone she had grown up with. She went home... alone.

Finally she had me. I was over 9 lbs and 3 weeks past my due date. Labour was intense for her, and they didn't have epidurals then.

Finally though she had me, a beaming baby boy. It didn't end there though. She was still without money, a job, or an education. People still looked down on her in society, as a run-away single mother. For the first 2 years of my life we moved around Western Canada, looking for a place to call home. Finally we settled in Edmonton, and have never left.

When I was about three my mom decided to get her High School Diploma. Juggling part time jobs, and me, she enrolled in a Community College Program. Shortly after starting her program, she got pregnant a second time. The school did not embrace this new turn of events however, and asked her to leave. She was unwed, and couldn't be allowed to stay and disgrace the school.

I was four when my mom had my sister. Three years later, my sister's father died in an automobile accident. Again my mother was alone.

My mom is a fighter though. She did finish high school, with High Honours. She went on and entered university.

Sometimes we lived on macaroni and cheese, and some days my sister and I ate, while my mom went

hungry. My mom wore the same purple winter jacket, which had lost its insulation a year before, so that we could have warmth. I don't remember once being left in want. Sure I didn't play hockey, or wear designer clothes, but I always had love at home. My memories consist of playing with those guns with the sticky bullets. Somehow she always got me between the eyes. I remember tobogganing, and playing soccer. I don't even ever remember her missing one game for anything else. I remember being loved.

My mom graduated on the dean's honour list as an RN about 6 years ago. I remember how proud my sister and I were as we cheered when she went across the stage. Nobody else probably even noticed us, or remembered, as hundreds crossed that stage that day. But that was our mom. That was my mom.

My mom still hasn't made it to glitz and glory, but she is my all time favourite person, and my hero. I can only wait until I graduate from college in a couple years.

My mom taught me many things, one of them being about a God that still provides, and watches. And although she seems to not be the most spiritual woman around, I have seen her tears as she cries out to God, sometimes in thanksgiving, sometimes frustration. Soon I am entering ministry myself. My mom, the one who left home partly because of religion, has raised a pastor. It is sort of ironic, extremely amazing. I can say though, that my mom is my hero, the first I always think of when asked to list my favourite people, and the one person I know will always love me.

My mom was strong. The only reason I am alive and where I am is because of her. It is because she chose to ensure I have life. It is because of her I am alive.

Footnote:

*I met the author of this testimonial at YC2003 this past year, and he told me his story briefly because we had t-shirts at our booth that said "unaborted" on them and "unaborted" was also the name he used for his email! The story was very moving and I asked him to share it in The Rose. The author prefers to remain anonymous.*



## Healing the Culture:

A Commonsense Philosophy of Happiness, Freedom, and the Life Issues by Robert J. Spitzer, S.J. Ph.D. with Robin A. Bernhoft, M.D., Camille E. De Blasi, M.A.

*Reviewed by Eileen Rebstock*

The right to life is so basic that society's support for abortion never fails to shock pro-lifers. It seems unbelievable that a person, after seeing photos of the child within the womb, could still believe abortion is acceptable.

The answer, according to Spitzer, lies in the understanding of the human person. A person has traditionally been defined as "a being possessing an intrinsic guiding force (whether this be merely genetic, a soul, or both) toward fulfillment through unconditional, perfect and even infinite truth, goodness, love, beauty and being." When that definition is discarded, and a person is defined by his or her appearances, actions, or capabilities, the human person is devalued.

Spitzer explains that the key to pro-abortion mentality is the culture's understanding of happiness. All people want to be happy. However, happiness is difficult to find. When faced with suffering, people's reactions will depend on their view of real happiness.

Happiness has classically been divided into three levels. Level One happiness (laetus) is the happiness caused by gratification of our senses. We are happy when we eat an ice-cream cone. Level Two happiness (felix) is the happiness of ego-gratification. We are happy when other people love, respect, or obey us. Level Three happiness (beatitudo) is when we gain happiness through serving other people, and making a difference in the world around us. Level Four happiness (gaude) is the desire for perfection.

As Spitzer writes, "A person operating exclusively out of Level 2 desires will find it extraordinarily difficult to care about the intrinsic goodness and transcendental mystery of a person. They form their identity through comparisons which emphasize tangible characteristics while de-emphasizing intangible characteristics such as intrinsic goodness, lovability, and transcendent mystery. Hence, an essentially Level 2 perspective compels one to view "persons" in terms of exterior characteristics, talents, I.Q., potential for competitiveness, etc. People who possess less of these characteristics seem to be lesser persons. They seem to be less than fully human and fully alive."

To end abortion, we need to change the culture's view of personhood, happiness, and the purpose of life. It is a huge task, but one that cannot be avoided. If we are successful, not only will abortion be ended, but we will become a better, more loving, and happier society.

### Check out these websites...

Canada Family Action Coalition  
[www.familyaction.org](http://www.familyaction.org)


Alberta Federation of Women United for Family  
[www.afwuf.org](http://www.afwuf.org)

Real Women of Canada  
[www.realwomenca.com](http://www.realwomenca.com)

Christian Legal Fellowship  
[www.christianlegalfellowship.org](http://www.christianlegalfellowship.org)

Focus on the Family Canada  
[www.fotf.ca](http://www.fotf.ca)

Evangelical Fellowship of Canada  
[www.evangelicalfellowship.ca](http://www.evangelicalfellowship.ca)




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# pro-life youth report

by Anne Pinkoski

*The Youth Day of the recent Canadian National Pro-Life Conference was a rousing success thanks to our four speakers and Life Vision Communications, featuring Janelle Reinhart.*

Each presentation was unique with a different aspect of life issues but each communicated the message that being young is no excuse for being inactive. And with models like Bryan Kemper and Scott Klusendorf, how can youth not get involved?

The first speaker of the day, Trina Van Straten, has since been approached by her local Catholic Women's League to speak at their December meeting, and someone at the conference asked if she would consider coming to Manitoba to speak.

Joanne Pollock and Mark Isinger were the second speakers. Joanne is currently planning a series of talks with Michael Chiasson who was the other guitar player with Life Vision Communications. She is also doing some planning to organize a training workshop in February of next year for youth leaders. Mark's Rock for Life Chapter organized a prayer vigil in front of Morgentaler's abortuary in Edmonton on November 11th. They displayed the message that as we remember the many men who lost their lives fighting to preserve our freedoms, we must also remember our many unborn whose lives were lost to the abortion battle.



*Several youth taking in a speaker at Life 2003.*

The last speaker, Suzin Pinkoski, will be speaking at her local Youth for Life group on December 9, is booked to speak to the Junior and Senior High student body at a school in Drayton Valley and was approached at the conference to come to Nova Scotia to do some presentations.

Both Scott Klusendorf and Bryan Kemper put forth the challenge to those present to consider full time pro-life work. I know of at least four young people who want to accept their challenge. It is now our challenge to help make this happen.

At least one third of the conference delegates were thrilled to participate in the spontaneous pamphlet passing in the Mall during the lunch hour. Many of these same youth, along with many adults took a bus to pray in front of the abortuary on the first day of the conference, too. Both events strengthen and encourage making a statement publicly and when done with friends, it becomes less intimidating.

Apart from the conference, National Campus Life Network's Alberta Rep., Nadine McCusker, is working with Campus Pro-life to train youth teams to go into schools, youth groups, church groups, etc. to make presentations. And you can read about the plans to bring GAP to Alberta elsewhere in this issue of *The Rose*.

Probably the best way to get in touch with any of the above active, involved, vivacious, sincere, committed, talented and knowledgeable young people is by calling Alberta Pro-Life or emailing me at [lornep@telusplanet.net](mailto:lornep@telusplanet.net). Wouldn't it be wonderful to put them to work? Think about it the next time your group is planning a pro-life event.

# GAP

## coming to U of A

by Mark Isinger, Rock for Life  
Edmonton

The U of A Campus Pro-Life group has big plans for the spring. They are going to hold a GAP demonstration on school property, hopefully in March. Campus Pro-life is hosting this demonstration with the help of Stephanie Gray and the Canadian Center for Bio-ethical Reform. The Genocide Awareness Project (GAP) is a traveling photo-mural exhibit that compares the contemporary genocide of abortion to historically recognized forms of genocide. It visits university campuses around the country to show as many students as possible what abortion actually does to unborn children and get them to think about abortion in a broader historical context. It is very exciting that this is going to be held not only in Edmonton, but in Alberta for the first time. Campus pro-life needs to raise \$3000 dollars to purchase 10 of these billboards, as they plan to make this an annual event. Members of the U of A pro-life group had been planning to hold a GAP demonstration on campus for some time, but in the words of one member, "I was starting to get discouraged and I reached a point where I just threw my arms up and said, 'Okay God, if you want this to happen, do something. Show me today if this (GAP) is supposed to happen.'" That very same day, after an appeal to his church, he and his sister raised \$1100 towards the project! By the grace of God U of A pro-life is well on the way to accomplishing their goal. Please support them by your prayers. If you are interested in donating towards this project, you can send cheques payable to Campus Pro-Life and mail them to: GAP, 9310 93 St., Edmonton, AB, T6C 3T8. For more information, call Chuck or Sara @ (780) 465-2248.


This excerpt from [abortionno.org](http://abortionno.org) details the rationale for using graphic images to depict abortion:

"It is our policy to treat everyone who approaches the GAP display with respect. We do not yell or use amplified sound. CBR holds staff and volunteers to strict rules of engagement. We know that the images we display are not pleasant. They represent an injustice of such magnitude that words alone fail us. Until injustice is recognized, however, it cannot be eradicated. We place our images in the public square because it is the last mass-media venue available to us. For all the people who will not take the time to be educated about abortion themselves, we bring the education to them.

By placing abortion images alongside traditionally recognized forms of genocide we are expanding the context in which people think about abortion. Throughout history, we as a society have a sad legacy of dehumanizing those who get in our way or have something we want. Once a people group is dehumanized, it becomes very easy to justify their mistreatment and destruction. Such is the current plight of the unborn child.

Genocide is always built on the "choice" of those in power to systematically destroy those who are not in power. Though unborn embryos and fetuses are the most helpless and dependent members of the human race, these factors have somehow become the justification for their execution rather than their protection. Over 274 times a day, we as a nation that responds to the difficult circumstances of "unwanted" pregnancy with violence rather than compassion. The most basic and fundamental human right, the right to life, has been stripped away from our unborn children to guarantee a far lesser right for their moms, the right to not be pregnant."

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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# Courts to decide whether abortion is a right

by Joanne Byfield

The case has received little publicity across the country but its outcome will affect every Canadian. Henry Morgentaler is suing the province of New Brunswick because it will not pay for any abortions performed at his private, for profit abortion clinic in Fredericton. New Brunswick is the only province with private clinics that does not pay any portion of their cost.

Morgentaler has tried before to use the courts to force NB to pick up his costs but he has not succeeded. This time, however, he is arguing his case on the basis of Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms. He wants the courts to find that women have a constitutional right to abortion and that right extends to forcing taxpayers to pay for all abortions. If he wins in the Supreme Court of Canada, provinces will be stripped of their right to decide whether or not to pay for abortions.

At present, there is no law restricting abortion in Canada but there is no legal right to abortion either. The law governing abortion was struck down in 1988 (in a case brought by Morgentaler) but the court invited Parliament to enact another law if it wished to protect unborn children. The Supreme Court of Canada did not rule in that case that women had the right to abortion. It decided that the existing law, which required therapeutic abortion committees and the approval of two doctors, was not applied equally across the country and was therefore unconstitutional.

The province of New Brunswick is opposing Morgentaler's case. Peter Ryan, executive director of New Brunswick Right to Life (NBRL) is worried that the province will not defend the right to life of the unborn or detail the harm abortion does to women. NBRL has filed a request for intervenor status in the case to argue those points. Joining them in this intervention is the Coalition for Life and Health, 15 pro-life groups that include Physicians for Life, Campaign Life Coalition, REAL Women, Focus on the Family, Evangelical Fellowship of Canada and others.

Mr. Ryan points out that this case will set the course for the entire country. A win for Morgentaler means Canada will have its own Roe v. Wade, in which abortion is a constitutional right, but unlike the U.S., taxpayers will be forced to pay for the over 100,000 abortions performed on demand every year.

NBRL is facing huge legal costs if it wins intervenor status. This provincial group is responsible for the entire tab which, if the case goes to the Supreme Court of Canada, will cost over \$100,000. If you can help defray these costs, please make a donation. All contributions are tax-deductible and should be sent to Legal Defense Fund, NBRL, P.O. Box 113, Station A, Fredericton, NB E3B 4Y2. For more information call NBRL at 506-459-8990 or email to [nbrl@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:nbrl@nb.sympatico.ca)

## silent scream

There's a darkness in our midst.  
An evil stronghold we must break.  
Little ones that God has given,  
trampled down before they wake.

Pro choice, the given rational,  
seems to ease the conscious pain.  
There is no excuse for killing,  
all our reasons are in vain.

These tiny babes, so loved by God,  
yet are slaughtered, in the womb.  
The very place, made just for life,  
has become a darkened tomb.

Angels hide their face in horror,  
forced to turn their wings away.  
Now they cradle, these poor babes,  
who never breathed the light of day.

Who will be the voices of,  
these children with no name?  
Who can intercede for healing,  
restoration from the shame?

While we hope for true repentance,  
change of heart, from dark to light.

Pray for all the little children,  
for they are precious in his sight.  
If these words do not disturb you,  
then you are not what you seem.

Close your eyes and listen closely,  
and you will hear their silent scream.

By Allan Mitchell. Jan 27, 2011  
Used with permission.



Brighten  
your  
day

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AM 930  
**CJCA**  
THE LIGHT  
edmonton

and coming soon:  
**Shine**  
105.9 FM  
edmonton

Tune it in Turn it up



# Life 2003 "Silent No More"

## K U D O S

"I have one picture in my mind that I hope will not leave me for a long time. THE YOUTH! Saturday morning worship was for me the highlight of the conference. 150+ youth and many adults raising their hands to God in worship. It made me cry... of thankfulness to God to have Him raise a new army of pro-life soldiers. For those of us who have been in the movement so long that we find it hard to remember a time we were not. The speakers and the fantastic audience made the conference one that we will remember for along time. It was VERY GOOD. PRAISE THE LORD  
Henny van der Gugten."

"Music wonderful! Alive! Thanks to the pro-life groups, CWLs, and churches that paid peoples' way."

"Mrs. Pinkoski and everyone who helped her, did an amazing job of Saturday morning. Janelle's music, Bryan's talk and all the other youth speakers were awesome."

"Great event - well organized and many details taken care of. Excellent choices of speakers."

"I found it very encouraging to see all those young people present. What a reason for hope."

"Outstanding! Well organized, orderly, informative. Pleased to see the youth and elderly conferring."

"Fabulous conference - wish I could have made the full 3 days. I was encouraged, renewed and invigorated. Thank you to all who worked so hard!"

"It is so gratifying to see the younger generation with their life culture - a definite hope of improvement in life ethics in future years in our society."

"Our whole family of 7 totally enjoyed the conference. First class, informative & entertaining!"

"Thank you for all your hard work and dedication. I enjoyed all the talks, the masses and meeting pro-lifers from all over Canada. Keep up the great work!"

"I don't know how I can thank-you enough for all the effort you put into organizing the "Silent No more" conference in Edmonton. Being with like-minded pro-lifers was heaven on earth. It was so emotional to be with over 450 people on the same ground. I shed many tears of joy and sorrow. In hindsight there were many areas upon which I was becoming grey and apathetic. This conference boosted my knowledge base, arguments, confidence and resolve."



# Estate Planning

**John Harder,**  
**Treasurer of Alberta Pro-Life**

We at APL appreciate that requesting gifts from people who are approaching the end of their earthly life is a delicate subject. But we also feel strongly that our cause is of utmost importance, and your gift will help. Ten thousand children are aborted in Alberta every year. Our focus is to save them, and we are pursuing this goal through various activities.

Gifts given to APL can be handled in many ways. We have numerous ongoing projects, which could be expanded, including the ones mentioned above. We also have many ideas, which could quickly turn into projects with additional resources. Or perhaps you have a project in mind that we could initiate with your gift. The gift could be invested into a project very quickly or the principal put on deposit and the project funded from the annual interest.

You should know that APL does not have charitable status, and therefore cannot issue tax-deductible receipts. We are too 'politically active' to qualify as a charity. If you or someone you know is in the position of planning an estate, please consider a gift of money or assets to APL. If you are in the difficult position of planning a funeral, our sympathies are with you, but please consider directing donations toward Alberta Pro-Life in lieu of flowers.

## "ALBERTA PRO-LIFE" MEMBERSHIP FORM

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 Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Email \_\_\_\_\_

YES, I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP. PLEASE REGISTER ME FOR THE FOLLOWING

- Annual membership fee \$20.00
- 2004 Help Save a Life Calendar \$15.00
- Donation \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Payment enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

**Alberta Pro-Life Alliance Association is not a registered charity and thus unable to issue tax receipts for donations.**

Please send all membership renewals for Red Deer ProLife, Lethbridge & District Pro-Life, Medicine Hat Pro-Life, Edmonton ProLife, Grande Prairie Voice for Life, and Taber Pro-Life directly to these groups.

Please send me the 2004 Pro-life Calendar for my donation of \$15.00 or more.



### PAYMENT OPTIONS:

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- MasterCard
- Visa

CARD # \_\_\_\_\_

EXPIRY DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheque payable to:  
 Alberta Pro-Life Alliance Association,  
 Box 11479, Edmonton, AB T5J 3K5



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... I would like to sign up to become a monthly donor!

### Option #1 - Monthly Debit from your Bank Account

I give permission to Alberta Pro-Life to withdraw \$\_\_\_\_\_ (min. \$5) from my bank account on the 5th day of each month. Enclosed is a copy of a voided cheque.

### Option #2 - Monthly Credit Card Debit

I give permission to Alberta Pro-Life to process a donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (min. \$10) on my credit card on the 15th day of each month.

**TOTAL ENCLOSED \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Alberta Pro-Life is not a registered charity and cannot issue tax receipts for donations.