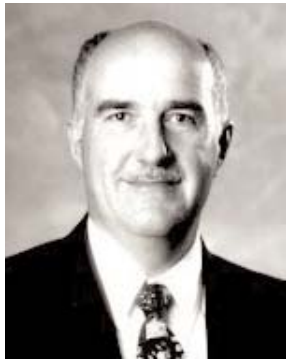


# The Rose



THE PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER FOR ALBERTA PRO-LIFE ALLIANCE ASSOCIATION

JUNE, 2003



MP Breitkreuz

## MP wants to know health effects of abortion

By Joanne Byfield

In May, Yorkton-Melville MP Garry Breitkreuz introduced a private member's motion, M-83, which asks the Commons' Health Committee to look at abortion to determine if it is a "medically required" service under the Canada Health Act (CHA). If it is medically required, it would have to be paid for by taxpayers under the Act. Most provinces already pay for abortions but it has never been declared a medically necessary service under the CHA and in fact, Health Canada, responding to a Freedom of Information request from Breitkreuz, admitted that there is no documentation declaring abortion to be medically necessary.

The second part of the motion asks the committee to look at the health effects of abortion to determine whether it is safer than carrying a baby to term. This is a claim made by abortion advocates, but again, Health Canada says it has no documentation on the subject.

The motion received one hour of debate in May and will come back to the House of Commons in the fall for another hour of debate and a vote. It is absolutely crucial that we support Mr. Breitkreuz's efforts to have this motion passed.

In the first hour of debate, abortion advocates in the House chastised Breitkreuz for bringing the motion forward. Bloc Quebecois MP Diane Bourgeois said she was tired of him constantly bringing forward motions and bills to re-criminalize abortion. He has never tried to do that. The implication is that if you want to know the scientific and medical effects of abortion so that women can make informed decisions, you are trying to re-criminalize abortion.

If this motion passes, the health committee will look at the hundreds of medical studies documenting the health effects and complications of abortion. There will be the opportunity for expert witnesses and, one hopes, women who have had abortions, to enlighten MPs and Canadians about this grisly procedure.

### Get involved

There should be no question about whether Motion-83 will pass. It is simply a request for study. However, when the issue is abortion, there is no sure

thing. It is incumbent on the pro-life movement in Canada to work to ensure passage of the motion.

Mr. Breitkreuz has a petition to encourage MPs to support the motion. It is available at his website: <http://www.garrybreitkreuz.com/publications/M-83petitionabortions.htm>.

Mr. Breitkreuz needs these petitions back by mid-September so that he can present them to the House of Commons before his motion is voted on. Please read carefully the rules for the petition. They must be completed properly. You can copy these from the website and get them signed at your churches and any events you may be holding throughout the summer. They should be returned to him at the address on the petition.

Politicians cannot work in isolation. This motion is a good one. Anyone who is interested, or claims to be, in women's health, should vote in favour. It is our job as Canadians, taxpayers and pro-life people to talk to our own MPs and urge them to support this motion. We should flood the House of Commons with our demands that this motion pass so that all women (and their physicians for that matter) will know what they are consenting to when they consider having an abortion.

Please, do your part and get involved in this important initiative.

## Obstacles to convenience

Activist group indignant over perceived lack of access to abortions

By Paula E. Kirman  
Editor, The Rose

Despite the fact that the Supreme Court of Canada decriminalized abortion in 1988, the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League (CARAL) claims that Canadian women face huge barriers trying to access abortions.

In a report released in late April, CARAL says that women seeking abortions may have to wait up to four weeks for the procedure, because only 17% of Canadian hospitals perform them.

In Nunavut and P.E.I., no hospitals perform abortions, while only one healthcare facility in Manitoba (Winnipeg's Health Sciences Centre) does. Twenty three per cent of hospitals in Ontario provide abortions, contrasted with 5% in Alberta.

As a result, CARAL recommends that the federal government withhold transfer payments to force hospitals and surgical facilities to perform abortions. The group slams the fact that some women have to travel to other cities or provinces for an abortion.

Continued page 2



See  
Youth  
Update  
on Page 11



## 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

# Obstacles to Convenience

Continued from page 1

CARAL member, Judy Rebick, broadcaster and former president of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, was quoted in the *Edmonton Sun* (April 24, 2003) as saying, "Unless we do something about it, it's going to get worse."

However, CARAL does not stop at lamenting a lack of abortion facilities. They list additional concerns such as the influence of pro-life doctors, and the need for a referral to an abortion provider despite the 1988 Supreme Court ruling that it is unconstitutional for a hospital committee to judge whether or not a woman should have an abortion.

Causing CARAL even more anxiety, as they state in their report, is a shortage of doctors qualified to perform abortions, thanks to a lack of formal training in medical school.

CARAL constructed the study by having representatives pose as women seeking abortions and calling 612 general non-Catholic hospitals, asking about abortion services, waiting times, and how to receive

referrals. They also surveyed 295 general hospitals and 16 affiliates of Planned Parenthood.

In addition to the cries of CARAL, some women in New Brunswick are complaining about obstacles to abortion. In fact, the clinic administrator of the Morgentaler Clinic in Fredericton, Judy Burwell, claims that around 150 women have taken part in a government letter-writing campaign, saying how difficult it was for them to obtain abortions in the province.

The Morgentaler clinic is the only place in New Brunswick where women can obtain abortions for non-medical reasons, as the province does not force hospitals to offer abortions.

These complaints about the difficulty in accessing abortions raise several issues. First of all, the health care situation in Canada being what it currently is, long waiting lists for procedures (including diagnostic tests and surgery) lasting months, and in some cases, years, are quite common.

Secondly, not all hospitals offer every service. Some hospitals receive patients from other cities and provinces on a regular basis, because that facility provides a service that cannot be found in the patient's immediate area.

Finally, if there are indeed so many obstacles to abortion, they certainly are not being reflected in current statistics. There were 105,427 abortions in Canada in 2000, according to Statistics Canada, a .2% decrease from 1999.

However, the actual rates are much higher, as Ontario clinics are not reporting all of their abortions, and the statistics do not include chemically-induced abortions from the morning-after pill or RU486.

What it likely comes down to is not an issue of access – but rather, of convenience. But perhaps CARAL has further intentions in mind. Perhaps the organization will not be satisfied unless abortions are performed in every hospital across Canada, even at the expense of other, legitimate health services – access and convenience paid for out of the pockets of taxpayers.

## What is Alberta Pro-Life

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

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

If you wish to become a member or would like more information about our activities, call our office at: Phone (780) 421-7747 Fax (780) 421-7749 or toll free at: 1-877-880-5433 e-mail: [apl@albertaprolife.com](mailto:apl@albertaprolife.com) Website: [www.albertaprolife.com](http://www.albertaprolife.com)



### Executive of Alberta Pro-Life

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## LifeCanada Update

By Joanne Byfield

It has been one year since I became the Alberta representative on the LifeCanada board. It has been a very productive and, I believe, important year for this two-year-old national educational group.

Last fall, LifeCanada commissioned a poll by Leger Marketing to ask Canadians about their support for de-insuring abortions and about legal rights for the unborn. All the provinces joined us in paying for this survey. The results have been quoted by MPs, provincial legislators, and by some in the media. They are an important tool for pro-lifers to use in discussions with friends, family and politicians. You can check out the results at [www.lifecanada.org](http://www.lifecanada.org).

Later in the fall and into the new year, LifeCanada was very active in the debate over Bill C-13, the Assisted Human Reproduction Act, which would allow destructive research on human embryos and allow cloning. We sent packages to all the federal MPs outlining objections to the bill, along with a 10-week fetal model. We also launched a campaign to activate pro-lifers across the country to contact their own MPs, urging them to support amendments to the bill to ban embryonic stem cell research and cloning. When those amendments failed to pass, we asked people to get their MPs to defeat this bill. (To date, the bill has still not come up for a final vote.)

LifeCanada is now working hard to help Garry Breitkreuz win his motion to have abortion studied by the Commons' Health Committee to determine what

complications there are, and if abortion should be considered "medically required" under the Canada Health Act. MPs need to be educated about the health effects of abortion on women and you can be sure that Health Canada will not be providing them with that information.

We are also working to coordinate the efforts of groups across the country and to share materials and experiences so that groups do not "reinvent the wheel" on projects. We publish a national pro-life directory, listing all the groups and contact information across Canada.

Most of the issues we work on as pro-life groups – abortion, euthanasia, cloning, stem cell research, to name a few – fall under the jurisdiction of the federal government. The education of MPs and all Canadians is a crucial part of what we do as pro-lifers. It is essential that pro-lifers be seen and heard at the national level. Our newsletter and website are important educational tools to advance our cause, informing Canadians about research, statistics on abortion, and a host of other topics.

If your group does not belong to LifeCanada, please consider joining. The work we do in our own communities and provinces is important and must continue. Our efforts must include work at the national level as well. We can only win if we work together and speak with a united, strong voice from all regions of this country.

To join LifeCanada, call 1-866-780-LIFE (5433) or go to the website: [www.lifecanada.org](http://www.lifecanada.org).

# LIFE DIGEST

## *Laci Peterson's child at centre of abortion controversy*

Laci Peterson was eight months pregnant when she disappeared on Christmas Eve 2002. In April, two bodies washed ashore on San Francisco Bay, one being Mrs. Peterson's, the other her son Conner's. Her husband Scott has been charged with both murders. The case has focused debate, once again, on fetal homicide laws. Twenty-six states have laws to protect babies in the womb but four attempts to pass a federal law have been defeated in the Senate. (Canada has no law protecting an unborn child who is killed in the womb. If the child is born as a result of an attack and later dies, the attacker could be charged.) U.S. legislators have reintroduced the bill to protect unborn children, a move that has outraged abortion advocates, who fear this will endanger abortion rights. Fetal homicide legislation excludes abortion, but opponents argue that treating the fetus as a human being will eventually erode abortion rights. Little Conner Peterson has focused attention on the fundamental contradiction in allowing doctors to kill unborn children but charging others who do the same thing with murder.

## *B.C. woman guilty of assisting a suicide for profit*

On April 30, Julianna Zsiros was found guilty by the B.C. Supreme Court of helping 50-year-old Linda Whetung commit suicide. The prosecution claimed that Zsiros took part in the suicide so that she could inherit \$30,000. Whetung died after inhaling car exhaust fumes in her sealed garage. The verdict was handed down with less than six hours of deliberation. Zsiros, 39, will be sentenced in mid-June and is currently free on \$5,000 bail.

## *Bone fragments left in uterus after abortion can cause infertility*

Researchers at the University of Ottawa have discovered why abortion renders some women infertile. Kimberly Elford and Paul Claman published a case study in the April issue of *Fertility and Sterility*, a medical journal. They found that fetal bone fragments can lodge in the muscular tissue within the uterus. The baby bones are hidden to hysteroscopes (tube cameras)

that look for remaining body parts, but they can be detected with ultrasound. Once the bones are identified and scraped away, patients were able to conceive. Since bone is present in pre-born children from 12 weeks gestation, abortions taking place after the third month of pregnancy typically require the bones to be broken.

## *Easier access to "morning after" pill*

Women in Saskatchewan will soon be able to get Levonorgestrel, the "morning-after pill," without a doctor's prescription. The provincial government introduced an amendment to the Pharmacy Act in early May, to allow pharmacists to prescribe the drug that must be taken within 72 hours of unprotected sexual intercourse. The morning-after pill is called "emergency contraception" but, in fact, it usually causes an abortion by stopping implantation of an embryo into the lining of the uterus. At present, only doctors can prescribe the drug. According to Health Minister John Nilson, allowing pharmacists to prescribe the drug is necessary as it allows greater access for women. He also said it will be up to individual pharmacists to decide whether or not to prescribe the drug to minors. The pill causes excessive bleeding, vomiting, severe cramps and headaches. There has been little research on its effects on young women or on repeat usage of this powerful drug.

## *Catholic Bishops endorse "March for Life"*

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops' life and family group issued a press release in early May expressing its support for the annual March for Life, held May 13 and 14 in Ottawa. "This March gives us all an opportunity to appreciate the priceless gift of life and to make known our commitment to ensure that human life is respected and protected," said the Catholic Organization for Life and Family (COLF) in the release. "Choosing life means demanding the right to life for unborn children as well as psychological, social and financial support for pregnant women," the release continued. "Choosing life means supporting and being present to those who are disabled, elderly, ill or suffering. It also means respecting the life and dignity of those who are dying and accompanying them until the very end." Two Catholic bishops attended the march.

## Alberta Pro-Life Board News


The Annual General Meeting was held in Calgary on May 3rd at the Family Life Center. A very special thank-you goes to Link Byfield, who was the guest speaker for the evening. Another special thank-you goes out to those who braved the poor weather to come out. It was a pleasure to meet many members whose names were familiar and to spend some time visiting and having a great dessert provided by Carmen's Kitchens (Airdrie)! The business meeting was held with the usual reports, and if any member would like to have the annual reports mailed to them, please let us know in the office. During the 2002 year, there were several resignations to the board of Alberta Pro-Life. We want to thank and recognize the contributions of the following board members who have resigned:

**Nathene Arthur (Cochrane)**  
**Pat Hansard (Stony Plain)**  
**Donald Lee (Fort Saskatchewan)**  
**Bob Biegel (Grovedale)**

We are also pleased to announce the addition of new board members:

**Trina Van Straten (Stettler)**  
**Peter Tapuska (Calgary)**

The Board of Alberta Pro-Life typically meets six times a year. There are also several working committees that non-board members can participate in. You can check out these committees on the website if this is something to which you would be interested in contributing: [www.albertapro-life.com](http://www.albertapro-life.com)



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# news from groups

## Featured Report from the Lakeland Pro-Life Association Ph: 780-639-3601 [rlirette@telusplanet.net](mailto:rlirette@telusplanet.net)

In January, we distributed prayer cards to encourage individuals to spiritually adopt an unborn child so his or her life will be spared from abortion and be allowed to live. These are available from [www.spiritualadoption.org](http://www.spiritualadoption.org).

Members of the Lakeland Pro-Life Association set up their beautiful display on prenatal life and posters on chastity and abstinence for the Bonnyville Youth Group "Hearts on Fire" on March 27. We also brought the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness for the unborn and a special rosary to the unborn. This rosary may be ordered in Cold Lake or at <http://www.holylove.org> and click on The Rosary of the Unborn.

Liz Evans spoke to youths and parents on 'How Precious Life Is.' This was her first time addressing the pro-life topic. She did a super job, starting with pre-born life to life in all its stages and ending with the elderly. At each stage she impressed on us all how life is so precious, no matter whether a person is healthy or sick or mentally challenged or near death. Each one is made in God's image and is of infinite value. Each life matters to God. She shared her personal experiences which really reinforced the message she gave to the youth.

Liz talked about the unborn and what an abortion is and does. This made an impact as the baby models at different stages in the pregnancy helped everyone identify that prenatal life is a human life and not tissue or a blob, like we so often hear. It was a very powerful presentation.

Linda Grant, a registered nurse, spoke briefly on fetal development. She then took the baby model, which was the approximate weight and size of Kameron Churko at birth and circulated it around to everyone. Karla, Kameron's mother, said he fitted comfortably in her hand at birth. Several youths were impressed as they compared the baby model in their hand with the baby pictures and then with Kameron now. Kameron was smiling, walking around and curious like any other child his age and at the end of the presentation tired and ready to head home. Karla also brought two beautiful baby albums taken during their four and a half

months in the ICU at the Royal Alex Hospital until Kameron was discharged and more photos when he returned for surgeries and check-ups, but best of all, pictures with his family and friends when he came home.

We again set up our booth on April 28, this time in the Agriplex in Bonnyville as Junior and Senior High students attended a True Love Waits/ATM (Abstinence 'Til Marriage) talk by Jim DeGroot from Montana. Before and after the talk the booth was busy with youths looking and asking questions.

On Saturday May 17, 2003, we celebrated 15 years since the opening of the Pregnancy Problem Centre in Cold Lake. We began our celebration with a pro-life mass of thanksgiving at Assumption Church at 4:00 P.M. concelebrated by Fr. Hamilcar Blanco, Fr. Rene Realuyo and Fr. David Bernard. We gave thanks to God for the grace of having been able to serve the cause of life for the past 15 years and prayed for the respect and protection of all life especially life in the womb. We missed Fr. Matthias Lugowski who supported the setting up of the centre 15 years ago. Thanks to the lectors, organist and the choir for a job well done.

At 5:30 P.M. Remi Lirette, Chairman of the Lakeland Pro-Life Association, was pleased to welcome our largest gathering for a pro-life banquet at the Lakeland Inn. Remi gave a brief history of the start up of the Pregnancy Problem Centre 15 years ago and gave recognition and thanks to all those who have helped in any way.

Diane Lirette was called up next to sing 'A Baby's Cry.' It was beautifully sung and appreciated. Linda Grant introduced Denise Mountenay, our guest speaker for the evening. Denise gave her personal testimony on abortion and shared how it hurt women. It was a very moving talk coming right from the heart and most everyone was really touched. Denise also sold several copies of her book, *Forgiven of Murder... A True Story*. We are so grateful to Denise for her willingness to share and help bring healing to other women and work at putting an end to abortion.

**Airdrie & Dist. Pro-Life**  
Ph: 403-948-3127  
[hvanderugten@telus.net](mailto:hvanderugten@telus.net)  
Airdrie Pro-Life is having a fund raising walk September 27, 2003 and will have a booth at the local Chautauqua Festival in the beginning of September. We also plan to have the Life Chain the first weekend of October. Over the past three years, we have asked the City of Airdrie to proclaim the last week of September "Right to Life Week," but they always refused. Our request has gone out again and we will see what happens.

**Calgary Pro-Life Assoc.**  
Ph: 403-243-0691  
[pro\\_life@telusplanet.net](mailto:pro_life@telusplanet.net)

**Camrose Pro-Life**  
Ph: 780-672-7110  
[blueridgeacres@incentre.net](mailto:blueridgeacres@incentre.net)

**Choose Life Athabasca**  
Ph: 780-675-4442  
[wurfel@telusplanet.net](mailto:wurfel@telusplanet.net)

**Citizens Helping in Life's Defense (C.H.I.L.D.)**  
Ph: 780-962-8108  
[sheila053@hotmail.com](mailto:sheila053@hotmail.com)  
Keep your eyes peeled for our upcoming events taking place in the Fall of 2003. Our group can always use more volunteers, and youth are certainly welcome, as are young adults. Also, if you look in your church bulletins, you will hopefully see our announcements for local pro-life meetings, and the times, dates and location of meetings and events. Life is so precious.

**Drayton Valley Respect for Life**  
Ph: 780-542-7546  
[mismith@telusplanet.net](mailto:mismith@telusplanet.net)

**Edmonton Prolife**  
Ph: 780-425-1637  
[edmpl@interbaun.com](mailto:edmpl@interbaun.com)  
The past year has seen several new initiatives to present the pro-life message to more people in the Greater Edmonton Area. *In Defence of Life*, Edmonton Prolife's newsletter, is one of them.

Another exciting project is a new school

program focussing on human fetology: the development of the unborn child between conception and birth. The presentation will be done in the context of the



incredible dignity of human life from conception to natural death. Paula Rebstock, President of Edmonton Prolife, will present the program to two junior high classes. If you know of any class that would like a similar presentation, you can call her. The presentation can be modified to meet the needs of any group.

**Fort McMurray Pro-Life Association**  
Ph: 780-791-7777  
[a7d7h84@hotmail.com](mailto:a7d7h84@hotmail.com)

**Grande Prairie Voice for Life Assoc.**  
Ph: 780-538-3344  
[vf@telusplanet.net](mailto:vf@telusplanet.net)  
Our annual Walk for Life takes place on June 6. The walk starts at St. Joe's Catholic Church at 6:30 with mini carnival and hotdogs and drinks. Bring a loonie to play a carnival game (like Throw Wet Sponge at the Youth Pastor). Then we'll walk over to the Old Gaiety Theatre for a Christian Rock Concert by DRAG-NET. Minimum pledge is \$15.00 (includes hotdogs, snacks and tickets to the concert). There will be prizes for the most raised by an individual, church/youth group. Concert-only tickets can be purchased at the door at 8:00 for \$15.00 (includes a snack). Families are welcome to this event.

## Spotlights from Lakeland Pro-Life Association



# News from groups

**High Prairie Pro-Life**  
**Ph: 780-751-2239**  
[idonahue50@yahoo.com](mailto:idonahue50@yahoo.com)  
 We are in our 14th year of doing pro-life presentations to the local high schools, doing two or more a year, and feel we are truly reaching the next generation with the message of life.

**High River Pro-Life Assoc.**  
**Ph: 403-395-2106**  
[rayfree@telusplanet.net](mailto:rayfree@telusplanet.net)

**Lethbridge & Dist. Pro-Life Assoc.**  
**Ph: 403-320-5433**  
[lprolife@shaw.ca](mailto:lprolife@shaw.ca)

Attention Lethbridge and District Pro-Life area Grade 12 students: application forms are now available for the Elsie Alexander Pro-Life Scholarship. This scholarship is available to Grade 12 graduates entering their first year of post-secondary education who have fostered leadership in respect for human life in their home, church and community. \$1000 will be awarded to the qualifying applicant. The application deadline is July 18. Call the office at (403) 320-5433 for an application form. We will be participating in the International Life Chain again this year. Watch for more information to follow on location and times

**Medicine Hat Pro-Life**  
**Ph: 403-527-2144**  
[gibach@telusplanet.net](mailto:gibach@telusplanet.net)  
[jstigter@memlane.com](mailto:jstigter@memlane.com)

**Pembina Pro-Life**  
**Ph: 780-674-2962**  
[bdening@telusplanet.net](mailto:bdening@telusplanet.net)  
 On April 4, we held our annual general meeting at the Glenreagh Hall. After presenting a brief summary of the past year, a new board member, Christy Jullion, was elected. A big thank-you to our out-going board member, Allie Vogelzang, whose hospitality and commitment to pro-life issues helped with our mandate: educating our local people about pro-life. The remainder of the evening was turned over to Denise Mountenay. She encouraged us to stand up, take action and inform women that abortion harms both the baby and the mother. The evening was well attended and we wish to thank Denise for a message well worth listening to.

**Red Deer Pro-Life**  
**Ph: 403-340-2229**  
[lbredo@rttinc.com](mailto:lbredo@rttinc.com)  
 At the annual general meeting held April 10, the board created a new position: Pro-Life/Ministerial Liaison. This person will personally communicate the message of pro-life regularly with ministers, priests, and pastors. We also elected a new executive: President, Bonnie Bredo; Vice Pres., Christine Moore; Recording Secretary, Mark Schraefel; Corresponding

Secretary, Marie Ottosen; Treasurer, Laura Kahl; Education, Adriana Lagrange; Membership, Ed Shields; Pastoral Liaison, Donald Ottosen.

Red Deer Pro-Life will again be involved in the Westerner (Central Alberta fair) in July and be hosting a booth with information and displays. We will also be participating in the Life Chain on October 5 from 2:00 - 3:00 at Heritage Ranch approach on Hwy 2.

**Taber Pro-Life Assoc.**  
**403-223-8452**  
[emoedt@theboss.net](mailto:emoedt@theboss.net)  
 We just concluded a very successful membership campaign — we sent out letters with SASEs to all former members asking them to renew. We got enough donations with our memberships to cover the cost of this campaign. At least 50 per cent of our members renew this way — food for thought for your organization's next membership campaign!

**Wainwright Life Matters**  
**Ph: 780-842-6135**  
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**Wetaskiwin & Dist. Pro-Life Society**  
**Ph: 780-352-6893**

# Calendar of Events

## JULY

**July 16-20**  
 Red Deer Pro-Life will be hosting a booth with information and displays at Westerner Days.

**July 17-26**  
 Edmonton Pro-life's annual Klondike Days booth. Phone Ethna at the office (780-425-1637) to volunteer.

**July 18**  
 Application deadline for the Elsie Alexander Pro-Life Scholarship. This scholarship is available to Grade 12 graduates in the Lethbridge and District area entering their first year of post-secondary education, who have fostered leadership in respect for human life in their home, church and community. The qualifying applicant will be awarded \$1000. Call the office of Lethbridge & Dist. Pro-Life at 403-320-5433 for an application form.

## SEPTEMBER

**September 20**  
 Love Them Both Walkathon 2003, at Rundle Park. Mark your calendars! Phone Edmonton Pro-life at 780-425-1637 for more information.

**September 25-28**  
 Scott Klusendorf will be in Alberta doing several presentations & also is speaking at the Young Adult Re:Vive Conference ([www.re-vive.com](http://www.re-vive.com)) in Red Deer. If you would like to have Scott come to your area and speak, please contact the office as soon as possible. Toll free: 1-877-880-5433.

**September 27**  
 Airdrie Pro-Life is having a fund-raising walk. For more information call 403-948-3127

## OCTOBER

**October 5**  
 International Life Chain Sunday — check with your local pro-life group for the Life Chain nearest you. Life Chain locations will also be posted on the website as they become available: [www.albertapro-life.com](http://www.albertapro-life.com). Red Deer Pro-Life will be taking part in the Life Chain from 2:00 - 3:00 at Heritage Ranch approach on Hwy 2.

## NOVEMBER

**November 6-8**  
 National Pro-Life Conference, Edmonton - Life 2003 Silent No More. Keynote speaker: David Reardon - Elliot Institute ([www.afterabortion.org](http://www.afterabortion.org)). Call Alberta Pro-Life 421-7747 or toll free 1-877-880-5433 for more information.



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## 2000 Alberta Abortion Stats

In March 2002, Alberta Health and Wellness released the latest provincial abortion statistics. In 2000, Albertans paid for 10,417 abortions performed in both clinics and hospitals. The amount of abortions done in Alberta each year continues to rise overall. The 1999 total amount of abortions done was 10,164. The detailed report is available at: [www.health.gov.ab.ca](http://www.health.gov.ab.ca).

Alberta's reporting of abortion statistics is generally better than in many other provinces; however, several years ago the government stopped publishing a separate statistical report on abortions that was called "The Therapeutic Abortion Report." They now combine abortion statistics into a larger report called, "Alberta Reproductive Health: Pregnancies and Births." When this change was made, there were several statistics that were longer made available in the reports, most notably repeat statistics and abortion methods.

### A few key points:

- ▶ **1 in 5 pregnancies end in abortion in Alberta.**
- ▶ **Nearly 50% of the teens (19 & under) choose to abort their pregnancies.**
- ▶ **The induced abortion rate (per 1,000 women between 15 and 49 years of age) was 13.0. The Calgary Health Region had the highest abortion rate at 15.2.**
- ▶ **Women between 20 and 34 years of age account for over 65% of the abortions done in Alberta.**
- ▶ **43% of the abortions were done in abortion clinics (Kensington & Morgentaler Clinics).**
- ▶ **88% of the abortions occur within the first 12 weeks of pregnancy.**



# Induced (therapeutic) Abortions in Canada – 2000

Taken from *The Daily*, Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Canadian women obtained 105,427 abortions in 2000, a slight decrease of 0.2% from 105,666 in 1999. The rate of abortion remained steady at 15.4 abortions per 1,000 women in both 1999 and 2000.

The ratio of the number of induced abortions per 100 live births increased from 31.3 in 1999 to 32.2 in 2000.

Induced abortions continued to be most common among women in their twenties, who accounted for 51% of all women who obtained an abortion in 2000. On average, 26 women out of every 1,000 in their twenties obtained an abortion.

From 1999 to 2000, induced abortion rates increased in all provinces except Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia. Rates are based on induced abortions performed on Canadian residents in hospitals and clinics in Canada, as well as legal abortions obtained by Canadian women in the United States.

Selected tables for 1996 to 2000 are available in the Canadian Statistics module of Statistics Canada's web site ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)).

for your info

### Therapeutic abortions, by province of residence, and rates per 1,000 female population

	1998	1999	2000	1999 to 2000	1999	2000
	Number of abortions			% change	Rate per 1,000 women <sup>2</sup>	
Total <sup>1</sup>	110,331	105,666	105,427	-0.2	15.4	15.4
Newfoundland and Labrador	820	851	898	5.5	6.8	7.3
Prince Edward Island	149	145	158	9.0	4.8	5.2
Nova Scotia	2,053	1,917	1,989	3.8	9.1	9.5
New Brunswick	1,106	1,031	1,098	6.5	6.1	6.6
Quebec	31,673	30,722	31,125	1.3	18.9	19.4
Ontario <sup>1</sup>	42,452	39,981	39,544	-1.1	15.4	15.1
Manitoba	3,447	3,517	3,366	-4.3	14.3	13.8
Saskatchewan	2,010	1,898	1,956	3.1	8.7	9.0
Alberta	10,355	10,188	10,432	2.4	14.7	14.9
British Columbia	15,482	14,642	14,009	-4.3	16.2	15.5
Yukon	150	111	135	21.6	14.6	18.2
Northwest Territories	292	238	281	18.1	23.2	27.8
Nunavut	...	155	178	14.8	25.3	28.2
US reporting	297	231	215	-6.9	...	...
Residence unknown	45	39	43	10.3	...	...

<sup>1</sup> Caution should be taken when comparing 1999 and 2000 data to 1998 data. As of 1999, the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-term Care no longer maintains a system for the collection of detailed information on abortions performed in clinics in Ontario. Ontario now uses the billing system of the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) to provide counts of clinic abortions to the Therapeutic Abortion Survey. As a result, information is no longer available for clinic abortions performed on non-residents of Ontario or on Ontario residents who do not submit a claim to OHIP. A comparison of the data collected using both sources for the years 1995 to 1998 shows that the new data source underestimated clinic abortions performed on Ontario residents by an average of 5.4% (950 cases) per year, or approximately 1% of all abortions performed in Canada. The new source does not include abortions performed on non-residents of Ontario that averaged 70 cases per year or 0.4% of total clinic abortions performed in Ontario.

<sup>2</sup> Rates are calculated using female population aged 15 to 44 years.

... Not applicable.

# National Life Chain Sunday – October 5, 2003

LIFE CHAIN is a peaceful and prayerful public witness of pro-life people standing for one hour praying for our nation and for an end to abortion. It is a visual statement of solidarity by the Christian community that abortion kills children and that the Church supports the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception.

Life Chains have been going on in Alberta for many years now, and we want to encourage all of our members to participate in the Life Chain that is being organized nearest to you. If you can help get your church involved (and other churches in your area) we would love to hear from you.

If you would like to find out how a life chain is put together, a great website is listed below that has a great deal of comprehensive information to help you organize a life chain in your area from beginning to end! We will be putting up lists on our website of life chains that are being planned all over the province, and be printing this same information in the next newsletter as well (September '03).

**Do you know the history of the Life Chain annual event?**

**(taken from: [www.nationallifechain.org](http://www.nationallifechain.org))**

The first LIFE CHAIN, born through prayer, was built in 1987 by Please Let Me Live, Inc., a small but aggressive pro-life ministry in Yuba City, CA. Half of the churches of Yuba and Sutter Counties occupied Marysville, with 2,500 Christian soldiers holding "Abortion Kills Children" signs on both sides of the street. The event was a time of self-evaluation and of thanksgiving for God's invincible Church. It was also a revealing witness to many thousands of motorists. "I felt God's presence," was a typical Life Chainer's response.

"It was good to stand for righteousness," remarked others.

The LIFE CHAIN elevated the Life ministry to high respectability in Yuba-Sutter by helping to unite churches and to inform the local press, law enforcement, public officials, and the area citizenry about the unconscionable killing of pre-born children. Today, after sever-



al local LIFE CHAINS, timely picketing, and the comprehensive distribution of pro-life literature, only an occasional (and questionable) therapeutic abortion is performed in Yuba-Sutter.

In September 1989, 101 churches in Bakersfield, CA, built the second LIFE CHAIN with 7,500 participants. Soon other California cities followed, including Riverside (95 churches and 6,000 life defenders); Orange County (205 churches and 17,000 defenders); Fresno (140 churches and 10,000 defenders); San Diego (320 churches and 28,000 defenders) and Sacramento (200 churches and 16,500 defenders).

By February 1991, about 170 chains had been built nationwide in more than 40 states and in other nations. Hundreds of thousands of Americans participated in chains, and millions of motorists observed them. As a result of Life Chains, many mothers have decided not to abort their child. "I couldn't get the 'Abortion Kills Children' message out of my mind," has been a common response.

On National Life Chain Sunday, October 6, 1991, 373 chains were built throughout our nation, with 771,000 Life Chainers in attendance.

On National Life Chain Sunday, October 4, 1992, more than 800 U.S. cities and towns held chains, with a combined participation of 975,000. In Canada, 97 Chains had 80,000 participants.

National Life Chain Sundays '93 and '94 saw over 900 chains built in American and Canada. Attendance was not counted due to emphasis being placed on prayer and trust in God.

We thank our Savior for His glorious, all-powerful Church and for its response to the Life Chain ministry.



## Cloning Scott Klusendorf

**By Jon Dykstra**



John Dykstra

Some might be surprised that I mistook the clone for the original. After all, the clone didn't even look like Scott Klusendorf. Whereas Scott was clean-shaven and a snappy dresser, his clone had a day's growth on his cheeks and his clothing was...not so snappy.

The excuse I offer is that at the time I hadn't yet met Scott, so I didn't know what he looked like. All I knew was that he was supposed to be a pro-life speaker beyond compare. It was said about him, that he could answer any objection that abortion advocates might raise. I had lost a lot of arguments to pro-abortion types, so this was just the sort of man I wanted to meet.

I arrived at the speech early, hoping to ask some questions before things got busy. And as luck would have it the man at the podium was standing alone, just fiddling with the mike.

I introduced myself and immediately started asking questions. This man had an answer for all of them and he had them at his fingertips. He spoke articulately and convincingly and I soon started to understand how he could have come off so well debating a host of abortion advocates. Maybe his beard did need a trim, but this man was certainly impressive.

My questions answered, I thanked Scott for his time and wished him good luck with his presentation.

"Oh, I'm not Scott," he replied. "I'm just up here making sure the mike works."

"You're not Scott? Wow... but you sure know a lot about arguing for the pro-life side."

"That's because I've been to one of Scott's presentations before. Stick around a while and you'll get good at it too."

### **Becoming a clone**

The man was a Klusendorf clone! And all it had taken was exposure to one of Scott's speeches. This clone had entered the speech a normal man, like any

other, but he left as a pro-life defender, capable of making a solid, logical, irrefutable case for the humanity of the unborn. He left as a Klusendorf clone.

I must admit in my own case it took repeated exposures for the effect to take hold. But I was lucky enough to get asked to drive Scott from one speech to another across Southern Alberta. After hearing him almost a dozen times, something clicked in my head. "I could do this too," I thought.

And so I have. In the last year I have traveled to Manitoba and done a half dozen presentations there based on Scott Klusendorf's speech. In Edmonton I have spoken to a couple of Christian youth groups, and even convinced one staunchly pro-choice man that he was completely wrong. I too have become a Klusendorf clone.

### **You too!**

If you've ever felt hesitant talking about abortion and telling people why it is wrong, take hope – you too can become a Klusendorf clone. All you have to do is go to one of his presentations, or one of his clone's presentations. You'll hear more than just a great speech. There are a lot of great speechmakers out there, people capable of making a strong case for the unborn, but this battle is not going to be won by the people making the big speeches at the annual events. If we are ever going to stop the killing of the unborn it is going to be because you and I managed to convince our friends, neighbours and co-workers that abortion is wrong. We're going to have to do the work. Scott, and his clones prepare people to do just that and they are so good at their job that after listening to them just once, you too may be mistaken for a Klusendorf clone.

# Genocide Awareness Project

## A Jolt Into Reality

By Michela Barter, age 16

"As part of its Genocide Awareness Project, the Center for Bio-Ethical Reform exhibits large photo murals comparing aborted babies with Holocaust victims, African Americans killed in racist lynching, Native Americans exterminated by the US Army, etc. Our purpose is to illuminate the conceptual similarities which exist between abortion and more widely recognized forms of genocide. This is important because perpetrators of genocide always call it something else, and the word "abortion" has, therefore, lost all its meaning." - Gregg Cunningham

Sometimes how we feel can't change till we're shocked into reality by seeing what we choose to deny, or ignore altogether. Abortion takes place behind closed doors, so when the public is faced with the Truth, feelings, thoughts, and ultimately behavior will be affected.

The Genocide Awareness Project (GAP) was a jolt into reality, not only for the students walking past our display this past March at the UCC (University College of the Cariboo) in Kamloops BC, but also for every one of us who were there, fighting for the pro-life movement. The display standing behind us reaffirmed what we were fighting for.

For two days, the campus pro-life group hosted CCBR's (Canadian Center for Bio-Ethical Reform) display of nine signs at the heart of the campus, where we handed out hundreds of pamphlets to the students and teachers passing by. There was no organized protest, or violence against the volunteers or the display, though there were many complaints taken to the top of the university. Our greatest obstacle was the spirit of apathy towards abortion. We, as pro-lifers, have the proof, the information, all the evidence. The problem? No one wants to listen to us! And, really for the first time in my life, I saw that first hand. The neat thing was, though, that when people did stop to talk, they were often open to what we had to say. They would walk away, pensive, looking back over their shoulder at the pic-

tures behind us. God does the watering if we'll only plant the seeds.

Something happened there that week on the UCC campus. People were faced with the Truth, and that dose of reality, though maybe only in a small way, started to change feelings. Something changed for me as well. This was my first GAP display, and I didn't feel educated, trained, or qualified to stand up and challenge anyone. Nevertheless, when you get pushed into the deep end, you have the choice to sink or swim. You may never feel ready, but God knows when you'll be able to swim. It doesn't matter how little we think we know (boy, did I feel like a rookie standing next to Stephanie Gray!), because if we are speaking the Truth, there is an answer for every pro-choice, drawn-out, intellectual-sounding argument. The Truth is irrefutable.

It was such a learning experience for me, and I would encourage both students and adults to participate in a GAP display. It was the most enriching, hard work I've done thus far in pro-life, as a student. At times you don't even have to say anything - being there can make the biggest difference. It's by standing for something that people will be affected, and it's by the Truth that society will be changed.



Kamloops' GAP display.



Michela Barter (l) and CCBR's Stephanie Gray.



Protestors Barter and Gray.



The GAP team.

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## Alberta Pro-Life's 2003 Provincial



# Essay Contest Results

Actual essays will be printed in the September issue of the Rose.

### Congratulations to the winners!

#### Senior High

First Place \$300 Amanda Phillips – Edmonton, AB  
Second Place \$200 David Sanche, Spruce Grove, AB  
Third Place \$100 Natasha Yaceyko, Vermilion, AB

#### Junior High

First Place \$300 Derek Remus, Coaldale, AB  
Second Place \$200 Shannon Tien, Camrose, AB  
Third Place \$100 Daniella van Ellenberg, Calgary, AB

All winning essays were posted on the Alberta Pro-Life website on May 1st. The winning essays have also been sent to Health Minister Gary Mar and all of the provincial MLAs.

A very special thank-you to all of the participants in this year's Essay Contest. There were over 70 essays submitted, and it was a challenge for the judges to pick the top three essays in each category. The quality and content of your essays was exceptional and we encourage you to participate again next year!

The winning essays will be published in *The Rose* next fall. All bibliographies will be removed due to space limitations, but are available for viewing on the Alberta Pro-Life website.

#### Thank-you as well to this year's judges:

Jr. High Judges: Mary Zak & Eileen Rebstock  
Sr. High Judges: Denise Fedoruk & Paula Rebstock

# YC 2003

16,000 pack the Skyreach Center



YC Youth in Edmonton



Rock for Life Exhibitors



### Mark Isinger's notes.....

The last weekend in May, our Edmonton chapter of Rock for Life had the opportunity to have a booth at YC 2003, through the sponsorship of Alberta Pro-Life. YC, a Christian youth conference, is the biggest event of its kind in North America, and drew an all-time high of 16,000 participants this year. At the Rock for Life table, we handed out free literature, collected pro-life pledge signatures, and sold various merchandise, as well as having a free draw for one of our hoodies. Though we were not able to sell our pro-life clothing on site, we had many requests for it, and received lots of exposure thanks to a promotional flyer that Alberta Pro-Life produced for us. The entries in our free draw totalled 560, and we collected at least as many signatures. It was an encouraging atmosphere – only one person whom I encountered thought that abortion was acceptable. Our moral position on the issue spawned a lot of stimulating debate. Many of the teens were not sure if they were pro-life or not, but after a brief discussion, they realized that they were – they had just never thought about it before. To top things off, over a dozen youth signed up to join Rock for Life. Our numbers continue to grow, and by God's grace, so will our effectiveness as voices for the unborn. We wish to thank both Edmonton and Alberta Pro-Life for providing us with this awesome opportunity help spread the truth, and we all look forward to next year.



Rock for Life fans.

### Patty Nixon's notes.....

This Christian youth conference is by far one of the best venues for an exhibit for Alberta Pro-Life. The age of the crowd is mostly junior and senior high students, but there are also hundreds of youth pastors and leaders that come along with their groups as well. Thanks to many generous donations this spring, Alberta Pro-Life was able to purchase its first display. We are sure to get lots of use out of it! Special thanks also goes to Paul Smith, the fellow who did the artwork for it. The "baby Samuel" pic on the middle panel of the display generated a lot of second and third looks. People found it fascinating that surgery could be done on such a tiny baby.

Besides the picture of "baby Samuel," another huge draw to the booth were the free precious feet pins that we gave out to those who filled out a survey for us. Over a thousand youth took the time to fill in our survey and they were *very* pleased to wear their pins. Generally I find that the youth who attend this event are openly against abortion, but they do not have a lot of knowledge on the issues, and they are not sure what they can do about it. The brochure that disappeared the most off of our table was one called, "Why Abortion is Genocide," published by the Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform (CBR). Even though the graphic pictures of abortions make us all squeamish, there is definitely an avid interest in the truth of abortion. We also have a small booklet of CBR's photos of abortions and have on the cover of the book, "PG13 – see the truth," and this book was also requested time and time again. Many youth would see the pictures, go away and then come back with friends to see the pictures again.

It was fun being beside the Rock for Life youth and we look forward to doing this again!

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

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# Youth for Life Committee Report

By Anne Pinkoski

Congratulations to the six youths who took home the prize money for the Alberta Pro-Life essay contest. I am sure that the knowledge garnered by everyone who entered makes you all winners. In fact, the only loser would be the Hon. Gary Mar, Minister of Health and Wellness, who was unable to find time to accept the invitation to meet with these articulate young people so they could personally ask him the essay's topic question, "How would you convince your MLA and Alberta Health Minister Gary Mar to stop paying for abortions with taxpayer's money?" Too bad.

Congratulations also to Trina Van Straten of Stettler who has joined the Alberta Pro-Life Board and has agreed to sit on the youth committee, joining Joanne Pollock from southern Alberta, Mark Isinger and Corry Morcos from the Edmonton area, and myself from Drayton Valley. Jenessa Fowke keeps us informed of University of Lethbridge Students for Life activities, too. This committee needs a voice from Northern Alberta, and someone from the Eastern and Western parts of the province. We would also appreciate periodic updates from all colleges and universities in the province. Is anyone out there interested? Call me. There are pro-life events and activities happening in your areas that we all could benefit from if we were aware of them.

Since our last report, Joanne Pollock and Mark Isinger presented their pro-life talk to two Grade 11 classes in Archbishop Jordan High School in Sherwood Park, and to a group in St. Emerence Church, just outside of Morinville. Individually, Mark has organized three prayer vigils outside the Morgantaler Poor-Choice Facility in Edmonton, while Joanne has organized prayer times to pray for the end of abortion, joined High River Pro-Life at their Trade Fair booth, and participated in Calgary's Hike for Life. She will be speaking at St. Vincent de Paul's Conference on the 31 of May and at St. Michael's Life Teen group on June 1.

On April 26, earlier this spring, I attended the workshop "Facing the Harder Truth," organized and promoted by the Isinger Family and Friends, with the help of Patty Nixon at APL. Stephanie Gray, Canada's female version of Scott Klusendorf, presented Pro-Life 101 and expanded it into what we can expect down the road, challenging all youth to get involved. In total, over 100 people were challenged and informed by this excellent and well-run workshop.

From hearing the spontaneous reports of several participants of part of the afternoon program, youth are getting involved. Something as simple as wearing a pro-life T-shirt or displaying a pro-life message as a bumper sticker can have a profound effect on others, as can speaking publicly to peers. The ripple effect is starting to create big waves.

Personally, I found this workshop gratifying and a confirmation to the importance of youth to the pro-life movement. Reports of massive youth participation in the Washington March for Life in January and the recent March in Ottawa, where the majority of marchers were young people, confirm our own reflections that the world's youth considers the death of millions of their generation to be a cause worthy of their time, efforts, and talents. Our hats are off to you, young people of Alberta.



Have you marked your calendar for the Youth for Life conference that is being held in Edmonton (West Edmonton Mall-Fantasyland Hotel, November 6,7,8)? You will not want to miss this event! What an opportunity to hear internationally renowned pro-life speakers like Scott Klusendorf and Bryan Kemper, head of Rock for Life in the States, and keynote banquet speaker, Dr. David Reardon. Our own Joanne Pollock and Mark Isinger, Trina Van Straten, and Suzin Pinkoski will be the youth speakers on Saturday. Special Saturday-only youth rates of \$50.00 are provided to make attendance attainable, although if you can attend the whole conference, you will go to the head of your class in pro-life education. Check out the conference ad in this newsletter for other costs and room rates and start fundraising now.

By the way, what did you think about Mr. Chretien's comment that was reported in the *Toronto Sun*: "Prime Minister Jean Chretien says Canada is a better country than the United States because we've got gun control, abortion rights, and no death penalty." Perhaps he should hear from some of you who might not agree that killing over 105,000 of your peers yearly is something to be proud of. Perhaps your own MP should know what you, future taxpayers, think. Maybe your MLA would even be interested in knowing what you think. The email address for the Prime Minister is pm@pm.gc.ca. You can find your MP's email by going to www.parl.gc.ca, and your MLA's email by checking out www.assembly.ab.ca.

I'd like to hear from you, too. Email me at lornep@telusplanet.net or phone me at 780-542-4085. Have a safe and refreshing summer!

## ProLife Answers to ProChoice Questions

Excerpts from Randy Alcorn's book

*Viability is an arbitrary concept. Why not associate personhood with heartbeat, brain waves, or something else?*

In *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court defined viability as the point when the unborn is "potentially able to live outside the mother's womb, albeit with artificial aid." The critical issue in when this point is reached is the development of the child's lungs.

But why make worthiness to live dependent upon the development of the child's lungs? Why not say he becomes human in the fourth week because that's when his heart beats? Or the sixth week because that's when he has brain waves? (Both are also arbitrary, yet both would eliminate all abortions currently performed.) Someone could argue that personhood begins when the unborn first sucks his thumb or responds to light and noise. Or why not say that personhood begins when the child takes his first step or is potty trained?

There is only one objective point of origin for any human being – only one point at which there was not a human being a moment ago, and there is now. That is the point of conception.

"Freedom to choose" is too vague to mean anything meaningful; we must always ask, "Freedom to choose what?"

It is absurd to defend a specific choice merely on the basis that it is a choice. Yet if you read the literature and listen to the talk shows, you know that this is constantly done by prochoice activists. "The right to choose" is a magic slogan that seems to make all choices equally legitimate.

All of us are in favor of free choice when it comes to where people live, what kind of car they drive, and a thousand matters of personal preference that harm no one else. We are also pro-choice in matters of religion, politics, and lifestyle, even when people choose beliefs and behavior we don't agree with. But most of us are decidedly not pro-choice when it comes to murder, rape, kidnapping, armed robbery, and child abuse. When we oppose the right to choose rape or child abuse, we aren't opposing a right; we're opposing a wrong. And we're not narrow-minded and bigoted for doing so. We're just decent people concerned for the rights of the innocent. To be prochoice about someone's right to kill is to be antichoice about someone else's right to live.

Whenever we hear the term prochoice, we must ask the all-important question, "What choice are we talking about?" Given the facts on abortion, the question really becomes, "Do you think people should have the right to choose to kill innocent children if that's what they want to do?"



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# Life 2003

## CANADIAN NATIONAL PRO-LIFE CONFERENCE

NOV. 6-8, EDMONTON, AB

*Hosted by Alberta Pro-Life  
Co-Sponsored by LifeCanada, Campaign Life Coalition and Euthanasia Prevention Coalition*

**THURSDAY, NOV. 6th**

**Evening:**

- Opening Welcome with Shafer Parker, Inspirational Speaker
- Reception to follow

**FRIDAY, NOV. 7th**

**Morning:**

- Scott Klusendorf, Director of Bio-Ethics for Stand to Reason
- Alex Schadenberg, Director of Euthanasia Prevention Coalition

**Afternoon:**

- Janet Epp Buckingham, Legal Counsel for Evangelical Fellowship of Canada
- Panel Discussion with Mary Ellen Douglas, Hermina Dykxhoorn, Karen Murawsky & Heather Stilwell

**Evening:**

- Richard Doerflinger, Deputy Director of Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conf. of Catholic Bishops
- Alberta's unique Back Page Challenge
- Reception to follow

**SATURDAY, NOV. 8th**

**Morning:**

- Youth Program with guest speakers,

Trina VanStraten, Mark Isinger, Joanne Pollock, Suzin Pinkoski, & Bryan Kemper (Founder of Rock for Life)

**Afternoon:**

- Scott Klusendorf – Pro-Life 201
- Ted Byfield, Founder of The Report Newsmagazine
- Garry Breitkreuz\*, Elsie Wayne\*, Paul Szabo\* \*(to be confirmed)

**Evening:**

- Banquet with Keynote Speaker, Dr. David Reardon, Founder of The Elliot Institute & [www.afterabortion.org](http://www.afterabortion.org)

*Updates to the schedule, as well as detailed information on conference fees will be made available on the Alberta Pro-Life website at [www.albertaprolife.com](http://www.albertaprolife.com)*

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# You may never know how you changed – or saved – a life

**"It is a poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish."**  
*- Mother Teresa*

**By Joanne Byfield**

*I have long urged people to use pro-life bumper stickers on their vehicles and have used them myself. I generally thought of them as a good ad for pro-life attitudes and possibly a way to convince people to think about life issues. For that reason, I always sported the "clever" (some might say, "in your face") lines. I have a new perspective after hearing Stephanie Gray of the Canadian Centre for Bio-ethical Reform (www.ccbinfo.ca) at a youth conference in Edmonton in April. She shared with us the following email that she received from an unmarried friend.*

"I'm having the best time being a mom. It really is the greatest thing in the world. I can't imagine life without him!"

I always wanted to tell you my "pro-life bumper sticker" story. When I first found out that I was pregnant I was in complete shock. I was so afraid of an uncertain future with a baby and of the major changes he or she would bring to my life that, although I was raised in such a pro-life family and never believed in abortion, the thought of having one did run through my mind for a while. It's funny how actually being in the situation can make you start to seriously doubt your beliefs. I am sad to say that I had almost completely fooled myself into thinking that if I just did it quickly enough, I could forget about the whole thing and everything would be back to normal. I had decided it would be the easiest option.

I told my doctor that I wasn't going to have the baby and he gave me a number to a clinic to make my appointment. That night I was driving to work and was stopped behind a blue minivan. On it was a bumper sticker with a quote by Mother Teresa. It said, "It is a poverty that a child must die so that you may live how you want." The minute I read it, I burst into tears. I knew that was a message sent for me. I knew that the pain and guilt of having an abortion would have been a million times worse than any fear I might have about bringing a baby into my life. From that moment on I was excited to be pregnant and knew that it was going to be fine. [My child] is the greatest thing that ever happened to me and I am so happy he is here!!"

As Stephanie pointed out, the owners of that van will never know that their simple act saved a child's life. I'm changing my bumper sticker. I still like the "clever" lines but they probably speak more to supporters. I'd rather speak to moms in crisis and pray that someday one of them will choose life.


If you would like to buy a bumper sticker, here are two websites that sell them, or check with your local pro-life office:  
<http://www.abortionno.org/Store/stickers.html>  
<http://www.lifecyclebooks.com/>



CANADIAN NATIONAL PRO-LIFE CONFERENCE

NOV. 6-8, EDMONTON, AB

See display ad on page 11 for more information




Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and before you were born, I dedicated you.  
 Jer 1:5

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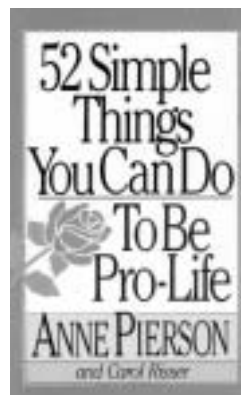
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