



# Lutherans for Life – Canada

Fall/Winter 2009 Newsletter

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## Dec 1-2, 2009: A test of moral character for members of Canadian parliament

THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT INFORMATION IS FROM THE PARLIAMENTARY REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2009:

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Parliament returned on September 14<sup>th</sup> and **assisted suicide and euthanasia (Bill C-384)** are going to test the moral character of our members of parliament this fall session.

### The second one hour

**debate is scheduled for December 1<sup>st</sup>, and the vote is December 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

Bill C-384 would open the door for doctors and health care providers to actively help end the lives of their patients. We need to counsel MPs to defeat

the bill at second reading before it gets to committee.

**Hopefully you can let your MP know that you want it defeated and why!**

## Use these facts from the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition:

1. C-384 allows a medical practitioner to directly and intentionally cause your death if:
  - a. you are experiencing mental pain (chronic mental pain and mental depression would qualify),
  - b. you are not lucid but previously expressed a desire to die, and
  - c. you "appear" to be lucid and had previously expressed a desire to die, yet you may not actually, necessarily be lucid.
2. The bill does not require the patient suffering from mental pain to be seen by a specialist.
3. C-384 is not limited to the terminally ill and does not define terminal illness
4. It requires the medical practitioner only to "inform" the patient of all alternatives without requiring a qualified doctor to conduct palliative care treatment.
5. It fails to recognize that modern palliative care treatment is effective in helping to relieve chronic pain.
6. It threatens people with disabilities and/or people with chronic conditions who could be encouraged by a newly founded death industry to seriously consider assisted suicide or euthanasia.
7. It requires medical practitioners to assure that the patient is not acting out of duress, but the legislation itself would put pressure on patients, families, the health care industry and taxpayers to "lessen the burden" Once legalized, the pressure would grow.
8. The bill allows the individual to change his mind, but if that change occurs when others consider him to be "not lucid" there is a danger he could be killed.
9. The bill, if passed into law, would make it legal for the medical community, the pharmaceutical industry, retirement homes, so-called suicide tourist centres as well as family members to promote assisted suicide and euthanasia as a "treatment option" - a subtle form of elder abuse. This would become more commonplace as the elderly population grows.
10. It blurs the line between pain relief and euthanasia. McGill University professor **Margaret Somerville** points out that pain relief treatment competently given with the primary intention to relieve pain (true compassion), even if it shortens life, is not euthanasia (false compassion). Euthanasia cannot and must not become a treatment for pain.

## Proclaiming the Truth in Love

**Philip Yancy** in his book, *"I Was Just Wondering"*, made a comment that made me think. He said "political movements risk pulling onto themselves the cloak of power that smothers love. A movement by nature draws lines, makes distinctions, delivers judgment. In contrast, love erases lines, overcomes distinctions, and dispenses grace."\*

These words made me ponder. Are we wrong in taking a stand on the issue of abortion and speaking out in our secular society? Are we extinguishing love by drawing lines about what is right and wrong? Would it be more loving to hide our head in the sand and pretend everything is fine?

No, I don't believe God wants us to smile and say each to his own. God is after all a God of justice and love. We would be ignoring God's will to simply keep silent because someone might not like what we are standing for. The Bible clearly says of God. "For you created my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother's womb." Ps. 139:13

Although we are not to keep silent, I do think that Yancy's quote has something to say about how we speak. In our zeal for the truth we can sometimes come across as harsh and unloving. St. Paul said to the Ephesians, "Proclaim the truth in love." Ephesians 4:15 Proclaim the truth, by all means! But may we always be mindful of how

we proclaim the truth. When we encounter individuals and groups who have a pro-abortion stand, we should not view them as the devil incarnate but as men and women for whom Christ died. Our approach should always be one of listening as well as speaking and genuine care for them.

May God give you the strength to overcome harshness when facing those who don't know the love God has for all the living whether in the womb or in palliative care and proclaim the truth in love.

-- Pastor Stephen Alles

\* Philip Yancy "I Was Just Wondering" B, Erdmans Publishing 1998

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-- Ephesians 4:15

## Life Quotes on Life's End

"We can face the end of life with confidence because Jesus Christ has defeated the enemy of death. For the believer in Christ, the Savior of the world, it is death with a difference. The cross promises what no science or medicine can: immortality... (2 Tim 1:10)... Through the cross and Christ's resurrection comes new life, eternal life, life with Christ without end.

"Life is not ours to give nor is it ours to take. We leave our

lives in the hands of the One who has the power to lay down His life and to take it up again.

"This calls us to make decisions that have as their aim the care of life and not the taking of life.

"Indeed the cross of Jesus Christ makes the difference in facing and living through our end-of-life issues. Thanks be to God!"

-- Rev. Dr. Eugene Boe,  
Academic Dean,  
Professor of Systematic  
and Historical Theology,  
Lutheran Brethren  
Seminary.

(From [LifeDate-Fall 2009](#).)



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## Make the Connection ...

### Join Lutherans for Life – Canada!



When you make an annual financial donation of any amount you become a member of Lutherans for Life – Canada. We place you on our mailing list and send you a quarterly newsletter. Unfortunately, you are not

able to receive a charitable receipt for your donation since LFL-C does not have charitable status with Revenue Canada.

You can send your donation to:

LFL-Canada,  
c/o Rev. Richard Juritsch,  
1 Jefferson Drive,  
St. Catharines, ON  
L2N 3T8.

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*When you make an annual donation of any amount, you become a member of Lutherans for Life-Canada!*

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS to Serve on the LFL-C Board

Do you know someone who is qualified to serve on the LFL-C Board of Directors? If so, you are encouraged to nominate them, of course, with their permission. Deadline for nominations is April 15th, 2010.

Please include an e-mail or mailing address. Send all nominations to Marian Obeda, 458 Castlearove Blvd., London ON., N6G 1K8 or E-Mail at: [msobeda@sympatico.ca](mailto:msobeda@sympatico.ca)

## Update from University of Calgary

*Published by Andrea Mrozek*

As you may recall, pro-life students at the U of C had been charged with trespassing on their own campus for having a pro-life display. Those charges have been stayed:

**November 2, 2009 --  
FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE: CROWN  
STAYS CHARGES  
AGAINST CALGARY  
PRO-LIFE STUDENTS**

The group's display, held on the University of Calgary campus every semester since 2006, termed the Genocide Awareness Project, precipitated the charges. The display compares abortion to past historical atrocities, such as the Rwandan genocide and the Holocaust in Nazi Germany.

Club president **Leah Hallman** stated, "We are relieved by this decision on the part of the Crown Prosecutor; Campus Pro-Life has consistently maintained that all of our actions were in full compliance under the law."

The staying of the charges takes place nearly one year after the November 2008 display on campus.



*LutheransForLife.ca*

## Planned Parenthood Director Quits After Watching Abortion on Ultrasound

Monday, November 02, 2009 **FOX NEWS**

Joseph Abrams

After seeing the internal workings of the procedure for the first time on an ultrasound monitor, "I would say there was a definite conversion in my heart... a spiritual conversion."



Abby Johnson, 29, stands outside a Planned Parenthood clinic in Bryan, Tex., alongside Shawn Carney of the Campaign for Life. Johnson quit after watching an ultrasound of an abortion.

**The former director of a Planned Parenthood clinic in southeast**

**Texas says she had a "change of heart" after watching an abortion last month — and she quit her job and joined a pro-life group in praying outside the facility.**

Abby Johnson, 29, used to escort women from their cars to the clinic in the eight years she volunteered and worked

for [Planned Parenthood](#) in Bryan, Texas. But she says she knew it was time to leave after she watched a fetus "crumple" as it was vacuumed out of a patient's uterus in September.

"When I was working at Planned Parenthood I was extremely pro-choice," Johnson told [FoxNews.com](#). But after seeing the internal workings of the procedure for the first time on an ultrasound monitor, "I would say there was a definite conversion in my heart ... a spiritual conversion."

(Read the rest of the story at [foxnews.com/story/0,2933,571215,00.html](http://foxnews.com/story/0,2933,571215,00.html) )



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## Report from the UN: You've Got to be Kidding!?

If regular folks around the world really knew what goes on at the UN, they would laugh, cry and likely get sick.

A new UN report by what is called a *Special Rapporteur* has **called for a right to sex change operations**. That's right.

Does anyone think that if this was put up for a vote ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, except maybe Denmark, that this would be roundly and soundly denounced and defeated? Yet, here we are in the *la-la land* of the UN and we are subjected to this kind of garbage. No wonder

the UN is looked upon as a joke in much of the world. So sad. The UN has a real role that is being sullied by the radical crazies.

(C-FAM November 2009)

## ***Gardasil* Researcher Admits Vaccine May Be More Dangerous than the Disease**

***Less Than 10%, Maybe Even Less Than 1% of Vaccine Side Effects Reported***

October 28, 2009

([LifeSiteNews.com](http://LifeSiteNews.com)) –

A researcher with **Merck Pharmaceutical** who helped develop the human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccines, **Gardasil** and **Cervarix**, has revealed that the controversial drugs will do little to reduce cervical cancer rates and may cause more illness than the disease they are intended to prevent.

**Dr. Diane Harper**, director of the Gynecologic Cancer

Prevention Research Group at the University of Missouri, and lead researcher in the development of the two vaccines, made these remarks during an address at the **4th International Public Vaccination Conference** in Reston, Virginia on Oct. 2-4, 2009.

Dr. Harper has on several occasions warned that the vaccines were being "over-marketed" and the research on their potential

side effects not properly carried out.

Dr. Harper [told](#) CBS News on August 19, 2009 that "young girls and their parents should receive more complete warnings before receiving the vaccine" and that a girl is more likely to die from an adverse reaction to Gardasil than from cervical cancer.

See LifeSiteNews for the rest of the story:

[LifeSiteNews.com/ldn/2009/oct/09102903.html](http://LifeSiteNews.com/ldn/2009/oct/09102903.html)

## **uVic Sets Great Free Speech Example for Student Unions & University Administrations**

**by Faye Sonier**

Thursday, October 29, 2009 at 5:59PM -- The last year or so has provided witness to disappointing behaviour by student unions and university administrations across our free and democratic nation. They have chosen to deny freedom of expression rights to their pro-life students.

A few weeks ago, at **McGill University**, the [Student Society of McGill University passed a motion to censure a pro-life presentation](#) organized by the **Choose Life** student club. The motion also demanded that McGill's administration cancel the event. Thankfully, the *Deputy Provost* refused to do so, stating that the group had a

right to discuss the issue freely.

Last week, the pro-life student club at the **University of Victoria, Youth Protecting Youth**, held a well received, and well attended, abortion debate with approval of both student union and university administration. So many students attended, far more than the 200-seat capacity, that the speakers offered a second session to those who were forced to leave the initial presentation due the fire code restrictions.

**Stephanie Gray** from the **Canadian Centre for Bioethical Reform** debated

*Professor Dr. Eike-Henner Kluge*, a uVic philosophy professor and bioethicist.

The debate, which addressed the issue of personhood, [was reported as being respectful and civil](#), with Dr. Kluge stating that he found it "deplorable" that his colleagues had refused to participate. A video of the incredibly successful event can be watched [here](#).

Free expression on a university campus. Academic discussion of a controversial issue. This shouldn't really be blogworthy behaviour in a free and democratic Canada, should it?

*Article originally appeared at [ActivateCFPL.theefc.ca](http://ActivateCFPL.theefc.ca).*

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*"So many attended, far more than the 200-seat capacity, that the speakers offered a second session to those who were forced to leave the initial presentation due the fire code restrictions..."*



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## EDITOR NEEDED for the LFL-Canada Newsletter:

Would you like to use your editorial skills to develop the LFL-C newsletter? The newsletter is produced quarterly. The position involves: sharing current pro-life news; highlighting congregational resources, editing articles provided by board members, etc. If interested, please contact Marian Obeda at: 458 Castlegrove Blvd., London ON., N6G 1K8 or E-Mail at: [msobeda@sympatico.ca](mailto:msobeda@sympatico.ca).

## Desperate Calls

by Grace Kern (Director [Word of Hope](#)) – Hotline: 1-888-217-8679 (CANADA AND USA)

They call our hotline desperately looking for help. "My friend told me to call you before I go for an abortion. Can you help? I am really scared of what my parents will say."

We receive a few hundred calls a month; one-third are pregnancy related, and many are from teenagers. When faced with unplanned pregnancy, teens need to realize the decisions they make are permanent and will affect them for the rest of their lives. Abortion may seem like the only choice and the easiest way out, but abortion is permanent. There is no bringing back a dead baby.

Rachel (not her real name) was 16 when she became pregnant. Later, she wrote this letter from a correctional facility (see text box).

*Dear Grace,*

*My dad is a Pastor and we are a very religious family. When I became pregnant I didn't want to disappoint my parents or bring shame to our family. I love and care about them so much. Instead, I went to my school counselor. He was very sympathetic and understanding. He said there was no need to worry my family about my pregnancy. He also explained how hard having a child would be on me and that I wouldn't be able to do what I wanted to do at school. I was an A student and involved in basketball, hoping to get a scholarship for college. He said that the child would suffer because I was much too young to be a parent. He said the best thing for me to do was to abort the fetus so no one would be hurt. There was no suggestion of talking to my parents, or about carrying the baby to term, or even to consider adoption.*

*I felt as though I had no other choice. I did not care about the boy I was with. I really didn't even know him very well. It was my first time having sex and never thought I could get pregnant. I felt so confused about having an abortion, but I'd think back to what the school counselor had told me, and it seemed he was right. I just didn't want anyone to know what I did. Now, I still can't believe what I did. I know God must be angry with me because I have done a horrible thing. When I hear that people get the death sentence for murder I think I should be right in line with them getting the same punishment. I sit here in my cell wondering how this all happened. I have one more year here but in my heart I know I deserve more. Grace can you help me? Someone said you help people like me. Will you write to me?*

*Thanks, Rachel*

For five years after the abortion, Rachel was on a destructive path as her parents watched helplessly not knowing what was wrong with her or how to help. Rachel's traumatic reaction to her abortion experience included suicide attempts, alcoholism, drugs, and finally an arrest and conviction for drug dealing.

Sadly, Rachel's story is not unique. In the U.S., one out of every three abortion patients is a teenager—for whom the possibility of developing psychological and emotional problems after an abortion is substantially higher than for more mature women. Teens are more likely to experience intense feelings of guilt, depression, and isolation. This major, traumatic, experience occurs at a time when their defense mechanisms are not fully developed, which leaves them more susceptible to events and circumstances that can profoundly damage their view of the world, other people, and themselves.

In addition, a secret abortion disrupts family relationships. To protect their secret, teenagers try to hide feelings of depression, sadness, and even thoughts of suicide that might otherwise alert their parents to the problem. If they cannot repress these feelings, they may be disguised with more lies or transformed into anger and rebellion. This need for secrecy accentuates their feelings of shame and will often lead to withdrawal from family and into drugs, alcohol, and destructive relationships.

Kept in the dark, with no way to understand their child's disturbed behavior, parents are likely to become increasingly frustrated. In turn, parents are likely to fuel the distrust or rebellious nature of the teen because they "simply don't understand" what he or she is going through.

Along with the facts about abstinence,

parenting, adoption, and abortion, it is important for parents to talk with their teens before a crisis. Teens need to know there is nothing they could ever do that could not be handled with God's help.

It is also important to know how your child's school handles situations like this as some school counselors and other officials may direct teens into an unwanted abortion.

Finally, our young people need to clearly hear the Gospel preached with passion. They know that God has claimed them in Christ, who loved them enough to suffer and die on the cross, so that they may have eternal life.

***"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."***

Romans 8:1

(from LifeDate Fall 2009)

## LUTHERANS FOR LIFE CELEBRATE ABUNDANT LIFE

*Below is a news release from **Lutherans for Life** in the U.S. (July 24-25<sup>th</sup>) in which 7 Canadians attended, **Linda & Orland Welke, Nicole & Cliff Pyle, Marian Obeda, Martha Fonger and Anna Wissing.***

**Celebrating the Abundant Life** in Saint Louis was the theme as Lutherans gathered, July 24-25, from across the United States and Canada for the national conference of **Lutherans For Life (LFL)**, the only pan-Lutheran pro-life organization in the nation.

In her welcoming message to conference attendees, **President Diane Schroeder** said, "If you are like me; God has placed in your heart an urgent need to respond to the destruction of life in our country-- whether it is abortion, euthanasia, [or] embryonic

stem cell research ... For you see, that calling that God has given you and me, that burning passion, is part of our abundant life ... Talk to your pastor, contact your crisis pregnancy center, ask yourself what can I do? There is no task too small ... God does not call us to victory, but to faithfulness ... May God give you perseverance, peace, and joy as you follow Him and walk in the abundant life He has given you."

**Bobby Schindler**, executive director of the **Terri Schindler Schiavo Foundation Center for Health Care Ethics**, gave the Friday night keynote address on the theme **Remembering Terri Schiavo: My Family's Battle to Save My Sister's Life**. Mr. Schindler described the court-

ordered starvation of his sister, Terri, in 2005, as something that "no brother, no family, no parents should ever have to witness." Later he said it was the most "heinous, barbaric thing I've seen." He said his sister could have "lived a normal life span if properly cared for and loved ... there are tens of thousands of 'Terri's' in our country today whose lives are just as vulnerable as hers was ... [when] you devalue one life, you devalue all lives." He asked "what are we going to do to care for these people [the cognitively disabled]? We have two choices: We are either going to keep rationalizing/justifying why it's okay to kill people with these types of disabilities or we are going to care and show them the love that they deserve."



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## LFL-Canada Annual General Meeting: May 1, 2010

When? May 1st, 2010 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Where? Historic St Paul's Kitchener, ON

What? Worship; **SPECIAL PRESENTATION by Dr. James Lamb**; & business.

Cost? \$10.00 registration

Please pre-register by sending confirmation of your attendance to: [msobeda@sympatico.ca](mailto:msobeda@sympatico.ca)