

In Defence of Life

Edmonton ProLife's Newsletter

www.edmontonprolife.org

Volume 8, Issue 4

'educating for life'

Fall 2010

Education is needed in churches, schools, the public and home

We have been through some interesting times in the prolife movement and currently we are facing a changing tide.

We see people, seeking the truth about the unborn and abortion, questioning the status quo and engaging in public debate - at universities, letters to editor and on the web.

The seeds planted years ago are now beginning to find fertile ground.

Recently a national broadcasting company contacted prolife groups asking if they have noticed a growing popular trend toward prolife oriented views. Many groups replied unanimously that they felt there has been a shift in public opinion. This is encouraging indeed.

While we are encouraged by the trend, we know NOW is the time to redouble our efforts. More people than ever are questioning abortion, and we need to share the facts of the life issues with them.

We are embarking on a new project and are asking for your support. In each newsletter you will be given some separate extra information to share or to copy and distribute or perhaps to grow your own knowledge of the life issues. We hope you are able to help us educate in this way. Call the office if you need extra copies of literature sent or need more info.

Please see the back page to see how you can help spread the word and grow our movement. Thank you for all your faithful support.

Few Canadians know rules on abortion, poll finds

Katherine Laidlaw, National Post · Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2010

Two-thirds of Canadians do not know that Canada has no abortion law, according to a new poll that indicates

Canadians are woefully misinformed about a landmark Ruling in the country's history. (**Editor Comment – many Canadians think a law is not allowed due to Supreme Court ruling when in FACT the Supreme Court sent the issue back to Parliament stating it was up to Parliament to introduce a new abortion law**)

The poll, which asked 1,022 Canadian adults about their understanding of the country's abortion regulations, found that just 22% of Canadians correctly identified a woman's right to an abortion with no governmental restrictions. Canada has not had legislated abortion rules since 1988, making the country an "absolute outlier" on the issue, according to a medical ethicist.

"There's really only a very small number of Canadians that correctly identify the current situation in Canada," says pollster Jaideep Mukerji, who worked on the Angus-Reid poll, which was released on Tuesday. "That could be problematic." "Once you explain to them what the actual law is, there's only 27% of Canadians that say that the status quo [of no law] should be maintained. There's a majority of Canadians that would like to make some change to that status quo," Mr. Mukerji said

Read more:

<http://www.nationalpost.com/news/Canadians+know+rules+abortion+poll+finds/3356045/story.html#ixzz0vrW Mfp7f>

Effective Pro-Life Work in Churches

Often prolife's are tagged as belonging to a "religious group". While there is nothing wrong with belonging to a faith group, one can surely be prolife and not have any religious leanings. But what is harder to grasp is those that identify as a faith group, yet REFUSE to speak about the abortion issue in their churches.

Our pastors need educating, prayer and support. The prolife message is a message of hope and healing, not condemnation. This message needs to be communicated by you to your pastor and church groups.

Churches are a natural forum for pro-life work. They comprise a massive communication system. Pastors know their congregation and have regular opportunities to speak to them. (continued on page 3)

Upcoming Events – Save the Dates!



- > **September 18, 2010 - Walkathon** – Edmonton ProLife holds its annual walkathon at one of the most beautiful parks in Edmonton - Rundle Park. Starting with registration; 8:30 to 9 am continuing with the walk and lunch to follow at noon. If you have ever participated in the Edmonton walkathon we encourage you to plan on being here this year. Every year we welcome familiar faces but we would also love to see some new faces this year. If you have never walked before, plan on making this year your first! We hope to see many of you at the walk. Please consider supporting Edmonton ProLife by walking or sponsoring a walker. This is our only fundraiser for the year. Pledge sheets are in this newsletter. Call Karen at 425-1637 for more information.
- > **September 22 – October 31 – 40 Days for Life - at the Womans' Health Options abortion clinic located at 109 A Avenue and 124 street –. Last 40 days for life campaign witnessed** - 167 participating cities across America, Canada, Australia, and Northern Ireland - 48,000+ participants from over 2,000 churches- More than 200 news stories were generated - **A record 643 lives were saved from abortion** (and those are just the ones we know about!) - **Four abortion workers quit their jobs**- Numerous abortion facilities reduced hours and were closed on days they usually do abortions- And the life-saving momentum continues to build in many cities FOLLOWING the 40 days! Once again Edmonton ProLife will be participating in the 40 days for life campaign this fall. If you would like to help plan and discuss initiatives for this event please e mail to edmpl@interbaun.com. Information is being sent to all area churches ask your pastor for more information. Go to www.40daysforlife/edmonton for more info.
- > **October 3 Life Chain 2010** – from 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm, at 104 avenue between 109 and 124 street Plans are now underway for organizing Life Chain 2010. Your commitment will last one hour but your presence will make a difference for life. Church contacts are desperately needed if we plan on meeting our goal of filling 50 city blocks. The commitment of church volunteers will be one meeting and sharing info with your pastor and church secretary. You will need access to the Internet. If you cannot be a church contact but wish to attend Life Chain call Karen to be added to our supporter list. Last year many groups, individuals and families supported event. Please let us know if you will commit to bring 10 people to fill a block. If you want to be part of the biggest ProLife prayer event in Edmonton call Karen at 425-1637. Please post poster in your church and leave notice cards in your church pews. Thanks!
- > **November 6 Concordia College - Love Life annual conference** - Keynote speaker Rev. Roger Sonnenberg from Arcadia, California. Julie from WAIT will also speak. We are also planning a youth event with Rev. Sonnenberg at Bethel Lutheran church on the Friday evening, November 5. For more info contact the prolife office.
- > **Post abortion help - Rachel's Vineyard Weekend Retreat**- a Rachel's Vineyard weekend is a chance to get away from all the daily pressures of work and family and focus on this painful time in your life through a supportive and non-judgmental process. The time away provides an opportunity to deeply enter the grieving process and identify all the ways your abortion may have affected you. Edmonton and Rural Area Contact: Jennifer 780 960-8857 jensbranches@live.ca Contact: Carla Houston 780-963-4048 carlahst@telus.net Contact: Marlene Javorsky majbutterflies@aol.com Note: Interdenominational Retreat. Retreat Dates: TBA
- > **Join others in an hour of peaceful, prayerful activism against the daily slaughter of innocent babies. Morgentaler Abortion Clinic: 12490, 109 A Ave.**
The fourth Sunday of every month (*subject to change please call MaryEllen to confirm). Candle light Rosary at 7:30 pm. Contact Maryellen at 476-4026
For information on any of the above events, call the Edmonton ProLife office at **425-1637** or email us at edmpl@interbaun.com

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Editor: Karen Richert

EPL Board: President: Corry Morcos, Treasurer: Glenn Woolger, Recording Secretary: Michael Cooper, Directors: Dale Luntz, Phil Steele, Janet MacLellan, Alming Steele, Gwen Bouwsma and John MacDonald

Office Manager: Karen Richert

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New board members welcomed. Meetings held bimonthly, call to confirm date and time, at EPL office. All EPL members welcome to attend

Further, the problems of abortion and euthanasia are primarily spiritual and moral. It has been the onslaught against the religious value of the sanctity of life that has largely created the legal and political crisis in our nation. Therefore, the crux of the resulting problems needs to be addressed in our churches.

Pro-life work is primarily about ministering to people: the unborn children dying, the mothers and fathers deeply hurt by abortion, families disturbed by questions surrounding euthanasia. Some pastors are not well-informed. They are stressed by time factors and fatigue. They are uncertain of how to deal with women who have had abortions and some even lack confidence in the Gospel or fear to displease pro-abortion members of their congregation.

For pastors and congregations that are indifferent to pro-life concerns, the most important work may be to become more aware of the deep hurt and healing needed by post-abortive men and women. For those working in a church setting we encourage you to make it "safe to come home" - - to provide a place of compassion, recognition of the need to grieve, time to heal, and the sacramental and scriptural means to heal.

Lay people can do a lot to support pastors in a positive way. The first is to *pray* regularly for their pastor, their congregation, and the lay leaders.

Creative resources, materials, and activities can be provided to and directed by pro-life lay members. These may vary with different denominations, but one resource all churches should have is references for pregnancy support services in the community and for post-abortion counseling.

If a pastor is too busy to administer prolife projects, that work can be done by a pro-life committee within a congregation. They deal with the communication, education, and organization needed for a committee or representative, to be effective in a church environment. Those Churches, which currently have well-established pro-life policies, remain in need of more development in order to carry out their generally pro-life view in an active and practical way in every congregation. Pro-life churches have a sense that we know the answer; it's a settled question, so we don't have to do anything. There is a need to move from this attitude into creating an active pro-life ministry.

There can also be an attitude held by some who consider abortion wrong but think that other people's abortions are "not my business." Much work needs to be done to educate people about the great need for healing, for truth, for ministering, for changing laws and for changing cultural values.

Recently Operation Rescue spokesperson Cheryl Sullenger said

"There simply is not adequate teaching from the pulpits about abortion, and therefore Christians are aborting their babies at a shocking rate. According to some statistics, 68% of women obtaining abortions attend some denomination of Christian church. "

If we find this statistic acceptable, then do nothing! But if we want to change that statistic we need to begin to speak about the life issues; pretending it doesn't happen in our church does not help anyone.

If you would like resources or just need to talk and bounce some ideas around as to how you can bring a prolife view to your church community call Karen at the office 780-425-1637 or emailedmpl@interbaun.com

***Life Chain* - a great introduction to the prolife work for your church!**

You are invited to participate in and support the Edmonton and area Life Chain, which is being held Sunday October 3, 2010 from 2:30 to 3:30 pm. at 104 avenue between 109 and 124 street. As the battle against abortion continues, individuals and various groups are being called to mobilize together and publicly witness to the evil of abortion and the hope and healing that is available to post abortive women.

The Edmonton and area Life Chain will provide a visual statement of solidarity between faith communities that abortion is grievously wrong and that we are opposed to the unmerciful killing of preborn children.

An estimated 5000 babies are killed annually in Edmonton alone, and the powerful Life Chain on October 3, 2010 will offer strong encouragement and hope for reducing that number. We hope for sunny skies on October 3, 2010, but the Life Chain will go forward regardless of weather conditions. Any sacrifice on our part will be minor compared to that of the unborn children facing the cruel hands of an abortionist.

Please place the response cards (found on the insert) in your church pews this will encourage people to sign up for the Life Chain. Signs are available at the prolife office prior to Life chain or at intersections along the route the day of Life Chain. These approved Life Chain signs are the only sign to be used at the Life Chain. Call Karen if you have any questions 780-425-1637

Your commitment will be approximately 1.5 hours on Sunday October 3, 2010 from 2:15 to 3:45, but Your presence will make a difference for LIFE!

