

# Edmonton Pro-life Newsletter Spring 2022

Edmonton Pro-life's aims and objectives are to promote respect for all human life from conception to natural death, to uphold and defend the right to life, the basic right on which all other rights depend.

Edmonton Pro-life contributes to the understanding of the people of the Greater Edmonton area, by education, that society has a duty to protect this right.

We are committed to peaceful actions to fulfill our mission.



## True Diversity

Diversity is a word often thrown about that has become unmoored from its actual meaning. Typically, it is used by our ideological opponents to mean those of any given background, provided they strictly adhere to their set views. A clever way to attempt to paint rigid societal dogma as inclusiveness.

But enough of exclusion masquerading as acceptance. Let's discuss what diversity actually looks like. Let's talk about the Pro-life movement. To join our club, all that is needed is a love and respect for all human life. We extend a big welcome to the most vulnerable of the human community, including the unborn, the mentally and physically handicapped, as well as the old and the feeble. And the uplifting news is those from virtually all groups and walks of life take up the offer of membership.

Take for instance those of various religious persuasions. Catholics are often associated with the Pro-life movement in North America, of which we are exceedingly grateful for the wisdom of their religious teachings as well as the support of their priests and congregations. However, the list is much larger than that. The Evangelicals wear the Pro-life label with pride. The Seventh Day Adventists, the Mennonites, the Jehovah's Witnesses, the Mormons, the Baptists – there is virtually every Christian denomination within the Edmonton area included in our membership and we are grateful to the Christian faith for its strong message on the sanctity of life. But it is much more than Christianity that speaks for the value of life that is a precious gift from God. We are blessed to include those Sikhs who embrace the culture of life in our club. The same must be said for the Muslims who stand tall in respect for life, and embrace the teachings of the Koran on this subject. We are proud of the Orthodox and Messianic Jews who follow the teachings of the Torah and the prophets. We are pleased to include in our ranks those who practice

Hinduism, and the value it places on the life of the unborn. The same can be said for our Buddhist friends. Also, those who are without religion such as the agnostic or the atheists are welcome in our club, and are among some of our most active members. (My apologies if I didn't draw attention to your specific denomination or religion in the list above. I included those I was familiar with or had direct interaction with. If you would like acknowledgement, by all means get in touch with us, we would love to hear from you and learn more about your faith's teachings on the subject of life.)

We can count in our number every race and creed. Virtually all of Africa and South America embrace the sanctity of life and adhere to this value in their laws. Large swaths of Asia likewise extend protection to the most vulnerable of the human family including Indonesia, the Philippines and India. Poland is a stalwart for our cause, and the U.S. is seeing a renaissance in regard to the culture of life. In our own back yard, Cree teachings highlight the need for the mother, and the rest of the family, to connect with the unborn child.

There is no cancel culture on our side. Our arms are wide open to all, including those who were once our most committed opponents. Bernard Nathanson was at the forefront of the drive to legalize abortion in the U.S. He then performed countless abortions, until ultrasound technology led him to our side. Abby Johnson was a highly successful abortion clinic director, until she too was directly faced with the reality of ultrasound abortion. There are millions of others that have held strong pro-abortion views, had abortions or performed abortion or euthanasia that are now on the side of life. We have zero interest in the past, and are overjoyed to have them with us working to instill in our culture the incredible value of each and every human life.

Welcome all to the Pro-life big tent!

**Andrew Thomson, Edmonton Pro-life President**

# Edmonton Prolife 2021 Scholarship Recipient Jacob Kociuba

We are pleased to extend our congratulations to the Edmonton Prolife 2021 scholarship recipient, Jacob Kociuba. All of us have been deeply impressed by this young man's commitment to the Pro-life cause. Thank you, Jacob, for revealing the spirited soul of Generation Z. The following is Jacob's scholarship application submission:

*My name is Jacob Kociuba; I am 18 years old from the small town of Athabasca, about two hours north of Edmonton. In September I will be starting my Bachelor's in Secondary Education at the University of Alberta, majoring in Ukrainian and minoring in Religion.*

*My attempts at educating my fellow students in the past were not great as I was still young and did not quite know what I was getting myself into. A quick story: in my grade 10 year, I purchased a simple prolife hoodie. It merely had a silhouette of a child in the womb with the words "Life Matters" written below. The first day I wore it to school I was swiftly kicked out of my social studies class. Not thinking much of it, I continued with my day. Last period comes around, my principal asked me to speak with him in his office. He stated that I was "offending many staff and students of my school" and that if I were to wear it again I would be suspended for three days. I was enraged and frustrated. Nevertheless, I continued to wear that sweater every day for the next month.*

*This event in my life was the starting point of ceasing to be silent on life issues in my community and my country. I read many articles and watched a plethora of videos on what abortion is, what happens, and how to educate people on the truth. Luckily last summer, while the world seemed to stop, Campaign Life Coalition was starting a Virtual Prolife Club for youth across Canada. This is an amazing opportunity for me to engage with youth from every province and learn from these amazing people. They have taught me everything under the sun on what it means to be prolife, in-depth discussions on prolife issues, and how to be more vocal in our communities about the grave injustice of abortion.*

*With all the knowledge that I have gained and am still to learn, I want all to see that life is sacred and needs to be protected. With the degree that I am pursuing, I hope to show the next generation of Canadians that life is precious from conception to natural death so that one day, no one will ever be denied life in this country and that everyone embraces life.*



**To be eligible for the Edmonton Prolife \$500.00 scholarship, applicants must be:**

- Enrolled in a program leading to a certificate, diploma or degree at any secular or religious Edmonton post-secondary school
- A Canadian citizen
- An Alberta resident for at least 12 consecutive months prior to application
- Able to demonstrate pro-life commitment; interested individuals are invited to contact us for suggestions if they are committed to our cause but have no participation history due to the Covid lock downs. Email us at [info@edmontonprolife.org](mailto:info@edmontonprolife.org) for more information on how to submit an application.



## We mourn every death

In Alberta, in 2021, there were 2,061 Covid related deaths, 1,758 overdose deaths, and 10,860 preborn deaths by abortion.

This past summer ALIES & The Back Porch completed the conversion of their garage into a prayer space. Now they are looking for volunteers to come and pray during the hours the abortion clinic is open. If you are interested in praying, please go to the website: <https://form-can.keela.co/chapel-form> to register for the ALIES prayer room.

If you have any questions or concerns or want more information contact Anita at [coordinator@alies.ca](mailto:coordinator@alies.ca) or call 780-421-9941.



Participants at the Law Courts Demonstration on January 28.

**Compassionate Community Care (CCC)** is a registered charity comprised of health care professionals and volunteers who provide support to vulnerable persons and their families during times of illness and crisis. CCC believes that all human life has equal dignity and that every person deserves to be treated with respect and compassion while receiving the care they need and deserve. For advice, help and support regarding euthanasia and assisted suicide prevention and/or end-of-life treatment issues:

1-855-675-8749

Would you like to be a church contact?



Church contacts will receive newsletters and posters (of upcoming events) that they can display in their church.

Please contact us here at the office (780-425-1637) to let us know if you would like to be a church contact!

## Save the Date

**The Spring 40 Days for Life Campaign** runs till April 10, 2022. Please consider joining the peaceful vigil. If you would like to go out and pray outside the abortion clinic with a group, please contact us here at 780-425-1637 or [info@edmontonprolife.org](mailto:info@edmontonprolife.org).

**The Edmonton Prolife AGM** will be held Sunday, May 15 at 2 pm in the large boardroom at the St. Francis Centre (6770-129 Ave., Edmonton).

**The Alberta March for Life Rally** will be held on Thursday, May 12, 2022 at the Alberta Legislature, from 12 noon till about 2:00 pm. This year, there will be a rally only (no march). The rally will include various speakers.

**The Edmonton Prolife Walkathon** will be a hybrid walkathon this year – both virtual and in-person. People will have the option of doing the walk either in their own neighborhoods or at Rundle Park on Saturday, September 10. On Sept. 10, we will end with a party in the park (all are welcome)! More details to come in the next newsletter!

**Join others in peaceful, prayerful activism** against the daily slaughter of innocent babies. Where: 50 metres from the abortion clinic, on the northwest corner of 109 A Ave. and 125 St. in Edmonton. When: the 4th Sunday of every month. \*Subject to change – please call Mary-Ellen (780-474-8011) in advance to confirm. Candlelight Rosary at 7:30 pm.

WE RELY ON ALBERTANS LIKE YOU SO WE CAN CONTINUE OUR WORK. Please consider becoming a monthly donor. Become a one-time donor or a monthly sustainer of Edmonton Prolife today! All help is appreciated. All donations are tax deductible. Yes, I would like to help Edmonton Prolife in their work in defence of life.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Prov: \_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Payment Options (amount) \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Cheque - Payable to Edmonton Prolife. To pay by credit card, please visit [www.edmontonprolife.org](http://www.edmontonprolife.org) and click on “Make a Donation.” Monthly donations are possible through automatic bank withdrawal, as well as through Canada Helps. Memberships (\$10.00) and donations are tax deductible! Charitable Registration #118894047. Please mail your donation to: Edmonton Prolife: #310- 6770 - 129 Ave. Edmonton, AB T5C 1V7. Or Call (780) 425-1637.

Board of Directors: Andrew Thomson (President), Glenn Woolger (Treasurer), Janice Barth (Secretary), Anne Wansink, Janet MacLellan. Office Assistant: Lori Buhiire

