

Edmonton ProLife Newsletter Spring 2023

Edmonton ProLife'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 ProLife 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.



Upcoming Pro-Life Events

- **April 15 - Pasta Supper Fundraiser** (O'Leary Hall at St. Joseph's Basilica – 10044 – 113 St., Edmonton); for tickets (\$25.00 per person – under the age of 12 eat free) call 780-812-9340. Newborn layette essentials will be collected for the Gianna Centre.
- **Monday, May 8 @ 7:00 pm** – Prayer service for the sanctity of human life (St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral (10825 – 97 St., Edmonton))
- **Wednesday, May 10 @ 7:00 pm** – Alex Schadenberg of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition will be speaking on the topic of euthanasia (O'Leary Hall at St. Joseph's Basilica - 10044 113 St., Edmonton). RSVP by May 9 (info@edmontonprolife.org). If you didn't get a chance to hear him in November, be sure to attend!
- **May 10 @ 8:30 pm** – Prayer Service for the March for Life (and sanctity of human life) in the sanctuary (St. Joseph's Basilica) following Alex Schadenberg talk.
- **Thursday, May 11 @ 10:00 am** – Pro-Life Mass at St. Joseph's Basilica.
- **May 11 @ 12:00 noon – 2:00 pm** - The Alberta March for Life (gather on the Violet King Henry Plaza, just north of Legislature's water fountains).
- **May 11 @ 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm** – Pro-life Apologetics Workshop (St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral – 10825 – 97 St., Edmonton) facilitated by Cam Côté (CCBR). RSVP by May 10 (780-914-1901).
- **May 11 @ 6:30 pm** – Rose Dinner (St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral – 10825 – 97 St.) For tickets (\$60.00 per person) call 780-812-9340.



Action Items

- **Attend the Alex Schadenberg Euthanasia presentation on May 10 at 7:00 pm.**
- **Attend the Alberta March for Life on May 11 (noon – 2:00 pm)**
- **Attend the Pro-Life Apologetics workshop on May 11 (3:30 pm – 5:00 pm)**
- **Attend the Edmonton ProLife AGM on Saturday, May 13 from 2 pm – 3:30 pm.** It will be held in the large boardroom at 6770 – 129 Ave. Contact the office if you plan to attend.

More ways to take action

- Buy a child's pro-life book for a baby gift or to donate to a pregnancy care centre
- Wear a 'precious feet' pin
- Have one pro-life conversation with a family member or friend
- [Get the Pro-Life Response to the "Hard Cases" | Human Life International \(hli.org\)](#) – Go to the Human Life International website and request the free e-book *Why We don't Need Abortion (even for the 'Hard Cases')*. This resource will walk you through the pro-life response to: rape and incest; fetal disabilities; and life-threatening pregnancies.

Billets needed!

Are you able to provide accommodations for CCBR (Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform) interns on May 10 (Wednesday night)? Please contact the office at info@edmontonprolife.org or 780-425-1637.

In This Together



Andrew Thomson (*Edmonton Prolife President*)

There is the old adage that those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it. As I read the many disconcerting stories surrounding Canada's embrace of euthanasia through its MAID program, I am inclined to think how we are in the process of illustrating these words of wisdom. The 1930s are not that far in the historical rear-view mirror. Indeed, there are still a good number among us that herald from that time period. Back then, among the elites and those who knew "best," was a popular view of eugenics. The basic premise of eugenics is that you need more of the "right" kind of people and less of the "wrong" kind of people. The pitch at first was to strive to attain this through "education" and "incentives." As the thinking of this viewpoint advanced, the course of action shifted to a more hands on approach of removing undesirables from the population, and less of the "wrong" people evolved into none.

Many countries started initiatives down this path, but one was at the forefront of embracing this viewpoint. Germany brought into law something called the T4 euthanasia program. The official targets of this program were the incurably ill, the physically and mentally disabled, the depressed and the elderly. However, a large weighting of the criteria of those selected for termination was based on if they were deemed economically unproductive. The view being that "burdensome lives" are best removed for the good of society.

The common mantra nowadays is that this was Nazi Germany, that is the epitome of evil. However, this in no way reflects how Germany and these policies were perceived at the time. Germany was held up as the shining example to

emulate by the progressive thinkers of the time. It's medical program and the professionals that staffed it were seen as the pinnacle of medical capability. And it wasn't brown shirted henchmen that implemented the program, it was undertaken by the physicians and nurses of this highly competent medical system. Before their grim work would be concluded, it is estimated over 200 thousand people met their end in Germany through euthanasia.

Of course, we know that this was just the tip of the iceberg in terms of institutional death brought on by the Nazis. War, genocide and the eradication of "enemies of the state" would claim the lives of millions, and spill well past Germany's borders. A poem of how this came to be is "First they Came" by Pastor Martin Niemöller. He tells about how first they came for the communists, and several other groups before the knocking was on his door, but because he didn't stand up for those groups, now there was no one to stand up for him. I fear this is where we are heading in our society that has embraced the culture of death. First they came for the unborn, then the handicapped through prenatal screening, then the terminally ill, then the elderly and the sick. Now, they are coming for the mentally ill.

When will it reach us?

The truth of the matter is when you cheapen the life of some, you in actuality cheapen the life of all. If you grant the state the permission to kill one group of people, you open the door for the state to kill any group of people. To illustrate, in its fifth year of operation, MAID claimed the lives of over 10,000 Canadians in 2021. It is in all of our interests to start to say something.

We can make a difference one individual at a time. You can do this by

- *Becoming informed and be willing to inform others*
- *Knowing your rights as a patient, especially your right to considerate and respectful care and information*
- *Designating someone to speak for you or your loved one when the person can't speak for themselves*
- *Respecting the dignity and equality of every person*
- *Caring for people in your community who are isolated and lonely, and are the most susceptible to MAID when approached at their darkest hour*
- *Supporting good palliative care/hospice services*
- *Supporting Compassionate Community Care*
- *Lobbying for long term changes*

You can make a difference in someone's life. And with the exponential growth of euthanasia that someone might be your neighbour, your friend, or even a very close family member. If the time comes, you might also make a difference in your own life.

Be proactive, and have the hard conversations and planning now.

Promote the Beauty of Life

Gianna Centre is a non-profit pregnancy support service located in Edmonton. Our mission is to **nurture the sanctity of life through service, education, and authentic care for the family.** Your prayers, talents, and gifts go a long way in lifting up the Women, Babies, and Families we serve.



Gianna Centre
PREGNANCY SUPPORT
SERVICES



in a
Year

118 Clients Served

271 Program Sessions

524 Recurring Client Visits

63 Babies Born

23 Entrepreneurial Opportunities

50+ Volunteers and Groups

47 Festive Food & Gift Hampers

365 Days of Prayer

*Stats from 2022

*Photo of Gianna clients



Sign of
Hope!

@giannayeg



780-482-5111



gianna.centre@cssalberta.ca



Billboard Ad

Our billboard ad (showing different stages of life – prenatal to newborn) is displayed on Highway 2 at the Millet Overpass. Let us know if you have seen it, and how you feel about it.



Changes to the Edmonton Pro-life Scholarship

High School students (grades 10 and up) can now apply for the Edmonton Pro-life Scholarship. Any high school student, no matter what grade or educational prospects, who can demonstrate pro-life commitment can apply for the EPL Scholarship. We will still be accepting post-secondary applicants.

Pro-Life Conversation Skills Workshop

Conversations about abortion can be challenging and emotionally charged, yet with the right approach and street-tested tools you can change hearts and minds on abortion. Join Cam Côté, host of The Pro-Life Guy's Podcast and Western Outreach Director at CCBR, from 3:30 – 5:00 pm on Thursday, May 11th at St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral for an interactive workshop for how you can have compassionate and compelling conversations with your friends, family, and members of your community. This workshop will address the challenging circumstances parents are often faced with during pregnancy, unpack when human life begins, and respond to questions regarding whether pre-born children should be considered "persons" both legally and ethically. For more information, contact Cam at ccote@endthekilling.ca.

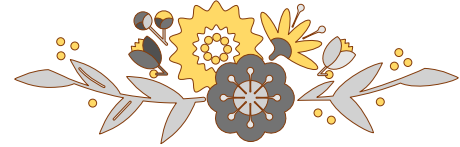
Volunteers Needed (AB March for Life)

- Supper servers (Pasta Supper fundraiser - April 15)
- March Greeters (May 11 at the Alberta Legislature)
- March Guides (May 11 at the Alberta Legislature)
- Key Support – set up and take down of sound equipment etc. (May 11 at the Alberta Legislature)

For Times and Details call 780-914-1901.



Please consider signing the petition (<https://epcc.ca/petitions/>) to support Bill C-314 to prohibit euthanasia for people with a mental disorder.



Three questions to ask your MLA/MP/Church leader (and any other leaders)

- 1) Do you think the current abortion policy reflects Canadians' opinions?
- 2) How is the opposition government and other levels of government holding the current federal government accountable to reviewing MAID and the effect of it on Canadians as promised at the time of regulation?
- 3) Federal parties say they will not open up the abortion debate – is this really democracy when the people do want to have this conversation?

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: _____

Province _____ Postal Code: _____ Payment Options (amount) \$ _____. Cheque – Payable to Edmonton Prolife. To pay with credit card, please visit www.edmontonprolife.org and click on 'Make a donation.' Monthly donations are possible through automatic bank withdrawal (call us at 780-425-1637 to arrange this), 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

Board of Directors: Andrew Thomson (President), Glenn Woolger (Treasurer), Janice Barth, Anne Wansink, Michelle Lamer. Office Administrator: Lori Buhiire

