

Edmonton ProLife Newsletter Christmas 2022

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.



2022 - Edmonton ProLife Year in Review

January – April (approx.) – Our digital billboard ad on Sherwood Park Freeway ended up being displayed longer than the three months we had paid for.

January 28 – We met outside the Law Courts building in Edmonton for the Law Courts Demonstration. We collected many toiletry items for the Gianna Centre.

March 2 – April 10 - 40 Days for Life Spring 2022 Campaign

April – A catalogue of the DVDs we own and lend for free were either hand-delivered or mailed to Catholic and Christian schools in Edmonton and surrounding area.

April 29 – 30 – Edmonton ProLife had a virtual booth at the Be Ready conference.

May – We had an ad and advertorial in the Alberta Light Magazine (online version). The magazine did a feature spotlight on the Sanctity of Life for the month of May



*Law Courts Demonstration
2022*



May 12 – Edmonton ProLife board President Andrew Thomson spoke at the Alberta March for Life Rally

June 3 & 4 – We had a booth at the Alberta Homeschool Education Association Trade Fair in Red Deer



AHEA Trade Fair 2022

Alberta March for Life Rally 2022

July – After initially being accepted to have a booth at K-Days, we ended up being denied a booth this year. We asked the Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms for help. In the end, Explore Edmonton stayed with their position, stating that they did not wish to be seen as taking sides of the pro-life or pro-choice debate.

July – We had an ad on the Shine FM website for 8 weeks, starting in July. We also had a 30 second radio ad (August 22 – Sept. 10) playing on Shine FM. Both ads included prenatal development information as well as info about our Walkathon.

September 10 – The Edmonton ProLife Walkathon – Life & Friendship Festival at Rundle Park. This year over \$9,100.00 was raised through the walkathon. In addition, \$600.00+ was raised through the sale of donated items at the marketplace inside the Rundle Family Centre.



Marketplace inside the Rundle Family Centre



Some of our wonderful volunteers

Sept. 28 – Nov. 6 – 40 Days for Life Fall Campaign

Oct. 2 – Life Chain was held along 111 Ave., from 124 St. to Groat Road (new location this year).

Oct. 29 – Video shoot for an Edmonton Pro-life YouTube video set to launch in early 2023. This professional video shows the different resources that Edmonton Pro-life offers.

Nov. 23 – The ‘Caring for our Own – Protecting people from Euthanasia’ event was held at St. Thomas More Parish. 70+ people came out to listen to Alex Schadenberg from the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition address questions concerning euthanasia.

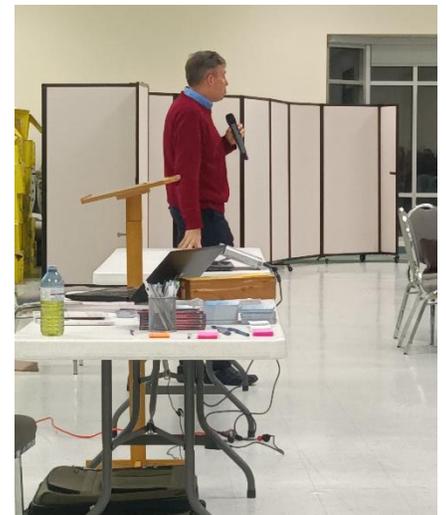


Life Chain 2018 – Grandin Media file photo

November – A billboard showing different stages of life (prenatal to newborn) has been made. This billboard will be displayed on Highway 2 at the Millet Overpass. If you are able to donate toward the cost of the billboard (\$3,500.00), that would be much appreciated.



‘Protecting people from Euthanasia’ event Nov. 23, 2022



We are no longer welcome at Teachers’ Convention or K-Days. Pattison will no longer do pro-life ads. We would appreciate prayers for getting the pro-life message across, and that God would open doors. We are hoping to donate pro-life books to Catholic and Christian schools. The billboard at the Millet Overpass will be displayed for three months. We hope to display another billboard after that. If you are able to donate toward the costs of the billboard ads or the books, you can do so by cheque, credit card, or e-transfer. Monthly giving is also an option. We appreciate any support you are able to give us. Donations are tax-deductible.



We are pleased to extend our congratulations to this year's Edmonton Pro-life Scholarship recipient, Anita Gordon. Anita is a 4th year Bachelor of Education university student at the U of A. The following is Anita's powerful essay, submitted as part of her scholarship application.



Beautifully Precious

Everything has beauty, but not everyone sees it. · Confucius

Milestones surrounding the celebrations of life are steeped in anticipation. One of the first questions that a pregnant woman hears is, "When is your due date?" A four year old will anxiously count down how many more sleeps it will be before his birthday arrives. A 50th wedding anniversary is represented by the color gold, revealing how rare and precious it is. Even a funeral is a natural milestone in life, one that brings families together to reminisce about the impact the individual has had on all of them. Our society truly loves to celebrate the gift of life, a fact which exposes an eerie paradox in the face of current abortion and euthanasia rhetoric and legislation.

The greeting card business is a multi-billion dollar industry. Entire aisles in supermarkets, drug stores, and dollar stores are filled with cards for any conceivable situation and celebration in life. Greeting cards are also deeply personal and connect the giver to the receiver in a unique way. In fact, part of Hallmark's mission statement asserts "that our products and services must enrich people's lives"

(<https://www.comparably.com/companies/hallmark/mission>). Isn't that beautiful? One can find cards for birthdays, graduations, new babies, and anniversaries. Human beings often struggle with using just the right words to express what is in their hearts and so cards can be used to encourage, thank, comfort, and offer sympathy. Greeting cards play an integral role in our society since they help us to respond to life's most precious and painful moments in a special way. However, I have never seen a greeting card in a supermarket that speaks to a woman who has had an abortion, nor have I ever found a card one can give to an individual contemplating euthanasia. Clearly these decisions and actions are unnatural to the celebration of life, the strengthening of relationships, and the enrichment of people's lives.

Sadly, the society we live in today has adopted mantras that violently clash against its own natural tendency to celebrate life. Furthermore, the powerful language from

the Charter of Rights and Freedoms has been twisted by pro-choice activists to declare that women have the reproductive right to choose to keep or abort their baby. Imagine if two women found out that they were expecting on the same day. The first woman is ecstatic and promptly tells her friends and family that she is going to have a baby. Immediately the family celebrates. Meanwhile the second woman is not happy that she is pregnant and decides to exercise her right to have an abortion. In both of these scenarios a decision is made based on the news of a pregnancy. In legislative terms, both women have responded within their legal rights to their pregnancy. However, the two unborn babies will not receive equal rights - an integral component of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms meant for all Canadians. One child will receive the right to life while the other will not. For the unborn baby, current abortion legislation runs contradictory to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The unborn Canadian baby, despite having access to the best of modern medicine, receives no guarantee for life or protection from the law.

Shifting to the opposite bookend of life, society's perception of usefulness and serviceability, coupled with the natural frailty and vulnerability of the elderly, has created a disturbing new law allowing individuals to request euthanasia. Suicide and euthanasia are synonymous to one another. Some may recoil from this statement, but that does not make it less true. Society has a way of dressing up unethical behaviors to hide the ugly elements with pretty sounding phrases such as medical assistance in dying (MAID). Equally heinous is the terminology that the advocacy group, Dying with Dignity, uses when they proclaim that the procedure is "driven by compassion"

(<https://www.dyingwithdignity.ca/>). Under current legislation, the entire definition of compassion has been horrifically warped and twisted. Normally, if an individual seeks to show compassion to another during their time of suffering, they might do so through a visit,

a hug, a meal, a listening ear, or even a Hallmark card. Compassion can never be synonymous with suicide, murder, or death. However, if we sidestep the statutes of the law and trite phraseology of pro-euthanasian organizations and focus on the personal element, the more pressing question that must be asked is 'why are the elderly in our country even opting to take advantage of medically assisted suicide?'

There was a time in our history when elderly citizens were viewed as vital members to our communities. Their wisdom and knowledge were viewed as consistent and invaluable contributions to society. In addition, those who were weaker members of society often had a depth of wisdom that stemmed from their circumstances. Have we become so arrogant today as to assume we no longer need the wisdom and experience from our elders? Have we made our elderly citizens feel as though their usefulness to society has come to an end? Is that why they are requesting medically assisted suicide? In this case, a gross misunderstanding of the real issues has

resulted in unjust legislation which has mistreated the citizens it was called to protect.

Celebrating meaningful milestones through greeting cards, gifts, and gatherings stems from a natural human response to life that strengthens bonds between families and individuals. Just as a baby is wholly dependent for life on that singular umbilical connection to the mother in the womb, so too is the well-being of a society dependent on its interconnectivity with one another. The health of a society can be measured by the way it treats its individual members. A nation who declares that abortion and euthanasia for its citizens is a human right, is a nation that is not only sick, but has debilitated itself. If only our government would recognize that any society who willfully disregards human beings at the bookends of life, sabotages and greatly weakens both its own heritage and its future expectancy. Canadians must relearn to respect and value life, from the pre-born infant to the eldest among us, for everyone is beautifully precious.

Save the Date

The Law Courts Demonstration will be on Fri., Jan. 27, 2023. This demonstration marks the anniversary of the Supreme Court of Canada's 1988 Morgentaler decision that struck down Canada's abortion law. We will meet on the east side of the Law Courts building, near the 103 A Ave. and 97 St. intersection. Parking is available at metres or in parking lots (payment is required). We will gather at 11:30 am and end at 12:30 pm. **We will again be collecting toiletries for the Gianna Centre.** Any items you can donate would be much appreciated.

The Spring 40 Days for Life Campaign will run from February 22 – April 2, 2023. Please consider joining the peaceful vigil. We will again organize groups to go out and pray outside the abortion clinic. Please contact the office to let us know if you would like to join a group. Visit 40daysforlife.com/edmonton to sign up and for more details.

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 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, Janet MacLellan, Michelle Lamer.
Office Administrator: Lori Buhiire

We wish you a Merry
Christmas and a blessed New
Year!

