

# ST. CATHARINES RIGHT TO LIFE NEWSLETTER



Dec. 2011

## Attempt to Legalize Euthanasia Underway in B.C. Court



The Carter case seeking legalized assisted suicide and euthanasia has begun in Vancouver, BC. Just last year, Canada's Parliament soundly defeated an attempt to legalize these practices when they voted 228 to 59 against

Bill C-384. Now assisted suicide advocates are trying to reach their goal through the courts.

The Carter case was launched by the BC Civil Liberties Association on behalf of the family of Kay Carter who died by assisted suicide at the Swiss Dignitas suicide centre in January 2010.

The Council of Canadians with Disabilities, a national organization of people with disabilities working for an accessible and inclusive Canada, is alarmed by the Carter case, believing it to be a recipe for lethal abuse.

The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition of Canada (EPC) and the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition BC have intervener status in the case. They will argue that legalizing euthanasia will increase elder abuse and threaten individual patient rights. In the state of Oregon, where assisted suicide is legal, patients desiring treatment under the government health plan have been offered assisted suicide instead. Our government healthcare system would be similarly empowered if euthanasia or assisted suicide were made legal in Canada. Instead of offering patients death, EPC promotes palliative and hospice care.

**Donations to help the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition of Canada fight against legalized euthanasia and assisted suicide can be mailed to: EPC, P.O. Box 25033, London, ON N6C 6A8.**

## Studies Continue to Link Abortion and Breast Cancer

Recent studies from Iran, Turkey, China and the U.S. continue to conclude that when a woman has an induced abortion, her risk for developing breast cancer later in life increases. Yet academics are afraid to talk about it because it is considered very political. This message, along with the biological reasons for the abortion breast cancer (ABC) link, was delivered at the deVeber Institute Annual Public Lecture in Toronto October 26<sup>th</sup> by Dr. Angela Lanfranchi, President of the Breast Cancer Prevention Institute in New Jersey. The popular physician, named "Top Doc" in New Jersey for Women's Health in Breast Surgery, is Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Jersey. *(continued on page 4)*

## ST CATHARINES RIGHT TO LIFE ANNUAL DINNER MEETING Saturday February 25, 2012

Scott Klusendorf will be the guest speaker at our upcoming Annual Dinner meeting at John-Michael's Banquet Centre on February 25, 2012. Scott is the President of the Life Training Institute, which trains pro-lifers in persuasively communicating the pro-life message.



Scott understands what it takes to introduce the pro-life stance to a secular world. He brings into question basic truths of life such as "What is the unborn?", "What makes us valuable?", and "What is our duty?"

Scott has debated many pro-abortion advocates and is the author of "The case for Life: Equipping Christians to Engage the Culture" and "Pro-life 101." We are looking forward to having this passionate and engaging speaker at our AGM and we pray that our coming together will be blessed and be an encouragement to all.

*Ralph deGroot*

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## 40 Days for Life Campaign Director Keynote Speaker at National Pro-life Conference



*Joan Webb, keynote speaker Shawn Carney, and Nancy Winslow at the national conference in Alberta.*

“Pray, fast, trust, speak the truth in love, and do not compromise. Abortion will end in Canada and the USA.” With these words, 40 Days for Life Campaign Director Shawn Carney inspired delegates at the National Pro-life Conference

in Alberta in October. *Forty Days for Life* was launched in 2007 to encourage people to fast and give public witness to the sanctity of human life by praying outside abortion facilities. During the last campaign, at least 732 unborn babies who had been scheduled to be killed were saved, 53 abortion workers left their jobs, and 18 abortion clinics have closed their doors permanently.

*Nancy Winslow*

### Recent Polls Show Encouraging Results

*In 2011 Environics Polls, sponsored by Life Canada, a majority of Canadians said they were not in favour of abortion and euthanasia. 72% think there should be some legal protection for the unborn, up from 55% in 2009.*

**92%** think sex-selective abortions should not be legal.

**64%** think abortions should not be paid for with tax dollars.

**66%** think palliative care should be a high priority for government.

**76%** are very concerned about elder abuse if euthanasia were to be legalized.

**74%** are very concerned that legalized euthanasia would lead to non-voluntary euthanasia.

### Benefit Concert for St. Catharines Right to Life

About 200 people filled the beautiful Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria to hear Andre Knevel on the magnificent Cathedral organ and Liselotte Rokyta on the pan-flute. Sincere thanks goes to Msgr. Wayne Kirkpatrick for welcoming us in the Cathedral, and to Cathedral music director Lucas Chorosinski for setting up the screen to allow the audience a view of the organist as he played. Close to \$3,000 was raised to further the educational work of St. Catharines Right to Life. As board member Ralph deGroot stated during the concert in his update on our pro-life work, “It is good for us to remember that there is a wonderful truth at work in our moral universe which gives us great hope and resolve. And it is this: light overcomes darkness and right ultimately prevails over wrong. This history confirms. Friends, to that end, pro-lifers are unwavering and labour tirelessly.”

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St. Catharines Right to Life is a registered non-profit organization providing educational material on abortion and euthanasia, and promoting respect for human life from conception to natural death. We support only peaceful means to promote our aims.

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*Liselotte Rokyta and Andre Knevel at the November 3 Benefit Concert*

## My Baby, Harald

My mother-in-law once said to me, "Everyone who works for the Right to Life has a story." So I guess this is mine.

After about four years of marriage, my husband and I had begun to try more seriously to have a baby. I wasn't worried at first. I thought "It's all in God's hands. He'll make it happen when the time is right." But when our seventh anniversary came and went, I was beginning to get a little more worried and a little less trusting.

Then, when I least expected it, I became pregnant. At first it was hard to believe it was real. I thought constantly about the possibility of a miscarriage, mentally preparing myself for disappointment. But once the first trimester was past I began to relax. Most miscarriages occurred in the first twelve weeks, or so I'd been told. My husband, Michael, and I were so excited when it came to the 16 week ultrasound. It was a boy! We would name him Harald. Life was great. That same night I started bleeding.

Over the next month I spent time in and out of bed, in the emergency room, back home, back to work, back at the hospital. The doctors couldn't find anything wrong; so they kept sending me home until one day my water broke. It was four months too early.

I was sent to McMaster University Medical Centre for complete bed rest. There I was introduced to the wonderful and amazing world of prenatal medicine. From pre-birth steroid treatments that accelerate the baby's lung growth, to medication that stops contractions dead in their tracks, it was pretty crazy to see all the effort and research that went into preserving these pregnancies -. these "wanted" pregnancies. As doctors gave me day by day updates on the development and viability of Harald, I couldn't help wondering, "Where is all this information when a woman is seeking an abortion?" It's not wanted; so it's not offered.

Absent was any talk of an "embryo" or "fetus." Your baby is referred to as "BABY." When stir crazy patients of the High Risk Pregnancy Ward would try to sneak out to the lunch room, leave the ward to get coffee, or God forbid, check themselves out of the hospital, the nurses were quick to remind them that this was "all for the sake of BABY." Certain pain killers were denied because "it could hurt BABY." Requests for early C-sections were refused because "every day inside increased BABY'S chances."

The tone in general was "Stop being selfish and think of your BABY."

But nothing affected me more than my experience after Harald was born. I managed to hold on another month, and Harald was born at six months and one week, weighing only 2 lbs. 14 oz. -- a perfect little person. Although he needed very little in the way of medical intervention, we would be visiting him for two months in the isolation ward at McMaster while he grew and stabilized.

No one who has seen a prenatal ICU could remain unmoved. Tiny babies,

some no bigger than a dollar bill, were everywhere being attended to: some on respirators, others under UV lights with blindfolds on their eyes, others being prepped for surgery. But all were perfectly formed and even wearing little preemie Pampers. What changed so that these children, who only days or hours before had no right to life, were now attended by teams of doctors and caring nurses? Nothing but their locations. With all the advances in modern medicine there is no denying the fact that the fetus is a baby. In fact, when wanted, no one even tries to. No one is deceived; they just refuse to look at the truth. I want to cry for all his little brothers and sisters that look just like him, could live just like him, and bring joy just like him, but are killed instead.

Harald has been home now for two weeks, and when I look at him, words cannot describe my joy.

*Bernadette Mathie,*

*Board Member of the St. Catharines Right to Life Association*



*Harald Anthony Martin Mathie, weighing just under 3 lbs., 2 weeks after birth and 6 months and 3 weeks after conception.*

## New! 2009 Abortion Statistics

There were **93,755 reported abortions in Canada in 2009**. This data does not include clinic abortions in B.C.

**55.6% of abortions were performed in clinics, 44.4% in hospitals.**

27% of abortions were done on women between the ages of 20 and 24. **15.8% of abortions were performed on teens 19 and younger.**

Only 28,814 hospital abortions contain information about how far along the pregnancy was at the time of the abortion. Of those, **552 unborn babies were 19 weeks or older when aborted.** If that ratio were to hold true for all of the abortions reported, it would mean that 1,796 unborn babies 19 weeks or older died by **abortion in 2009.**

At least **30% of abortions were done on women who had at least one previous abortion.**

The actual number of abortions in Canada is higher than reported. There is no legislative requirement for clinics to report their activity; reporting is voluntary. Therefore, clinic data is incomplete.

*(Continued from page 1)*

The medical community was first alerted to the ABC link in 1957 when a Japanese study found pregnant women who had an induced abortion were three times more likely to get breast cancer than women who did not abort. Since that time, there have been 53 published peer-reviewed studies that have shown a positive association between abortion and breast cancer.

Dr. Lanfranchi's concern is that women be told about the abortion risk factor, not only to help them avoid it by not having an abortion, but also, to encourage women who have had an abortion to be diligent about breast cancer screening.

Dr. Lanfranchi explained that a woman's first full-term pregnancy decreases her breast cancer risk because the breast tissue matures to enable her to nurse her baby. This maturation makes the cells cancer-resistant and affords her a lifelong reduction in breast cancer risk. Each additional full-term pregnancy lowers the risk further by 10%. After induced abortion where the pregnancy is abruptly ended early, the breast tissue is left with more places for cancer to start.

Called as an expert witness, Dr. Lanfranchi has testified in three successful lawsuits where post-abortive women were compensated for not being told about the ABC link and other health risks associated with their abortions. She believes cases like these help to highlight the ABC connection. But getting the message out is going to have to happen at the grassroots level. "Women and the general population just want to know the facts," she said.

*Marlene Tersigni*

*For more information on risk factors associated with breast cancer, including the ABC link, visit the Breast Cancer Prevention Institute website at [www.bcpinstitute.org](http://www.bcpinstitute.org).*



## Right To Life Speaker Says Never Give Up on Any Child.



*St. Catharines Right to Life President Greg Slingerland with comedian, actor, writer and singer Dan Kulp who was the guest speaker at Hamilton Right to Life's dinner meeting November 1.*

Four of Dan Kulp's siblings have Down syndrome and three of his four children have special needs (Down syndrome, autism, spina bifida).

Dinner guests were inspired as Dan explained how his wife's first-hand experiences with the infamous "dying rooms" in Asia led to their overwhelming desire to adopt children who were deemed by a culture of death as unworthy to live - children many would give up

on. Their first adopted son, Simon, had been abandoned in the woods in the middle of winter on the day he was born. Simon became the first child with Down syndrome to be adopted out of China to the U.S. It is estimated that 90% of unborn children with Down syndrome are aborted in North America.

## Join email blast list

Email blasts are sent out periodically to not only inform you of pro-life resources, activities, and urgent news, but also to give supporters an opportunity to participate in online polls on pro-life issues. Email us at [righttolife@becon.org](mailto:righttolife@becon.org) if you would like to join our email blast list.

Help our voice grow stronger.