

Welland-Port Colborne Pro-Life

LIFE BEGINS AT CONCEPTION!



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Government to argue 'absolute prohibition' on assisted suicide in Canada

FALL 2014

Dying with dignity is a hot-button issue across Canada, one that's about to be reignited when a landmark case goes before the supreme court. But, the federal government is now asking for an absolute prohibition on the practice.



September 2, 2014
By Laura Stone for Global News

"An absolute prohibition sends the message that all lives are valued, and worthy of protection from those who may subtly encourage vulnerable people to terminate their lives."

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OTTAWA – Federal government lawyers will argue for an “absolute prohibition” on assisted suicide in Canada, a position that could also impact provincial laws when a landmark case goes before the Supreme Court this fall.

In a factum filed with the court this summer, lawyers for the Attorney General of Canada say that assisted suicide must remain illegal to protect the most vulnerable in society.

“The preservation of life and the protection of vulnerable people – the poor, the elderly, people with disabilities – are societal interests of the highest order,” it says. Lawyers cite the ongoing ethical debate even among physicians, and reference the “slippery slope” of where to draw the line for patients who ask for assisted suicide – last dealt with by the high court in the case of Sue Rodriguez in 1993.

They also draw on examples from other countries such as Belgium, where euthanasia is approved when there is a “fear of future suffering.” The Canadian Medical Association, which is acting as an intervener in the case, changed its position in August to allow physicians to follow their conscience on providing medical aid in dying – but only within the bounds of existing legislation. “If the law were to change, the CMA would support its members who elect to follow their conscience,” reads the association’s factum.

It goes on to say the challenges physicians would face in making assessments about medical aid in dying “have been understated.” (..continued on page 2)

Welland-Port Colborne Pro-Life Association is an educational group. Our primary purpose is to educate our local Community about pro-life issues from conception to natural death. We also provide a pro-life presence in the community, and, when required, provide support to women in crisis pregnancies.



Youth Dance

A new event for our organization is the Youth Dance. This dance will take place at St. Andrew the Apostle Church hall On Saturday October 18, 2014 @6:30pm. Tickets \$7 in advance and \$10 at the door. Admission includes 1 Slice of Pizza +1 POP - Call the office at (905) 714 0547 for details and tickets.

Bowl-A-Thon

Our Annual Bowl-A-thon will take place on Saturday November 8 @ 6PM. Visit our web site for details and pledge sheets or call the office at (905) 714 0547

President	Annette Loeffen
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Community Liaison	Muriel Dyson
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President's Address



Dear Fellow Pro-Lifers,

I always appreciated this mini-sermon by St. Augustine: "Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you."

Working in the Pro-life field, there is always something or someone that needs attention. There are many areas to make a difference: Some choose to work in crisis pregnancy centers; others do side-walk counseling; some speak in schools and churches; others do fundraising; others work to defund abortion; some work in graphic design such as billboards and bus shelters; some use their literary gifts working on newsletters.....whatever the project, it fills a need.

Two things I would like to highlight. St. Catharines Right to Life sponsored their first Students for Life Retreat at Jericho House recently. MP Stephen Woodworth was the Guest speaker. He said "History is on the side of justice and human rights, and so history is on your side." Wonderful. Remember, there was once a time that slavery was legal.

Next, MP Mark Warawa, whose efforts at enshrining some rights for the unborn child in the legislature, has so far been unsuccessful, is asking for help. He is petitioning the House of Commons to condemn discrimination against girls occurring through sex-selective pregnancy termination. All we have to do is sign the petition, including your name, address, phone number, email address (if you have one). Copies will be at the office, or can be sent to you on request. Please help us to help him. God Bless, and keep us in your prayers.

Annette Loeffen



Government to argue 'absolute prohibition' on assisted suicide in Canada (..continued from page 1)

Provincial jurisdiction?

The Supreme Court case is scheduled to be heard on Oct. 15. It comes from British Columbia, where two terminally-ill women challenged the government's laws against assisted suicide and euthanasia in Canada. Gloria Taylor, who was terminally ill with ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease, and Kathleen Carter, who suffered from spinal stenosis, a degenerative condition which confined her to a wheelchair, have both since died.

Carter's daughter, Lee, is one of the plaintiffs. If upheld, the ban could impact provinces such as Quebec, which earlier this year passed a "medical aid in dying" bill for terminally-ill patients.

Lawyers for the department of justice argue that criminal law applies to provinces, even when addressing health care. "Federal criminal law power has always reflected concerns for public health and safety, itself a broad and compelling constitutional interest," the document says. "The answer must be that there is no 'core' of provincial health jurisdiction that would include the power of physicians to euthanize patients or permit physicians to prescribe drugs for the purpose of allowing patients to kill themselves."

"Dominique Talarico, a Montreal lawyer representing a doctor who is among four plaintiffs challenging Quebec's law as unconstitutional, said his province's legislation would be "dead in the water" if the court accepts the federal government's arguments. "The paramountcy or predominance of the Criminal Code would prevail over the rights that a province may have in legislating in health matters," Talarico said. A spokeswoman for Quebec's justice minister said the province won't comment until the Supreme Court makes its decision.

Euthanasia Prevention Coalition

On October 15, the EPC legal team will present their case before the Supreme Court of Canada in the Carter euthanasia case. EPC is hoping that the Supreme Court will follow the May 2013 Irish Supreme Court decision, in the Fleming case where the Irish court upheld the laws protecting people from euthanasia and assisted suicide using similar evidence.



in search of
DIGNITY

Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia are homicide not healthcare..



Dying with Dignity?



Is dying with dignity really what a lot of people now believe to be true as "Doctor-assisted suicide?"

No, it is not! Dying is in most circumstances a natural process that completes one's lifetime here on earth. Sometimes, death follows an accident or a bout with an illness, but often is related to old age. However, dying at the hands of someone else's actions is under Canadian law a criminal offence.

This would include the actions of medical staff, such as doctors and nurses, even if they have in communication with the patient decided to end the life of the patient.

You may argue that the patient has human rights, and should as such be able to ask a doctor or a nurse to assist them in dying. Canadian law however does not give you this right, and such a way of dying surely has no dignity. These requests to end a patient's life are made more often by family and friends rather than the patient in order to maintain their dignity. So what is dignity you ask?

Since everyone seems to be using that word in conjunction with death, we should look at its basic definition.

- Dignity: 1. the state or quality of being worthy of honor or respect.
 2. a sense of pride in oneself; self-respect



When using words like honor and respect, whether it is for self or others, we think of taking care, of easing their pain and suffering. Can one really have a sense of pride in oneself if one has killed themselves? Are you treating your doctor or nurse with dignity if you ask them to do the opposite of what they are supposed to do?

Killing or taking a life is never respectful and has no honor.

If we want a death with dignity, we as friends and family of the patient must do everything in our power to show them the respect they deserve. We must treat their wounds, ease their pain and use the best palliative care available. If we treat them with dignity we honor them by being at their bedside, even when it is difficult for us to see them in their fragile and deteriorating state.

More and more patients are asking for doctor-assisted suicide, in my belief not because they want to die, but more so because they fear to die alone! At least with doctor-assisted suicide there would be another human beside their bed when they pass away.

**"if abortion is not the killing of a Human Being,
 but the removal of a clump of cells,
 why then are abortionists still checking
 whether they removed all of the body parts?"**

Henk van der Wilt

**Dutch doctors are looking to set a
 maximum price for health care**

Once again the majority of Dutch medical specialists have called upon the government to legislate the total cost for medical procedures performed on one patient for the duration of one year.

In a survey of 2000 specialists 70% would like to see such a maximum price. They argue without such measures health care will become unaffordable.

As additional benefit they say it is than no longer up to them to decide whether or not to continue an expensive procedure. In 2006, when this idea was floating around, the suggestion of \$80,000 euro as maximum price was made. The Dutch finance minister at that time, Mr. Bos, explained that he was scared to death to discuss this idea, and said that whoever followed him in this post should be a very brave soul to bring this up again.

Although one can see the benefits the specialists mentioned, the slippery slope the Dutch descended on with euthanasia and assisted suicide is becoming steeper and steeper. The implications of a maximum price would be devastating to many. It also raises many questions. Can one buy extra medical help after the money is exhausted? Can one borrow against future years? The rich would always be better off, if you indeed could buy more. The scenario that runs through my mind right now is one that is similar to the movie called "In Time". The story in which people were given 25 years to live and they had to spend time on goods and services while earning more time for the work they did.

When will money be the last thing we look at when it comes to proper care?