



Voice for Life

A Publication of Abbotsford Right to Life
www.abbotsfordrtl.ca

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Newsletter No. 131

JANUARY 2012

2012...a look ahead

2012 Calendar of Events

Here are some of the events we have planned so far:

January—March	Cemetery of the Innocent
Feb. 22	Public Lecture at UFV
March 30	Spring Benefit Concert
May 10	March for Life in Victoria, BC
June 2	Walk for Life
June 17	Pro Life Sunday
Aug. 2-6	Abbotsford Agrifair
Sept. 30	Life Chain
November 2	Fund-Raising Dinner with guest speaker Gianna Jessen
November 12	Annual General Meeting

Keep informed by visiting our website abbotsfordrtl.ca

Making a difference in 2012

Our work would not be possible without the financial support of our donors and the diligent efforts of dedicated pro life people contributing many diverse skills and talents.

Here are some of the ways **you** can get involved:

- Become a member
- Attend our events and invite your friends
- Make a donation (donations can now be made through our website)
- Become a monthly donor
- Write letters to the editor
- Arrange to have us do a presentation
- Volunteer at our events
- Attend our weekly prayer time every Thursday morning from 9:15-10 am.

Visit our website at abbotsfordrtl.ca for more details.

What's new at Abbotsford Right to Life?

Check out our new website www.endabortion.ca

Donate



You can now donate online using a credit card or PayPal account. To donate online visit abbotsfordrtl.ca

A look back at 2011...

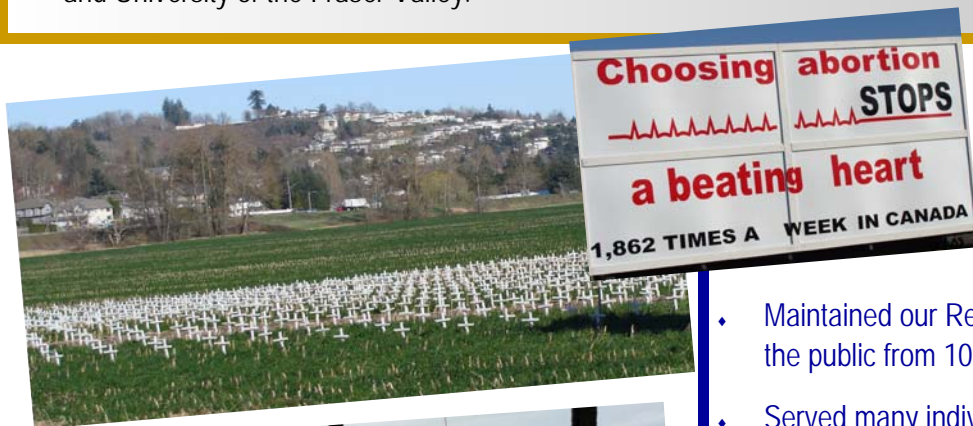
Here is a brief overview of the public events, fund-raisers and on-going work your local pro life group did in 2011.

Events, Displays and Presentations

- Hosted a Pro-Woman, Pro-Family Resource Fair where 10 diverse community groups presented information about the support they offer to vulnerable mothers and families.
- Made 20 presentations/displays at our events and/or to local groups.
- Hosted an educational dinner for our church reps.
- Hosted a luncheon for pastors with speaker Pastor Jim Butler.
- Displayed the "Cemetery of the Innocent" - a field of 1,862 crosses up for 8 weeks.
- Co-sponsored a bus to bring participants to the 4th Western Canada March for Life in Victoria, BC, attended by 2,000 people.
- Participated in the 2011 Abbotsford Agrifair.
- Organized the Life Chain in Abbotsford and Mission. A new sign was added showing an unborn baby at 7 weeks with the words "I Am A Person".
- Arranged for Rebecca Richmond to speak at Columbia Bible College and University of the Fraser Valley.



March for Life rally in Victoria, BC



Resource Centre Activities

- Maintained our Resource Centre and kept it open to the public from 10-4, Monday to Friday.
- Served many individuals who were seeking information and help.
- Maintained and expanded our website and began designing a new website "endabortion.ca".
- Published 5 full colour editions of our Voice for Life newsletter (distributed via mail or email).
- Loaned out our fetal models 8 times for various educational events or activities.





Outdoor Advertising

- Maintained our outdoor advertising at several local properties and businesses in our community.
- Maintained one bus bench on the abortion breast cancer link for almost a year.
- Co-sponsored a billboard on Highway 1 and sponsored a transit shelter ad to bring awareness to LifeCanada's adoption campaign.

On-going and Miscellaneous projects:

- Sponsored 1 board member and 2 staff members to attend the national pro life conference in Calgary.
- Sponsored 2 staff members to attend the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition symposium.
- Partnered with LifeCanada in developing their national adoption campaign.
- Contributed to the Fraser Valley Pregnancy Centre.
- Participated in a Petition sponsored by Euthanasia Prevention Coalition to oppose legalizing assisted suicide.
- Abbotsford Right to Life is now on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.



Fund-raising

- Held a Spring Benefit Concert that raised \$2700.
- Did a Spring Mail Appeal raising \$2,290
- Held the 17th annual Walk for Life that raised \$27,396 – one couple raised \$7,100 on their own!
- Held a House Concert that raised \$350
- Held our annual fund-raising dinner that raised \$10,890.
- Did a Christmas Mail Appeal and a Membership Renewal Appeal raising a total of \$15,340.
- Expanded our growing team of monthly donors to our present monthly giving total of \$1,385.

Working with Youth

- Held a youth event at a local church after Life Chain.
- Sponsored 3 students to attend the National Campus Life Network symposium.
- Partnered with Columbia Bible College in offering a service practicum to a student.
- Assisted with forming a Pro Life Club at University of the Fraser Valley

Abbotsford Right to Life

Our Mission is:

to educate our community regarding the God given value, dignity and right to life of every human being from conception to natural death.

Our Vision is:

a society in which, by law and public resolve, every human life is protected, respected and valued from conception until natural death.

Our Resource Centre is located at:

**100A—32660 George Ferguson Way
Abbotsford BC.**

www.abbotsfordrtl.ca

Office hours:

10 am – 4 pm Monday to Friday

Tel/Fax: (604) 852-4623

E-mail: life@abbotsfordrtl.ca

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Voice For Life is compiled and edited by
Arlene Penner.

Voice for Life Also Available by Email

If you'd like to receive your Voice for Life newsletter by email let us know at: life@abbotsfordrtl.ca.

Pro-life groups unite behind politician's call to reopen Canadian abortion debate

OTTAWA, Ontario, January 5, 2012 - Pro-life and faith-based groups are backing a Tory MP's call for a new debate on the legal status of children in the womb in Canada.

The groups, representing tens of thousands of pro-life voters across the country, are urging Parliament to consider a proposal by MP Stephen Woodworth (Kitchener-Centre) to revisit section 223 of Canada's Criminal Code, a 400-year-old provision inherited from British common law that stipulates a child only becomes a "human being" once he or she has fully proceeded from the womb.

"It is time to bring the law into sync with the 21st century and recognize that the child in the womb is a human being and as such deserves protection in law," said Mary Ellen Douglas, national organizer of the national pro-life group Campaign Life Coalition.

After criticizing section 223 in a press release before Christmas, Woodworth has told media that he is considering a motion or a private members bill in an effort to launch a Parliamentary debate about applying human rights protections to children before birth.

"In Canada a child is legally considered to be sub-human while his or her little toe remains in the birth canal, even if he or she is breathing," he said.

Natalie Hudson Sonnen, executive director of the national pro-life education group LifeCanada, said denying children the status of "human being" until he or she has fully exited the womb "sets up a medically and scientifically untenable position."

The law, she said, "sets Canada apart from almost every other nation on the planet, with regard to the lack of protection for unborn human beings."

"Canada's Criminal Code provisions surrounding the legal rights of the unborn child are confusing and not in step with medical and social realities," said the Catholic Civil Rights League in a statement. "Medical science has seen numerous advances in pre-natal treatments for the fetus, so we believe many Canadians would like to see laws affecting personhood updated to reflect today's realities," said Joanne McGarry, the League's executive director.

Woodworth's effort has also been backed by Tory colleague Jeff Watson, who urged taking a "more comprehensive" approach to the abortion debate that would move beyond merely discussing the criminality of the deadly act.

Canadians Want Legal Protection Before Birth

Seventy-two percent of Canadians surveyed in a September National Omnibus poll support legal protection for unborn babies. Most (62%) want protection from conception, or two or three months' gestation on. Another ten percent favor protection from 6 months on. Currently in Canada there are no legal restrictions on abortion at any stage of pregnancy.

The telephone poll, conducted by Environics Research for LifeCanada, an educational pro-life group, asked 2000 Canadians for their opinions on abortion. The margin of error is +/- 2.2%.

Participants were told that the fetal heart begins beating about three weeks after conception, brain waves can be detected within two months of conception and all organs are in place by two months. When asked when human life should be protected, 28% said from conception, 17% said after two months and another 17% said after three months. Only 20% supported the current policy in Canada of no protection for human life until birth.

Significantly, women (74%) are more likely than men (67%) to support protection before birth. 81% of women said abortion should generally be illegal in the third trimester.

Canadians were also asked about sex selection abortions which target female babies. In several countries, including India and China, girls are routinely aborted leading to skewed demographics in which adult males far outnumber females. An astonishing 92% of Canadians thought sex selection abortions should be illegal in Canada.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

ARRANGE TO HAVE US DO A PRESENTATION

Presentations can be tailored to meet your needs regarding length of time and target audience

- Children
- Teens
- Seniors
- Young adults
- Small groups
- Congregations
- Classrooms

TO BOOK A SPEAKER: Call our Resource Centre at **604-852-4623** between 10 am and 4 pm, Monday—Friday or email us at iamaperson@shaw.ca

We are pleased to provide this service free of charge.

PRESENTATION TOPICS:

About Abbotsford Right to Life – who we are, what we do

Pro-Life Involvement—what you can do to make a difference

Biblical Theology of Abortion

Abortion:

- Why women choose abortion
- The psychological, physical and emotional consequences of abortion
- Men and abortion
- History of abortion in Canada, the legal status
- Emergency Contraception and the Morning After Pill

Human Rights and Personhood

Stem Cell Research

Fetal Development

Biblical Justice and Crisis Pregnancies

I'm Pro-Life

Canada is NOT Pro-Choice—
Why I Wish it Were

Canada is NOT Pro Choice

Why I Wish It Were

A real choice is an informed choice.
But vital information on life issues is
routinely suppressed.
How is a woman to choose what is best?

John Sutherland will be speaking on this topic
at a free public lecture on

Wednesday, February 22, 2012, 7 pm

at University of the Fraser Valley
33844 King Road, Abbotsford



John Sutherland is the former Dean of Business & Economics at Trinity Western University, and VP Academic of King's University College in Edmonton. He has been a trustee with the Abbotsford Board of Education since 1983. John is a published author on ethics and social justice. He is listed in Canadian Who's Who.

SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, March 30th, 7:30 pm

Spring Benefit Concert

at Trinity Christian Reformed Church
3215 Trethewey St., Abbotsford