

THE RIGHT TO LIFE

Association of Thunder Bay and Area



SPRING-SUMMER 2018

AGM Follow-up



Baskets of Hope
(find them on facebook)



Our 45th Annual General Meeting was held at the Victoria Inn on Thursday April 12th. Guests included Kate Manduca from **Baskets of Hope**. This local initiative provides gift baskets to new parents of children with Down syndrome –celebrating their birth and removing the negativity that often surrounds a diagnosis. Kate (shown here with her daughter Hope and husband Ron) is making encouraging in-roads within local organizations, increasing awareness, challenging myths and stereotypes regarding Down syndrome, encouraging doctors to be considerate of their language choices when speaking with parents, and providing contacts within the community for families welcoming a child with Down syndrome into their lives. Today the majority of women who receive a pre-natal diagnosis of Down syndrome will choose to terminate the pregnancy without ever having met or spoken to a family raising a child with Down syndrome. Kate and her supporters hope to change that.

A volunteer non-sectarian human rights organization dedicated, through education, to providing a sure and certain voice regarding the care and protection of the unborn, women hurt by abortion, the infirm, the disabled and the aged. We oppose the violence of abortion, fetal and embryonic experimentation, unethical reproductive technologies, infanticide, assisted suicide and euthanasia.

YOUR BOARD:

President: VACANT

Membership Secretary:
Gabrielle Sawchuk

Treasurer:
Katherine Zandstra

Membership Secretary:
Scott Beange

Education and Communications:
Cindy Harasen

Amy Breukelman
Harold DeJong
Kyle Durston
Tim Janssens

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Your ongoing prayers and support are appreciated. Not a member? Please visit our website or give us a call and we can direct you! Want to become more involved as a volunteer or board member? We can help you with that too!

Looking for Canadian Abortion statistics? Visit the Canadian Institute for Health Information website here: www.cihi.ca



Find us on facebook!

THE ADOPTION OPTION

According to Life Canada, about 60% of unplanned pregnancies result in women choosing to parent. 40% end in abortion. Only 2% lead to an adoption. Social Worker and Private Licensed Adoption Practitioner Deanna Ward joined us at the AGM to speak about the practice of adoption in Canada, and resources in our own community. She will continue to consult with us as we add information on adoption to our website.



Fatal Flaws will be in our hands soon. By the same team that brought us *The Euthanasia Deception*, the film features shocking personal stories from people who oppose assisted death and whose lives have been impacted by it, as well as interviews with leaders of the death lobbies in the Netherlands and the United States. The film includes the story of Newfoundland's Candice Lewis who was pressured by doctors to die by assisted death. We will be holding public screenings of the film soon so watch for further information. If your organization, church, or small group is interested in a screening please let us know and we will arrange it. You can watch the trailer here: <https://youtu.be/89YQubAyRrl>



Our October-November first ever local 40 Days for Life prayer vigil was a huge success with a peaceful prayer vigil ongoing for a portion of each of the 40 days and attendance and participation numbers

comparable to other communities our size (and larger). There was of course the usual media attention but we are always encouraged when the subject of pro-life is kept in the public eye generating discussion and reflection. While there are no immediate plans for a second vigil RTL would be pleased to support any local church or organization that would like to take on the task of organizing another 40 Days for Life Campaign in the coming year(s). Please contact us for more information.



By the time you receive this the 2018 MARCH FOR LIFE in Ottawa will have taken place, as well as several smaller provincial marches. 10+ pro-life individuals from Thunder Bay will be in attendance and we look forward to sharing their feedback and insights!

HIGHWAY BILLBOARDS UP



This past winter two billboards were constructed south of the city on HWY 61, a busy corridor that sees a great deal of local traffic as well as travelers going to and from the US (Grand Portage) border crossing. Efforts are ongoing to identify additional billboard locations and designs. The images were purchased from **Choice42** – a Canadian non-profit organization with the largest nation-wide database of pregnancy help resources.

Strategic Planning

In January the Board took part in a full-day strategic planning session, facilitated by a third party consultant. We reflected on the organizations overall mission and mandate, strengths and weakness, short and long term goals. There will be some fine-tuning of our resources and efforts in the coming year, some refreshing of our public face, and some increased social media presence – all towards increasing public knowledge and awareness about facts related to abortion and euthanasia.

ENCOURAGING PRO-LIFE YOUTH



Engaging our pro-life youth and equipping them with the tools and resources they need to speak confidently is critical. We will be holding a pro-life youth drop-in event in the fall. Watch for your email & facebook invite and spread the news.

Confidential Post Abortive care is available through **RACHEL'S VINEYARD**. For info. contact Mary Jo at 807.767.7420 or by email at cocoa@tbaytel.net.