



THE RIGHT TO LIFE

Association of Thunder Bay and Area

LIFE – Precious at all Stages

FALL / WINTER 2024



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NEW SURVEY REVEALS 60% OF ABORTIONS IN CANADA ARE COERCED; 10% ARE OUTRIGHT FORCED

In June 2024, at the Alliance for Life Ontario (AFLO) AGM and Conference, Dr. David Reardon of the Elliott Institute, released the results of a study commissioned by Jakki Jeffs, AFLO Executive Director. The study revealed that over 60% of abortions in Canada are “chosen” contrary to the values and preferences of the mother.

fear, poverty, and disruption of lifestyle, such as losing a job or having to quit school. 10% are outright forced to have an abortion by someone with power over them.

This information sheds light on the reality of the concept of what “pro-choice” really means. It clearly means supporting death and coercion, ending the lives of 60,000 Canadian babies every year, and plunging mothers, fathers, grandparents and siblings into years of grief, guilt, remorse and regrets. More honest “pro-choice” slogans would be, “my body, my forced choice”, “my body, my coerced choice”, or “my baby, not my choice”. It is no wonder that the study also showed that 75% of the women who had abortions reported negative emotions and/or mental health issues due to the abortion.

A link to Dr. David Reardon’s complete presentation can be found at thunderbay.life and at allianceforlifeontario.ca websites.

THE GABRIEL PROJECT: SUPPORT SO WOMEN CAN CHOOSE LIFE

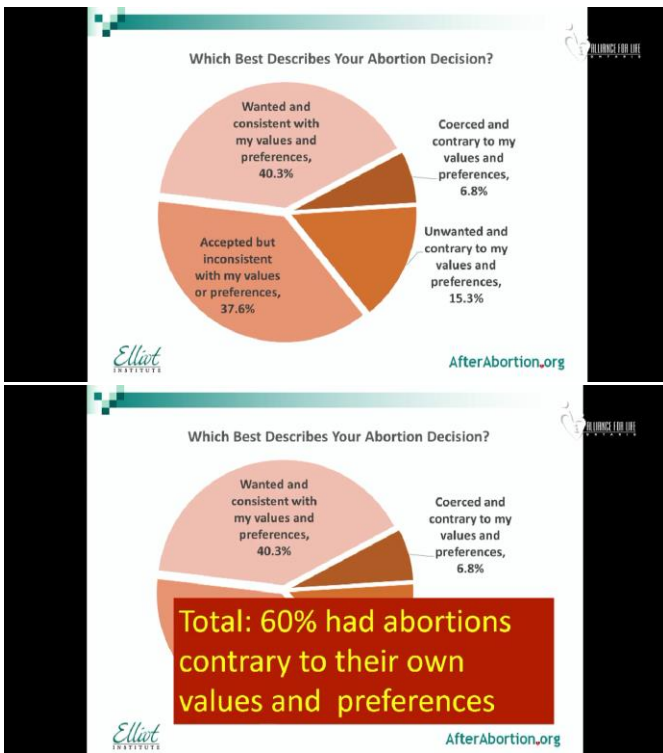
MISSION STATEMENT

Gabriel Project® Thunder Bay and Area is a network of pro-life, Christians offering assistance to women facing challenging pregnancies.

We offer encouragement and support during pregnancy and after.

Volunteers provide practical and spiritual help, emotional accompaniment and Christian witness to mothers in need.

For more information, contact callus@angel-line.ca



With over 100,000 abortions performed in Canada each year, this means that the decisions of over 60,000 mothers to abort their babies are **not freely chosen**. Reasons for having an abortion against their values and preferences include lack of support,

SPECIAL MEETING OF MEMBERS AND SPEAKER

On Tuesday, September 17th, Thunder Bay and Area Right to Life (RTL) Association members gathered at Summit Church for a special meeting to approve new By-laws and Articles of Amendment, recently updated to meet new government regulations for charitable organizations. The By-Laws and Articles of Amendment passed unanimously.

SILENT NO MORE PRESENTATION

On September 17th, following the special Member Meeting at Summit Church, those present were privileged to hear a special presentation by Angelina Steenstra. As the National Coordinator of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign in Canada (SNMAC), Angelina was the recipient of a special award for her commitment and work on behalf of the

pro-life community at this year's Ottawa National March for Life Rose Dinner.



Sharing her own experience of abortion as a teenager, and the trauma of miscarriages in her later years, she expressed the suffering involved, but also the way to healing. As well, she

conveyed that it is through such avenues as SNMAC that both women and men are encouraged and enabled to share their stories of how abortion has impacted their lives, their own recovery and why they are "silent no more." (Cont'd top of next column.)



For 20 years, SNMAC has had a presence at the annual March for Life in Ottawa. Moving testimonies are shared at the rally which takes place in front of the Parliament Buildings. Mothers, grandmothers, fathers and siblings impacted by Abortion share how abortion has impacted them.

Many of the men and women that Angelina has worked with have experienced healing through the Rachel's Vineyard program, offered throughout the U.S. and Canada, including Thunder Bay.



PRO-LIFE BOOTH AT EMO FAIR

Thanks to Petra Gerber, there was a pro-life booth at the Emo Fair August 15-17, with materials supplied by Thunder Bay Right to Life Association. People liked the many resources available including bookmarks, information pamphlets, books and 12-week silicone fetal models. The children loved the balloons. Petra said, "There were many positive reactions. People are thankful that there is a pro-life booth."

BILLBOARDS: PROGRESS BEING MADE

We are pleased to report progress made this summer and fall on new as well as existing area highway billboards. New skins to replace old faded ones were installed on two existing Highway 61 billboards. A new sign has also been installed on the existing Highway 11 billboard near Emo on the Norland Chapel property site. Our brand new billboard with a pleasing "Choose Life" graphic was constructed and completed for westward facing traffic on Highway 11-17 in the Conmee area.

MTO approval was received for another billboard to be installed for eastward traffic on Highway 11-17 near the McFarland Road intersection. We have also obtained the skin for the planned sign near the Tempelman dairy farm on West Arthur Street. We hope for favorable weather conditions that may yet allow one or both of these billboards to be erected this fall.

We continue to await MTO word on an application to install a new billboard facing westward traffic on Highway 11-17 near the McFarland



Road intersection as well. Pending approval, construction for this one would most likely happen in spring or summer of 2025.



Please pray that our billboard messages and images will awaken the public to the fact that Canada has no law to protect the unborn at

any gestational age and that they influence people to choose life.

IS GOD CALLING YOU TO VOLUNTEER FOR LIFE?

There are currently vacancies on the Right to Life Board. If you are unable to commit to the Board, there are many opportunities to volunteer, such as arranging food for our events, helping to organize activities, communications, etc. If you are interested, please send an email to info@thunderbay.life

RTL 2025 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND YEAR-END DONATIONS

Thank you to all who have already renewed their 2025 Membership. Memberships expire at the end of December each year. Beginning in October of each year, you can renew for the following year. Your newsletter has a Membership Renewal form which can be mailed in, or you can also do so at our website www.thunderbay.life. Our latest newsletter, which has been distributed to churches and church groups, was also sent with Membership Applications for New Members. Please encourage your family, friends and acquaintances to become members. Your continued support, through your membership and donations helps us continue to do the work of promoting life. THANK YOU!

ABORTION PILL REVERSAL
IT MAY NOT BE TOO LATE!

1.888.612.3960
help@abortionpillreversal.ca
abortionpillreversal.ca

ABORTION PILL REVERSAL

If you regret your decision and wish you could reverse the effects of the abortion pill, we are here to help!

You are not alone. Many women moments after swallowing the first pill realize that they have made a "mistake" and do not wish to harm their baby. There is a safe, tested, effective treatment to reverse the abortion pill process. You and your baby can have a second chance, but you must act now! Call 1.888.612.3960.

QUEBEC NOW ACCEPTING ADVANCE DIRECTIVES FOR EUTHANASIA

Beginning October 30th, 2024 Quebec began accepting Advance Directives for Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) from people with early stages of dementia or incurable disease, allowing them to state future conditions under which they could receive MAiD, without requiring any further consent.

While Quebec updated its law in June 2023 to permit Advance Directives for MAiD, the federal government did not amend the existing Criminal Code restrictions that ban such directives, meaning that those providing MAiD in such cases would technically be guilty of homicide under Canadian federal criminal law. Mark Holland, Canada's Minister of Health, while acknowledging that it is still illegal in this country under the Criminal Code to enact advance requests for MAiD, stated that Ottawa won't be ordering provincial authorities to prosecute for delivering them. Dr. Jaro Kotalik, co-editor of the book Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) in Canada, explained, *"The problem is that in the matter of Advanced Directives the federal government again blindly imposes on the whole country the changes in the practice of MAiD that were implemented by Quebec judges and the Quebec government rather than expecting and demanding that MAiD practiced in the province of Quebec will respect the current version of the Criminal Code, which is a federal law, and which is respected by all other provinces and territories."* He further states, *"Although the Advanced Directive for provision of MAiD is seen as a solution to alleviate the fear of a future mental decline that would make people ineligible to ask for MAiD, the reality is that such a Directive could also cause serious harm. Not all people with a progressive dementia or similar disease will experience growing mental suffering. There will be also those who adjust themselves to the loss of some of their capabilities and will enjoy a simpler life. Terminating their life because their Advanced Directive says so would be unjust and tragic."*

In February 2024, the Federal government postponed expansion of MAiD solely for mental illness, until 2027. People ending their lives by MAiD now represent over 4% of all deaths in Canada, which has been steadily increasing by over 30% every year.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH SUPPORTS LIFE THROUGH DONATION OF COLLECTIONS

(From Deacons of Thunder Bay URC)

The United Reformed Church of Thunder Bay supports the Right to Life Association of Thunder Bay through regular collections from the congregation. We believe it is vital to support work that promotes the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Our church appreciates the pro-life projects and initiatives undertaken by the association, with members taking part in events such as the annual National Life Chain. The association website has many pro-life educational resources which are also appreciated.

LIFE CHAIN 2024 HUGE SUCCESS

Despite strong cold blustery wind, on October 6th eighty-one people lined Red River Road for the annual Life Chain, a national event organized by Campaign Life Coalition. The hour long silent prayerful witness for life began and ended with the group gathering for prayer and was followed by fellowship over refreshments and snacks.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

National March for Life & Youth Summit

– May 8 & 9, 2025, Ottawa

Alliance For Life Ontario (AFLO) Conference

– June 2025

National Life Chain

– Oct. 5, 2025, Thunder Bay location to be announced.