



Catholic Civil Rights League

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Monthly highlights

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Support growing for Motion 408

OTTAWA, ON November 23, 2012 – Petitions are now available in support of Motion 408, which calls on the House of Commons “to condemn discrimination against females occurring through sex-selective pregnancy termination.”

The motion, introduced by MP Mark Warawa (PC-Langley) in late September following the failure of Motion 312, cites numerous studies showing that the practice of aborting females due to a cultural preference for males is happening among certain communities in Canada, and that 92 per cent of Canadians believe such abortions should be illegal.

“Gender selection has been strongly condemned by all national political parties,” said Mr. Warawa. “As well, the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada have vehemently opposed sex-selective pregnancy termination.”

The League has called for an end to the practice many times in the past, noting that the combination of education and a new law are required to guarantee true equality among the unborn, the most vulnerable population.

A downloadable petition for your signature is available through Mr. Warawa’s website (<http://www.markwarawa.com>.) A petition that can be signed online or downloaded is available through Campaign Life Coalition. It is also important to express your support to MPs through phone calls, letters or e-mails.

B.C. pro-life student group denied campus club status

LANGLEY, B.C. November 27 2012 – Students at Kwantlen Polytechnic University have obtained legal representation to fight a recent rejection by the student union of their application to form a pro-life club on cam-

pus. The Catholic Civil Rights League supports the students in their right to equal access to campus club facilities and resources.

The Kwantlen Student Association (KSA), which represents the students from the university’s four Vancouver Metro area campuses, explained its decision by stating that the creation of the *Protectores Vitae* club “is clearly against our own standing policy on Abortion and a Woman’s Right to Choose.”

“We’re very disappointed,” said Oliver Capko, president of the pro-life group. “Our student association is supposed to represent us and not censor us for having a different position.”

“They are in violation of their own policies,” stated Anastasia Pearce, the Western Campus Coordinator for National Campus Life Network, an organization which supports pro-life students across Canada. “Their own policy states that the association can’t censor or interfere with a club, even if it disagrees with its beliefs. Free speech and debate, even on controversial issues, should not be stifled at a university simply because those in positions of authority are pro-choice.”

The club is demanding that the Kwantlen Student Association grant them status. The Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms (JCCF) has taken the case and is acting on behalf of *Protectores Vitae*.

Bill C-279 at committee stage

OTTAWA, November 22, 2012 - Bill C-279, an Act to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Criminal Code (gender identity and gender expression), arrived for hearing before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights November 20. The bill, introduced by MP Randall Garrison (NDP –

Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca), had its second reading last spring and will return to the House of Commons for final reading and vote following committee study. The bill would add gender identity and gender expression as prohibited grounds under the federal human rights code and Criminal Code, but does not actually define the terms.

This bill would add a very subjective category – i.e., what gender someone BELIEVES him- or herself to be – to the objective list of grounds under which discrimination is already quite rightly prohibited. These include race, colour, creed, gender, national origin and other objective characteristics. To add a category that is essentially self-defined would put employers and others who must help uphold human rights law in a very difficult position. If passed, this Bill would also make it legal for males who believe themselves to be female to access women’s washrooms. In the main, legal experts agree that discrimination against the transgendered is already covered by laws protecting gender and sexual orientation.

In addition to sending letters to your MP expressing concerns about this unnecessary proposed change, MP Rob Anders is [hosting a petition](http://www.robanders.ca) (<http://www.robanders.ca>) against it that you may wish to consider signing.

Media Watch

Papal Twitter site launched

VATICAN CITY - Once the Vatican launches Pope Benedict XVI’s official Twitter feed before the end of the year, it’s hoped all the fake papal tweets will cease and desist, said a Vatican official. (Ed. Note: the Twitter site was to be launched at a Vatican press conference December 3.)

There are dozens of unofficial @PopeBenedict handles and usernames in a number of different permutations and languages on Twitter; many are using an official portrait of the Pope as their avatar and some boast thousands of followers.

Some of these Twitter accounts are being run “obviously by people of goodwill” who tweet about real news and activities of the Pope, said a Vatican official who requested anonymity.

The Vatican will have a verified and authenticated papal Twitter account, which will help users distinguish the official Pope Benedict stream from the imposters, the

official said. Unfortunately, there are some phony accounts “that aren’t very helpful” because they obviously don’t have the best interest of the Pope or his teachings in mind.

For example, some bogus feeds produce off-colour or inappropriate commentary. But if it’s obviously satire, comedy or parody, “nothing can be done about that because of freedom of expression,” the official said. Yet, there’s little risk of people mistaking those accounts with the official account, he added.

Visit our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/CatholicCivilRightsLeague) for interactive content of interest to League supporters.

Let the League know: If you see articles, notices of TV programs or other media content that you believe have serious anti-Catholic content, please contact us at ccrl@ccrl.ca to help us evaluate and respond in a timely way.

Mark your calendars: If you live in the Toronto area, or are planning to visit next May, please set aside Thursday May 30 for our annual dinner and presentation of the Archbishop Exner Award for Catholic Excellence in Public Life. More details to follow.

Chapter contacts

For upcoming meetings of our *Windsor-Essex chapter* contact Bob Baksi at robert@baksi.com.

Antigonish chapter: Contact Don Maclellan, chapter president, at maclellan_donald@yahoo.ca for details. From September to June the chapter meets the first Tuesday of each month.

St. Catharines Chapter: Contact Justin O’Donnell at justinodonnell@cogeco.ca.

The League is pleased to address parish and school groups in regions where we have a director available. Contact Joanne at 416-466-8244 or ccrl@ccrl.ca for more information. We have information and membership brochures available for parish events and literature racks. We would be happy to send you some upon request.

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