



The Catholic Civil Rights League

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Quarterly highlights, June 2013
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CCRL hosts annual dinner, presents award to Father de Valk

TORONTO, May 31, 2013 - The Catholic Civil Rights League hosted its annual dinner in Toronto May 30. The event featured the presentation of the Archbishop Adam Exner Award for Catholic Excellence in Public Life to Father Alphonse de Valk, CSB, and a keynote address by Stephen Woodworth, MP for Kitchener-Centre.

Father de Valk, who was chosen for the award for his contributions to pro-life advocacy and writing, co-founded the Catholic Civil Rights League in 1985, and the Ontario Family Coalition Party in 1987.

The long-time editor of Catholic Insight, Father de Valk founded the magazine in 1993 with a special mission to inform, catechize and strengthen faithful Catholics to engage with the culture. He recognized that the intellectual, social and moral underpinnings of the culture of death were interconnected, with a seamless nexus between contraception, abortion, euthanasia and homosexuality. In 2006 he became part of the war against the excesses of human rights commissions when he was charged with hate speech by the Canadian Human Rights Commission, based on a complaint from an Edmonton activist about some writings critical of homosexual conduct, written during the debates about changing the definition of marriage. He was acquitted in 2009 but only after incurring significant legal expense.

He went to work full time for Campaign Life Coalition in Toronto in 1984, and was editor of The Interim from 1987 to 1992. In October, 1985 he spent a night in the Toronto (Don) Jail for chaining himself to the gate of the Morgentaler Clinic. He continued to protest once a week for almost five years. In 1989 he was arrested nine times and charged with trespassing for violating the injunction against protesting outside the Morgentaler facility, eventually being fined \$750 or two weeks in jail. Since then he has stopped witnessing at the site, but has not paid the fine or gone to jail. Father de Valk told the dinner attendees that some of the early work of Catholic Insight in the 90s focused on the liberalization of attitudes toward homosexuality, particular-

ly in schools, and noted that many of the predictions came through in the recent [Whatcott decision](#) by the Supreme Court of Canada. "By failing to acknowledge a difference in law between criticizing the behaviour as opposed to the person, the decision has a chilling effect on free speech and open dialogue." He added that much of the battleground has now shifted to schools, noting that that we need good trustees to uphold the religious rights of Catholic Schools.

His acquittal on hate speech charges in 2009 was based in part on a finding that the writings were commentary on public policy, not hatred.



CCRL President Phil Horgan, Executive Director Joanne McGarry and Father de Valk

Father de Valk, who co-founded the League in 1985, also said he is enjoying his retirement at the Henry Carr Farm in Beeton, where he now resides.

Guest speaker Stephen Woodworth (MP-Kitchener Centre) discussed Motion 312, a private members' bill he proposed last year.

The Motion called for a parliamentary study that would call

on expert evidence to determine whether Canada's current definition of when a child becomes a human being is in keeping with modern scientific evidence. (The definition, that a child is a human being for legal purposes after it has completely exited the mother's body in a living state, is contained in Criminal Code subsection 223(1) and is based on 400-year old common law).

"The sweep of history for 400 years has been the ever-greater recognition of the inherent worth and dignity of every human being. That bedrock foundation anchors Canada's essential character.

"Motion 312 was not really about abortion at all, but about basic human rights," said Mr. Woodworth. "It was about enshrining in Canadian law the equal and inherent dignity and worth of every human being. All laws must be honest; in this case, our current definition of when a child becomes human is at odds with what the great majority of Canadians understands and believes."

This is not "just a religious thing", as opponents like to maintain, he said. "This is a moral issue, not a confessional or sectarian one."

The motion, which was defeated in September, 2012 by a vote of 203 to 91, also was in keeping with a comment Justice Bertha Wilson made in her decision in R vs. Morgentaler, when she noted that parliament was free to propose new abortion legislation and could consider calling on medical, ethical and other experts to consider evidence on when life begins. "It was not a radical proposal. But abortion proponents behave as though a spell has been cast every time anything remotely connected to abortion comes forward, and oppose it out of hand. This happened with Mark Warawa's proposal on gender-selective abortion as well as Rod Bruinooge's proposal to ban coercion in abortion."

History is on the side of justice and basic human rights, Mr. Woodworth said. "I believe science and medicine will bring Canadian law into the 21st century." In the meantime, it's important to become politically engaged. "Join a political party to do the persuading and the relationship building, to convince MPs and other party members to listen on human rights and democratic values."

Have you moved?

Please advise us as soon as possible of changes of address, as well as any changes to your e-mail address, by contacting cctl@cctl.ca or CCRL, 1000—120 Eglinton Ave. East, Toronto M4P 1E2.

Statement on the death of Morgentaler

TORONTO, ON May 30, 2013 – The Catholic Civil Rights League comments on the death of Henry Morgentaler on May 29.

"As an organization supporting the protection of all human life from conception to natural death, we have always been opposed to Canada's unrestricted access to legal abortion of which Henry Morgentaler, through his continued court challenges, was probably the biggest single influence," said Joanne McGarry, League executive director. "Nevertheless, his death reminds us of the sanctity of all life. May God have mercy on his soul."

The League supports education and advocacy efforts to restore respect for life.

League to intervene in prostitution appeal

OTTAWA, ON May 1, 2013 - The Catholic Civil Rights League is pleased to announce that its application to intervene in the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) appeal of the Ontario court decision legalizing keeping a common bawdy house and communicating for the purpose of engaging in prostitution has been accepted. The League will fill a factum jointly with our colleague organizations Christian Legal Fellowship (CLF) and REAL Women of Canada, with which we intervened in the first two levels of the case.

The SCC will consider whether sections 210 (keeping a common bawdy house), 212(1)(j) (living on the avails of prostitution) and 213(1)(c) (communicating for the purpose of engaging in prostitution) of the Criminal Code infringe the Charter in a manner that cannot be justified in a free and democratic society, and are therefore unconstitutional. (The [Ontario Court of Appeal](#) upheld the restriction on soliciting in public for purposes of prostitution.)

Our application to intervene stated that we intend to focus on issues of morality and human dignity. We will argue that the impugned laws are constitutional given their purpose of protecting public morality. The application judge at the original trial in Ontario Superior Court agreed that morality is a constitutionally valid legislative objective.

In the Ontario Court of Appeal, our coalition was the only intervenor supporting the constitutionality of the impugned provisions. We will argue that that prostitution is an act that offends the consciences of ordinary Canadian citizens and, as a result, that the impugned laws reflect Canadian society's moral convictions.

Motion an opportunity to evaluate anti-bullying strategies

TORONTO, May 22, 2013 – The Catholic Civil Rights League today commented on the motion of Toronto Catholic School Trustee Gary Tanuan to address a response to anti-bullying strategies in Toronto’s Catholic schools and use the Ontario Bishops’ and Catholic trustees’ document “[Respecting Difference](#)” as the framework for all anti-bullying clubs and activities.

Ontario’s Bill 13, passed last June after considerable controversy, requires all schools to permit student-led GSAs, so-named, if requested by students. The requirement was a key part of the government’s Accepting Schools Act, but was opposed by Catholic stakeholders as being ill-measured, and an infringement on Catholic education rights to instill Catholic teachings within the school. Many Catholic parents and trustees opposed the imposition of GSAs on the basis that a student-led club without adult direction could create problems with upholding Catholic teaching. Many Catholic boards, including the TCDSB, had already adopted policies in favour of the Respecting Difference model (March, 2012).

Any bullying is unacceptable, and the vast majority of Canadians support efforts to address bullying, including cyber bullying, through legislation and efforts by the community at large. To be effective, these efforts require adult supervision and accountability.

A comprehensive anti-bullying policy based on respect for the dignity of the person, which is consistent with Catholic teaching and the teaching of all major religions, would recognize that all students should be free from bullying, without categorization or qualification. It should not be necessary to identify and label various students according to notions of their sexual orientation or gender identity in order to hold bullies to account.

We endorse the Board's right to manage its own system so as to ensure consistency in all respects with Catholic teaching, and to rely upon the Respecting Difference model as the basis for management on this question.

League supports March for Life

OTTAWA, ON May 11, 2013 – The Catholic Civil Rights is proud to announce its continued support for the national [March for Life](#), which took place in Ottawa May 9 with representation from across the country. As in previous years, the League encouraged its members to attend, and provided a financial donation and advertising support for

the event. We were also featured in the EWTN television documentary about the march.

“The Right to life is fundamental to all the civil rights issues that the League addresses through its work,” said League Executive Director Joanne McGarry. “This year’s theme – ‘It’s a girl’ should not be a death sentence – is very much in keeping with the support we provided for [Motion 408](#) and all previous efforts to end the practice of sex-selective abortions.”

SCC refuses to revisit Whatcott case

OTTAWA, ON April 22, 2013 (LifeSiteNews.com) The Supreme Court of Canada has declined to reconsider its February 27 ruling against Christian activist Bill Whatcott that found him guilty of “hate speech” against homosexuals.

“The Supreme Court remains determined to uphold the fantasy that my so-called ‘hate speech’ has the potential of preventing homosexuals from expressing themselves or leading to genocide,” wrote Whatcott on his blog after the decision was released on Thursday. The court dismissed the application for a re-hearing “without costs.”

Whatcott’s lawyer Tom Schuck said in a press release in March that a re-hearing was requested based on the Court’s conclusion that Whatcott had labeled homosexuals as “pedophiles” in the pamphlets which were the basis of the case, and which the court found to be hateful. However, Whatcott has said that he made no such claim or statement.

“We are also arguing they erred when they claimed I called all homosexuals pedophiles. Nowhere in my flyer did I ever make this claim,” he said. The League was an intervenor in the Whatcott appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Petition update

A League member has now collected hundreds of petition signatures asking Heritage Minister James Moore to review CBC funding. The petition began in response to a skit on “This Hour has 22 Minutes” in which Tim Hortons coffee and Tim Bits were used to represent the Eucharist. If you have collected signatures, please return them to us as soon as possible as we would like to have all copies delivered by the end of June.

CCRL regrets Motion 408 deemed “unvotable”

OTTAWA, ON March 22, 2013 – The Catholic Civil Rights League regrets that Motion 408 has been deemed unvotable and therefore will not be brought forward in the House of Commons.

On September 27, 2012, Member of Parliament Mark Warawa (PC - Langley) introduced Motion M-408. It reads simply, "That the House condemn discrimination against females occurring through sex-selective pregnancy termination." Many League members and others expressed their support for the motion in correspondence with their MPs.

The motion was brought up unexpectedly at the Sub-Committee on Private Members' Business March 21. The declaration that it was non-votable was unanimous. Members stated that it falls outside the jurisdiction of the Federal Government and is similar to a motion already voted on in the House.

“This motion simply asked that the House condemn a deplorable practice – that of the selective abortion of females,” said Joanne McGarry, League Executive Director. “The vast majority of Canadians – 92 per cent according to a recent poll, have condemned the practice. It’s unfortunate that the House will now probably not have the opportunity to collectively express the revulsion of most Canadians for sex-selective abortions.”

“Gender identity” bill passes in House of Commons

OTTAWA, ON March 21, 2013 – Bill C-279, which would add “gender identity” to the Canadian Human Rights Act as

a prohibited ground for discrimination, passed its third and final reading in the House of Commons March 20 by a vote of 149-137. The League opposed this change, noting that it adds a somewhat vague and subjective category to what has traditionally been an objective list of characteristics. To add a category that is essentially self-defined could put employers and others who must help uphold human rights law in difficult position. Many legal experts agreed the transgendered already had protection under the prohibition against discrimination on the grounds of sex. The bill is now before the Senate.

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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.

Development update

Thank you for your generous response to our Spring Development Appeal. We are almost at our goal. If you were planning to donate to the appeal but have not yet done so, please send your gift as soon as possible. If you aren't able to donate at this time, please remember us in your prayers, and consider participating by referring new members or offering to distribute some literature for us.

Contact us:

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