



From our Executive Director, Christian Elia

Dear friends,

We have had a busy year.

The Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) has inflicted euthanasia upon our country. Law Societies in three provinces have challenged

the recognition and accreditation of future graduates of a Christian university's law school given its adherence to traditional marriage in its code of conduct. The Supreme Court has also ruled against prayer before municipal council meetings. On the other hand, the SCC has accepted a modest recognition of religious education rights in Catholic schools in the face of aggressive secularized provincial curricula. Still, there is much work to do.

Our engagements have continued in court cases, media, regulatory bodies, particularly with provincial medical colleges, and recently with the External Panel called on to provide advice to the federal government in response to the Carter decision. In the face of the pressures of a euthanasia regime, the CCRL has asserted the importance of a robust protection for conscientious freedom of health care workers to avoid participation in assisting in the death of patients. Nevertheless, several provincial regulators of doctors and health care workers have found it acceptable to compel doctors to be complicit in acts which they find morally unacceptable. Currently, regulatory bodies in Quebec, Ontario, and Saskatchewan have changed their governing norms so as to force a physician to provide an "effective referral", or in cases of emergency,

to perform an objectionable service against their will or suffer exposure to regulatory reprimand. We have submitted that a compulsion for referral is not acceptable as it still violates a physician's conscience. For Catholics, it also means being complicit in an intrinsically evil act, or full participation in grave sin.

We at the CCRL continue to reject the Supreme Court's unreasonable and dangerous decision and we refuse to be complicit in evil by participating in any process that establishes physician assisted death in Canada. We reject the ill-informed view that we can make a difference by letting our voices be heard as part of a process that will ensure safeguards. As has been seen in other jurisdictions, the prospect of safeguards proves illusory, and eventually become ignored with successive court cases.

We choose instead to stand with the Canadian bishops who recently sought to have the new federal government use the notwithstanding clause, given the pressures of such a monumental change to our laws.

The CCRL thanks so many of you who have generously contributed through our Spring Appeal. Along with this update we have included a donation card and a return envelope. We humbly ask all of our supporters to please contribute what you can by VISA, MasterCard, or cheque. Your financial support is a requirement for us to continue to fight for the Truth which is Christ and His Church. It is desperately needed and greatly appreciated.

In Corde Jesu,

Christian Elia, *Executive Director*



From our President, Phil Horgan

Hello friends,

In looking back on 2015, it should come as no surprise to League followers that we are now facing greater engagements with what St. John Paul II described as the culture of death.

We have witnessed a sea of change in our laws on euthanasia and assisted suicide, as imposed by the Supreme Court of Canada in the Carter decision from February 6. The fallout from that decision continues, with provincial colleges imposing new demands on health care providers to perform certain procedures in extremis situations, or mandating a referral to another physician or health care agency to do so. Provincial laws, and the funding that pays for health care, have been moving in a direction to impose propositions such as "medical

aid in dying”, by stipulating that all health institutions provide such options, or face restrictions on continued financial support.

As we have seen in other jurisdictions, the allowance for modest proposals for physician assisted suicide are expanded over time, such that individuals who may have years to live are encouraged to take their life prematurely. Research has shown that assisted suicide regimes lead to the abuse of the aged and frail, especially from those who stand to inherit. We can expect the next push to expand euthanasia to non-terminal individuals, and the expansion of which individuals, other than doctors, will be authorized to serve up death drugs.

At the League’s November 5, 2015 presentation to the federal External Panel on Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia, we raised numerous concerns on what the new regime would impose, including:

- the illusory nature of safeguards, and the risks to the vulnerable;
- an analogy of how capital punishment has been avoided in Canada in part over a fear of convicting the innocent, despite safeguards of a trial process, defense counsel, and appellate review, factors which will be missing in an assisted suicide regime;
- the need to invoke the notwithstanding clause of the Charter, to afford more time to consider options;
- the impact of future demands, as expressed by some advocates in the Carter case, that a law based on autonomy of the individual

will eventually remove the consideration for the patient’s underlying health issues;

- the ongoing problems now engaged by provincial regulatory Colleges to assert a duty on health care providers to provide “effective referrals” for objectionable procedures, which engages moral cooperation with evil; and
- the need to consider new provisions in the Criminal Code against coercion of healthcare providers.

Other important cases continue to be argued on the merits of the acceptance of the Trinity Western law school, and the ongoing tension between religious liberty and state neutrality in the context of education curricular demands. But 2015 will be remembered most for the changes imposed by the Supreme Court on the allowance of assisted suicide and euthanasia, over the repeated express votes from Parliament denying the need for such a change. It is a change not unlike the impact of the Court’s ruling in 1988 on abortion in Morgentaler, which remains as a scourge to our great country.

Please pray for our work, and if means allow, we thank you for considering your continued financial support for the work of the CCRL. In a special way, we ask that you pray that we may find additional workers to find time to assist us in our advocacy.

Phil Horgan, President

The Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) Rules against Public Prayer

On April 15, the CCRL commented on the release by the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) in the *Mouvement Laïque Québécois and Alain Simoneau v. City of Saguenay and Jean Tremblay* appeal.

At issue in this appeal was whether the City of Saguenay, Quebec and their mayor Jean Tremblay acted in a discriminatory manner against Alain Simoneau, a non-believer, by permitting prayers at city council meetings along with the continued display of previously in place religious symbols on city property. At its core, this appeal was also about how to reconcile or balance competing rights under anti-discrimination statutes. The CCRL’s intervention emphasized that multi-faith and non-denominational prayers and religious symbols do not discriminate against non-believers. The CCRL intervened jointly with the Association of Catholic Parents of Quebec, and the Faith and Freedom Alliance.

The Supreme Court ruled that the adoption by city by-law of the following prayer discriminated against the Applicant, an atheist, and restored a damage award of \$30,000 from a Quebec human rights tribunal. Here is the actual prayer:

Almighty God, we thank You for the great blessings that You have given to Saguenay and its citizens, including freedom, opportunities for development and peace. Guide us in our deliberations as City Council

members and help us to be aware of our duties and responsibilities. Grant us the wisdom,

knowledge and understanding to allow us to preserve the benefits enjoyed by our city for all to enjoy and so that we may make wise decisions. Amen.

The Court further ruled that a two-minute period of silence following the prayer, so as to allow non-adherents a chance to enter the chamber without exposure to the invocation, likewise to be illegal.

The CCRL supports an authentic pluralism, which allows for religion to share the public square with non-believers, and this includes prayer which must not compel obedience and which is not used to proselytize or advance any one faith, or to disparage any other faith or belief, including non-belief. The CCRL argued, in fact, that any exclusion of an inclusive prayer, which is not coercive or a constraint on non-believers, would offend state neutrality because it would amount to a preference for non-belief over belief.

The CCRL favours a true notion of authentic Canadian pluralism which encourages the participation of multiple prayer options and/or a moment of silence for non-believers or for those with no particular affiliation. Such authentic pluralism allows for public participation of religious believers with others, even if there may be disagreement, and engages in proper respect for and allowance of difference in the public square.

The late Canadian theologian and author, Father Richard John Neuhaus, coined the phrase in his 1984 book, *The Naked Public Square*, suggesting that US constitutional developments were promoting a public square 'naked' of religious belief. The Supreme Court of Canada has moved our country in a similar direction.

The SCC went further to discount the language from the preamble to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which asserts that Canada was founded on the principle of the supremacy of God, as being of no assistance in interpreting other sections of the Charter. Based on recent decisions, it can be argued that the Court is also moving away from the other founding principle mentioned in the preamble: the rule of law.

Mr. Justice Casgon cited the previous ruling of the Quebec Court of Appeal, which had decided in favour of a notion of 'benevolent neutrality' in the Saguenay case:

The duty of neutrality must be complied with in a manner that is consistent with society's heritage and traditions, and with the state's duty to preserve its history (para. 69). Protection of the diversity of beliefs must be reconciled with the cultural reality of society, which includes its religious heritage (para. 72).

The Quebec court further held that the interference with Mr. Simoneau's freedom, if any, was trivial or insubstantial in the case of both the prayer and the symbols (paras. 115 and 127).

However, in the April 15 ruling, Mr. Justice Casgon stated:

By expressing no preference, the state ensures that it preserves a neutral public space that is free of discrimination and in which true freedom to believe or not to believe is enjoyed by everyone equally, given that everyone is valued equally. I note that a neutral public space does not mean the homogenization of private players in that space. Neutrality is required of institutions and the state, not individuals. On the contrary, a neutral public space free from coercion, pressure and judgment on the

part of public authorities in matters of spirituality is intended to protect every person's freedom and dignity (para 74).

It is hoped that the Parliament of Canada will maintain its prayer invocation prior to opening its sessions, and that invocation of a Judeo Christian God will be allowed in public ceremonies, such as Remembrance Day or other recognitions of service by Canadians, many of whom sacrificed their lives 'for God and country'. The adoption of such slogans may soon attract a human rights complaint.

May God bless Canada!

Let Life Win! The Catholic Civil Rights League (CCRL) supports the March for Life

The Catholic Civil Rights League (CCRL) was pleased to extend its continued support for the national March for Life, which took place in Ottawa on May 14, with representation from across the country. The theme for this year's march was 'Let Life Win!'

As in previous years, the CCRL's executive director, Christian Elia, was present in Ottawa supporting the cause with media work, advertising support, and a financial donation on behalf of the CCRL. Dr. Elia participated on a panel discussing euthanasia and conscience rights in Canada, which was taped by EWTN, for broadcast in September and October in advance of the Canadian federal election. Elia also participated in EWTN's live coverage from Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

The right to life and the sanctity of human life is fundamental to all of the civil rights issues that the CCRL addresses through its work.

This year, an estimated 25,000 people assembled on Parliament Hill and marched through downtown Ottawa to raise awareness that Canada is the only western nation with no protection for the unborn. Provincial marches for life also took place simultaneously across Canada, drawing thousands more. Events in Ottawa included Masses, a candlelight vigil, youth workshops, the Rose Dinner and a youth banquet in addition to the march itself.

The CCRL thanks our friends at Campaign Life Coalition for the wonderful work that they do each year with the March for Life.



Dr. Donald DeMarco Winner of CCRL Award

On May 29, The Catholic Civil Rights League (CCRL) was pleased to announce that it had chosen scholar, writer, seminary professor, and pro-life activist Dr. Donald DeMarco as winner of this year's Archbishop Adam Exner Award for Catholic Excellence in Public Life. The award was presented at the CCRL's annual Spring Dinner on June 18 in Toronto, featuring a keynote address by Charles Lewis, anti-euthanasia activist and former religion writer and editor with the National Post.

CCRL President Phil Horgan confirmed the League's selection:

Professor DeMarco is a national Catholic treasure. His work gives

witness to our faith in a world which is increasingly seeking to exclude Christian perspectives from the public square. The CCRL is delighted to recognize Don for that continued witness. He has been a great friend of the League, and we look forward to presenting him with the Exner Award this year.

Dr. DeMarco, a long-time supporter of the CCRL, said:

I have worked with several of the past recipients and always held them in such high regard that I never considered myself to be in their league. It is on the basis of our common passion for justice that I can, humbly and gratefully, accept this most distinguished award. My heartfelt thanks to the Catholic Civil Rights League.

About Dr. Donald DeMarco



Dr. Donald DeMarco has been a corresponding member of the Pontifical Academy of Life, a founding member of the American Bioethics Advisory Commission, and has served in various editorial capacities for several publications. He is currently an Adjunct Professor at Holy Apostles College & Seminary in Cromwell, CT and is a Senior Fellow with Human Life

International. He is the author of innumerable articles both scholarly and for the general public, and 28 books, including 'Architects of the Culture of Death' which has been translated into Spanish, Croatian, Czech, Estonian and Polish. An earlier book, the 'Heart of Virtue' has been translated into Korean. Dr. DeMarco has made presentations in all of the Canadian provinces and in most states south of the border. He has won several awards for his writing and currently writes regular columns for several periodicals.

His latest books: 'How to Remain Sane in a World that is Going Mad', 'Poetry that Enters the Mind and Warms the Heart', 'How to Flourish in a Fallen World', and 'In Praise of Life', are all of 2015 vintage. He is currently working on 'Ten Major Moral Mistakes'.

Dr. DeMarco lives in Kitchener, ON with his wife, Mary. They have five children and 12 grandchildren.

About the Archbishop Exner Award

The CCRL established the Archbishop Exner Award in 2004 to honour Archbishop Adam Exner, OMI, Archbishop Emeritus of Vancouver, upon his retirement and to recognize outstanding achievement in advocacy, education, life issues, media and culture, and philanthropy. Previous recipients include:

Gwen Landolt, long time national Vice-President of REAL Women of Canada, pro- life advocate, promoter of the family in national and international circles (2014)

Fr. Alphonse de Valk, CSB, pro-life activist, writer and editor (2013)

Michael D. O'Brien, artist and author, for creative work incorporating authentic Catholicism and Catholic teaching (2012)

Michael Coren, author and broadcaster, for his outspoken defense of Catholicism in media (2011)

Suzanne LaVallee of Quebec for leadership in education (2010)

The late Frank Chauvin of Windsor, Ontario, founder of Haiti's first orphanage for girls and initiator of an application for review of the process by which Henry Morgentaler was awarded the Order of Canada (2009)

Dr. and Mrs. Andrew and Joan Simone of Toronto, co-founders of Canadian Food for Children, for services to philanthropy and international aid (2008)

Campaign Life Coalition President Jim Hughes of Toronto for service to the pro-life movement (2007)

J. Fraser Field of Vancouver, founder of Catholic Educators' Resource Centre, for service to education (2006)

The late Regina business leader Frederick W. Hill for philanthropy and community service (2005)

CCRL Spring Dinner 2015 with Guest Speaker Charles Lewis



On June 18, the CCRL hosted our annual Spring Dinner in Toronto. The evening included a talk by Charles Lewis, anti-euthanasia activist and former religion reporter at the National Post. The 2015 Archbishop Adam Exner Award for Catholic Excellence in Public Life was presented to Dr. Donald DeMarco.

The following account was given by Paul Tunns in the July 10 issue of The Interim. It is reprinted here with permission:

DeMarco wins CCRL award, Lewis calls for Christians to get involved
July 10, 2015

On June 18, the Catholic Civil Rights League bestowed their Archbishop Adam Exner Award for Catholic Excellence in Public Life to professor and pro-life activist Donald DeMarco, a long-time contributor to The Interim.

Gwen Landolt, last year's winner of the award, introduced DeMarco, calling the retired St. Jerome's College philosophy professor and prolific author, a "voice for life and faith in an increasingly hostile world." Noting the teacher has five children and 12 grandchildren she called DeMarco "an example of a life well lived" in "faith, truth, and honour."

During his acceptance remarks, DeMarco said he was honoured and humbled to receive an award named after a man he knew. He also read a poem he wrote decades earlier inspired by Landolt when she was pregnant and they appeared on a panel together.

DeMarco also said the CCRL was, "watching over what goes wrong and speaking out, like Thomas Aquinas, both intellectually modest and audacious."

Past winners of the Archbishop Adam Exner award include Campaign Life Coalition president Jim Hughes, retired Catholic Insight editor Fr. Alphonse de Valk, and novelist Michael O'Brien.

League president Phil Horgan opened the CCRL annual dinner noting the organization's activities over the past year including involvement in six court cases, three cases relating to Trinity Western University's law school status in three provinces and three at the Supreme Court level including the euthanasia and prayer at city council decisions.

CCRL executive director Christian Elia dedicated the evening to his predecessor Joanne McGarry, who passed away just prior to the 2014 dinner.

Former National Post religion writer and anti-euthanasia crusader Charles Lewis gave the keynote address. He exhorted all Christians to get involved in public affairs and not hide their religion. "We have every right to bring our faith" to public debate. Echoing American Archbishop Charles Chaput he said it was worse to be silent than be silenced. Lewis also said that considering the moral decadence in the culture, it is "good for our souls to get angry" once in a while.

Noting that the Catholic bishops caved on Ontario's gay-straight alliances in 2010, he said that once again the Catholic hierarchy was ceding ground to secular liberalism on the euthanasia issue. He condemned a recent Catholic bishops' statement saying they would work with the government to enact a euthanasia law, saying that Christian leaders should not acquiesce with a law permitting the killing of innocent human beings.

The CCRL Opposes Approval of RU-486

In a press release on July 30, the Catholic Civil Rights League (CCRL) expressed profound disappointment on the unexpected and unwelcome decision by Health Canada to approve the controversial abortion procuring drug RU-486. The CCRL had previously written to federal health minister Rona Ambrose asking that the abortion drug RU-486 not be approved. On August 24 we followed up with a letter to Hon. Rona Ambrose, Minister of Health:

Hon. Rona Ambrose, Minister of Health

House of Commons
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6
rona.ambrose@parl.gc.ca
August 20, 2015

Dear Ms. Ambrose,

I write on behalf of our national membership to express dismay and displeasure at the approval by Health Canada of the introduction of the RU-486 abortifacient.

The Catholic Civil Rights League (CCRL) wrote to you in February of 2014 in order to express concerns about news that Health Canada was being urged to approve an application for the abortion inducing drug RU-486. On July 30 of this year we issued a press release and spoke to national media expressing

our profound disappointment regarding the unexpected and unwelcome decision by Health Canada to approve this controversial drug.

Today, we write to you specifically in condemnation of this decision.

The CCRL upholds the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. The addition of RU-486 to Canada's abortion options is of particular concern to all Canadians, even those who do not share our beliefs.

There are safety concerns that are simply not being addressed.

How is Health Canada acting in the interests of women by approving a drug that will necessitate women performing their own chemical abortions at home, a process that includes the expelling, the bleeding out of the terminated baby? Numerous studies in other jurisdictions have disclosed adverse impacts of the use of this drug, all which appear to have been ignored by Health Canada in the approval of a drug that not only kills the unborn child, but leaves the mother at substantial risk.

There are also ethical concerns that are not being addressed.

Women who perceive themselves to be in a crisis pregnancy will inevitably be steered toward this do-it-yourself option in a publicly funded system facing enormous financial challenges. Is the position of your government to advance maternal health via this drug, taken alone? Are there no safeguards proposed to educate or inform a

woman on the adverse consequences of the drug's use? Is your government in favour of leaving women to address the physical and emotional hardships that are already known by your approval of this drug?

No public hearings have been conducted in Canada, either with medical experts or members of the public. The timing of this approval in the middle of the summer, just days before the dissolution of Parliament is troublesome.

We at the Catholic Civil Rights League strongly protest against the approval of RU-486 and we respectfully request a ministerial directive that would halt its introduction in Canada.

Sincerely,

Christian Domenic Elia, PhD

Executive Director, Catholic Civil Rights League (CCRL)
2305 Bloor Street West, Toronto, ON, M6S 1P1
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The CCRL Defends Doctors' Charter Rights with Submission to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan (CPSS)

On August 7 the CCRL made this second submission to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan (CPSS) regarding the unacceptable draft policy Conscientious Objection. The CCRL's first submission to the CPSS was made on February 27, 2015 regarding the original draft policy Conscientious Refusal. Here is a shortened version of our second submission to the CPSS.

August 7, 2015

Updated Submission to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan

To the Registrar:

We take this opportunity to provide brief comments in respect of the invitation to address the June 19 2015 draft revised policy on Conscientious Objection, posted on the College's website.

The Catholic Civil Rights League reiterates our submissions from February, 2015, in which we advocated for a robust understanding and protection of freedom of conscience and religion for all Canadians, and for physicians in their care to patients and in the overall forming of their individual medical practices.

There has been no evidence provided to the Council to our knowledge of the inability of anyone in Saskatchewan to access medical services or that the health of anyone in Saskatchewan has ever been adversely affected because a physician has declined to provide or refer for a procedure for reasons of conscience.

As we stated in our previous submission, an erosion of the physician's

integrity at a core moral level would have devastating consequences for the patient, for the practice of medicine, and for society at large. Checking one's conscience at the door of the clinic would not facilitate quality patient care.

We previously submitted that the proper analysis should be framed in the following way in response to a patient request for a morally objectionable treatment. A doctor could reasonably ask, "As your physician, would you prefer that I act with moral integrity?" with the expectation that a patient would say yes, as a negative answer could lead to tragic consequences. That doctor could then reasonably assert that a demand to perform an objectionable service, while of interest to the patient, would irrevocably violate and damage that doctor's integrity.

We remain concerned that it is entirely conceivable that conscientious doctors would leave the province rather than be forced to face discipline for exercising their conscientious beliefs.

Turning to the new draft proposals, we have the following comments:

5.1 Taking on New Patients

Excerpt: "Where physicians know in advance that they will not provide specific services, but will only arrange for the patient to obtain the necessary information from another source or arrange for the patient to obtain access to a medical treatment from another source (in accordance with paragraphs 5.2 or 5.3)"

The League maintains that physicians have the right to inform patients or prospective patients in advance that they will not provide specific services. It is our view that patients could then make further inquiries to determine other doctors who may be willing to perform such services, without engaging the objecting physician to make that information available. The College could be a source for such information. The objecting physician should not be compelled to provide information on the availability of objectionable services, if it breaches his/her conscience. In any event, it is our position the physician's position is inextricably linked with their proper understanding of good health care.

5.2 Provision of Information to Patients

Presumably, the physician will be in a position to provide information to patients, in conjunction with our comments from the previous section 5.1, which accords with his/her understanding of good health care, and in accordance with the physician's conscience.

Excerpt: "Physicians must provide their patients with full and balanced health information required to make legally valid, informed choices about medical treatment (e.g., diagnosis, prognosis, and clinically appropriate treatment options, including the option of no treatment or treatment other than that recommended by the physician), even if the provision of such information conflicts with the physician's deeply held and considered moral or religious beliefs.

"Physicians must not promote their own moral or religious beliefs when interacting with a patient."

The League objects to these proposed guidelines, as they engage a breach of a physician's right to religious and/or conscientious objection.

We reiterate our previous submissions on the importance of a physician acting in accordance with their moral integrity, for their own good, and for the good of the patient.

In our submission, physicians should be allowed to decline to provide publicly-funded health services if providing those services violates their freedom of conscience. Moreover, a physician should not be prevented from providing the basis of their objection, as a matter of communicating his/her views of good health care, even if it may be based on an informed conscience, or on the basis of religious beliefs.

As the League stated in February, such communications should be acceptable in a society informed by authentic pluralism. A doctor should use their professional judgment, even from his/her position of trust or fiduciary relationship, to discuss how the doctor's position is part of their view of sound, relevant, and good health care, so long as the doctor does not abuse that position of trust.

5.3 Providing or Arranging Access to Health Services

The League notes the deletion of the previous proposal for a "timely referral" in favour of new language that physicians "make an arrangement" for the provision of objectionable services.

However, our objections to this language remains unchanged, for the reasons advanced in our previous submission from February, 2015.

As we previously submitted, neither the College nor the courts determine what comprises conscientious or religious belief and to what extent acts may or may not interfere. Once the sincerity of religious belief is understood, or what one's conscience may decide, neither the College nor a court should interfere in a delineation of what the particular faith or conscience may prescribe. It is far more logical to simply respect physicians' consciences, as integral to the delivery of good health care, as has been the case.

The suggestion to "make an arrangement" has the risk of violating the right of freedom of conscience and is not displaced by a patient's request to access to care, or a particular procedure or service.

5.4 Necessary Treatments

The League reiterates our previous objections.

We object to the compulsion to provide the patient with all health services where there is a conflict with one's religious or conscientious beliefs, even in cases of emergency or lack of other referral options.

We reiterate that a doctor's conscientious belief is integral to the proper delivery of good health care. The suggestion that one's conscientious beliefs can be compartmentalized from good health care is a distinction that the College cannot reasonably maintain, since a doctor's informed conscience should be integral to their practice. The prospect of a perceived emergency situation does not invalidate the doctor's conscientious objections.

While we note that your proposed policy is not specifically applicable to the prospect of assisted suicide, the League notes that its suggestions

are specifically mindful of the need for a robust understanding of conscientious objection by physicians, nurses, and all others engaged in health care, should an assisted suicide regime be engaged.

It should be noted that the League has objected, and continues to object to the proposition of the introduction of assisted suicide to Canada.

We trust that our submissions will be of assistance to your deliberations.

Yours very truly,

Philip H. Horgan

President, Catholic Civil Rights League (CCRL)

The CCRL Deplores Anti-Catholic Comments from NDP Communications Director

On September 9, we expressed profound disappointment in response to the offensive comments admitted by NDP Director of Communications, Shawn Dearn. The comments made by Mr. Dearn reported in various media included the following:

"Memo to CBC & All media: Stop calling the misogynist, homophobic, child-molesting Catholic church a 'moral authority.' It's not." (March, 2013)

"Dear Pope Benedict — go f— yourself." (2010)

The CCRL normally avoids any engagement in partisan politics, especially during a federal election. However, the comments used by Mr. Dearn, and the general comments which have been made in social media in agreement with him are reflective of a coarsening of public engagement on matters of religious faith.

It is not really a surprise to the CCRL that Mr. Dearn's Twitter comments in 2010 and 2013 are reflective of anti-Catholic sentiment in matters of public engagement, for which Mr. Dearn apparently seeks to distance himself in 2015. Mr. Dearn states that his previous tweets do not reflect his views, but he does not adequately explain why he made the comments in the first place.

The CCRL remains concerned that a senior director for communications of a national political party would have engaged in such a public diatribe and for having made comments that deeply offend the sincere views of millions of Canadian Roman Catholics.

It is of further concern that the federal NDP would have hired Mr. Dearn for this senior post earlier this year without checking his Twitter account, or by ignoring these otherwise publicly available statements.

According to media reports, Mr. Dearn's Twitter account was made private this past week in response to the furor. To his credit, Mr. Dearn has apparently deleted the comments and apologized.

The CCRL urges that all involved in public discourse engage in a respectful presentation of views, so as to improve the nature of public debate, rather than engage in its debasing.



The CCRL Welcomes Matthew Cox to our Team!

Matthew Cox will be working part-time for the CCRL mostly during the evenings and on weekends making telephone calls to our supporters across the country in order to update our database, and yes, part of his job is to gently and respectfully appeal for donations from time to time. Matthew is a native of the Toronto area, but he also grew up in Atlantic Canada, returning a few years ago. A passionate, orthodox Catholic, Matthew is a committed husband and Grand Knight of Saint John XXIII Council. His email address is matthew@ccrl.ca



Dear CCRL Supporters,

We are in the midst of our 2015 end of year appeal. If your financial situation allows, please do make a donation by placing a stamp on the return envelope provided and enclosing the donation card along with a cheque or credit card information. We no longer operate on a membership model and you will not be contacted about membership renewal. Instead, we ask that you simply donate what you can when we make our appeals at certain points throughout the year. Even donating the reasonable amount of \$15 for seniors/students/clergy/religious will ensure that as a CCRL supporter you will receive in print mailings in addition to what we offer all of our supporters electronically.

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