



**GUELPH & AREA
RIGHT TO LIFE
ASSOCIATION**

PRO-LIFE IN ACTION

Guelph & Area Right to Life's newsletter for all local pro-life supporters

SPRING 2024

KILLING IS NOT THE ANSWER TO CANADA'S MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS



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SAVE THE DATE

Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, March 19, 2024
Details on page 4

40 Days for Life
Wednesday, February 14 to
Thursday, March 28, 2024
Details on page 4

40 Days for Life Mass
with Bishop Lobsinger
Wednesday, March 27, 2024
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Walk for Life
Saturday, May 25, 2024
Details on page 4

Guelph & Area Right to Life
50th Anniversary
Saturday, October 26, 2024
Details coming soon!

People suffering from mental illness are one of the most vulnerable groups in our society. This includes those suffering from depression, PTSD, opioid addictions, indigenous communities and people seeking to escape a life of poverty. Canada's expansion of MAiD to include those with mental illness would be a betrayal to these Canadians and their families. With an expansion, this vulnerable group will only increase in their risk of death.

It's worth noting that, according to a September 2023 Angus Reid Institute survey, only 28% of Canadians support euthanasia for mental illness and 82% believe mental health care should be improved before euthanasia for mental illness is considered. In addition, the mental health community has raised concerns about this expansion. There is also a lack of social and economic support for these individuals; the federal government has not fulfilled its promise to deliver funding to provinces to obtain adequate mental health and palliative care. Instead, they have chosen to look at how Canada can offer death instead of hope and support. Currently, without MAiD expansion to those with mental illness, Canada has the highest rate of euthanasia in the world; each day 36

people use MAiD to bring their life to an end.

'Safeguards' protect only those administering MAiD; they are not in place to protect patients. Doctors are not all-knowing; it is possible that medical mistakes and misdiagnoses can take place and, when mixing this with MAiD, the mistake becomes irreversible; there is no chance to back track and for the patient to learn what they were experiencing could have been treated. Further, making this permissible will result in physicians feeling pressure to offer MAiD who will, in turn, move past offering MAiD as a 'choice' and inevitably place pressure on their patients to consider ending their life. Dr Cecily Saunders, founder of the modern hospice movement, has said 'If you make active euthanasia a right, it soon becomes a duty. The patient, knowing that he or she can die by choice, will soon feel it incumbent to relieve relatives of the 'burden' of looking after them. When that stage is reached you have removed the patient's choice.'

Canada is barely able to take care of those suffering with mental illness and offering death is not the solution. ■

FOUR HEARTS, ONE JOURNEY: THE STORY OF S&S'S PARENTS

We are honoured to share with you a truly inspiring piece – a firsthand testimonial from the parents of the adorable twins, S&S. Their journey, marked by challenges and triumphs, beautifully encapsulates the essence of hope, resilience, and community support that Sanctuary Outreach strives to provide. Their story is not just their own, but a reflection of the powerful impact that compassion and collective effort can have on transforming lives.



Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for giving me the courage to choose life. You will all forever be in my thoughts and prayers. I will never forget all you've done for my family.

*God bless,
K*

"There's not much I can add beyond what my wife has already said.

(...) they provided both my husband and I with the priceless emotional support, understanding and encouragement we so desperately needed. We've both come so far from those early days of my pregnancy, when we were completely paralyzed and overwhelmed with fear that we were considering the unthinkable.

Without their support [Sanctuary Outreach], there is no possible way I would have found the strength to make it through this pregnancy and welcome two beautiful babies into the world.

I know for certain that God is working through these incredible, selfless, extraordinary women at Sanctuary Outreach, and I feel so blessed, honored and humbled that they were so willing to help us, unconditionally and without judgement. I've often thought about how I wish I could repay Sanctuary Outreach and all their generous donors somehow, and I now realize that being the best mother I can possibly be to these babies is the best way to do just that. I will also make sure to pay it forward, and tell as many people as I can about Sanctuary Outreach – especially young women who have no idea this incredible resource exists and feel abortion is the only option for them.

The amount of incredible work that Maria and the whole Sanctuary Outreach team did for us – the amazing baby items through the wonderful donors and volunteers – has completely changed the course of our twins' lives. You've given them the essentials that we would have struggled immensely to have provided them with ourselves, easing the financial and emotional burdens on my wife and I so that we can focus on the most important task anyone can ever have – raising our children.

Every time I look at the myriad of beautiful items given to my children – their cribs, car seats, stroller – I think of and am thankful for all the incredible people involved. Beyond the material items, Sanctuary Outreach put us in contact with other resources that brought us closer to God and helped us form a real and true relationship with Him. We look forward to passing that relationship with God on to our children.

The work that Sanctuary Outreach does is truly God's work here on earth. Thank you for giving us, and all the women that you help, the strength and confidence to choose life and God.

You will always be in my prayers, may God forever bless the Sanctuary Outreach team, their volunteers and their donors."

S ■

DOCTOR APPROVED DEATH: A SNAPSHOT OF WHERE OUR COUNTRY IS AT

The Australian Care Alliance highlights some disturbing points that have emerged from the Fourth annual report of Medical Assistance in Dying in Canada - two showing differential impact on women:

- In Canada in 2022, for 8.3% of cases of euthanasia the "main condition" is reported as "multiple comorbidities" and a further 14.9% as "other conditions" - that is other than cancer, cardiovascular, respiratory, neurological or organ failure. For these two categories combined, 25% of cases involved "frailty" and 11.9% involved diabetes. Other conditions cited included vision or hearing loss; tendency to falls; and difficulty swallowing. For women these two categories now account for nearly one out of three (29.1%) deaths by euthanasia.
- 463 cases of euthanasia where "death was not reasonably foreseeable" were reported for 2022. Notably 273 (59%) of these cases involved women, so for those whose death is not reasonably foreseeable, women are being euthanized at a rate 44.4% higher than men.

Also:

- There were 13,241 reported cases of euthanasia in 2022, bringing the total of such deaths since legalisation to 44,958.
- The number of cases each year has more than quadrupled (466%) in 6 years from 2,838 in 2017, the first full year of legalisation, to 13,241 in 2022 with annual increases of 57.8% (2018); 26.4% (2019) 34.2% (2020); 32.4% (2021) and 31.2% (2022).
- In 2022 euthanasia and assisted suicide accounted for 4.1% of all deaths in Canada. Provincial rates of euthanasia are highest in Quebec - 6.6% in 2022 and British Columbia - 5.5% in 2022.
- In only 161 cases in 2022 did the clinician administering euthanasia give their specialty as oncology. Ad-

ditionally, 806 cases involved some consultation with an oncologist. This means that in 2022, at least 7,649 Canadians were euthanized on the basis that they had cancer with no discussion with an oncologist about this course of action. This represents 90.6 % of cases of euthanasia for cancer.

- In 2022 there were 328 cases where palliative care was not accessible if needed – an increase of 63% from 2021 when cases had already increased by 60% from the 126 cases in 2020. The 2021 report notes even where palliative care was being accessed or was available "this result does not offer insight into the adequacy or quality of the palliative care services that were available or provided".
- In 2022 there were 568 cases where disability support services were needed but NOT received (up from 332 in 2020 – an increase of 71%). In 2021 this included 12 of the 219 people whose deaths were "not reasonably foreseeable".
- In 2022 some 2,294 Canadians were given a lethal injection because they were lonely: Why didn't the doctor or nurse practitioner just have a cup of tea and a chat with them instead of giving them a lethal injection?

And very disturbingly:

- Of the 1746 physicians and 91 nurse practitioners who euthanized people in 2022, some 336 of them did so 10 times or more – up 29.2% from 260 in 2021. The 91 nurse practitioners killed an average of nearly 14 people each – twice the average for medical practitioners of 7 people each.

Adapted from "Canada (2015-)" by the Australian Care Alliance, 2023 (<http://www.australiancarealliance.org.au/canada>) ■



JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Join us for our Annual General Meeting on **Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 7 pm!**

This year's AGM will be held in person at Guelph & Area Right to Life

(26 Norfolk St, Guelph) and online via video conference.

Planning to attend? RSVP to let us know if you will be joining in person or online.

If you are joining online, a meeting link will be sent to you closer to the date.

We encourage all members to be a part! Door opens at 6:40 pm at 26 Norfolk St, light refreshments provided.

To renew your membership or become a member visit guelphforlife.com/getinvolved or contact us at 519-836-6311.



**GUELPH & AREA
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DONATE TODAY

Guelph & Area Right to Life is a registered charity and 100% donor funded. Your contribution allows us to bring educational, pro-life messages to our communities and provide support for women facing an unexpected pregnancy.

Give online today at guelphforlife.com/donate.

You can also give by cheque. Cheques made out to 'Guelph & Area Right to Life' can be mailed to 26 Norfolk St, Guelph, ON, N1H 4H8

BECOME A MEMBER

GARTL's growing membership makes it possible for us to have a stronger voice in our region.

Membership costs \$25 per family, \$15 per person or \$5 per student. Not a member yet? Contact our office to sign up today.

CONTACT US

Phone: 519-836-6311

Email: info@guelphforlife.com

Mailing Address: 26 Norfolk St
Guelph, ON, N1H 4H8

CONNECT ONLINE

Get GARTL's e-newsletter sent straight to your inbox! Subscribe at guelphforlife.com

FOLLOW US

- FACEBOOK @Guelph4Life
- INSTAGRAM @guelphrighttolife
- TWITTER/X @Right_2_LIFE



Join us for 40 days of prayer, fasting and peaceful vigil from **Wednesday, February 14 – Thursday, March 28, 2024**. Find full details about the 40 Days for Life Guelph campaign at 40daysforlife.com/guelph including how to sign up online, the vigil location and where to pick up your signs.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

MASS WITH BISHOP LOBSINGER

You are invited to a special 40 Days for Life Mass with Bishop Lobsinger. All are welcome to attend and to pray for this pro-life effort.

Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 | **Time:** 7:00 pm

Location: Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate.
28 Norfolk St, Guelph, ON



WALK FOR LIFE

SATURDAY, MAY 25, 2024

Walk to raise funds for Guelph & Area Right to Life while bringing a pro-life message to your community!

Register today at guelphforlife.com/walk-for-life

Guelph

9:30 am: Doors open

10:00 am: Walk begins

Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate (hall)
28 Norfolk St

Fergus

9:30 am: Doors open

10:00 am: Walk begins

Maranatha Canadian Reformed Church
600 Belsyde Ave E

Free lunch provided after each walk!