



2026

FEBRUARY

Smithers Prolife Society
Newsletter

BC Court to hear Constitutional Challenge over Assisted suicide in FAITH based Health Care facilities

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Smithers Crisis
Pregnancy Care Center

Tuesday 10 -1:00 or
by appt. 250-847-2475

Website:
smitherspregnancycares.com

24hr Helpline:
1-877-88-WOMAN

Crisis Website:
www.onlinecare.ca

Free, non-judgmental support:

- Pregnancy Tests
- Pregnancy Choices Lay Counselling
- Post Abortion Lay Counselling
- Sexual Education
- Community Referrals

you don't have to go
through this **alone**

VANCOUVER, BC: The Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms announced that the Delta Hospice Society has been granted intervenor status in a constitutional challenge that will determine whether faith-based health care facilities in British Columbia can be forced to offer Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) to palliative care patients.

The Supreme Court of B.C. will hear the case starting January 12 2026, in Vancouver. The lawsuit arises from the death of a terminally ill woman who sought MAID but was receiving care at **St. Paul's Hospital**, a Catholic institution that does not provide assisted suicide. Her family alleges that the refusal to offer MAID on-site violated



St. Paul's Hospital, Vancouver

her *Charter* rights.

As an intervenor, Delta Hospice Society Executive Director Angelina Ireland said "There are many terminally ill palliative care patients in British Columbia who desire to spend their final days without

BEING ASKED if they want their life ended by their health care provider."

"It is important that these patients are able to access a MAID-

free space" she added. The case has broad implications for religious freedom, patient choice, and the future of palliative care in British Columbia and across Canada.



Anti-abortion billboards in West Kelowna coming down

CBC Vancouver News

The CBC reported that "**Larger than life ads protesting abortions are no longer part of a commute through West Kelowna.**"

Sophie Harms, a UBC student, asked a local billboard company to put up a pro-abortion sign but when she was told that it went against the standards of the company, she pursued litigation. In the end, the company will not advertise either position; they will take down the Pro-life billboards from the Kelowna Right to Life when their contract finishes because the small company cannot afford a legal battle against tax payer funded government agencies. Kelowna Right to Life Director, Marlon Bertram, appreciates the

years of support from the company and understands their position but would have preferred a **visible contest of ideas and values instead of a capitulation to the Cancel Culture that pushes God's truth out of the Public Square.**



On Friday, January 23, 2026 the theme of the **march for LIFE in Washington DC** was **“LIFE IS A GIFT,”** which organizers say is intended to emphasize the fact that every life is a gift worthy of protection. Pro-lifers marched by the U.S. Supreme Court as they participated in the annual March for Life rally. The American Vice President J.D. Vance, one of the speakers at the rally, said **“today young people are often told that having children and raising a family are a burden but pro-lifers know that, in reality, they are a gift from God.”** . Thousands of pro-life people, including Canadians, converged to celebrate life and advocate for protections for the pre-born.

EXPELLED FOR PRO-LIFE BELIEFS?

In August of 2018, a Coptic Christian named Rafael Zaki was admitted to the Max Rady College of Medicine at the University of Manitoba. He was expelled by the school’s Progress Committee in 2019, after making provocative anti-abortion statements online. Ever since then, Zaki has been in a protracted legal battle with the University.

In August 2021, the Manitoba Court of King’s Bench sided with Zaki so he re-enrolled and continued with his studies.

A new panel expelled Zaki again.

Zaki argued that the University violated his Charter rights to freedom of expression and religion in a disproportionate way by, in effect, expelling him for not recanting his beliefs. In court, Zaki’s lawyer, Lia Milousis, argued that the new Committee was also biased. She also emphasized that the University repeatedly shifted their position on what Zaki needed to do to avoid expulsion. Zaki hopes the Court will overturn his expulsion soon.

Why Zaki’s Case Matters

Zaki’s case underscores the immense power universities hold over students’ academic and professional futures. It shows how professionalism standards can be abused for ideological and political purposes. Zaki’s case also raises important questions about protecting freedom of expression and religion in public universities and in regulated professions.



Advance Notice: March 13 Fri. Movie Night; Sabina

Sabina: Tortured for Christ, the Nazi Years is the story of how God’s love transformed an ambitious, worldly atheist into one of the greatest Christian women of the 20th century. The film opens with Sabina Wurmbbrand risking her life to show Christ’s love to three Nazi soldiers. Why would a Christian from a Jewish background risk her life to help her enemies — members of the army that killed her entire family? Experience a true story of biblical love and forgiveness that has inspired millions around the world.



Pro-Life Board Members

- Chair: Betty Bandstra
- Secretary: Kathy Dobrenski
- Treasurer: Marian Adema
- Memberships: Anne Adema
- Fundraising: Jenny Vd berg
- Media: Kris Huxtable
- Care Center: Brigitte Kloosterman
- Political Liaison : Rod Taylor

CALENDAR

- January**
- Sanctity of Human Life Day
- ➔ **February**
- Last call for Memberships
- March / April**
- March 8: Women’s Day
- AGM/dessert fundraiser
- May**
- March For Life (Ottawa)
- Mother’s Day
- June**
- Euthanasia legal 2016
- Garage Sale
- Planning for next year
- July/August**
- Fall Fair Parade float?
- September**
- Walk for Life
- October**
- Breast Cancer awareness
- Oct 15 Infant Loss Day
- November**
- Educational movie night
- Membership drive
- December**
- Fundraiser: Bake Sale

CHURCH REPS

- St. Joseph’s Catholic Church
- Elisabeth Vanderhorst**
- Smithers Canadian Ref
- Jessica Vandergaag**
- Smithers Christian Ref
- Betty Bandstra**
- E-Free **Kathy Dobrenski**
- Bethel URC **Brenda Ewald**
- Telkwa Faith URC
- Jenny Vandenberg**
- Telkwa Community
- Karen Fokkens**
- Baptist **Ed Schneider**
- MVA **Brigitte Kloosterman**