



# VITAL SIGNS

Spring 2010

Building a culture of  
Care, Compassion  
& Life....

Canadian Physicians  
for *Life*

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## Maternal Madness: How an initiative to help mothers and children in the developing world became all about abortion

By Andrea Mrozek

When Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced that he would make maternal health a major initiative for Canada's presidency of the G8 coming up in late June, it was to widespread approval. Since then, many have wondered how on earth a call for improved maternal and child health in the developing world could evolve into a debate about abortion.

The following chronology aims to clarify what happened.

**January 20, 2010**—Seven groups co-authored a piece called "Putting the world's poor on the G8 agenda." Action Canada for Population and Development, an Ottawa-based lobby group that aims to expand access to abortion internationally is one of them. The

other organizations are Plan Canada, Care Canada, Save the Children Canada, Results Canada, UNICEF and World Vision Canada. <sup>[1]</sup> This "Group of Seven" becomes known as the Canadian Coalition for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (CCMNCH).

**January 26, 2010**—Prime Minister Stephen Harper announces his intent to use Canada's presidency of the G8 to focus on maternal and child health in an opinion piece in the Toronto Star. Prime Minister Harper indicates that solutions to high maternal and child mortality might include "clean water, inoculations and better nutrition, as well as the training of health workers to care for women and deliver babies" <sup>[2]</sup>

(Continued on page 6...Maternal)

## VitaMed: co-hosting the 2009 Medical Student Forum

By Brienne Tappay

It was with great pleasure that VitaMed, a Calgary Medical Students' club dedicated to promoting life issues, joined forces with the CPL to host the 2009 Medical Students Forum this past November. This marked the first forum that was co-hosted with a student group, and was also the first forum that welcomed nurses from the Canadian Nurses for Life.

We were thrilled to kick off the forum with a public lecture on euthanasia featuring the renowned Dr. Margaret Somerville. There were nearly 240 people in attendance and the evening concluded with a lively question period. It was a wonderful testament to CPL's and VitaMed's commitment to open and respectful dialogue with the wider community.

(Continued on page 3...VitaMed)

# Medical Students for Life: Going for Gold at UBC

By Launny Faulkner

**Vital Signs** is published by Canadian Physicians for Life, a registered charitable organization.

*Canadian Physicians for Life holds that reverence for every human life lies at the root of all medical tradition. Through the ages, this tradition has been expressed in the Oath of Hippocrates. It was rephrased in modern times in the Declaration of Geneva, which says in part, "I will maintain the utmost respect for human life, from the time of conception; even under threat, I will not use my medical knowledge contrary to the laws of humanity." We affirm this declaration.*

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Hello again from UBC! We have been on quite the journey since our controversial beginnings last Fall, and having survived the Olympic madness in Vancouver, I am thankful for an opportunity to share our progress.

When last you heard from us, members of UBC's new Medical Students for Life club were eagerly anticipating the Medical Students' Forum. The forum held special meaning for us, as it represented the first opportunity for students from our three distributed campuses to meet and engage with one another and discuss the future of our group. We had representatives from every year attend—including one resident and two clinical faculty—and the forum proved a better catalyst than we ever could have hoped for.

From the moment we arrived, it was clear that this was a conference like no other. Medical schools from all across Canada were in attendance, and students were eagerly greeting old acquaintances and making new introductions. We were impressed to see world class speakers such as Margaret Somerville and Dr. José Pereira mingling amiably amongst the students, and this theme of openness and approachability was maintained by presenters throughout the weekend. Before long, we had learned about perinatal and *pre*-natal palliative care, the realities of legalized euthanasia in Switzerland, and the Protection of Conscience project that may prove extremely important to us as future pro-life physicians. And that was all before lunch! It was remarkable how much information was transmitted in two days, and we felt honoured that so many professionals had dedicated their time and finances for the sake of our learning.

To try to convey all that we took away from the weekend would be to do a great injustice to the excellent speakers, but nonetheless there are a few sessions I would like to make note of. "The Abortion Debate: Equipped to Engage" presented by Stephanie Gray was particularly relevant to our status as a new club. For the vast majority of members, Medical Students for Life represents the first time we have publically voiced our views and accepted the label of "pro-life". Many of us quickly realized that we were not equipped to handle the questions, arguments, and even accusations that were flung our way, and thus Miss Gray's presentation was a valuable experience for all who attended. We learned how to defend our position against pro-choice assertions using medical facts and logical reasoning, and when taken in combination with Sean Murphy's "Conflicts of Conscience" workshop, how to do so without affronting our friends, colleagues, and superiors. Wendy Lowe's talk on "Caring for your patient who is considering abortion" was also appreciated for its practicality, as many of us

(Continued on page 3...UBC)

Photo by Robert Pankratz, MD



Launny Faulkner (centre) meets with fellow UBC students between sessions at the 2009 Medical Students forum in Calgary.

“ I am also pleased to announce that we will be co-hosting next year’s Medical Students’ Forum here in Vancouver, and we are thrilled to represent the West Coast for the first time. ”



Vancouver. Photo courtesy of Brent Rockburn.

*(UBC...continued from page 2)*

will go on to face this situation in our future practices. It was good to be brought back down to earth from the clouds of ethics and moral philosophy, and to be reminded that these are real people facing difficult situations—and that we as their physicians can help.

The Student Initiatives Workshop hosted by VitaMed of Calgary was possibly the most eagerly anticipated event of the weekend for UBC. It was such a fantastic opportunity to connect with other pro-life medical student clubs and learn from their experiences, share ideas and resources, and encourage one another in our goals. Actually, for us it was a chance to start *forming* our goals, answering questions such as, “Who is our target audience?” and, “What events would benefit our school?” We were also able to contribute ideas to the new CPL Students webpage, beautifully designed by KC McLean, which will allow pro-life med students from across the country to network like never before. With links to every club, calendars of events, discussion forums, and a library of online resources, we are approaching a whole new age of interconnectivity and medical student action. We *can* change the attitudes of our faculties, and we’ll do it from the bottom up! As the session carried on long into lunch, it became obvious that more time would be needed next year to accommodate all our enthusiasm.

Overall, the Medical Students’ Forum was an invaluable experience for students from all walks of (pro)life. Whether you were unsure of the basics, confident in your debating skills, or a skilled ethicist ready to take on Parliament, there was something to be offered for everyone. Except perhaps at the recent Olympics, I have never seen such a diverse group of people united under one cause. To be honest, it was almost overwhelming to think how much work had been done to organize this weekend on our behalf. “This is all for us?” I kept thinking with disbelief. No, I realized, not just for us. For thousands of Canadian children who will never take their first breath—let alone have a chance at Olympic gold.

Since attending the conference, our club has held its first annual general meeting and planned several events for our blocks on Reproduction and Growth & Development. To name just a few, we will be screening National Geographic’s “In the Womb” for the entire class, holding a Family Fun Night in support of our classmates with families and as a fundraiser/ adver-

tisement for the Vancouver Crisis Pregnancy Centre, and hosting Elizabeth Ring-Cassidy to speak on peri- and prenatal palliative care as she did at the forum. I am also pleased to announce that we will be co-hosting next year’s Medical Students’ Forum here in Vancouver, and we are thrilled to represent the West Coast for the first time. This is not an end, but a starting point for us, and we know that many obstacles still lay ahead on our quest to reform Canadian healthcare. But in the words of Horton from “Horton Hears a Who” (to be played at our Family Night), “[We] just have to save them, because after all, a person’s a person no matter how small.”

Thanks to CPL, we are up to the challenge.

*Launny Faulkner is the president of the UBC Medical Students for Life club; she studies at the UBC Victoria campus, class of 2012.*

*(VitaMed...continued from page 1)*

We were delighted to have such a positive response to the first public event ever held in conjunction with the forum.

During the rest of the weekend, the conference attendants were graced with numerous distinguished speakers who shared from their personal stories and expertise. This encouraged us, as students, residents and nurses, to better understand how we can fully embrace our role as prolife medical professionals without feeling as though we’re heading into a minefield. It was an educating, enlightening and empowering weekend. Topics ranged from practical advice on caring for a woman considering an abortion to more philosophical discussions on ‘human dignity’ and ‘conflict of consciousness.’ It was a full but rewarding weekend for all those who attended.

As a member of VitaMed, it was a pleasure to partner with CPL to host the 2009 forum. It was a wonderful chance to contribute to an educational opportunity from which we gain so much. I look forward to journeying to other Universities as more student clubs partner with the CPL in the future.

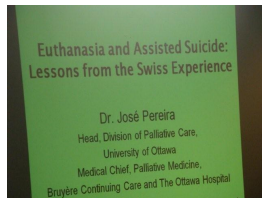
Brienne Tappay  
University of Calgary, Class of 2011  
VitaMed

# 2009 Medical Students Forum

## Thank You!

The 2009 Medical Students Forum in Calgary, Alberta, was once again a great success. The University of Calgary's VitaMed club joined with Canadian Physicians for Life to co-host the forum on November 20-22, 2009.

Your generosity made it possible for us to award scholarships to nearly 60 medical students and residents from across Canada. We were also joined by guest representatives from Nurses for Life and several of our own members. You also enabled us to bring in more speakers covering a wider variety of pro-life topics. The student feedback to all of the sessions was once again excellent.



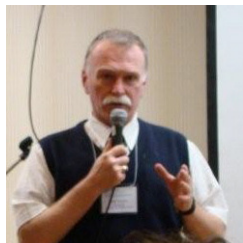
**Dr. José Luis Pereira** sparked questions and discussion from his presentation, **"Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide: Lessons from the Swiss Experience"**

Dr. Pereira defended the position that, as health professionals, we have a responsibility to respond to the requests for assisted suicide or euthanasia by improving our palliative care skills and supporting education and research in the field.

**"I found my thinking both challenged and affirmed. Speakers were informed and insightful, and expressed their positions with a refreshing sense of care and concern for patients. I am better equipped to approach the issues discussed."**

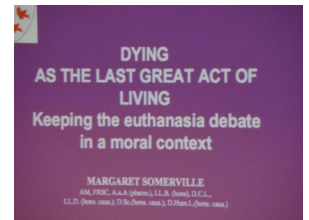
University of Western Ontario,  
Schulich School of Medicine student, Class of 2012

**Sean Murphy**, Administrator of the Protection of Conscience Project, joined us again this year. His presentation, **"Conflicts of Conscience in Health Care: An Institutional Compromise,"** reviewed a book by the same name that addresses the controversy over freedom of conscience in health care, with a specific focus on physicians.



Sean's break-out session, **"Conflicts in Conscience Workshop,"** offered practical suggestions about preparing for such situations, recognizing warning signs, defusing confrontation, documenting critical incidents and getting help.

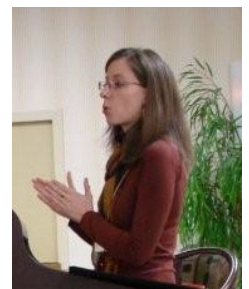
**Dr. Margaret Somerville**, Founding Director of the Centre for Medicine, Ethics and Law at McGill University, launched the weekend with a public lecture at the University of Calgary on Friday evening. She also joined CPL's Dr. Larry Reynolds on Saturday for a **Philosophy Café- "Are 'Respect for Life' and 'Respect for Human Dignity' the Same?"**



**Elizabeth Ring-Cassidy**, researcher for the DeVeber Institute, in her lecture, **"Prenatal & Perinatal Palliative Care,"** discussed the new prenatal testing protocols and the ethical implications of diagnosis without support. This included a look at the impact of offering prenatal and perinatal palliative care options to patients at the time of diagnosis, and a focus on the nature of informed consent as it applies to abortion for fetal abnormality. Elizabeth also held a break-out session in which she examined methodology and bias in abortion research.



**Stephanie Gray**, Executive Director of the Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform, equipped students with practical tools to communicate logically and persuasively when discussing abortion, in her popular lecture, **"The Abortion Debate: Equipped to Engage."**



(above) CPL board member Ben Turner, Sean Murphy, and UBC student Launny Faulkner find time to relax and entertain after a day packed with sessions.

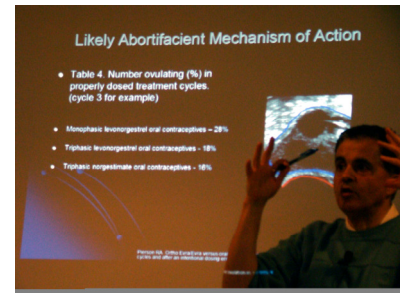
**"It's one of my favourite weekends of the year - a chance to hear truth spoken, to access information we know exists, but haven't been able to piece together ourselves. It's a chance to meet other students and be so very encouraged by their courage. It's so necessary - and something I've already committed to supporting when I'm in a position to do so."**

McMaster student, class of 2011

“Passionate and dynamic speakers who had great approaches to life issues. I felt (and still do) energized after attending those sessions and I really must congratulate CPL on putting together a fantastic conference. This is the kind of message that needs to be heard by as many people as possible because it’s about hope and fundamentally about caring for people. As a med student, it was refreshing to know that there are other students who share my views and who are willing to get together to discuss these topics. Congratulations again CPL.”

University of Toronto Resident

**Dr. Stephen Genuis**, Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Alberta, traced some of the major developments leading to the sexual revolution in the 1960s and 70s, and discussed the impact on some of the current challenges in the sexuality arena, in his talk, **“The Sexual Revolution: Reality Strikes Back.”**



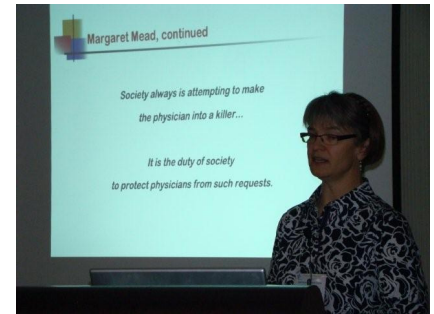
In his break-out session, **“Emerging issues related to hormonal contraception,”** Dr. Genuis explored recent scientific and medical information on hormonal contraception and family planning, including practical recommendations for clinical practice.



“ The sessions were such an amazing opportunity to hear truth. The speakers spoke with truth and objectivity, they were relevant and intelligent, and still encouraging while challenging. Enough good cannot be said about the education we received. The days were packed - but I wouldn't have had it any other way. ”

McMaster student, class of 2011

**Fr. Tom Lynch**, National Director for Priests for Life Canada, delivered an inspiring keynote speech Saturday night entitled, **“Living your Ethics on the Edge.”** Fr. Tom discussed ethics, choices, and their consequences: How do we live out the “good and the right” and still have a career?



From her own experience and in the words of medical trainees from all over North America, **Dr. Sheila Harding**, from College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan, described the challenging post-Hippocratic learning and practice environment of modern medicine in her lecture, **“Guerillas of Grace: Restoring medicine to its Hippocratic tradition.”**



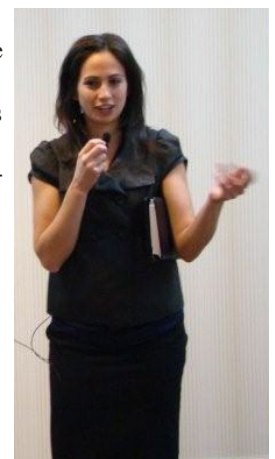
**Wendy Lowe**, Executive Director of the Calgary Pregnancy Care Centre, presented **“Caring for your patient who is considering abortion,”** in which she discussed how to care for the patient who is considering abortion. Wendy emphasized that more than anything else, compassion, connection, and accurate information are critical to helping woman choose life for themselves and their babies.



A special thanks to Dr. Robert Pankratz for the use of his photos from the 2009 Medical Students Forum

**Renee Schmitz RN**, Western Director of the National Campus Life Network co-hosted a **“Student Initiatives Workshop”** with UBC’s VitaMed group. She provided resources and facilitated the exchange of ideas between campus pro-life medical student groups.

In his break-out session, **“The Memories, Silences, and Restructuring of Women,”** Dr. Larry Reynolds’ talk was based on a pro-life feminist view that sees abortion as one of the many ways cultures seek to re-shape women’s bodies, as demanding that women and physicians be willing to sacrifice their intrinsic taboos against killing, and as an environmental catastrophe within the delicate ecosystems of women’s bodies.



## Nurses for Life

Nurses for Life is back! I caught up with Renee Schmitz, RN, just before she headed off to a night shift on Neurosurgery at Lions Gate Hospital. "I became concerned about the lack of ethics training available to nurses by the time they graduate and are on the front lines," Renee says. She also helps lead the western part of the National Campus Life Network. "And the current issues – euthanasia in particular – motivated me to get involved."

"We want to support nurses who integrate their pro-life ethics with their professional and community work. We will network like-minded nurses, educate them on human life issues, and advocate when their conscience rights are threatened."

"The past year has been spent recruiting and connecting to build an active membership and find dedicated volunteers.

[www.canadiannursesforlife.ca](http://www.canadiannursesforlife.ca) is up and running, and we hope to use it to gather stories about the challenges nurses face with anti-life procedures and sentiments in the workplace. The five-person CNFL executive is building a Board of Advisors. The email list is growing and, for instance, was kept busy telling nurses about Euthanasia bill C-384, which was recently and resoundingly defeated in Parliament."

Canadian Physicians for Life looks forward to a long and productive partnership with these honoured colleagues. Nurses have often had more to lose, personally and professionally, from acting on their pro-life ethics than any other health care discipline. They are truly in the trenches.

-Will Johnston, CPL President

(Maternal....continued from page 1)

**January 26, 2010**—Bev Oda, Minister for International Cooperation, hosts a round table question and answer session with media and the new Canadian Coalition for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health. At this session a journalist draws attention to the presence of an abortion rights group (Action Canada) and asks whether reducing infant mortality should be about reducing the number of infants born. [3]

**January 26, 2010**—The Canadian Coalition for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health puts out a press release lauding the new initiative.

**January 27-31, 2010**—World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Stephen Harper gives a speech, which includes the focus on maternal and child health. Former UN special envoy for HIV/AIDS Stephen Lewis calls the speech and the initiative "a piece of crass, political opportunism." [4]

**January 27-28, 2010**—Pro-life groups Campaign Life Coalition, Lifesite News and ProWomanProLife ask questions about why the government would partner with an abortion rights group to fulfill a maternal health mandate. The government replies saying no partner and no mandate has been chosen. [5]

**February 3, 2010**—Opposition leader Michael Ignatieff hopes he can capitalize on perceived discord in the Conservative ranks on the issue of abortion. He demands the Conservatives include abortion in the maternal health strategy. In so doing, newspapers report that Ignatieff himself may have taken the boldest position of any Liberal Party leader. [6]

**February 18, 2010**—Michael Ignatieff's support for abortion results in a Catholic magazine (*Catholic Register*) cover headline of "Ignatieff urges abortion for the world's poor." [7]

**March 16, 2010**—When asked whether the maternal health initiative will include "family planning," a term which many abortion activists use as a catch-all phrase to include abortion, Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon says no. "[The maternal health initiative] does not deal in any way, shape or form with family planning. Indeed, the purpose of this is to be able to save lives," Cannon told the Foreign Affairs committee[8] Cannon also discounts contraception at this time.

(Continued on page 7...Maternal)

## A Call for "Experts": interactive student website

Dear CPL Physicians,

Pro-life med students across the country are requesting "experts" to assist with the soon-to-be-launched student website to network with other like-minded student groups across the country. We have set aside a section on our website entitled "Ask the experts," which we hope will give students the opportunity to ask pro-life physicians questions regarding practice tips, dealing with colleagues and patients, as well as dealing with ethical issues in medical school. This section of the site would be accessed by student members with a password, and as such would not be public, so as to ensure candid discussion without worrying about outside criticism. The discussions will also have a moderator to make sure questions are appropriate and directed to the right people.

The time commitment is entirely up to you, and you can choose to help out when it is convenient for you. If you are willing to submit your name to answer students' questions on the website, please email [info@physiciansforlife.ca](mailto:info@physiciansforlife.ca).

Thank you for your continued support for pro-life med students!

Sincerely,

Thomas Bouchard,  
Past-President of VitaMed, the pro-life med students' group at the University of Calgary



**March 18, 2010**—Prime Minister Stephen Harper confirms the initiative will include contraception. Minister Oda also highlights that “they will not close the door on any options that will save the lives of mothers and children, including contraception.” [9]

**March 23, 2010**—Bob Rae, Foreign Affairs Critic, brings forward an Opposition Motion, which, without mentioning the word abortion, aims to ensure abortion is part of Canada’s maternal health mandate. The motion said:

That, in the opinion of the House, the government’s G8 maternal and child health initiative for the world’s poorest regions must include the full range of family planning, sexual and reproductive health options, including contraception, consistent with the policy of previous Liberal and Conservative governments, and all other G8 governments last year in L’Aquila, Italy; that the approach of the Government of Canada must be based on scientific evidence, which proves that education and family planning can prevent as many as one in every three maternal deaths; and that the Canadian government should refrain from advancing the failed right-wing ideologies previously imposed by the George W. Bush administration in the United States, which made humanitarian assistance conditional upon a “global gag rule” that required all non-governmental organizations receiving federal funding to refrain from promoting medically-sound family planning. [10]

The motion that should have easily passed with the support of all three Opposition parties is defeated, 144 to 138. Many Liberals did not come to the vote, and three Liberals, Dan McTeague, Paul Szabo and John McKay, opposed the motion. These motions are non-binding political statements with no teeth, nonetheless, they are public relations events which hold some sway in the media and the general public.

As a result, the Prime Minister may now rightfully claim at the G8 meetings that this matter has been debated in the Canadian House of Commons and that Canada does not include abortion as a part of maternal health. This will be important, as Action Canada for Population and Development had already initiated a lobby of foreign governments to reject any Canadian proposal that does not include abortion. [11] □ □ Many may complain that abortion became the focus, instead of a better understanding of maternal health internationally. However, women’s health is a generally politicized topic. Among takeaways from this tempest in a teapot for Canadians and Canadian politicians two stand out: Firstly, that women’s health and what that means remain hotly contested and secondly: abortion is a far from resolved issue in Canada.

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**Andrea Mrozek is the Manager of Research and Communications for the Institute of Marriage and Family Canada**

## Endnotes

[1] McDonald, K., McCort, K., McCarney, R., Dendys, C., Morley, D., Fisher, N. and Toycon, D. (January 20, 2010). *Putting the world’s poor on the G8 agenda*. Action Canada for Population and Development. Retrieved March 24, 2010 from [www.acpd.ca/print/57](http://www.acpd.ca/print/57)

[2] Harper, S. (January 26, 2010). G8 agenda: Focus on human welfare, *The Toronto Star*, p. A13.

[3] Journalist Brian Lilley is approached by Action Canada employee, Jennifer Kitts who explains that “family planning is key to reducing maternal mortality and infant deaths.” Lilley goes on to recount what happened: “Now I quickly understood how family planning could reduce maternal death but when I asked her to explain how family planning could help children live past their 5th birthday, Ms. Kitts became nervous and asked me to turn off my recorder. I asked her the question again and she told me she would have to do the interview later. The coin eventually dropped; the people at Action Canada plan to reduce infant mortality by reducing the number of infants born. A major part of family planning for ACPD is abortion.” □ Lilley, B. (January 26, 2010). Reduce infant and maternal deaths, Harper says G8 must act. *Examiner.com*. Retrieved March 24, 2010 from <http://www.examiner.com/examiner/x-22884-Canada-Politics-Examiner~y2010m1d26-Reduce-infant-and-maternal-deaths-Harper-says-G8-must-act>

[4] Berthiaume, L. (February 3, 2010). Harper’s maternal, child health speech ‘political opportunism’: Stephen Lewis. *Embassy*. Retrieved March 24, 2010 from <http://www.embassymag.ca/page/view/maternal-02-03-2010>

[5] Susan Delacourt’s *Toronto Star* blog mentioned these sources on February 3, 2010. Retrieved March 24, 2010 from <http://thestar.blogs.com/politics/2010/02/not-so-much-of-a-surprise-part-2.html>

[6] Libin, K. (February 3, 2010). Ignatieff’s fine line between pro-choice and pro-abortion. *National Post*, p. A1.

[7] Morrison, N. (February 18, 2010). *Catholic Register* takes on Ignatieff. CBC News. Retrieved March 24, 2010 from <http://www.cbc.ca/politics/insidepolitics/2010/02/catholic-register-takes-on-ignatieff.html>

[8] Clark, C. (March 17, 2010). Birth control won’t be in G8 plan to protect mothers, Tories say; ‘Signature’ initiative meant to save lives, Cannon says, ruling out contraception. *Globe and Mail*, p. A1.

[9] Playing politics with motherhood. (March 19, 2010). *The Toronto Star*, p. A22.

[10] Retrieved March 24, 2010 from <http://www2.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?DocId=4360697&Language=E&Mode=1&Parl=40&Ses=3&File=5>

[11] The brief says: “We call on you to contact your government’s foreign ministry and arrange a meeting with the person responsible for the G8 and/or G20 summits. We encourage you to ask them to write a letter to the Canadian government expressing support for a comprehensive approach to addressing maternal and child health, with explicit reference to the importance of sexual and reproductive health and rights, particularly access to family planning, including contraception.”

Action Canada for Population and Development. (March 17, 2010). *Call to action: Maternal and child health at the G8 Summit*. Retrieved March 24, 2010 from <http://www.acpd.ca/node/62>

This article appeared in the Institute of Marriage and Family Canada’s eReview on March 24, 2010, and is reprinted here with permission.



## New Student Website

We are pleased to announce the launch of CPL's new medical student website. As students gather and build relationships with other pro-life medical students at the annual Medical Students Forum, it is becoming clear that there is a need to facilitate exchanges of ideas and resources throughout the year.

The student website was created with the input and direction of medical students. It includes:

- A welcome page
- Contacts and information about pro-life clubs on Canadian campuses
- Pro-life research and references
- Discussion forum
- Live chat
- Event ideas and resources for clubs
- "Ask the Experts" - a Q & A section for students and physicians

This website allows CPL to support initiatives students across Canada are taking to educate themselves and their peers and it increases our reach to include pro-life medical students who are unable to attend the Forum.

We encourage you to log on and take a look around. Sections of the site such as the Discussion Forum, Live Chat, and Ask the Experts will soon be "members only," requiring username and password, and permission from the student website administrator. These pages will remain available for you to view for a short time before the content is added.

As a CPL member, your feedback is welcome!

[www.cplstudents.ca](http://www.cplstudents.ca)

**KC McLean**  
CPL Student Liaison

### Pro-Life Clinic in Ottawa looking for Pro-life Physicians

Pro-Life General practitioners needed to join a Pro-Life Medical Clinic. Any Pro-Life Internist or OB/GYN or other Specialist is welcome to discuss sub-letting space from us. Please contact Dr. Joseph Clarke at:  
Email: [joseph\\_clarke3@sympatico.ca](mailto:joseph_clarke3@sympatico.ca)  
Phone: 613-563-0343 (private line)  
Fax : 613-563-2211

## Goodbye Letter from Barb

Dear Friends and Supporters of CPL,  
This summer, I will be stepping down as Administrator of Canadian Physicians for Life in order to pursue other areas of pro-life work.

It has been a great privilege to work for CPL over the past 6 years, and to have had the opportunity to get to know such caring physicians. Your tireless efforts to defend the little ones whom our society considers, as Mother Theresa so aptly put it, "the most unwanted of the unwanted," has been a great inspiration to me.

I am especially thankful for the opportunity I had to meet so many enthusiastic pro-life medical students through our annual Medical Students Forums. It is a great encouragement to know that, in spite of attempts to silence pro-life voices on university campuses, these future doctors are engaging their classmates and sharing with them the valuable information they learn at our MSFs. Some students have even started their own pro-life medical students clubs on campus. Through their courageous efforts, pro-life med students are playing a vital role in helping to build a culture of care, compassion and life.

Many of you have already met KC McLean who has been assisting us since the fall of 2008 with various activities, most notably, our last two Med Students Forums, Vital Signs, and CPL's new student website. I am

very pleased that she has agreed to take on more responsibilities, and I will be handing the reigns over to her this summer. KC has degrees in Political Science and Social Work, and she is completing a Masters in Public Administration and Policy. She has experience



in community development, as a policy analyst and medical social worker, and she was involved in opening support and resource centers for pregnant women in the United States and in Russia. KC's skills, experience and passion for the pro-life issues have and will continue to be a great asset to CPL. No doubt her fresh ideas and keen insights will propel our cause forward. I hope many of you will have the good fortune to meet her in person one day.

And finally, many thanks to the board of CPL for your dedication to this cause and for giving me the chance to work for such a great organization.

As medical professionals, you have so much credibility when you speak on the life issues. Keep up the good fight!

For Life,

**Barbara McAdorey**

“ As medical professionals, you have so much credibility when you speak on the life issues. Keep up the good fight! ”

## A note from the CPL Board...

Every pro-life physician in Canada who doesn't already know should be told about Barbara McAdorey's work for CPL. Fighting a rising panic, we accepted a few months ago that it was time for Barb to devote herself full-time to other crucial work. It is a time for new things for the woman who has truly been the lifeblood of CPL for the past 6 years, and we will never forget her selfless service and amazing range of talents.

Most notably, Barb has made a deep investment in Canada's future doctors through her leadership in the annual Medical Students Forums. Without her, they would not have become the rich opportunities for learning that they are now. Continuous expressions of gratitude from the students are testaments to the value of her work.

What Barb has done for us all is love in action.

-CPL Board of Directors

Vital Signs - Spring 2010