

CANADIAN PHYSICIANS FOR LIFE

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Canadian Physicians  
for *Life*

# ANNUAL REPORT



2020

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Dear Friends and Supporters of CPL,

In this age of hostility toward our viewpoint, it is critical for pro-life physicians to be informed, connected, and supported. CPL strives to make this possible, and we thank you for your financial support that has made this possibility a reality.

Since my very first contact as a first-year medical student just beginning the journey of medical education, CPL has done just that for me and for thousands of others. It is thanks to CPL that I know I am not a lone voice, but part of a large body of pro-life physicians who all tirelessly provide pro-life patient care despite the seemingly growing antagonism from some. The resources, educational material at our conferences, advocacy, and collaboration with other influential pro-life groups is what makes CPL such a critical presence in the landscape of Canadian medical care. You are critical in ensuring CPL's presence remains strong and grows stronger for students, physicians, and healthcare professionals across our country.

Once I had experienced the benefits of this work, I could not help but become involved with the Board of such an incredible organization. I look to you and my fellow colleagues who share a commitment to this organization to also become involved. By supporting CPL as a donor, you have helped us be an effective voice.

**RYAN WILSON**  
**PRESIDENT**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

## A MESSAGE TO OUR DONORS

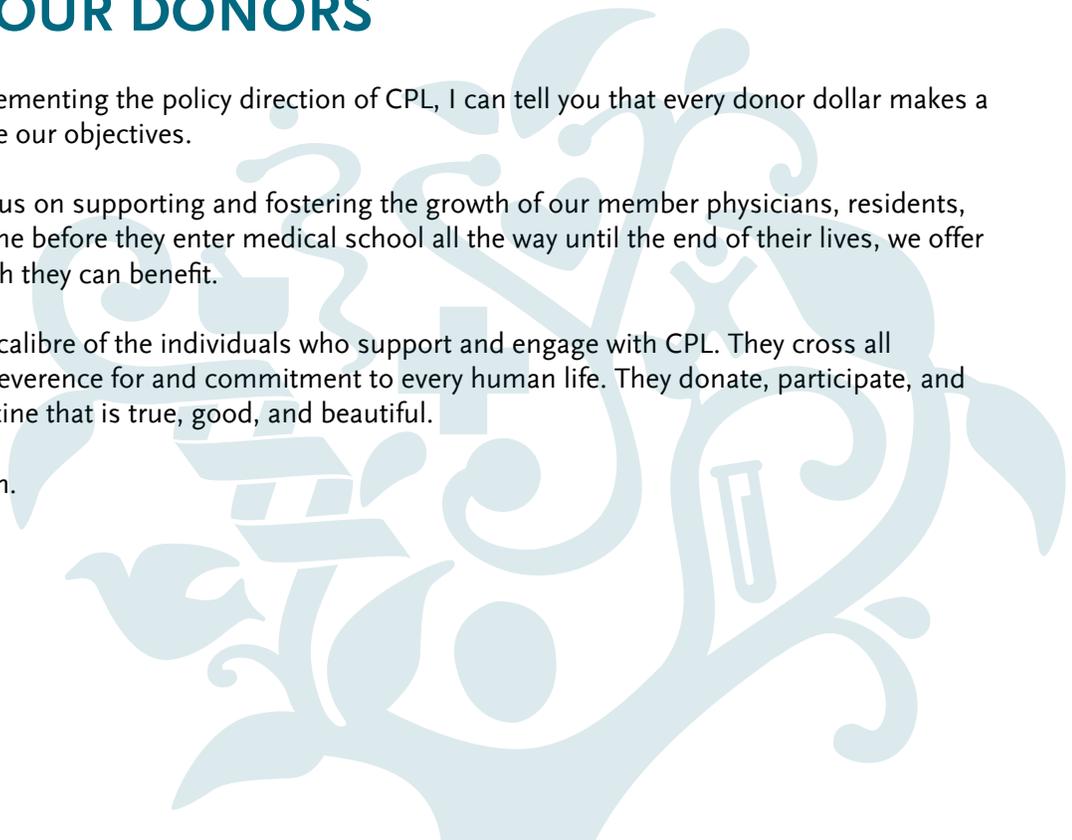
As the person responsible for implementing the policy direction of CPL, I can tell you that every donor dollar makes a real difference in helping us achieve our objectives.

The staff and volunteers at CPL focus on supporting and fostering the growth of our member physicians, residents, and medical students. From the time before they enter medical school all the way until the end of their lives, we offer programs and initiatives from which they can benefit.

I have been so impressed with the calibre of the individuals who support and engage with CPL. They cross all specialties but hold in common a reverence for and commitment to every human life. They donate, participate, and mentor, building a future for medicine that is true, good, and beautiful.

I feel blessed to be part of this team.

**NICOLE SCHEIDL**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



# MISSION, VALUES AND VISION

OUR MISSION is to promote public awareness of and professional adherence to the time-honoured Hippocratic medical tradition, affirming the inviolability of every human life.

## WE BELIEVE:

- To cause the death of a human being directly, at any stage in life, because of physical or mental disabilities or for social, economic, ecological, or eugenic reasons is a gross injustice to the person, degrading to humanity and contradictory to the role of the physician.
- It must be the goal of medical science and its practitioners to preserve and protect human life, to relieve suffering, and to promote healing.
- Reverence for every human life, regardless of age or infirmity, lies at the root of all medical tradition.
- Understanding that there are two patients in every pregnancy and that a physician bears the medical responsibility for the lives of both the mother and her unborn child.

WE HAVE A VISION for Canadian society where physicians are free to relieve suffering, promote healing and preserve and protect human life.



*“Canadian Physicians for Life does truly essential work in an incredibly hostile environment. There is no other organization that comes alongside pro-life doctors, nurses, midwives, and medical students and provides essential apologetics training, legal advice, mentorship, and community.*”

*Pro-life medical professionals in Canada are often under siege, and CPL gives them what they need to stand strong and uphold the sanctity of every human life. Because of CPL, Canadian medical professionals can defend their rights--and human life--with confidence. This, without questions, saves lives. I cannot recommend CPL highly enough.”*

**- JONATHON VAN MAREN**

Public Speaker, Writer and Pro-Life Activist  
Brantford, ON



Canadian Physicians  
for **Life**

# ABOUT CPL: OUR PROGRAMMING AND ENGAGEMENT – DONOR DOLLARS AT WORK

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The CPL national conference is our premier event. Because of the pandemic, our annual conference was hosted online. A record 170 participants met, including **49 sponsored medical students and residents** taking advantage of networking and learning from speakers. This conference has a significant impact on the way attendees can defend their pro-life beliefs. The conference included Dr. Lauris Kaldjian speaking on Conscience in Medicine and Dr. Priscilla Coleman on the Impact of Abortion on Women’s Mental Health.

The day after the conference we received this email from a student:

*“I really enjoyed the conference over the weekend. We are having some ethics lectures this morning, and duty to refer came up. I was able to ask the lecturer a question, inspired by a couple of the sessions!”*

## MENTORING PROGRAMS

Launched in 2018, the mentoring programs are open to both medical students and residents. In 2020, **31 students** took advantage of the mentoring program. We continue our collaboration with Dr. Majeres of Harvard Medical School and his team at Optimal Work to enhance our mentoring programs. We have integrated the Optimal Work platform into our mentoring program. We are also providing our mentors with additional training and access to Master Class training.

## LEARNING PLATFORM

Launched in 2018, the Learning Platform hosts the conference programs and CPL resources. Resources are grouped into learning packages and include programs on Abortion, Euthanasia, Conscience and the Abortion Pill Reversal.

At the end of 2020, we have **608 users** totalling **2092 enrollments** on our Learning Platform, which represents a 50% increase in users from last year.



2020 CPL Virtual Conference

## CRISIS LINE

The Crisis Line is available for medical students, residents, and physicians who find themselves pressured to violate their conscience. When someone contacts our crisis line, we do an initial assessment. Sometimes the issue can be resolved but if not, they are put in contact with a constitutional lawyer. The connection happens within 24 hours of initial contact with CPL.

## ABORTION PILL REVERSAL NETWORK

We continue our partnership with the Abortion Pill Reversal Network. We encourage physician involvement with the network and are providing more resources on our Learning Platform to support this important initiative. We continue to work on expanding the network of physicians involved in this important initiative.

## LEGAL AND POLITICAL OUTREACH

In 2020 we led the effort to build a network of like-minded organizations and individuals across professional disciplines to help us move the legislative needle on life issues. CPL is focused on building a conscience “big tent” with organizations and individuals from a variety of backgrounds. This ‘big tent’ approach will help to deliver legislative success.

In 2020 we partnered with the Society for Academic Freedom and Scholarship to intervene in the Rafael Zaki and University of Manitoba case. This case will go to court in 2021.

We also worked closely with physician groups and individual physicians to advocate for changes to Bill C-7, including the successful press conference with Michael Cooper, MP to pressure the Justice Committee to accept the written briefs of physicians who had been arbitrarily excluded from consideration by the Committee.

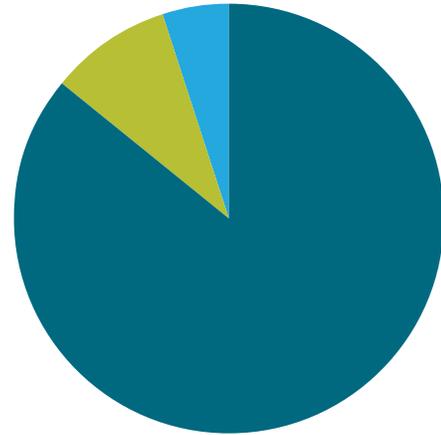


*2020 CPL Virtual Conference*

# FINANCIALS

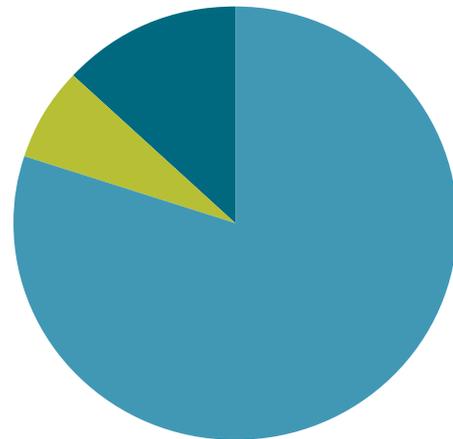
- INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS
- FOUNDATIONS
- CONFERENCE SALES

2020 Revenues

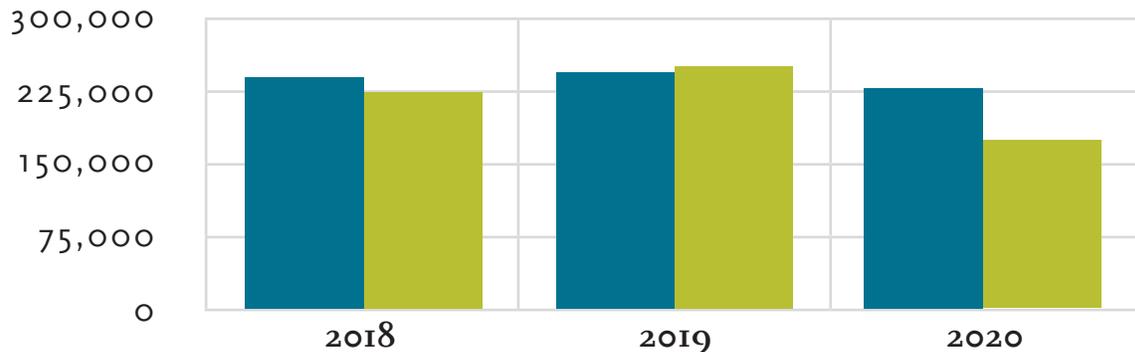


2020 Expenses

- PROGRAM EXPENDITURES
- FUNDRAISING
- ADMINISTRATION



## Revenue and Expenses - Comparison



■ Revenue ■ Expenses

\*Numbers rounded to the nearest thousand

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR 2020 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

*The majority of our donations are received from individual donors.*



- There are four major sources of revenue for Canadian Physicians for Life. We receive funds from individual donations, foundations, conference sales and planned giving. The majority of our donations are received from individual donors.
- We spend over 80% of donations on programs to support medical students, residents, physicians, and other healthcare professionals.
- In 2020 our biggest expenditures were on the National Conference, the Mentoring Programs and our advocacy and outreach.

The total revenue and total expenses shown here for the year ended December 31, 2020 are based on the organizations' audited financial statements. The organization's financial statements were audited by the Ottawa Office of McKenchie & Co. Copies of the audited statements are publicly available on our website.

## MEET YOUR BOARD

**DR. RYAN WILSON, PRESIDENT**  
Emergency and Family Medicine  
*Kelowna, BC*



“It is thanks to CPL that I know I am not a lone voice, but part of a large body of pro-life physicians who all tirelessly provide pro-life patient care despite the seemingly growing antagonism from some.”

**DR. WILL JOHNSTON, PAST PRESIDENT**  
Family Medicine  
*Vancouver, BC*



“There is nothing on the Canadian scene comparable to Canadian Physicians for Life. Founded in 1975 when abortion was beginning to insinuate itself into routine medical practice, at first in a spirit of naive optimism that our Law would somehow rise to protect the unborn child, the organization has survived to offer a haven of sanity in the face of the medical-legal death culture that now grips most of our institutions. We have no evident replacement for CPL, despite the tenuousness of its existence. I have worked and donated accordingly.”

**DR. LUKE SAVAGE, VICE-PRESIDENT**  
Rural and Family Medicine  
*Three Hills, AB*



“I am involved with CPL because there is strength and hope and encouragement with numbers! Working as a rural family doc can make one feel all alone at times, especially in today’s prevailing politically correct medical culture. CPL offers support and community with other doctors and learners who believe life has value from very beginning to natural end. Furthermore, CPL’s evidence-based policies and resources provide a credible alternative to the growing medical utilitarianism of our day.”



Canadian Physicians  
for **Life**

**DR. NATASHA FERNANDES, SECRETARY**

Psychiatry Resident

*Toronto, ON*



“When I was a medical student attending the CPL conferences I no longer felt alone in the pro-life fight. It is a gift I believe every pro-life medical student deserves.”

**KAROL BOSCHUNG, TREASURER**

Medical Student

*Victoria, BC*



“I think CPL is essential because, as a soon-to-be physician, it is essential to know that I am not alone in my pro-life stance, and that I have access to support and a community of shared values with physicians across Canada. I am very grateful to be working with CPL.”

**DR. MARSHALL SIEMENS, TREASURER (RETIRED FROM BOARD IN 2020)**

*Saskatoon, SK*

**DR. GREG COSTELLO**

Family Medicine

*Kelowna, BC*



“CPL is a nimble, physician led organization which provides a secular venue for pro-life doctors from all specialties to network and support each other and learners in their professional development, while also striving to influence the public and legal discourse on issues that deeply affect the practice of medicine.”

## MEET YOUR BOARD (CONTINUED)

### **DR. STEPHANIE KAFIE**

Family Medicine and Care of the Elderly  
*Niagara Falls, ON*



“CPL is a voice for the voiceless in our country. CPL has a strong record of advocating for legislation and intervening in court challenges that matter to physicians who defend life at all stages. I’m proud to be part of such a strong organization that is committed to advocating for life from conception to natural death.”

### **DR. KIELY WILLIAMS**

Family and Rural Medicine  
*Calgary, AB*



“ ... It is my privilege to work alongside the defenders of the weakest members of our human family. Like those who have gone before us, we face continued and dedicated opposition to our defence of the defenceless; and like those who have gone before us, it is our privilege to do so. Canadian Physicians for Life is a light in the darkness. We invite you to step into the light and embrace our hope for a brighter tomorrow.”

### **DR. ARTUR WOZNIAK**

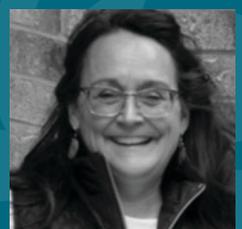
Radiology Resident  
*London, ON*



“CPL is the largest nonreligious prolife organization in Canada, which connects like-minded people from all over the country to fight for the one thing that really matters: human life.”

### **NICOLE SCHEIDL, LLB, LLM**

Executive Director  
*Ottawa, ON*





2020 CPL Virtual Conference

“ As a journalist, Canadian Physicians for Life is first on my list as a resource to turn to when I’m researching a story on life issues. Why? Because the information and perspective are always measured in tone while firmly grounded in the tradition of medical ethics. Executive director Nicole Scheidl communicates clearly, reasonably and accessibly so that I feel confident what’s said fully accords with what the doctors who comprise CPL hold true through training, experience and practice.”

**PETER STOCKLAND**  
Reporter, Columnist, Editor  
Montreal, QC

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