

CANADIAN PHYSICIANS FOR LIFE



Canadian Physicians
for *Life*

ANNUAL REPORT



2019

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF CPL,

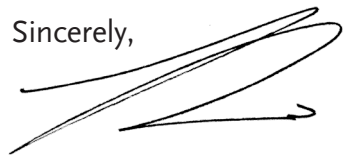
2019 was certainly a turbulent time for prolife physicians in Canada. We continue to witness the seemingly insatiable march of extremist medical ethics seeking to erode the foundation of prolife medical practice built over centuries. This is perhaps most evident in the current legal struggle to broaden PAS/euthanasia to include patients whose death may not be “reasonably foreseeable” (Lamb v Canada). Outside the courts, however, many of us are also finding that “MAiD” is gaining a disturbing amount of traction amongst our peers and patients. Furthermore, abortion continues to be requested and obtained in alarming numbers. Most astonishingly, the highly publicized CPSO policy regarding requirements for ‘effective referral’ was upheld by the Ontario Court of Appeal despite the best efforts of a number of prolife organizations (including CPL). For many, this was a nightmare come true—a legal requirement to be complicit in acts that we so deeply hold to be destructive and immoral.

I, like many of you, have been deeply disturbed by these events. Nevertheless, my hope is that all Canadian prolife physicians and trainees, most especially those who attended our conference this year, take heart in the positive changes occurring over the same time. CPL has made great efforts to tackle every level of the policy issue. We continue to campaign for conscience rights across the country, including Ontario (despite the unfortunate development this past year). This includes provincial governments, provincial colleges, and other policy makers. We continue to assist undergraduate students in preparing for the admissions process for medical school. Although still in its infancy, the mentorship program which connects medical trainees with practicing physicians across the country is also gaining momentum.

Finally, and most importantly, every single patient encounter with a physician who is committed to providing excellent, patient centred, and pro-life medical care ought to be treated as a great victory. This is truly our *raison d’être*, whence we derive our inspiration as individuals and as an organization. So, despite the hardships which we face in our current climate, we must continue to be inspired by the tireless work of the prolife community. As the great William Osler once said, “to have striven, to have made the effort, to have been true to certain ideals – this alone is worth the struggle.”

I am privileged to lead the committed professionals who make up the CPL Board. Your support and dedication to our work allows us to continue to grow and to impact more physicians, students and the wider Canadian community.

Sincerely,



Ryan, President of the Board

OUR PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

CPL’s principles are based on the life-affirming Hippocratic Oath. CPL is open to all physicians and students who share the following beliefs:

- Reverence for every human life, regardless of age or infirmity, lies at the root of all medical tradition.
- Recognition that the long and honourable ethical tradition of medical sciences through the ages has been expressed and protected by the oath of Hippocrates.
- Belief that it must be the goal of medical science and its practitioners to preserve and protect human life, to relieve suffering, and to promote healing.
- 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.
- Conscious that human life begins at conception and a recognition that 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.



“Canadian Physicians for Life is an excellent organization making a timely and much-needed contribution to our culture. Having worked alongside them for more than a decade, I have been inspired by CPL’s professionalism in equipping future and current physicians, and other medical professionals, to uphold the value of all human beings, regardless of age or abilities.”

- Stephanie Gray (International speaker and author of Love Unleashes Life)

ABOUT CPL: OUR PROGRAMMING AND ENGAGEMENT

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The CPL national conference is our premier event. This year a record 150 participants met in Ottawa, including **40 sponsored medical students** and **5 sponsored law students** taking advantage of networking and learning from speakers. This conference has a significant impact on the way attendees can defend their pro-life beliefs. One hundred percent of our attendees reported that they felt better equipped to promote and defend their pro-life beliefs after attending our conference.



2019 CPL Conference - Ottawa Ontario

MENTORING PROGRAMS

Launched in 2018, the mentoring programs are open to both medical students and residents. In 2019, **16 students** took advantage of the mentoring program. While still in its infancy, we began a collaboration with Dr. Majeres of Harvard Medical School to enhance our mentoring programs with the integration of the Optimal Work platform. The Optimal Work platform is an online platform that grew out of a university student mentoring program. Its underlying philosophy of helping people develop fully so that they thrive is the perfect fit for CPL.

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 2019, we have **409 users** totalling **1444 enrollments** on our Learning Platform.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

In 2019, we created an associate membership category and extended the benefits of CPL to other healthcare professionals. In July 2019, Midwives for Life rolled their organization into CPL and we are providing them administrative support and access to our resources. We are also developing additional resources for nurses, pharmacists and chiropractors.

CRISIS LINE

The Crisis Line is available for medical students, residents, and physicians who find themselves pressured to violate their conscience. This year we saw more aggressive pressure in Ontario on residents and physicians. 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. In 2019, **4 Crisis Line calls** were processed through to a lawyer.



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. Dr. George Delgado, the founder of the network spoke at our conference this year, outlining the research that is supporting the use of the progesterone protocol. Conference attendees were encouraged to sign-up for the network.

LEGAL AND POLITICAL OUTREACH

In 2019 we were part of the team that argued the CPSO case at the Ontario Court of Appeal. We intervened in the Lamb case in BC, which argued for the extension of euthanasia. We were also involved in supporting the Healthcare Conscience Rights Bill 207 in Alberta. Board member Dr. Kiely Williams was asked by MLA Dan Williams to appear before the Legislative Committee to speak in support of the bill.

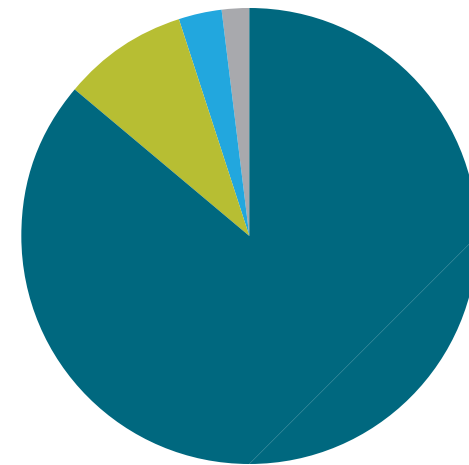


2019 CPL Conference - Ottawa Ontario

FINANCIALS

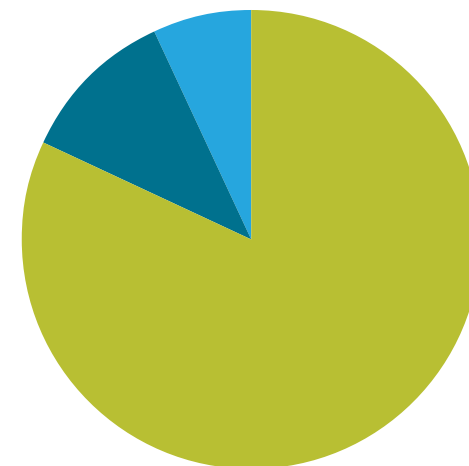
- INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS
- FOUNDATIONS
- CONFERENCE SALES
- PLANNED GIVING

2019 Revenues

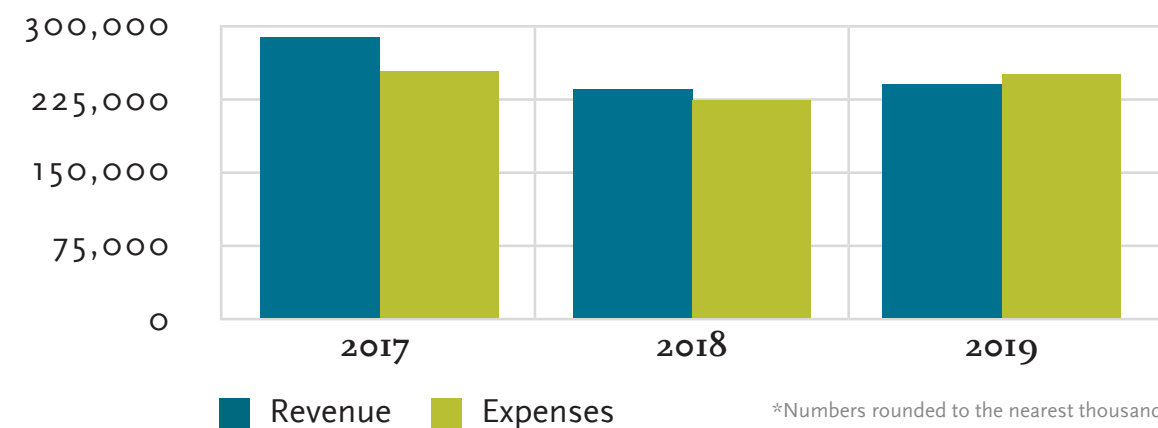


2019 Expenses

- PROGRAM EXPENDITURES
- FUNDRAISING
- ADMINISTRATION



Revenue and Expenses - Comparison



Most of our revenues come in from individual donors.



2019 CPL Conference - Ottawa Ontario

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR 2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

- 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.
- Our major legal fundraising initiative occurred in 2017 with some additional funds raised in 2018 for both the CPSO case and the Lamb case. Those cases have been completed in 2019 and all legal fees paid.
- We spend over 82% of donations on programs to support medical students, residents, physicians and other healthcare professionals. In 2019 our two biggest expenditures were on the National Conference and legal fees for the CPSO case and the Lamb case.

The total revenue and total expenses shown here for the year ended December 30, 2019 are based on the organization's audited financial statements. The organizations' financial statements were audited by the Ottawa Office of McKenchie & Co. Copies of the audited statements are available upon request at finance@physiciansforlife.ca

FROM OUR STUDENTS

“The conference made a huge impact on me. I was able to hear a perspective that was extremely different from the opinions of my home university. I was able to connect with doctors and residents and other medical students with similar views as me. **I felt so much HOPE and a sense of purpose to stand firm for the good of my patients.** I also feel so equipped by the sessions and discussions to talk about my convictions with colleagues and future patients with grace and wisdom. This came at the perfect time and I do not think I would have gotten there without your financial help so THANK YOU once again. My practice is forever changed.”

- FIRST YEAR MEDICAL STUDENT, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

“Once again, attending this conference has provided me with concrete arguments to defend the pro-life position, but has also taught me the importance of listening and communicating with love and compassion. I also feel confident that the sessions provided me with the tools I’ll need to confront battles when they arise throughout my education.

Perhaps the most rewarding part of the conference was the opportunity for networking. The connections I made with fellow pro-life medical students at other schools, as well as with physician mentors, have brought me so much joy and hope for the future of medicine. This growing network is of incredible value to me as I go forth in my training, and I plan to nurture these connections throughout my career.

In an environment that has become so enculturated in choosing death over hope, the pro-life conversations and perspectives shared by colleagues at the CPL conference **were like splashes of colour** on a backdrop that so often seems dark and grey. I’m beyond happy to have had this experience and am truly grateful for the support you have provided that enabled me to take part.”

- MD CANDIDATE CLASS OF 2022, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

“Thank you for believing in and investing in us, in challenging us to think deeper and to care for our patients even more. As students, it is edifying and energizing to be encouraged by such a supportive community.”

- 2ND YEAR MEDICAL STUDENT, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA



2019 CPL Conference - Ottawa Ontario

“As a first-year medical student, I am entering the profession with excitement but also some concern. I know that medicine is where I am meant to be but was afraid of the potential consequences of my pro-life stance. **Attending the conference lifted my spirits, reminding me of the importance of protecting the dignity of every human person and confirming to me the fact that I am not alone.** Through the conference, I had the privilege of meeting other students (both in and outside my medical school) and physicians who can support me. I also received valuable advice about choosing specialties, which I will take with me moving forward to guide my career in medicine. The CPL conference was a life changing experience, equipping me to defend life with confidence - thank you for providing me with this gift!”

- SCHULICH SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, CLASS OF 2023

“The connections I made with fellow pro-life medical students at other schools, as well as with physician mentors, have brought me so much joy and hope for the future of medicine.”



2019 CPL Conference - Ottawa Ontario

“What empowers me the most and what brings me back to this conference is the sense of not being alone. I come from a school and province that presents itself to be very supportive of the pro-choice movement. At first, I felt like I was suffocating, then it reached a point where I started to become numb as I faced the reality that I lived in. The reality where a newly formed life could be easily ended within a five-minute visit at the clinic and asking for assisted suicide was considered dying with dignity. I felt like I was the only one swimming against the current, but thanks to the CPL conference, I realized that was not true... **I felt like I was finally getting a breath of fresh air.**

Since attending the CPL conference, I have become more confident to express my views in discussion with my colleagues and question my professors, even in front of the class, when they were teaching us in support of euthanasia and abortion. Little by little I hope to influence at least those around me and help them to see that life exists in that small beating heart, and value still exists in suffering life.”

- MEDICAL STUDENT, MCGILL UNIVERSITY

“As a nonreligious person, many of the topics and ideas were very eye opening to me. I found it helpful to hear from real practicing physicians and other medical students, their struggles and perspectives ... I think that is something that all practitioners from all walks of life will have to encounter, and that is the most beneficial revelation I have had from this conference.”

- 2ND YEAR MEDICAL STUDENT, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

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