



## Controversial pro-life banner returns to Kamloops



*If atheists demand removal of pro-life banner over the B.C. city street, mayor says he won't budge*

KAMLOOPS, B.C., September 12, 2013 (LifeSiteNews.com) – If atheist groups demand once again that a city in British Columbia remove a pro-life banner authorized to fly on city-owned polls this week, saying that it violates city policy on street banners, the city has already said that it will refuse to budge.

City administrator David

Trawin confirmed on Tuesday that the banner meets the city's criteria, since it does not contain any offensive words or messages.

The blue banner, hoisted on behalf of the Kamloops Pro-Life Society, includes a silhouette of a baby, young girl, and elderly woman standing beneath a tree.

The text reads, "One life can make a difference. Protect human life week."

The banner has been hung in the city for the last eight years, corresponding with the time Life Chain runs its yearly peaceful and prayerful public witness. Last year was the first time anyone complained about the banner.

Bill Ligertwood of the atheist group Kamloops Centre for Rational Thought has said that the city should not have approved the banner since, in his view, it violates a city policy on

street banners. The policy states that banners must not "promote political parties or points of view, religious points of view, commercial ventures, controversial issues or other content that contradicts the human rights codes."

### this issue

Kamloops Pro-life Banner **P.1**

We lose another Pro-life hero **P.2**

President's Message **P.4**

United for Life British Columbia (UFLBC)  
PO Box 12045 Murrayville RPO, Langley, BC V3A 9J5

The B.C. Humanists Association, another atheist group, has also spoken out against the banner.

But Kamloops Mayor Peter Milobar told reporters last year that the atheist groups had no grounds to have the pro-life banner removed. He said the banner was formally vetted and

approved by city lawyers.

"Essentially, this banner — the way it's worded, the way it's structured — it was their opinion that it would not be in contravention of our policy that we could enforce," he said.

But Ligertwood's atheist group remained adamant that the pro-life banner represented a religious position in the public square.

"Our position is that, no matter what the language is, the organization that's putting it up there is what should count, not necessarily what's on the banner," he said.

Jackson Doughart, a pro-life secularist whose columns appear in the Prince Arthur Herald, told LifeSiteNews.com that one does not have to be religious to oppose abortion.

"Opposition to abortion, while more common among Christians, is not an exclusively-religious cause," he said, adding that the "most convincing anti-abortion arguments are not theological but based on reason."

"Even those atheists who favour legal abortion should be careful of condemning their opponents categorically, for there are many non-believers, myself included, who feel there is more room for debate," he said.

Tonia Howell, spokesperson for the Kamloops Pro-Life Society, told LifeSiteNews.com that while the Christian faith might be a motivational factor behind people working in the pro-life movement, her group frames the issue as one of human rights.

Science and "all the evidence" revealing the "humanity of the unborn child" in the womb is on the side of life, she said. "There is nothing that suggests that the developing individual [in the womb] would be anything other than human."

Howell said that her group has welcomed the atheists' complaints since it has given them "quite

a lot of publicity that we probably otherwise would not have had."

"We jokingly contemplated sending the atheist groups a thank-you card, but decided that would be a bit tongue in cheek," she said.



## **Long-time Pro-life hero passes on**

Steve Hendrix, beloved husband to Christine Hendrix, passed away in Comox, B.C. on August 29, 2013 at the age of 81 years. Steve had many loves and passions in his life and the most dear to him was his wife of 61 years, Christine. Steve filled her life with adventure and excitement while providing her security and support, allowing her to follow her dreams. Steve always took tremendous pride in Christine's accomplishments. They had four children, eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, all of whom he passed on many key traits, the greatest of these being his love, passion and respect of human life, his caring for others and his incredible drive and love of fun (disguised as hard work). For those lucky enough to have ever been blessed by one of his embracing hugs, his confident handshakes, his flirting winks or his mischievous smiles was left knowing, the man was bigger than life. Steve, at a very young age was thrust into a position of having to make a living out of a struggling family run saw mill, this starting him down the road of creating his own business that continued with many ventures including plumbing contracting, restaurant investor, land development, farming and then back to his real enjoyment, plumbing that concluded his 65 year

career. Recognizing Steve's powerful dedication to protection of all human life, something Steve and Christine lived for, in lieu of flowers, donations are requested to charity: United for Life, Box 12045, Murrayville RPO, Langley, BC, V3A 9J5. – See more at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/calgaryherald/obituary.aspx?pid=166794310#fbLoggedOut>

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## **Kelowna Mayor kowtows to pro-aborts, refuses to proclaim annual 'Protect Human Life Week'**

*Last year's Protect Human Life Week, proclaimed September 23 - 30, 2012 despite pressure from pro abortion activists to have the proclamation rescinded.*

KELOWNA, B.C., September 18, 2013 (LifeSiteNews.com) – A British Columbia mayor has caved into abortion lobby pressure, refusing for the first time in six years to proclaim the “Protect Human Life Week” on behalf of a local pro-life group.

“This year they just rejected our request for the proclamation altogether,” Marlon Bartram, spokesperson for the Kelowna Right to Life Society, told LifeSiteNews.com. The group, a registered charity in the city for over thirty years, has been granted proclamations nine times in total.

Mayor Walter Gray wrote in last year's proclamation that Protect Human Life Week was to “promote respect and protection to all life, especially the infirm, the aged, the handicapped, and the unborn.”

The Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada blasted

the proclamation at that time, calling its pro-life sponsor a “radical political and religious group primarily concerned with opposing and re-criminalizing abortion, not with protecting the infirm, aged, handicapped, or even babies.” Executive Director Joyce Arthur demanded that Mayor Gray rescind the proclamation, calling it “deeply offensive”.

Arthur said in a press release that Mayor Gray was right to deny the group its proclamation this year because it “amounted to discrimination against women.”

Kelowna Right to Life Society received an email from the Mayor's office last week — four months after submitting its application — saying that the city had “tightened up criteria for proclamations”.

The email — obtained by LifeSiteNews — stated that proclamations will not be approved if they “cover matters of political controversy.”

“In your particular case, the application is denied on the previously demonstrated basis of political controversy and because of your advocacy against existing Canadian laws,” stated the email from the mayor's office.

The mayor's office did not indicate in the email what was “controversial” about the proclamation nor did it clarify what part of Canadian law the pro-life groups advocated against.

Bartram said that while he is not a “conspiracy theorist”, it seemed to him that the city changed its guidelines so as to reject the pro-life group's application.

Bartram said that he was a little surprised by the rejection, but not shocked. Last year the city ruled against the pro-life group flying its flag above city hall during the Protect Life week. To appear unbiased, the city scrapped the courtesy flag pole altogether.

“We're disappointed,” Bartram said. “But at the same time the bigger picture is that children are being killed [by abortion] in our local hospital, and

we're not about to stop speaking out against that just because we don't have the blessing from our Mayor."

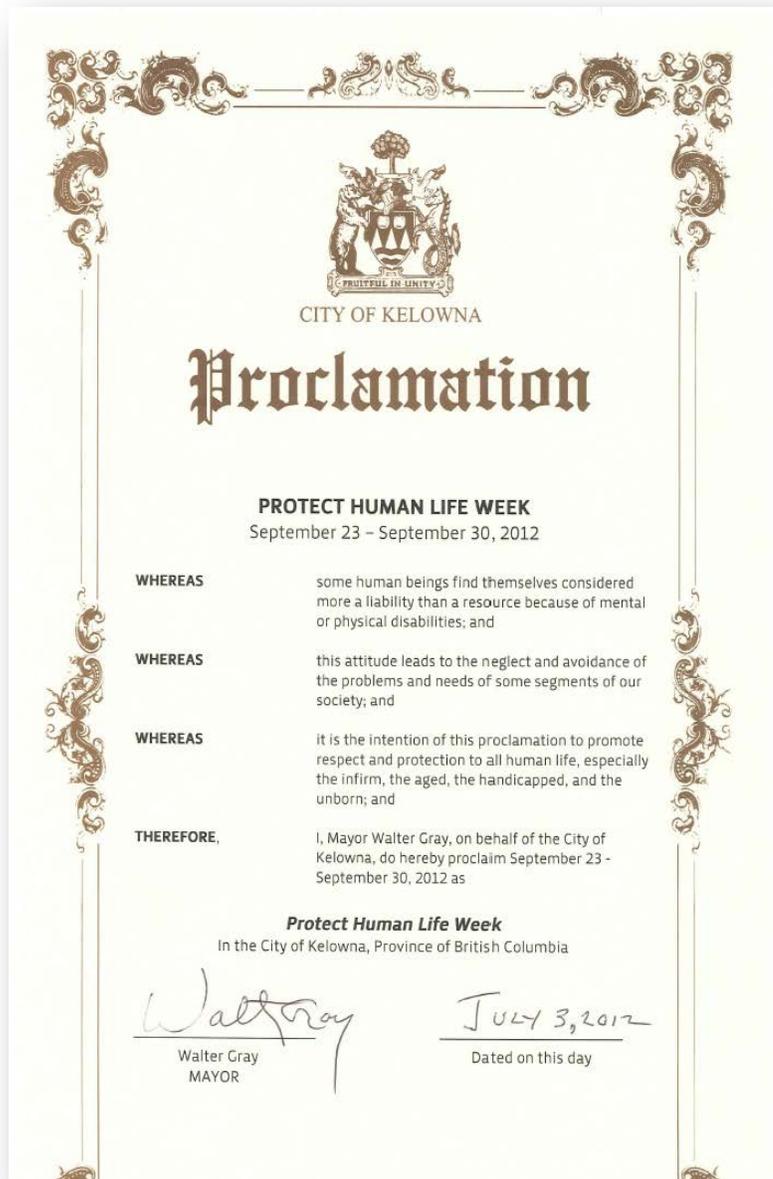
Mayor Gray's move against the pro-life group comes at a time when Mayor Peter Milobar of Kamloops, 170 kilometers northwest of Kelowna, has refused to budge to atheist groups that have demanded that the city remove a pro-life banner authorized to fly on city-owned poles. A city administrator confirmed last week that the banner, containing a silhouette of a baby, young girl, and elderly woman standing beneath a tree and the text "One life can make a difference: Protect human life week" does not contain any offensive words or messages.

Bartram called the actions of the two mayors "exactly opposite". He said his group is looking into its legal options. Kelowna Right to Life Society has asked Mayor Gray to reconsider his stance, but no matter what the reply, it will go ahead with its planned activities for the Protect Human Life Week, running September 28 to October 6.

Events include a Walk For Life on September 28, a pro-life film night on October 1, an evening with Mike Schouten from WeNeedALaw.ca on October 3, and will wrap up with a Life Chain event on October 6.

Contact information:

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**@UFLBC**

# President's Letter

Thank you all for your tremendous response to the appeal in our last newsletter. All 20 of our "Amazing Grace" videos have been given away. September is always the time of renewal and rededication within the pro-life movement. We step back and assess our strategies to move the political Pro-life agenda forward in BC. This year is no different. Our new organization is taking baby steps to make an impact on the political situation here in BC.

So many pro-life events go on through the year which become part of our "regular" routine of pro-life activity. Things like the annual March for Life in Victoria, the Focus on Life Dinner, the 40 Days for Life prayer vigil, Life Chain, weekly demonstrations at abortion clinics, Hikes for Life in many communities and conferences in all areas of the province. Very quickly a schedule becomes full.

While all of these events are part and parcel of what we have always done and continue to do, there is constantly a need for new and fresh initiatives drawing attention to the plight of pre-born children. I believe the general public is finally beginning to understand how important this issue is. They are slowly coming around to seeing and hearing the truth surrounding abortion. Public opinion polls are beginning to indicate they are not happy with the status quo. However the politicians are not yet getting the message or at least not acting on it.

To that end we at United for life BC will be making a few changes to the "routine" this year; changes that will offer occasions for more interaction with elected representatives; changes that will offer local community Pro-life groups an opportunity to connect with us at UFLBC in tangible ways. There is untapped potential in BC to make a real difference if we all work together. We can harness the youthful pro-life enthusiasm growing in BC. Young people are asking how they can do their part in making the changes needed. One of our UFLBC jobs is to give them the tools they need to

accomplish them by working with the networks of activists already in place.

Plans are in the works to do a Fall/Spring speaking tour of BC. Local groups will be invited to host an evening presentation at which we will bring everyone up to date on all that is happening and offer real political opportunities to "Make a Difference for Life" right in their own communities. We will be contacting local activists to set up and coordinate these events. The East Kootenays are already booked for the first week of November.

When we look for inspiration, motivation and dedication to continue on in this wonderful work for life, we often look to our closest family. This past summer I said goodbye to my mother Veronica Hof. She died on July 20th her 102nd birthday. Her life was a great example of respect for life and probably the reason I am so involved in this work today. She prayed unceasingly for an end to abortion. At 100 she asked me to fill out her membership form in her local Alberta PL society. Every time we would have a quiet chance to talk she would always ask the same question. "Jan (that is Dutch for John) will there ever come an end to the killing of those poor babies?" I would always answer her the same way. "Mom, if we all keep working and praying for it to stop, it will stop." I say the same to you all today. If we keep working for an end to the killing, if we recommit ourselves here and now to take this issue seriously; if we start raising our collective voices demanding an end to abortion, it will stop. Thank you for joining us as we walk and work with all pro-lifers UNITED FOR LIFE in BC.

This past summer has been devastating for the families of some pro-life veterans. Four have died in the past two months. It is almost as though we should have a "Remembrance Day" for them. When attending funerals of these dedicated warriors for life I have started offering the family a pair of Pro-life feet to pin on the lapel of the deceased. I offer it almost like a "Medal of Honor" for a life well lived. The family usually thinks this is such a wonderful idea and in one case all of the family members also asked for feet they could wear at the service as a witness to all attending.

Rather than go into a long eulogy for those we have lost this summer let me just give you an Honour Roll listing with acknowledgments.

Clara Schollen: Wife of John Schollen. Both were long-time active members of the political Pro-life movement here in BC. John faithfully stood with Clare through her 22 year Parkinson's battle.

Dr. Walter and Mrs. Jean Kazun: Both passed away within weeks of each other. They were founders and stalwart Pro-life leaders in the medical challenges facing society when it accepted abortion on demand.

Steve Hendrix, beloved husband of Christine Hendrix, who we have mentioned in an earlier part of the newsletter.

Thankfully, each of these pro-life heroes, we will meet again!

In the meantime, there is much work to be done, and we appreciate your prayers and support!



For Life, John Hof,  
President, United for  
Life

## *Leaving a Pro-Life Legacy*

*There is no better way to make your pro-life voice heard well into the future, even after you're gone, than to leave a bequest to the pro-life organization of your choice. Please consider bequeathing a fraction of your estate to **United for Life British Columbia**. Your gift will help ensure there is a strong voice for the unborn, the infirm and the disabled for years to come! Speak with your lawyer or notary for more information...and thank you for standing with us!*

*Crisis Pregnancy Centres in BC Under Attack!*

# The Joyce Arthur Defamation Suit and the Tactic of Being Vague

*Thursday, September 26, 2013 at 6:35AM*

*Activate CFPL Blog*

*<http://activatecfpl.theefc.ca/journal/2013/9/26/the-joyce-arthur-defamation-suit-and-the-tactic-of-being-vag.html>*

Yesterday, the Vancouver and Burnaby Crisis Pregnancy Centres (CPCs) announced that they would not appeal the court's decision in a defamation suit they had launched against pro-choice activist Joyce Arthur. These two CPCs, like many across Canada, offer women, couples and families free assistance, such as maternity and baby clothes, childbirth classes and information on pregnancy options.

In 2009, Arthur wrote a report for the now-defunct Pro-Choice Action Network ("Pro-CAN") entitled *Exposing Crisis Pregnancy Centres in British Columbia*. With the help of government funding via a Status of Women Canada grant of \$27,400 and the proposed research goal of "expos[ing] the anti-woman and anti-feminist agenda of CPCs," Arthur eventually issued her assessment of CPCs. Her report claimed, in short, that CPCs employ unethical tactics and strategies that hurt and deceive women.

Since the report was garnering more internet attention than it deserves, the Vancouver and Burnaby CPCs launched a defamation suit against Arthur and Pro-CAN in hopes that the court would order Arthur to withdraw or correct her report. Strategically, and given the great costs of litigation these days, the CPCs and their lawyer carefully chose the allegations made in the report that they

deemed most defamatory but also simple enough to disprove in court.

These allegations included that "CPCs use graphic videos and pictures to shock and horrify young women about abortion", that "CPCs ... won't say upfront they are religious, and will lie about being religiously-affiliated to get a woman into the centre", and that they "provide misinformation about abortion and its risks" and "break confidentiality."

Unfortunately the court found that the report was so unclear in its attributions of wrong-doing that a reasonable person reading the report wouldn't necessarily think that the Vancouver and Burnaby CPCs were guilty of committing those particular ethical breaches. As the judge ruled, "it is difficult to say that the 'deceptive' tactics reflect personally on the plaintiffs. The impugned statements do not have any specificity; the Report describes the tactics in broad generalizations."

In fact, in her gleeful recounting of the case, Arthur concedes that that was her legal strategy in the defamation suit. Her strategy amounted to arguing "that the report did not specifically say that the two plaintiff CPCs used any of the described tactics..."

So in the end, Arthur conceded in her legal submissions that she didn't say that those CPCs engaged in the alleged behaviours. The CPCs are free to continue doing their good work and, as they announced yesterday, they will release a report rebutting Arthur's claims. They'll set the record straight.

So no harm, no foul, right?

Not necessarily. When people Google certain city names plus keywords such as "Crisis Pregnancy Centres," Arthur's report is one of the first documents to pop up in the search results. This negatively affects people's understanding of Canadian CPCs.

And Arthur's report is still one of the only "reviews" of CPCs in Canada. Apparently some people are using this poorly crafted report, which fails to meet, in my opinion, some of the most basic academic research standards, as an authoritative source on Canadian CPCs.

In one section of her report, where many of the damaging allegations are made, Arthur opens the section by stating that the "following activities and strategies are common to many or most CPCs throughout North America." By being so vague and unspecific, it seems she can make appalling allegations, but still be largely protected from being sued for defamation. Conveniently, many of those allegations aren't supported by a single footnote or source.

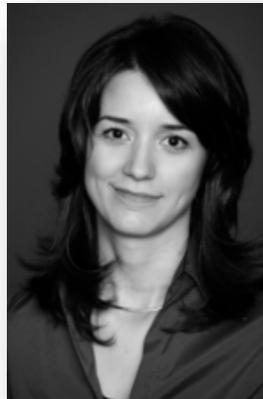
And keep in mind, that these allegations are made within a report entitled Exposing Crisis Pregnancy Centres in British Columbia, where that title appears on the top of each page of the report, wherein the stated goal of the report is to "find out what these centres were doing and saying to women in B.C., and whether they were engaging in deceptive or harmful practices," and where the appendix lists only B.C. CPCs. In think the average reader would likely assume that the allegations made within the report apply to B.C. CPCs, and likely to the two CPCs which launched the suit against Arthur.

This report is hugely damaging to CPCs in B.C., as well as the rest of Canada. I understand why the CPCs are not pursuing the suit further. Given how unspecific Arthur was in her allegations, an appeal of the decision would be a tough, uphill and costly legal battle. I like that the CPCs will issue a rebuttal of Arthur's allegations. This is a reasoned response to a near impossible situation.

But I'm still frustrated. I'm frustrated that a poorly crafted, government funded report will tarnish the reputation of Canadian CPCs. Unlike Arthur's shoddy research, CPCs are funded not by taxpayers but by private donors so centres can offer free services and resources to women and families facing unplanned or crisis pregnancies.

What can be done? A lot. As people like Arthur have recently and frequently stated, the "anti-choice," or as we more appropriately call ourselves "pro-life," movement is more active and sophisticated than ever before. We're on it.

But for today, why don't we take two minutes and simply write an email to our local CPCs to thank them for the life-saving, pro-woman work they do? Let them know that we stand with them and will continue to do so, even as the Arthurs of the world try to tarnish their labour of love. Let them know that vague allegations cannot undo what daily, individualized and specific work they accomplish – helping one woman, one family, one child at a time.



**Faye Sonier** started with the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC) in 2008. Faye focuses on Canadian religious freedom and sanctity of life issues - from conception to natural death. Prior to joining the EFC, she worked in the

Corporate/Charity law section of an Ottawa law firm.

The Centre for Faith and Public Life is located in Ottawa, Ontario, only blocks from Parliament Hill and the Supreme Court of Canada. The CFPL promotes biblical principles, from an evangelical perspective, on matters of law and public policy.

For more information about the EFC, please visit our [website](http://www.EvangelicalFellowship.ca), contact us at [activatecpl@evangelicalfellowship.ca](mailto:activatecpl@evangelicalfellowship.ca). For detailed and calling information go to [www.EvangelicalFellowship.ca/ContactUs](http://www.EvangelicalFellowship.ca/ContactUs).