



# Stratford & District Right To Life Association

March 2026 • Newsletter No. 178

**STRATFORD AND DISTRICT RIGHT TO LIFE IS A PRO-LIFE**, non-denominational organization of individuals who believe that all life - before and after birth - has a right to care and protection. We try to serve as a centre of information on the abortion issue, and to reach out to all Canadians concerning the preservation and dignity of human life, and also to urge one to take action in our democratic society.

## CONTACT US

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## PRAYER CALENDAR INTENTIONS

That Canada once again becomes a nation that respects and values all human life, ending abortion, euthanasia and assisted suicide;  
help for all women in crisis pregnancies; for all families affected by abortion; in support of conscience rights for our doctors, nurses and health care workers;  
for freedom of speech and religion.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Monthly Meetings

Call 519-616-3536  
for time and location

### Toronto March for Life

Saturday May 23 2026

Bussing is arranged leaving from Stratford — if anyone is interested, please email:

bonniedeweerd64@gmail.com

### Family Day Picnic

June 2026

Date and location to be announced

## RESOURCES

See Page 4 for a list of local and regional resources.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Stratford and Surrounding Communities,

My name is Paul Douros, and I am truly honoured to serve alongside our dedicated board members as we work to transform our culture from one that accepts death to one that upholds and protects life.

Here in Canada, we are facing profound challenges. Abortion remains legal throughout all nine months of pregnancy, and euthanasia laws continue to expand. In the face of these realities, we cannot afford complacency. If we are to see meaningful change, we must pursue thoughtful, strategic, and compassionate action. I am grateful to be part of a board that shares a clear and courageous vision for building a culture where every human life is recognized as valuable and worthy of protection.

Over the past several years, I have been blessed to receive training in pro-life apologetics and to spend more than 150 hours engaging in respectful, one-on-one conversations through street outreach with Toronto Against Abortion and London Against Abortion. These experiences have strengthened my conviction that hearts and minds can change when people are invited to thoughtfully consider the humanity of the pre-born.

Earlier this year, I also had the opportunity to work with the Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform (CCBR) during a four-day outreach on university campuses in Florida alongside 23 other volunteers. Using CCBR's "End the Killing" strategy, we engaged students in conversations that highlighted the humanity of pre-born children and encouraged critical reflection on abortion.

The measurable outcomes from those four days of outreach were encouraging. 1,339 total conversations:

- 367 already pro-life
- 262 became fully pro-life
- 972 initially not pro-life
- 152 became more pro-life

These numbers do not include the thousands who saw the displays and materials but chose not to stop and talk. Every conversation represents a life touched, a mind changed, or a seed planted.

On behalf of Stratford and Area Right to Life, I urge you to become involved. Our mission is humanitarian. It is about standing for those who cannot stand for themselves and extending compassion and

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

practical support to mothers, families, the elderly, and the vulnerable.

Cultural change does not happen by accident. It happens when ordinary people decide to take responsibility.

### **If not you, who? If not now, when?**

Together, we can build a culture of life.

Sincerely, Paul Douros

*President, Stratford & Area Right to Life*

## **— FROM THE DESK OF — NEMO NOBODY**

Our organization is pro-life. This means we cherish every human life, from conception to natural death, and believe that all people deserve the chance to thrive, no matter their circumstances. In a nation often divided by politics, we invite members of Canada's many political parties, Republicans, Democrats, and everyone in between to rediscover what unites us: a deep respect for the dignity and potential of every person.

This view that life is worthy of protection has been a cornerstone of human societies throughout history. Yet in recent times it's been tested by complex debates, often fueled by genuine pain and hardship. We understand these concerns; they stem from real struggles, like unplanned pregnancies, economic pressures, or health crises. Rather than dwelling on differences, let's focus on shared solutions:

- Supporting families with affordable childcare
- High standard of education
- Access to expeditious health care
- Community resources that make choosing life feasible for all

As pro-life advocates, we are called to protect the vulnerable — the unborn, the elderly, the poor, the sick, and those facing injustice. We commit to giving purpose to every life, caring for those who cannot care for themselves, and walking alongside people through their mistakes and sufferings. Life isn't always easy; some endure great trials while others seem to flourish. But we believe in redemption and resilience — that even in the face of adversity, every person can find meaning, hope, and victory. True pro-life means building a society where no one is left behind, where compassion bridges our divides, and where we all work together to affirm that life, in all its forms, is a profound gift worth celebrating.

## **BILL C-9 CONCERNS**

As advocates dedicated to protecting the dignity of human life from conception to natural death, we must remain vigilant about laws that could hinder our ability to share this vital message. Bill C-9, the Combatting Hate Act, currently under consideration in Canada's Parliament, raises serious concerns for our movement. While the bill aims to address hate crimes and protect community spaces, recent amendments have stripped away important safeguards for freedom of speech and expression — rights essential to our work.

At its core, Bill C-9 expands definitions of hate propaganda and creates new offenses for actions motivated by hatred toward identifiable groups. A key amendment, approved in December 2025, removes a long-standing defense that protected good-faith expressions of opinion. This change lowers the threshold for what could be deemed "hate speech," making it easier for authorities to prosecute individuals or groups simply for voicing disagreement on contentious issues. For pro-life advocates, this could mean facing legal risks for peacefully expressing views that challenge prevailing norms on life and family matters.

Our freedom to disagree is a cornerstone of Canadian democracy. It allows us to engage in open dialogue, educate the public, and advocate for policies that uphold human dignity. Without robust protections, differing perspectives risk being labeled as hateful, stifling debate and marginalizing those who hold principled convictions.

### **This isn't just theoretical — it's a direct threat to our collective voice.**

Consider our highway billboards, which have long served as powerful tools to raise awareness about the value of life. These displays, often placed along busy routes to reach everyday Canadians, could now be scrutinized under broadened hate speech rules. If interpreted as promoting "hatred" toward certain groups, they might lead to fines, removals, or even criminal charges. Such restrictions would limit our ability to inform and inspire, undermining the very essence of peaceful advocacy.

In a free society, we should be able to present facts and viewpoints without fear of censorship, as long as they do not incite violence.

# ABORTION AND MAID STATISTICS:

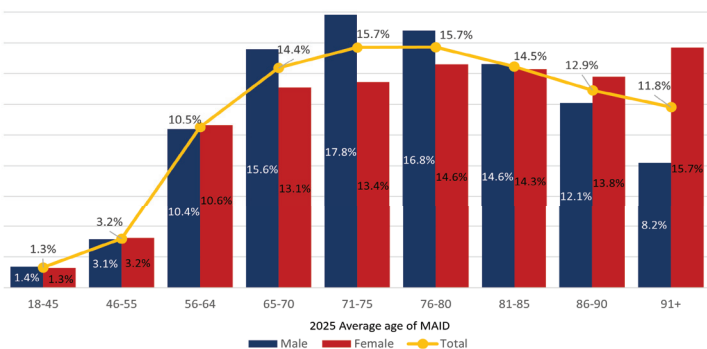
## Reasons and Ages

### 2023 Abortion Stats:

Canada reported 101,533 abortions. Age distribution: Under 18 (2%), 18-24 (24%), 25-29 (26%, highest), 30-34 (22%), 35+ (22%) (approx, as exact age breakdowns unavailable in sources). Primary reasons include unplanned pregnancies (majority), financial constraints, relationship issues, health concerns, and career/education priorities. Estimates suggest over 96% are for social/economic reasons; less than 4% for "hard cases" like rape, incest, or fetal abnormalities, though official national data on reasons is unavailable.

### 2024 MAID Stats:

16,499 cases, representing 5.1% of deaths. Median age: 78.0 for terminal cases (Track 1, 95.6% of total), 75.9 for non-terminal (Track 2). Cancer is the top condition (61.0%), followed by cardiovascular (17.0%) and neurological (13.8%) issues. Main suffering: Loss of ability for meaningful activities (95-98%), inadequate pain control (56-60%). Women slightly outnumber men in non-terminal cases.

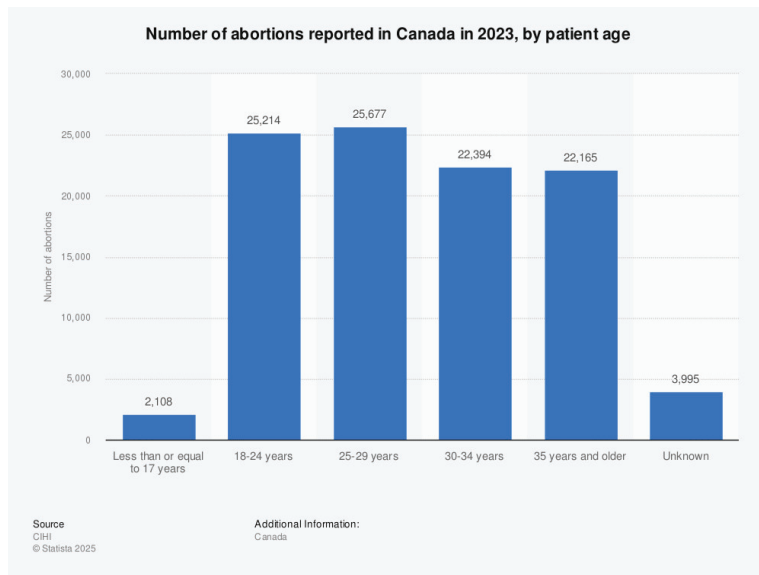


# ADOPTION STATISTICS

Each year, about 30,000 children in child welfare are eligible for adoption, but only ~2,000 are adopted domestically. Over 61,000 kids in government care overall. Canadians adopted around 2,000 internationally in the early 2000s, but this has declined significantly to fewer than 500 in recent years. Infant relinquishments are rare and untracked nationally, with most adoptions from foster care involving older children or siblings.

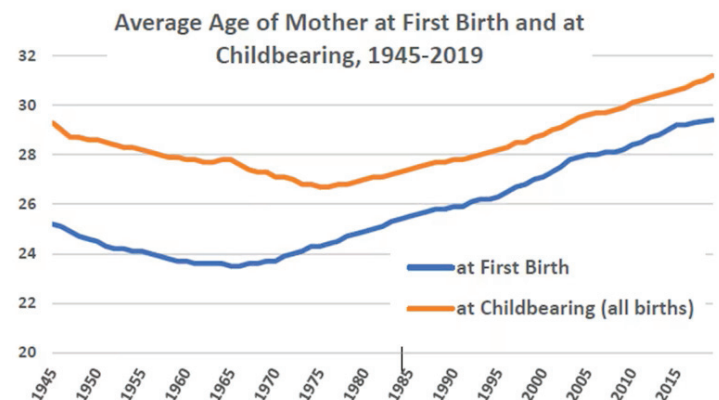
# AGES FOR ABORTIONS

Abortions peak at ages 25-29 (26% of cases, rate: 18.4/1,000 women), then 18-24 (24%, rate: 14.9/1,000) and 30-34 (22%, rate: 15.4/1,000). Rates decline for 35+ (5.6/1,000) and teens (3.3/1,000 for 15-17). Trends show shifts from younger to mid-30s women over decades.



# PEAK AGES FOR PREGNANCY AND BIRTHS

Birthing stats (2024): 365,737 live births. Most likely ages: 30-34 (~39% of births), followed by 25-29 (~25%) and 35-39 (~22%). Mean maternal age: 31.8 years, highest in BC (32.7). Under 20: ~1.2%; 40+: ~5%. Fertility rate: 1.25 children per woman, a record low.



Source: Statistics Canada, 1945-2011, 2012-2016, and 2019. Data on the average age at first birth in 2017 and 2018 are linear interpolations between observed values in 2016 and 2019.

## STRATFORD & DISTRICT *Right to Life Association*

If you're serious about your conviction that all life matters, becoming involved in your community is a necessity if you want to do more than any one person could. Consider joining the Stratford & District Right To Life Association. We don't have anyone on salary - all people volunteer their time. Your money stays within the community or goes towards resources that enable us to provide support for the community. You are not required to have other views, other than the belief that all life has value.

If you're interested in more details, scan the QR code to the right to head directly to our membership page:



<p>If you have services to offer and believe in the immutable value of life, please contact our President for advertising opportunities.</p>	 <p><b>W.G. Young</b> Funeral Home Ltd. Wayne and Greg Young, Funeral Directors 430 Huron Street, Stratford, ON, N5A 5T7 Telephone 519-271-7411</p>
<p>Triple P Consulting Partners in Profit Daily Nutrition and Management Advice Save feed costs and improve feed efficiency by working directly with an independent consultant, not a feed company.</p>	 <p>1-800-376-8861 www.tripleconsulting.net</p>
<p><b>SecondChance</b> Post AbortionHealing.com Angelina Steenstra, Executive Director 416-261-7135 or 905-430-7990 asteenstra@sympatico.ca</p>	<p><b>The Shepherd's Guide</b> <i>Christian Business Directory</i> 103 Lent Crescent Brampton, ON L6Y 4X7 Phone 905-454-4333 • Fax 905-454-1894 email: triangle@shepherdsguide.ca www.shepherdsguide.ca</p>
 <p><b>STRATFORD PRINTING &amp; GRAPHICS</b> 519-273-2624 www.stratfordprinting.com</p>	 <p>519-393-5200 email: polqualityhomes@quadro.net Meeting all your construction needs</p>
 <p><b>HERMAN'S AUTO TRIM</b> www.hermansautotrim.com Complete Upholstering Mike Lobsinger 260 SHIRLEY AVE Unit 4, Kitchener, ON, N2B 2E1 519-745-2951</p>	<p>“OLD CARS NEED US... NEW CARS DESERVE US.” <b>Paul C. HARTMAN CARPENTRY</b> R.R.#3 Lakeside 519.349.2855 Additions • Trim • Renovations Replacement Windows &amp; Doors “All your construction needs”</p>
<p><b>DIXON'S FOUR SEASON LANDSCAPING &amp; MAINTENANCE</b> Complete Yard Maintenance Lawns, Flowerbeds, Pruning Interlocking Brick Install &amp; Repair Snow Removal, Bulk Mulch and Soils Ron Dixon - 519-276-9909</p>	 <p>219 Lorne Avenue East Stratford, Ontario N5A 6S4 519-272-0090 Toll-Free 1-800-661-CORE</p>
<p><b>&lt;W.G. Kelly Construction&gt;</b> 8 Ellens Street Mitchell, ON Phone: 519-348-8745 Fax: 519-348-4772 Cell: 519-272-7068</p>	 <p><b>Absolute Results</b> penergetic.ca Cell: 519 888 8670 Office: 226-775-0999</p>
<p><i>Abortion hurts women Abortion kills children</i></p>	<p>Tom Diemand tom@absolute-results.ca 4341 Perth Rd. #119, Stratford, ON N5A 6S2</p>

## LOCAL RESOURCES

- House of Blessing Pregnancy Care Centre**
- Website: shob.org
  - Phone: 519-273-0554 (pregnancy-specific)
  - Email: info@shob.org
  - Address: 423 Erie St, Stratford, ON N5A 2N3
- Fresh Start Support Services**
- Website: www.fsms.ca
  - Phone: 519-637-7775
  - Email: info@fsms.ca
  - Address: 797 Talbot Street, St. Thomas

## NEAR BY RESOURCES

- The Pregnancy Centre**
- Website: pregnancycentre.ca
  - Phone: 519-886-4001
  - Text: 1-833-243-8415
  - Email: info@pregnancycentre.ca
  - Address: 38 Francis Street South  
Kitchener, ON N2G 2A2
  - Hours: By appointment; call or text to book

- Birthright Kitchener-Waterloo**
- Website: birthright.org  
(search for Kitchener location)
  - Phone: 519-579-3990 (24/7 hotline)
  - Address: 96 Highland Road West, Unit 1  
Kitchener, ON N2M 3B5
  - Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-4pm; call for availability

- Dawn Centre**
- Website: dawncentre.ca
  - Phone: 519-620-0204
  - Address: 73 Water Street North #507  
Cambridge, ON N1R 7L6
  - Hours: Mon, Tues and Thurs 10am-3:30pm

- Monica Place**
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/monicaplaceca
  - Phone: 519-743-0291
  - Address: 231 Herbert Street  
Waterloo, ON N2J 1V1

- London Pregnancy and Family Support Centre**
- Website: lonpfsc.com
  - Business Phone: 519-432-7098
  - Crisis Line: 1-800-665-0570 (24/7)
  - Email: info@lonpfsc.com
  - Address: 261 Piccadilly Street  
London, ON N6A 1S3
  - Hours: Mon-Thu 10am-4pm, Fri by appointment

## MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

Several centers refer to National lines like 1-800-395-HELP or 1-800-895-HELP for after-abortion help