Stratford & District Right To Life Association

September 2026 • Newsletter No. 180

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.

PREGNANT? NEED HELP?

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

CONTACT US

Box 25062, RPO Huron
Stratford, ON N5A 0B4
info@stratfordright2life.ca
226-224-9599
eTransfer: mklobsinger@hotmail.com
stratfordright2life.ca
facebook.com/stratfordright2life.ca/

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.

EVENTS

Monthly Meetings
Call 226-224-9599
for time and location

Annual General Meeing & Dinner
Saturday November 7th, 2026
Doors open at 4:30pm
Stratford Christian Reform Church
190 Athlone Crescent
See Page 2 for more details

Gravestone Cleaning
Join us to serve the underserved.
No stone left uncleaned.

Dialogue Trainings
Maria McCann is giving several talks to our members.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This year was the first year Stratford Right to Life arranged a bus to the Toronto March for Life, where we walked silently through downtown Toronto with 450 other ambassadors for the unborn. We marched because approximately **300 children each day are stripped of their human rights and killed by suffocation, dismemberment, or lethal injection here in the land of the free.**

Following the march, we participated in workshops and heard some heartwrenching talks.

The most noteworthy presentation for me was by Alissa Golob, who explained how she exposed Canadian abortion clinics by going undercover. It was horrifying to hear how willing they were to abort her five month old child, even though neither she nor the child had any complications. I encourage you to inform yourself by watching the footage at **itstartsrightnow.ca**.

We must remember that participating in a yearly march or attending a workshop here and there will not, by itself, end this injustice. Please check our events listings to learn how you can become more involved.

How would you want others to defend you if you had a one-in-five chance of being killed because you were not considered a person?

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

Paul Douros, *President, Stratford & Area Right to Life*



Stratford Right to Life bus group heading to the Toronto March for Life in May.

Stratford & District Right to Life Association

Cordially invites you to attend their

Annual General Meeting & Dinner

at the

Stratford Christian Reform Church
190 Athlone Crescent

On Saturday November 7th, 2026
Doors open at 4:30pm



With Guest Speaker Beth St. Denis

of the Christian Heritage Party of Canada

"Carrying the Pro-Life Vision into Public Leadership"

The evening will include the exhibit resource area, live music and singing, a delicious hot meal and dessert, our guest speaker with discussion and our business meeting with reports, election of 3 board members and great fellowship with other pro-life supporters.

Tickets are $26 per Adult / Students by Donation / Children 12 & Under Free
available from all board members BEFORE November 4th
OR reserve yours by phone 519-616-3536 OR email Kahle123@rogers.com

COME OUT, SEE AND HEAR WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CANADA ON LIFE ISSUES!

All donations to S&DRTLA are charitable receipts for income tax purposes

STATISTICS: Adoption and Out-of-Home Care in Canada

Reliable, comparable statistics on children entering care, remaining in care, being adopted, and aging out without permanency are difficult to obtain in Canada. Adoption and child welfare are provincial and territorial responsibilities, and jurisdictions use different definitions, age ranges, and reporting practices. As a result, national totals must be assembled from multiple sources and should be treated as the best available estimates rather than precise counts.

The ages included in published statistics on children and youth in out-of-home care vary by jurisdiction. These ranges reflect the ages counted in official point-in-time data and are related to, but not always identical with, the legal age at which statutory care ends or transition supports stop.

Province/Territory	Age Range in Care Statistics
Yukon	0–25
Newfoundland and Labrador, Saskatchewan	0–21
Nova Scotia	0–20
British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, New Brunswick	0–18
Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Prince Edward Island	0–17

In 2021–22, approximately 61,000 children and youth were in out-of-home care across Canada (Public Health Agency of Canada / Pollock et al., 2024). An estimated 30,000 of these children are considered eligible for permanent adoption or other permanency options. The large majority live in family-based settings (foster or kinship care) rather than institutional facilities.

Provincial point-in-time counts of children in out-of-home care (2021–22) and recent public adoption numbers are shown below. Adoption figures primarily reflect public adoptions from the child-welfare system and come from different years.

Province/Territory	Children in Out-of-Home Care (2021–2022)	Public Adoptions (recent available year)
Newfoundland & Labrador	1,495	Limited data
Prince Edward Island	387	14 (2021–22)
Nova Scotia	1,180	Limited data
New Brunswick	1,083	Limited data
Quebec	15,201	216 (2022–23)
Ontario	7,489	456 (2022–23); 363 (2024–25, non-Indigenous agencies)
Manitoba	9,196	82 (2022–23)
Saskatchewan	5,719	Limited data
Alberta	8,164	158 (2022–23); 159 (2024–25)
British Columbia	10,462	~114 (2022–23); 53 from government care (2023–24)
Yukon	205	Limited data
Northwest Territories	218	30 (2022–23, mostly custom)
Nunavut	305	Limited data
Canada (approx.)	**~61,000**	**~2,000 per year**

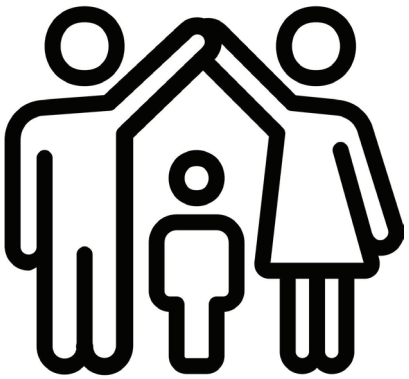
National data on the number of youth who age out of care each year without a permanent family are incomplete. Estimates commonly cited by researchers and advocates place the figure in the range of 6,000 or more annually. Some provinces publish exit data, but comparable national figures are not routinely available. Indigenous children are significantly overrepresented in care in most jurisdictions; many provinces and national analyses track this over representation.

Adoption Requirements and Process

The gap between the number of children in care and the number adopted each year has several causes, including the profile of children available (many are older, in sibling groups, or have complex needs), matching challenges, and the length of the approval process. Public adoption from the child-welfare system is generally free or very low-cost and is open to single applicants as well as couples.

Typical requirements and steps include:

- Residency in the province or territory of application
- Minimum age of 18 or 19 (varies by jurisdiction)
- Completion of an orientation or information session
- Submission of an application
- Background checks (criminal record, child-welfare history), medical reports, personal references, and an assessment of financial stability
- Mandatory pre-service training (commonly PRIDE or equivalent program, approx. 27 hours)
- A home study / family assessment involving interviews and home visits by a social worker
- Approval as ready to adopt
- Matching with a child or sibling group
- A transition and placement period (often around six months)
- Court finalization of the adoption order



Timeline

Training and home study usually take 6–12 months. Matching and placement can take from a few months to several years, depending on the applicant's preferences and the needs of available children. Overall, domestic public adoptions commonly take 1–3 years from start to finalization; international adoptions often take 2–4 years or longer.

Financial Stability Assessment

Most provinces and territories do not publish rigid minimum income or savings requirements for adoption. Social workers assess financial stability on a case-by-case basis during the home study. They examine whether the household can reasonably meet a child's needs for food, clothing, housing, childcare, activities, and non-publicly covered medical or dental care, while maintaining manageable debt levels and a sustainable lifestyle.

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:

If you have services to offer and believe in the immutable value of life, please contact our President for advertising opportunities.

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SecondChance
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Angelina Steenstra, Executive Director
416-261-7135 or 905-430-7990
asteenstra@sympatico.ca

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www.shepherdsguide.ca

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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