



Dear friends,

Nothing tells us more that the fall semester is in full swing than National Campus Life Network's annual symposium. CCBR's Ontario staff recently attended, trained over 50 students from across the country in pro-life apologetics, provided workshops on the use of abortion imagery, and led three "Choice" Chains. It was so encouraging to spend the weekend with young people willing to take a stance for life on campus!

Colleges and universities are desperately in need of pro-life outreach. Not only do they have the age demographic most likely to have abortions, they also train future teachers, nurses, doctors, lawyers, and other professionals. That's why much of our fall activism is focused on reaching students. Here are several testimonies:

Cameron Côté: "I spoke with a journalism student at Mount Royal University (Calgary, AB) who told me initially that she was pro-choice. After talking about hard situations pregnant mothers go through, she told me that she understood where I was coming from, but that 'as a journalism major, [she had] to remain neutral about controversial issues like abortion.' I asked if her major required her to adopt a neutral position on killing born humans. After thinking about that for a moment she replied, **'You're right. I think abortion is wrong.'**"

Caroline Slingerland: "At Conestoga College (Kitchener, ON) a young man approached me with questions about circumstances often used to justify abortion. Before answering them, I asked if he believed in human rights and we agreed that human beings get human rights. I asked if it's ever okay to kill a fellow human because of the circumstances he'd listed. He said no, then asked about other cases. Before he had finished formulating his question, he fell silent, studied the picture on my sign and said, **"I guess there really is no good reason for abortion."**"

Alex vande Bruinhorst: "At Robert Thurst High School (Calgary, AB) I spoke with a young man who thought abortion was acceptable in difficult circumstances.

I pointed to my sign and asked him, since we could clearly see that abortion kills a human, how we could say that's the solution. **He looked, agreed that abortion is never acceptable, and that we should seek different ways to help women."**

In order to *change* the culture, we must *engage* the culture. Since the Greater Toronto Area houses one-third of Canada's population, we must be there. As such I'm very excited to let you know that, as of this fall, **five staff members are working from CCBR's new Mississauga office, four having recently joined full-time!**

We are so privileged to have (pictured from l-r) Wilma Zekveld as community outreach coordinator,



Pieter Bos as internship coordinator, Devorah Gilman as internship director, Jeremy Hooghiem as community liaison, and Cana Donovan as campus outreach director. (The first four positions pertain only to the East as similar ones exist at the Calgary office.)

We feel immensely blessed with these developments and are so grateful for your generous gifts that make such growth possible. The testimonies we've included are only a handful of the many we receive day after day, but they reflect the enormous impact that your financial support has on our culture. We covet your prayers for all these means to continually bear fruit by way of many more changed minds, softened hearts, and saved lives.

Warm regards,

Maaïke Rosendal

Shifting the Culture on Abortion, Door by Door

by Jonathon Van Maren

We're quite excited to tell you about a new project we've been developing: for some time, we've been working on a new way of reaching people that we'd never tried before: **door-knocking, the pro-life fusion of conversational apologetics and political canvassing.**

Before we started sending teams from door to door, we needed to test it out. Four of us took stacks of pamphlets, headed out to the suburbs, and hit the ground to give it a try. We planned to knock on doors, house by house, engage people on the abortion issue, and at the very least give them something to think about.



◀ **Hitting the streets with interns Oriyana Hrychyshyn, Irene de Souza, and Jelaine Boon**

The number one thing that surprised me was how open to conversation people were. At one of the very first houses, a young man came out, sat down on his porch, and began going through our pamphlet. When my colleague Devorah asked him what his opinion on abortion was, he said that he was pro-choice. But as we explained that human beings have human rights, and that science tells us when human life begins, he began to nod. **“I see what you guys are saying.”**

“What we’re advocating for,” I told him, “is science-based public policy. The term ‘pro-choice’ means many things to many people—some think abortion should be legal throughout all nine months of pregnancy, and some think it should be legal in only a few circumstances. In a multicultural society with a wide range of beliefs on the value of human life, shouldn’t we as a society rely on a solid, scientific benchmark for when human rights begin—at the beginning of the human being’s life?”

He agreed, and in the space of a fifteen-minute conversation, went from pro-choice to pro-life. He gave us his contact information, and told us that he’d like to talk about abortion with his friends because he liked “planting seeds.” In our very first hour of canvassing, several people went from supporting abortion to pro-life—simply because we knocked on their door, asked questions, and provided information.

Over the summer, we rediscovered that **the pro-abortion worldview is not prevalent because it is true or even compelling, but because it so often goes unchallenged.** At door after door, we rediscovered something that all the available polling data tells us: that almost nobody—after months of door-knocking, we haven’t met one—knows that only Canada and two other nations on earth—North Korea and China—permit abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy. At door after door, people registered shock at the visual reality of what the violence of abortion does to human beings growing in the womb.

In many cases, parents who were staunchly pro-life were surprised to find out that their children, due to a public school education, were becoming pro-abortion because they’d never had a discussion about it. At one house, the father was telling me how opposed to abortion he was—and then was shocked to find out that his teenage son was “sort of pro-choice.” We discussed the issue with both of them, and gave the father pro-life materials so he could equip himself to talk about the issue with his family.

And so the war against abortion gains another front—the doorsteps of Canadians. House by house, conversation by conversation, we are rebuilding the pro-life consensus and waking our slumbering country up to the reality that not all Canadians are safe.

Thanks to your support, our team can be canvassing the homes of fellow citizens who must be reached. And as a result, we have witnessed hundreds of people impacted on this issue, thousands of people taking pro-life literature (which we now provide in four different languages), and we’re seeing many others who never considered the issue before ask how to get involved.