



## National Campus Life Network

Fall 2011

*After speaking to 100 high school students, one young lady hesitantly approached our NCLN speaker. "My mom says that if I ever get pregnant, she's going to make me have an abortion. I was wondering, will it hurt?" After speaking for several minutes, and before she ran to her next class, she said, "I know that abortion would not be good for me. Especially after hearing your talk today."*

*These types of encounters are not uncommon at our events, and serve as constant reminders of the urgent need to reach out to the younger generation with the pro-life message.*

*This semester has been full of many breakthroughs — read on for more.*

### Breaking Through: The 2011 Symposium



The obstacles facing pro-life students on campus are considerable and numerous: from outright discrimination, censorship, red tape, and hostility to apathy and ambivalence. In spite of these, as the theme of the Symposium stressed, students can, and are, breaking through on their campuses.

A potent combination of sessions on key life issues as well as practical skill-building workshops allowed students to become informed and equipped to return to campus and break through more than ever before. Euthanasia, In Vitro Fertilization and Abortion were covered, as well as presentations on understanding a woman facing a crisis pregnancy and post-abortion help and healing. Workshops addressed leadership and club management, knowing your rights, abortion history and politics, and the use of abortion imagery.

As the Symposium drew to a close on Sunday morning, students were reluctant to leave. They had met with handshakes but left with hugs. The connections forged over the weekend strengthened their resolve and commitment to pro-life campus activism. The ideas and enthusiasm that came from the small group discussions meant that students left excited and motivated to implement all they had learned.

*"I was nervous before about leading a pro-life group, but now I feel more confident and determined."*  
Symposium Participant

### Breaking Through on Campuses: New Clubs!

Thanks to the Symposium, a new pro-life club has begun at the University of Fraser Valley (UFV) in Abbotsford B.C. The club leaders found the training courses at the Symposium both motivating and practical. Our Western Campus Coordinator has been working closely with the students as they became active as a club, starting with tabling on November 3rd.

NCLN is proud to welcome the following new clubs at:

- Acadia University (Nova Scotia)
- University of New Brunswick Fredericton (status pending)
- St. Paul's University (Ottawa)
- Tyndale University College (Toronto)

NCLN Welcomes  
UFV Life Link



## Supporting Campuses

After visiting 22 campuses and speaking at 9 high schools, over a thousand young leaders were reached this fall.

Additionally, Rebecca Richmond, NCLN's Executive Director, spent a total of 30 days on the road, speaking to groups in Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia. Along with school and campus presentations, Rebecca was featured on a panel at the National Pro-Life Conference in Calgary and was the keynote speaker for three Right to Life dinners in Ontario and B.C.

The response received was overwhelmingly positive and many were inspired to see the momentum building in the Pro-Life Campus Movement. LifeCanada's President, Monica Roddis, who attended the Abbotsford Right to Life Dinner, commented afterwards, *"I think....there is something special about seeing someone so young showing such leadership and as Rebecca pointed out, our youth are not only the future of the pro-life movement, they are very much the present! Let's support and encourage them always."*



Rebecca at the Renfrew County Right to Life Dinner.

## Breakthroughs on Campus: A Few Highlights



**McMaster Lifeline** has taken NCLN's training to heart and has done a number of effective pro-life tables on campus, reaching out and talking to hundreds of students about the issue of abortion.

**uOttawa Students for Life** teamed up with the new Ottawa Medical Students for Life club to bring an abortion debate to campus. The debate topic was: Should physicians provide, or refer for, abortion? The video of the debate is now online: <http://vimeo.com/32063597>

**University of Manitoba Students for a Culture of Life**, a new club as of last year, brought the Silent No More Awareness Campaign to campus. Despite some counter protests from the Womyn's Resource Centre, the powerful testimonies of the campaign reached many students.

**UVic Youth Protecting Youth** has hosted 3 successful "Coffee Time" events so far, where club members and interested students join in an open-table discussion on life issues. Topics covered have included "Your Life is Unfathomably Valuable" and "Moral Relativism and Why Truth Matters."

**Free Speech Prevails on Campus:** The Genocide Awareness Project (GAP) was displayed once again at the University of Calgary, this time without issue from the University administration. The students reported that it was their most successful yet with many fruitful conversations and new members signing up. Lifeline at Simon Fraser University also presented GAP in early November. The administration denied the club the use of space unless the signs were turned inward, but the club went ahead with the display. The students were aware that they may face penalties, but recognized that the university had no right to censor their message. They were able to use the display to engage many of their peers in conversation on the abortion issue.

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