



National Campus Life Network

Building a new generation of pro-life leaders.

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Dear Supporters,

Spring 2011

It's hard to believe that the school year is over. This semester has been an eventful one and I'm glad to share some of the highlights with you in this newsletter.

Occasionally people will ask me, "So what does a typical day at work look like for you?" It's difficult to answer that question because there is no such thing as a typical day. Supporting pro-life students across the country, and in particular the Ontario campuses, means that my schedule is often very different from one day and one month to the next. Any given day might include emails and phone calls with students, planning our conferences or events, and there's a good chance of being on the road to visit the campuses and provide training. All of these activities are focused on the students: investing in them so that they can effectively promote the pro-life message on campus.

Thank you for partnering with us in the work that we do. We look forward to your continuing support as we continue to forge ahead, supporting the pro-life message on university campuses and building a new generation of pro-life leaders.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Richmond, Executive Director

Getting the Message Out Where its Needed Most

"I completely changed my position on abortion after hearing the testimonies." This was something we heard a number of times this winter as pro-life clubs hosted the Silent No More Awareness Campaign (SNMAC).

For a number of years, NCLN has encouraged and assisted students to host the SNMAC on their campus. The campaign consists of women and men who share their abortion experiences: the regret and the pain they've experienced, but also the healing and forgiveness that is possible.

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Silent No More Awareness Campaign at the University of Victoria this winter.

Getting the Message Out, continued from front page

University campuses desperately need to hear the SNMAC's message. For one, the demographic is incredibly vulnerable to abortion. The majority of abortions are being performed on university aged women and they face enormous pressures that, combined with the prevalent pro-choice rhetoric on campus, encourage abortion. The personal testimonies of the SNMAC break through the rhetoric, showing the students that abortion is not the answer and that there are real alternatives.

For another, it offers to all post-abortive men and women an opportunity to begin the healing process. The event is also important because it literally meets the students where they're at. These events are designed to be open events, in the sense that they occur in an open space—usually in the student centre. Students may simply be studying or walking to their next class and then they encounter these women giving their testimonies.



Angelina Steenstra, from SNMAC, shares her abortion experience with on-looking students.

At the University of Ottawa, women from the SNMAC spoke in an open area of the Student Centre where many students were studying and passing by. The message was well-received and even led to hearts changing on the issue of abortion. The University of Waterloo Students for Life coupled the presence of the SNMAC with info booths of the local Right to Life and pregnancy care centre.

It can be difficult, however, to organize a visit from the SNMAC on the west coast, for instance, because of the distance these men and women must travel and the arrangements that must be made. This year, NCLN's Vancouver Office took a central role in coordinating a "tour" with the SNMAC of four BC campuses in order to help get their message to those campuses. The initiative worked very well and truly made a difference in the lives of the students who encountered it.

Elsewhere, pro-life campus groups have used other methods to get the message out on campus in a meaningful way. The club at the University of Guelph hosted a large Life Fair this winter, which featured information and pictures of fetal development. The event allowed club members to speak to and educate many students on the issue of abortion, leading to an article in the student newspaper and an interview with the campus radio. "Your apologetics training really helped!" the President of Guelph Life Choice told me afterwards.



Students look on at a debate on the morality of abortion at Dalhousie University in Halifax.

Several university clubs, including Queen's Alive and Brock Students for Life, hosted debates and lectures with Stephanie Gray, leading to participants changing their position on abortion as well. A great deal of good was accomplished through the various events and students are already hard at work planning for next year.

New Additions to the National Campus Life Network Family



Sara with her son Cohen.

Sara Hall, our Maritime Campus Coordinator, and her husband Matt welcomed the arrival of Cohen Hall, their first child, this March. Sara will be on maternity leave until next Spring. During her absence, the Maritime campuses will receive support from NCLN's Head Office as well as from Stacy Anderson, NCLN's Maritime board member.

Alexandra Myhill-Jones, who has served as the Western Canada Campus Coordinator this past year, will be returning to school this fall. She has been a dedicated staff member and looks forward to being actively pro-life on her campus this coming year as well as continuing to be involved with NCLN.

We would like to welcome Anastasia Pearse, who has been hired as the new Western Canada Campus Coordinator.

Anastasia is a recent graduate from the University of Victoria where she served as the President of the pro-life club. Under Anastasia's leadership, the club held many events on campus and weathered discrimination and a legal battle with the Student Union. Anastasia has definitely had an impact on her campus and we are confident that she will be an excellent support to pro-life students throughout western Canada.



Anastasia Pearse, our new Western Campus Coordinator.

NEW CLUB at the University of Manitoba!

NCLN has been working with a group of students at the University of Manitoba throughout the past year to assist them in becoming an active and dynamic voice for life on their campus. In January they received official status as a club and have since been busy promoting the pro-life message through regular information tables, poster campaigns, and 40 Days for Life. We look forward to continuing to support them with training, resources and regular contact so that they can effectively make a difference for life.

We continue to work with other student groups across the country to assist them in forming new clubs. If you know of pro-life students who might be interested in starting a pro-life club, please put us in contact with them!



Some of the core members of the new Students for a Culture of Life at the University of Manitoba.

Students Fight Back Against Discrimination

Members of Carleton Lifeline continue to wait to find out what will happen with respect to the trespassing charges they received when arrested in October. They have initiated a lawsuit against Carleton University in response to the treatment they endured, in terms of the arrests, as well as the discrimination and censorship they faced on campus. They have also asked the courts for a judicial review of the student union's policies and decisions, which stripped Lifeline of their club status, denying them access to space and resources like other clubs.

Members of the University of Calgary's Campus Pro-Life group have also asked for a judicial review, asking the court to overturn the University of Calgary's decision last year that the students were guilty of "non-academic misconduct".

NCLN remains committed to supporting the students and their right to free speech on campus. More information on these developments can be found on our website: www.ncln.ca.

NCLN Executive Director on the Go: Winter and Spring 2011



NCLN at the March for Life in Ottawa.



At NCLN's Student Dinner following the March for Life.



Rebecca with Nicole Campbell (40 Days for Life) and U of Toronto and York student leaders at a Pro-Life Pub Night for Toronto area students in March.

Ontario On-Campus Training at:

University of Ottawa
 University of Toronto
 York University
 University of Guelph
 University of Waterloo
 Sir Wilfred Laurier University
 University of Western Ontario
 Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Academy

Other Events:

Pro-Life Student Pub Night: Toronto
 Strathroy Right to Life Dinner: Keynote Speaker
 London & Area Right to Life Dinner: Keynote Speaker
 Simcoe Right to Life Dinner: Keynote Speaker
 Toronto Catholic High School Pro-Life Conference: Speaker
 Life & Justice: The 3rd Annual Pro-Life Student Dinner
 National March for Life Youth Conference: Speaker
 Deep River Right to Life Youth Presentation: Speaker

Help NCLN Grow

The university presents a challenging environment in which to promote the pro-life message. NCLN empowers student leaders to impact their campuses by offering training, resources, and support customized to meet the needs of students and to address the challenges of university. Still, more is needed to support pro-life students facing opposition and reach out to the age group most vulnerable to having an abortion. We hope you will help us continue to expand what NCLN can offer to students and to the Pro-Life Movement.

Ways to help:

- Consider **becoming a monthly donor**. Monthly donors provide us with regular income and minimize office work.
- Connect us with **potential donors**:
 - Coordinate an NCLN presentation for an interested church or parish.
 - Host a coffee party: invite friends over for coffee, desserts and an NCLN presentation.
 - Suggest us to interested family and friends.
- Suggest **NCLN as speakers** for groups and events.

NCLN 2011 Executive

Theresa Gilbert, *President*; **Rebecca Richmond**, *Executive Director*; **Alex Cassar**, *Finance Officer*; **Clarissa Luluquisin**, *Secretary*; **Renée Schmitz**, *Western Canada Development Officer*; **Stacy Anderson**, *Maritime Development Officer*;

NCLN 2010/2011 Staff

Rebecca Richmond, *Executive Director*; **Sara Hall**, *Maritime Campus Coordinator*; **Alexandra Myhill-Jones**, *Western Canada Campus Coordinator*.