

National Campus Life Network

Building a New Generation of Pro-Life Leaders



Inside this issue:

Getting the message out	1, 2
New Pro-Life Club!	3
Students Fight Back	3
NCLN on the go	3
New Additions to NCLN	4
Help NCLN grow	4

Western Canada Office:

NCLN
P.O. Box 37521
North Vancouver, BC
V7M 2H0

Phone: 604.365.3484
Email:
alexandra@ncln.ca

We're on the web!
www.ncln.ca

Spring 2011 Newsletter

Dear Supporters,

The 2010-2011 academic year is already behind us and I am excited to share with you some of the stories and highlights about my work this semester! It has been a very busy and exciting past few months as I have worked to support students in planning campus activities and educating the campus communities.

I will be leaving NCLN in July to return to full-time studies at UBC in the fall. Working with NCLN this past year has been an incredibly memorable time for me. Some highlights of this semester include witnessing the students' dedication to cultivating a culture of life through their campus activism and attending the March for Life in Victoria. It has been such a wonderful experience to work with so many young diligent pro-lifers!

I am excited to announce that Anastasia Pearse will be the new Western Campus Coordinator for the upcoming school year. Anastasia has a tremendous amount of pro-life campus experience through her work with the Youth Protecting Youth club at the University of Victoria (please see page four for more details).

Thank you for believing in the mission of NCLN, and the students with whom we support. Your contributions makes our work possible! We look forward to your continuing support as we work to expand our ministry to meet the needs of pro-life students in Canada.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Myhill-Jones, Western Campus Coordinator

Getting the Message Out!

For a number of years, NCLN has encouraged and assisted students to host the Silent No More Awareness Campaign (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 hope of healing and forgiveness.

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 there are real alternatives. (cont'd on page 2)



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

Getting the Message Out! (continued)

For another, it offers all post-abortive men and women an opportunity to begin the healing process. The event is also important because it meets the students where they're at. The event is designed to be held in an open space and in an area where student traffic is high. This encounter can either be on their way to their next class or while eating or studying in the area.

Much organization and planning is needed to host the SNMAC on campus due to travel and accommodation needs, making it challenging for some campus pro-life groups to host them on their own. In order to provide efficiency where more than one campus could benefit from the SNMAC's visit to make the visit possible could be maximized, I took on a central role in coordinating and organizing a campus tour for them. The initiative worked very well and truly made a difference in the lives of the students who encountered it. Four universities were involved: University of Victoria (UVIC), Capilano University (CapU), University of British Columbia (UBC), Simon Fraser University (SFU).

Here is one student's response from the University of Victoria:

"I was riveted by the power of all three presenters' speeches. I find it's difficult to get first-hand accounts of abortion, because it is not a subject I feel comfortable asking about, nor one that women freely talk about. After the presentation, being a healthcare worker, I asked a colleague for her experiences with women who have had abortions (I was emboldened by the presentation) and she said it was all but universal that these women have extreme difficulties post-procedure. She added that many of them feel few immediate effects, but develop psychological problems even a decade later..."

During the SNMAC event at UVIC, I spoke with one girl who was a social work student. She told me she was pro-choice but was open to discussing the pro-life view with me.

Interestingly, she had made a huge effort to be at the event, even missing an important class. During one of the testimonies, the SNMAC speaker told the audience that she had given her aborted baby a name as a way of healing. At this point, the girl sitting next to me burst into tears. She told me that the baby's name was also her name. I asked the girl if she wanted to meet the SNMAC speaker, and she enthusiastically agreed. I introduced them and the girl embraced the SNMAC speaker! The speaker asked the girl, ***"What did you think of the presentation?" and the girl replied, "No, ask me what I think now!"***

Through the discussion the student and I engaged in and through encountering the SNMAC message this student studying to be a social worker had changed her mind! It is wonderful to think of the positive pro-life impact that this girl will have as she graduates university and begins her career helping others.



Angelina Steenstra, from the SNMAC, shares her story.

NCLN, Cap U, UVic, SFU, & UBC would like to thank the following for their generosity of contributing to the SNMAC events:

North Shore Pro-Life Society
Louise Thomas
Mary & Ron Brown
Knights of Columbus Squamish
Christian Family Life Parksville
Knights of Columbus Vancouver
Mimi & Patrick Scoretz
Surrey Delta Pro-Life Society
Burnaby Pro-Life Society

Richmond Right to Life Society
Alberni Pro-Life Society
Respect Life Ministries of Victoria
Karen Lerner
Abbotsford Pro-Life Society
Rosa Krische
Erna Krische
Meadow Ridge Pro-Life Society
Coquitlam Pro-Life Society
Lorraine Ma

St Joseph's CWL
Jeffrey Thomas Dawson
Dr. A.B Parsons
St Patrick's CWL Oak Bay
Knights of Columbus BC & Yukon
Anthony Otto Vogel
Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church
St. Joseph's Catholic Church
Holy Family Catholic Church

New Club at the University of Manitoba!



University of Manitoba Students for a Culture of Life Club
with their information table

Over the past year I have been working with a group of pro-life students from the University of Manitoba to start a pro-life club. They have been enthusiastic about the resource materials that NCLN has provided the group, such as the “A Right to Know” booklets and pamphlets, which they are using to help educate the club and the campus community.

In October 2010 I travelled to Winnipeg to meet with the core members of the group. I provided them with training in pro-life apologetics and training in strategies to impact their campus.

In January 2011 the University of Manitoba Students for a Culture of Life officially became a recognized student group on campus. The club is now active on their campus promoting the pro-life message through activities such as information tables (as seen in photo), hosting the Sisters of Life, 40 Days for Life and poster campaigns.

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 they were unjustly arrested in October, because of attempting to hold the Genocide Awareness Project on campus. 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 Western Campus Coordinator on the go: Winter & Spring 2011 Events

- St. Thomas Aquinas High School Presentation
 - Vancouver Pro-Life Pub Night
- SNMAC BC Tour at UVIC, SFU, UBC, & Cap U
 - “Choice” Chain at SFU
 - Genocide Awareness Project at UBC
- Pro-Life Apologetics Training at Capilano University
 - Coffee House Abortion Discussion at Capilano University
 - Victoria March for Life 2011 (photo at right)



- Genocide Awareness Project at the University of Calgary
 - North Shore Pro-Life AGM
- Pro-Life Apologetics Training & Campus Activism at the University of Lethbridge
- Coffee House Abortion Discussion at the University of Lethbridge
 - Signal Hill Annual Gala

New Additions...

Anastasia Pearse

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.

NCLN welcomes Anastasia Pearse as the new Western Campus Coordinator. She brings a great amount of experience and passion to the position and we're excited to have her on board. Anastasia is a recent graduate from the University of Victoria where she led the pro-life club, Youth Protecting Youth. There she helped to organize many events on campus including lectures, debates and also the Silent No More Awareness Campaign. Under Anastasia's leadership, the club weathered the storms of discrimination on campus and a legal battle with the Student Union. The situation also led to interviews with media including CBC and Maclean's. 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.

& New Arrivals!

Sara with her son Cohen.

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*.