



CAMBRIDGE RIGHT TO LIFE
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MPP Belinda Karahalios
498 Eagle St. N.
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January 25, 2019

Dear MPP Belinda Karahalios,

Congratulations on your victory in earning the responsibility and privilege of representing the citizens of Cambridge, North Dumfries.

Each year, Cambridge Right to Life takes the time to visit one of our government representatives on or around the anniversary of the day the Supreme Court of Canada struck down Canada's abortion law, in order to shed light on the fact that another **100,000** pre-born Canadian children were not granted any legal protection or rights while in the wombs of their mothers. As a result, approximately **35,000** of those who would have been Ontario residents, were killed by abortion.

Almost one year ago, the 'Safe Access to Abortion Services Act' was passed under the Liberal leadership of Kathleen Wynne. This legislation imposed a ban on pro-life activity within a 50-metre radius, and as much as 150 meters, of any abortion facility, such as Freeport Hospital.

According to the then Attorney General, Yasir Naqvi, the purported justification for the bubble zone legislation law was to prevent women and staff from being harassed, intimidated, or threatened.

To our knowledge, there have been no substantiated instances of violence, intimidation or harassment by pro-lifers at abortion facilities; if there had been, Canada would and should have utilized our Criminal Code to deal with such cases.

The bubble zone legislation is based on fiction and ideology. This law is a direct attack on freedom of speech, expression and assembly. Not only is this draconian legislation unconstitutional, but it serves only to silence peaceful pro-life witnessing and prevent women from having access to **alternatives**.

On the other hand, every abortion results in the certain death of an unborn child! For pro-lifers, it is a matter of life and death to be able to offer life-saving alternatives to

mothers, even up to the very last minute. Surely, peaceful demonstrations, prayerful vigils and quietly offering information are acceptable methods of exercising our freedom of speech, within our Charter-protected democratic rights?

It would seem it is now a crime to be pro-life in Ontario.

Case in point, is the arrest of Father Tony Van Hee who took part in a silent, peaceful protest within the 150-metre "bubble zone" around an abortion facility in Ottawa. What was Fr. Van Hee's crime? This elderly priest simply held a placard that read: "*The Primacy of Free Speech: Cornerstone of Western Civilization*" and "*Without Free Speech, The State is a Corpse.*"

According to Fr. Van Hee's lawyer, he "*never spoke or engaged with anyone and never mentioned or referred to abortion services, or related issues,*" and yet under the bubble zone legislation, Fr. Van Hee was charged with "*intimidating or attempting to intimidate*" persons seeking or providing abortions.

We had hoped with the election of Premier Doug Ford, and his defense of freedom of speech, that the PC government would be open to restoring our Charter rights, but we were shocked to learn that, not more than ten days ago, the Crown dropped the original charge of intimidation against Fr. Van Hee and subsequently charged him with:

"informing or attempting to inform a person concerning issues related to abortion services, by any means, including oral, written or graphic means" and

"performing or attempting to perform an act of disapproval concerning issues related to abortion services."

These charges are even more ridiculous than the first. Does the Crown consider it an offense to protest restrictions on free speech only if one is pro-life?

We call on Attorney General, Caroline Mulroney to drop all charges against Fr. Van Hee and repeal the unconstitutional bubble zone legislation.

Please, Ms. Karahalios, we ask you to speak boldly in Ontario's Legislature about this injustice, as it infringes our Charter Right of freedom of speech and thereby also our freedom to defend the unborn up to their last chance of survival.

Sincerely,

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