

## Unwanted and 10% as Coerced."

Significantly, 60 percent of women testified that they would have continued their pregnancy if they had had more financial security and/or more emotional support from others. The subgroup most similar to ANSIRH's sample was a minority group of women who described their abortions as Wanted, with 94.7 percent of them agreeing that their decision was the right decision.

Summarising the study's findings, the authors point out that "only one in three women described their abortions as both wanted and consistent with their own values and preferences." In contrast, "two-thirds experienced their abortion decision as a violation of their own values and preferences, with 24% describing their abortions as unwanted or coerced."

This should alarm everyone. Regardless of anyone's views on abortion, it is very concerning if women are having abortions unwillingly, particularly if this goes

against their beliefs. It is no surprise that those who have unwanted abortions are particularly likely to experience detrimental effects on their emotions and mental health, as indeed the study confirmed.

Choosing an abortion – perhaps under serious pressure – does not mean that one is morally happy with the abortion at the time, much less that one will be happy with it afterwards. It is a common human experience to make choices that do not reflect one's values, and such experiences, as in the case of abortion, can have lasting ill-effects.

In view of the stakes for the woman, the onus is clearly on society to offer and publicise pregnancy and parenting support from both the State and the voluntary sector. We must build a culture where women are empowered to resist abortion pressures, and also where partners, family members and others are more supportive of the woman's desire to take her pregnancy to term.

Unwilling abortions chosen under

pressure store up unhappiness for the woman concerned. Even those who sincerely believe they made – or tried to make – the best decision they could in their situation may still be very adversely affected.

There is, indeed, some agreement among abortion researchers that ambivalence and seeing the pregnancy as wanted or meaningful may lead to adverse effects. A study by Donald Sullins found that 14.7 percent of abortions were of wanted pregnancies, and that these abortions were particularly prone to have such effects as depression and suicide ideation.

Women's thoughts and feelings about their abortions can be complex – unsurprisingly, given the event the woman is processing. Abortion is not a trivial matter, as many women are very aware. The "satisfaction" found in the selective Turnaway group may simply not reflect how most women feel.

*Dr. Helen Watt is Senior Research Fellow at the Bios Centre in the UK. ■*



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# BILL PROTECTING PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS FROM EUTHANASIA NARROWLY DEFEATED

By Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition

Bill C-314, the Mental Health Protection Act, sponsored by the Hon. Ed Fast (CPC), was narrowly defeated by a vote of 167 to 150 at second reading in Canada's Parliament on Wednesday October 18, 2023.

The vote on Bill C-314 indicates that Canada's Parliament is divided on the issue of euthanasia for mental illness.

- Every Conservative (CPC) MP voted YES to C-314.
- Every NDP MP voted YES to C-314.
- Both Green MPs voted YES to C-314
- 8 Liberal MPs voted YES to C-314
- 1 Independent MP voted YES to C-314

Sadly, every Bloc MP and most Liberal MPs voted NO to C-314.

## EDITOR'S NOTE:

Bill C-314 would have protected people who are living with mental illness from medical assistance in dying (euthanasia). It is interesting to note that eight Liberal MP's voted in favour of this bill, but sadly Mr. Bryan May was not one of them. Please contact Mr. May to ask him why he believes it is appropriate to offer vulnerable Canadians killing in lieu of treatment.

Write to: MP Bryan May  
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Cambridge, ON, N1R 6J7  
519-624-7440  
Bryan.May@parl.gc.ca

- removing the "terminal illness" requirement,
- removing the 10-day reflection period when someone is deemed to be "terminally ill",
- adding a 90-day waiting period for someone who is approved for euthanasia but not "terminally ill"
- permitting euthanasia for someone who is incompetent but previously approved for euthanasia,
- permitted euthanasia for someone with mental illness alone. Euthanasia for mental illness alone will become officially legal on March 17, 2024.

The good news is that even though the Liberals pressured their MPs to oppose Bill C-314, eight Liberal MPs still voted YES.

Thank you to Hon. Ed Fast for sponsoring Bill C-314 and for his professional campaign in support of the bill. Thank you to all of the Conservative MPs, to all of the NDP MPs, to the courageous Liberal MPs, and to all others who supported Bill C-314.

On March 17, 2021 Parliament passed Bill C-7 which expanded Canada's euthanasia law by:

Bill C-314 would have protected people who are living with mental illness from medical assistance in dying (euthanasia). The latest Angus Reid Institute survey indicates that only 28% of Canadians support euthanasia for mental illness while 82% of Canadians stated that mental health care should be improved before euthanasia for mental illness is considered.

Many groups supported Bill C-314 including the Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention and the Society of Canadian Psychiatry.

Anike Morrison, who lives with a severe mental health condition,

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Join us to hear about our latest pro-life initiatives on Thursday, November 23rd from noon to 1pm at The Galt Legion (4 Veterans Way). Bring Your Own Lunch.

### AGENDA

Meeting call to order  
Acceptance of agenda  
Financial Statements/Reports  
Elections  
Walk for Life Prizes  
Adjournment

(See 2022 Minutes, Financial Statements & Nomination form)

Following the AGM we will view one of the videos (37 minutes) from the **Life on Film** series, "**Doctors Standing Firm, An International Pro-life Roundtable**" filmed on location at the annual March for Life Rose Dinner on May 11, 2023 in Ottawa.

—Religious Christmas cards for sale—



RIP  
**PETER QUAIL**  
by Anneliese Steden

Another founding member of Cambridge Right to Life has gone to his eternal rest:

Peter Quail died August 11, 2023 at the age of 98(!) at his home in St. George, Ontario. He is survived by his wife Patricia, 6 children and 13 grandchildren. Peter was a very outspoken champion of the unborn, speaking to all who would listen, and also those who would not. (i.e. politicians in office, high and low). He also participated in the Family Coalition Party's effort and ran in a provincial election. Peter was an outstanding Englishman turned into an outstanding Canadian. It was his pleasure to supply us with apples from his orchard every year for our Walkathon.

We are sad to lose him, but amazed and thankful for his long life.



CAMBRIDGE  
RIGHT to LIFE

NOVEMBER 2023

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Peter Quail, RIP  
Insert: AGM: 2022 Financial Statements, Minutes & Nomination Form





Anike Morrison

stated at the EPC Press Conference that in 2018 she fell into such a deep depression that she was hospitalized 5 times. She said that if MAiD had been presented as an option to her at that time as a solution to her emotional pain and distress:

*I may not be here today. It was a very rough time. It was only through the care of the psychiatrists, psychologists, pharmacists and*

*social workers that I was able to get better and move through that time in my life.*

Anike has completed her undergraduate degree, has travelled, and most importantly, loves her life. She is on the “other” side of that dark period.

This is not a “settled” issue. We will not be silent in the face of killing. ■

## NEW AD COMING SOON!

We are delighted to present our latest ad, (left) which will appear on the Delta electronic screen for the month of November.

With the unfortunate closure of the *Cambridge Times*, we were approached by *The Record* to continue our advertising with them. We have done so for a few weeks and are pleased with their quality and our new “reach” beyond Cambridge to the Waterloo Region. Look for our ad this November. ■



## IS IT TRUE THAT 99% OF WOMEN BELIEVE THAT THEIR ABORTION WAS THE RIGHT DECISION?

How do women see their past abortions? The received wisdom is that abortion equals unwanted pregnancy: most women want their abortion and are satisfied with their decision. When women are asked at the clinic to participate in follow-up research (as in the famous “Turnaway Study”), researchers cite figures as high as 99 percent for “decision rightness”, interpreted as abortion satisfaction.

But are women really so satisfied with their abortion decision – and are their abortions really wanted? A new peer-reviewed study in the journal *Cureus* – one of a series of Charlotte Lozier Institute studies in the journal – shows a more complex and troubling picture.

Authors David Reardon, Katherine Rafferty and Tessa Longbons are critical of Turnaway research methodology as used by the group Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health (ANSIRH).

Reardon, Rafferty and Longbons’ own survey of US women has a high participation rate: 91 percent of women in a more general survey completed an abortion survey after confirming a past abortion, so almost three times the Turnaway rate of 31 percent.

This is important, as low participation rates – common in abortion research – can skew the data. Moreover, when women are invited at the clinic to participate in a study, those with the most negative feelings at the time may be the least likely to say yes. Those who do agree to participate may drop out due to stress such studies can create – i.e. those women worst affected by abortion may not complete the study, if they ever begin it.

In contrast, the *Cureus* participants are an older group of women (41-45) who were not approached at the clinic to participate, but were more randomly selected, and were reflecting on their

abortion at a distance. This may help account for the much higher rate of participation. As the study authors comment, “A narrow age range was chosen to eliminate the confounding effects of age while capturing the experience of women who have completed the majority of their reproductive lives.”

Choosing an abortion – perhaps under serious pressure – does not mean that one is morally happy with the abortion at the time, much less that one will be happy with it afterwards.

In place of what they call ANSIRH’s “dichotomous, yes-or-no assessment of decision rightness”, Reardon and colleagues developed their own, more sensitive scales for rating decision rightness and for identifying the type of decision (i.e. Wanted, Inconsistent, Unwanted, or Coerced). They found that “33% described their abortions as Wanted, 43% as Inconsistent [meaning, inconsistent with their own values and preferences] 14% as

## WALK FOR LIFE 2023

We would like to extend a big thank you to all those who walked, sponsored and prayed for another successful year for our Walk for Life.

A big thank you also to Grace Bible church and Pastor Byron Burton for hosting us this year, as well as the St John Ambulance who provided 4 volunteers.

It was a beautiful sunny day which brought out approximately 44 walkers including many children, this number plus those who walked remotely, on other days, brought our total walkers to \*50\*. Pledges collected through local church participation, members, families and friends totaled \$14,412.00 to date.

These funds help by providing us the means to continue our education on the importance of Life from the moment of conception til natural death. Thank you for being a big part of that!



## LIFE CHAIN 2023

It seems that the “sun” is the common denominator for another successful event, this being the National Life Chain which took place on October 1<sup>st</sup> in many cities across Canada. We were fortunate to have 60 people stand in solidarity lining the streets of Hespeler Road in silent vigil. Our signs ranged from Adoption the Loving Option to Jesus Heals. The traffic was plentiful and a lot of encouraging honks were to be had. These days with so many no longer taking a stand on things that need standing up for – we are so thankful for those who participated, standing up for our most precious and innocent victims that of our unborn sisters and brothers. A sincere thank you to all!

