



Association for Reformed Political Action (ARPA) Canada: April – 2016

Quick Updates:

- ◆ ARPA Canada is coming to Alberta from April 11-15. Read below for more details
- ◆ The Booties for Babies campaign is in full swing! Reminder: all baby booties must be sent to our office by May 2 (earlier is great too). Email info@ARPACanada.ca for more information
- ◆ People are still speaking out against the Legal Leaders for Diversity campaign that opposes the TWU law school. Read about the United Christian Business Leaders of Canada initiative at arpacanada.ca/UCBLOC
- ◆ The national March for Life will be happening in Ottawa May 12, 2016 – plan now to attend. See arpacanada.ca/M4L2016 for details. (There are marches in most provincial capitals. Email us for details.)

MP Arnold Viersen Introduces Motion to Tackle Sexually Explicit Material

MP Arnold Viersen, from Neerlandia, Alberta, has introduced a motion in the House of Commons regarding online violent and degrading sexually explicit material. Motion M-47 reads as follows:

That the Standing Committee on Health be instructed to examine the public health effects of the ease of access and viewing of online violent and degrading sexually explicit material on children, women and men recognizing and respecting the provincial and territorial jurisdictions in this regard and following completion of its study, report back to the House no later than July 2017.

Violent and degrading sexually explicit material is easily accessible to anyone with access to the internet, without restriction. As the medical community has discovered, this is having a significant harmful impact on the mental, emotional and sexual health of children, women and men.

Incredibly, the last major study, completed in 1985 by the Special Committee on Pornography and Prostitution (the Fraser Committee), was completed before the invention of the World Wide Web.

Sexual violence and degradation are, sadly, all too common. Recent reports include the tragic cases of Rehtaeh Parsons and Amanda Todd, as well as the scandals involving the St. Mary's University frosh week and the Dalhousie dentist students. These stories force an important question on our society and Parliamentarians: Where do the individuals in these reports get the notion that sexually violent and degrading attitudes and behaviours toward women and children are normal and acceptable? Where is this being learned?

It is time that Parliament makes this a priority! Stay tuned for action ideas to promote this motion, and please pray that it is used to wake Parliament up to the evil that pornography is.

Five City Alberta Tour this April

In recent months the Alberta government announced that it is requiring all schools in the province to change their policies to promote a secular understanding of transgenderism and LGBT rights. What can Christian parents and communities do to promote a compassionate, Christian response to these issues, and also stand for parental authority and fundamental freedoms?

Join ARPA Canada on our spring tour through Alberta this month. ARPA's Mark Penninga and André Schutten will explain the current challenge, while also speaking directly to a Christian perspective on transgenderism and civil disobedience. Join us at the location nearest you:

Monday, April 11 – Coaldale Canadian Reformed Church – 7:30-9:00 pm
Tuesday, April 12 – Canadian Reformed Church at Calgary – 7:00-8:30 pm
Wednesday, April 13 – Parkland United Reformed Church – 7:30-9:00 pm
Thursday, April 14 – Neerlandia Canadian Reformed Church – 7:30-9:00 pm
Friday, April 15 – Immanuel Canadian Reformed Church – 7:30-9:00 pm

Ready, set, ACTION!

Send a SimpleMail (the WeNedaLaw.ca version of EasyMail) in support of the Molly Matters campaign to your MP. Read the next page for more information.

Electoral Reform

As part of their election platform, the Liberal Party of Canada promised, "We are committed to ensuring that 2015 will be the last federal election conducted under the first-past-the-post voting system."

Since the election, the Liberal Government has set up a committee to assess the options for a new voting system. It seems the Liberal government is leaning towards a preferential ballot system.

The Opposition has challenged the government on this issue, arguing that the government is using the new electoral system for political gain and are using the power of a majority government to advance a position which should require a referendum. After all, Canadians have been using a first-past-the-post system since Confederation.

We believe that, to change the electoral system in Canada, a referendum should be a minimum requirement. A referendum would require the general public to vote in all the provinces and territories on any new system and must get a majority in order to pass.

Take action:

- Read the full article at arpacanada.ca/reform to learn more
- Write a letter to your MP about this issue
- Talk to people in your community to raise awareness

Cassie & Molly's Law

MP Cathay Wagantall, along with Jeff Durham and the Molly Matters Campaign, have been working tirelessly to bring about a law that would amend the Criminal Code of Canada. Jeff is the father of Molly. Molly and her mother Cassandra were killed in December 2014 but – although a suspect has been charged – there has only been one murder charge laid for Cassandra. Molly's death goes unacknowledged, because she was still two months from being born.

The good news: there has been some excellent progress in Parliament concerning pre-born children in Canada. On February 23, Saskatchewan MP Cathay Wagantall introduced Bill C-225 in the House of Commons. This bill, titled the **Protection of Pregnant Women and their Preborn Children Act** (the short title is **Cassie and Molly's Law**), will create a new offence for violent criminals who knowingly injure or cause the death of a pre-born child while committing a criminal offence against a pregnant woman.

The bill has passed its first hurdle (a sub-committee has deemed Parliament can debate the bill) and is now cleared to move to the first hour of debate. Our SimpleMail program on the WeNeedaLaw.ca website includes 3 letters on this issue and they can be accessed at simple.arpacanada.ca. It is necessary to speak up and ask your MP to vote in favour of this common-sense bill. The bill will likely be debated in early May. Please keep Mrs. Wagantall and Jeff Durham in your thoughts and prayers that these efforts may prove fruitful and that we may see this law passed in the coming months! You can learn more about this particular bill at mollymatters.org.

You can also print a copy of the Molly Matters petition from the WeNeedaLaw.ca website. Collect as many signatures as possible and mail it to the address that can be found on the bottom of the form. Each of these forms is brought into the House of Commons and when all those sitting in the House see how many signatures have been collected, it will be hard for them to deny the issue and ignore the thousands of Canadians who are willing to speak up. You should also sign the official Parliament e-petition, the link to which is available at weneedalaw.ca.

*I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation.
But take heart; I have overcome the world. ~ John 16:33 ~*

Praise & Prayer

Everything we do is to be done to the honour and glory of God. We encourage you to join us in prayer as we carry out our mission.

PRAISE:

- For the introduction of Cassie and Molly's Law last month!
- For the way the Booties for Babies campaign has introduced many new people to the work of ARPA and provided people an opportunity to get involved.

PRAYER:

- That Parliament may seize the opportunity they have to prohibit euthanasia while they have the opportunity.
- That the Alberta government may reverse its guidelines imposed on all schools, and allow Christian parents and schools to set up safe schools according to Biblical standards.
- For favour at the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal April 5-8 (for TWU).