



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

Quick Updates:

- ◆ Close to 90 delegates attended the 5th biennial God & Government event in Ottawa, with approximately 70 meetings with Parliamentarians to share a Christian perspective on public policy matters. Go to ARPACanada.ca to read or watch highlights of the 3-day event.
- ◆ Thousands of hand-crafted baby booties are now being delivered to pregnancy care centres and hospitals across Canada by Members of Parliament, thanks to you!
- ◆ We have begun planning for the 2016 ARPA Canada Fall Tour. Stay tuned for event information.
- ◆ In the next two weeks, ARPA Canada will launch its brand new website. Be sure to check it out!

MP Marilyn Gladu introduces Bill C-277

On May 31, Sarnia-Lambton MP Marilyn Gladu announced her private member's bill: Bill C-277, "an act providing for the development of a framework on palliative care in Canada." This timely bill comes in response to the lack of palliative care in Canada and the lack of any palliative care provisions in Canada's new assisted suicide legislation.

Ms. Gladu emphasized how there are only 200 hospices across Canada. Such a low number signifies the need for universal palliative care options. The framework provided in this bill would provide a definition for palliative care, identify the training needed for palliative care professionals, ensure consistent access to palliative care in Canada and consider amending the *Canada Health Act* to include palliative care as a guaranteed healthcare option.

The Liberal and NDP parties voted down a proposed amendment to Bill C-14 (Canada's assisted-suicide legislation) which stated, "prior to making the request [for assisted suicide], they [the patient] consulted a medical practitioner regarding palliative care options and were informed of the full range of options." Later, the Senate put a version of that amendment back into the law. Bill C-277 could give meaningful effect to this amendment.

James Schutten, a man with spinal muscular atrophy, was one of the ARPA Canada witnesses who testified in front of the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights regarding the euthanasia law. In his speech he expressed his feelings that if the Supreme Court enable a right to die, they should also provide a right to live through palliative care. James, along with other individuals with severe disabilities feel that the absence of palliative care and the presence of euthanasia, sends the message that they should choose to die. Bill C-277 provides a third option which would benefit many Canadians who are not willing to give up on life.

Booties for Babies – a huge thank you!

The Booties for Babies campaign was an overwhelming success, and for that we say: **thank you!** In December 2015 we asked for 1,000 pairs of hand-crafted baby booties. This initiative quickly snowballed into a monumental effort by people of all ages, from across the country, who united for one cause: to demonstrate positive, pro-life activism in a creative way.

Once mailed to Ottawa, volunteers spent over 60 hours organizing, sorting and individually bagging and then boxing the booties. ARPA's office was overrun with booties!

On May 11, God & Government delegates laid the baby booties on the lawns of Parliament Hill. We had excellent conversations with passers-by, as we shared that each pair represented approximately 15 children killed annually through abortion in Canada. This was a sobering statistic and a visual representation that, Lord-willing, impressed upon everyone who saw the demonstration the necessity for a law that would protect pre-born children.

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Ready, set, ACTION!

This summer, take time to meet with your MP while s/he is in your riding. Use this time to build relationships that will continue throughout the year!

Following the public launch, we needed to get the baby booties to Parliamentarians. We received a total of **7,273 pairs!** Incredible! Each Member of Parliament received a custom package with 21 pairs of baby booties, along with a note that explained the initiative and a request to donate them to their local pregnancy care centre or hospital. Read how one MP responded:

- *I received your baby booties in my office last week and wanted to take a moment to thank you for taking a stand for the rights of pre-born children. Being a person of faith, I take the right to life seriously. Gender-selective abortions are a growing concern and a pressing issue in our nation. I will continue to stand both as a supporter of life and advocate for girls. Thank you again for all you do. I applaud your efforts in creating a grassroots movement to change the Canadian society's views on this issue.*

From each of us at ARPA Canada, thank you for taking up the challenge in an unprecedented way. Agencies from across Canada will receive the gift of beautifully-crafted baby booties, to bless new moms and their children. What a positive and life-affirming way for us to show moms that we're here, and we care! To read more about this campaign and to see some pictures, go to ARPACanada.ca/booties

Bill C-14 (Euthanasia) Becomes Law

On June 17, Bill C-14 became law, formally legalizing euthanasia and assisted suicide. Although Canada has made a tragic choice, it did so in full knowledge of the consequences and in the face of a much better alternative. In light of our calling as watchmen (Ezekiel 33), we warned this nation so that the blood of the slain is not on our hands.

Our simple message was a contrast to the ever-changing and confusing narrative coming from those who wanted to legalize euthanasia. What we warned about - the slippery slope that logically occurs when some lives are deemed to be not worth living - was happening before the law even passed.

By God's grace, our work bore fruit. Not only did we bear witness to the truth, this witness helped mitigate the evil that was being endorsed by so many Canadians, including from within Parliament.

- **When introduced, Bill C-14 was not as radical as was recommended** by the special Parliamentary committee that was tasked with creating the new legislation. For example, C-14 did not include euthanasia for children, or for those suffering from psychological conditions.
- **C-14 did not become more radical** as it went through Parliament, even though there were some very vocal and strong forces pushing to widen the law and even though the Senate pushed hard to radicalize it. The Justice Minister held the line and refused to compromise further. In fact, in the last week of the show-down between the House of Commons and the Senate, **the Justice Minister sent a message to the Senate that affirmed ARPA Canada's legal analysis** – namely, that Parliament did not have to abide by the Supreme Court's decision. We don't know what role our legal analysis played, but the Justice Minister did affirm a few of our key points. Although we would have been delighted if she went further and concluded that Parliament should still prohibit all euthanasia, the fact that she pushed back against making the law more radical was an encouraging step.

We rejoice in the comfort that God is the one ultimately in control. He is using even the passage of Bill C-14 to advance His kingdom and glory. Looking forward, the church will have even more opportunities to fulfill the greatest commandment – loving God, and loving our neighbour. The light of the Gospel will shine all the more brightly in darker times. Let us go forward holding that light high.

Go to www.ARPACanada.ca/c14 for a more detailed postmortem of C-14.

*So he said to me, "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty.
~ Zechariah 4:6 ~*

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 incredible response to the Booties for Babies campaign.
- For the blessing of staff unity.

PRAYER:

- For our nation that has now legalized physician-assisted suicide.
- For safety for staff and their families as they travel this summer.

Contact Us: 1-866-691-2772 | info@arpacanada.ca

Donations can be directed to: **ARPA Canada** PO Box 1377 STN B, Ottawa Ontario K1P 5R4