

# CCBR: Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform

## *Making Abortion Unthinkable*

January 2007

**“The quarter picture [of an aborted baby next to a coin] has been etched into my mind.”**

–15-year-old female, Maryvale Preparatory School, Maryland

Dear Friends,

I smiled as one of you wrote the following after reading last month’s newsletter: **“And may the new year see you closer to being unemployed as you convert many more hearts and bring forth the needed protection for the unborn!”** It’s not every day someone wishes unemployment upon another. But we couldn’t agree more. And we are confident that that will be the case. We are filled with hope for the success of the coming twelve months as we look at our accomplishments from last year:

- We helped present the Genocide Awareness Project (GAP) twice at U of C, a campus with **over 26,000 students**.
- We gave CCBR presentations to **over 9,000 people** which included showing a graphic abortion video.
- We participated in **five debates against prominent individuals** who support abortion: two university professors, a lawyer, representatives from Planned Parenthood and Canadians for Choice, and a PhD candidate.
- We **helped form future clergy** by speaking at Baptist and Catholic seminaries.
- We were **featured in the media**, including secular outlets: three television programs, three radio interviews, one magazine article, and at least four newspaper articles.

Jojo, Brendan, Michéla, and I could not have accomplished both the public and the behind-the-scenes work of CCBR if it wasn’t for God’s grace, volunteer help, and your financial and prayer support. Thank you for making all of this possible!

Here are some 2006 testimonies that we didn’t have room to include in past newsletters (and there are still many more than will fit here):

- “My view on abortion before the presentation was that it was morally wrong but women should have the right to choose. The presentation made me realize that **abortion is killing innocent babies** who have no choice about what happens to them. **The presentation motivated me to want to show my mother the clip we saw** today by going on [your] website, because she is pro-choice and maybe it might change her mind.” –17-year-old female, St. Marguerite d’Youville, Ontario [Ed. *Our website is [www.unmaskingchoice.ca](http://www.unmaskingchoice.ca).*]
- My view on abortion changed, because now I’ve realized that abortion is all about killing a human being... **No matter what the circumstances are, abortion is wrong.**” –17-year-old female, St. Marguerite d’Youville, Ontario
- “I was against abortion on a personal level but still viewed it as a woman’s right to choose, depending on her situation. **I now know that abortion is clearly murder regardless of why it is done.** ... I remember the visual aids that were used because although words are powerful, **pictures allow me to see the events actually take place and those are the ones that will remain in my mind.**” –17-year-old female, St. Marguerite d’Youville, Ontario



*Top:* Brendan holds the baby of one of his supporters while attending a priestly ordination.

*Bottom:* Michéla (right) with her mom and youngest brother Marty.

Michéla has completed her internship with us and heads to Bible school in New Zealand in February. It was a blessing to have her help over the past five-and-a-half months. I was very moved by her servant-heart and humility when she told me that as she drove to work each day she would pray, “God, help me to serve Brendan, Stephanie, and Jojo. Help me to serve CCBR’s donors.” We are so thankful for all her administrative help!

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- **“Seeing the photos really helped me to realize that the fetus is a life.”**  
–14-year-old female, Maryvale Preparatory School, Maryland
- [The presentation] really opened my eyes [to see] that abortion kills another human being. **Before I didn’t really view the baby as an actual person.”**  
–14-year-old male, Towson Catholic, Maryland
- **“My position on abortion did change because when I saw the video, I saw how bad it [abortion] was.”** –15-year-old male, Towson Catholic, Maryland
- “After watching the video my view changed. I think it’s horrible to get one [an abortion]. **I don’t think my view would have changed if I didn’t see the video.”** –14-year-old female, Towson Catholic, Maryland



In November I mentioned that Jojo participated in a debate at Carleton University in Ottawa, sponsored by the campus pro-life club, Lifeline. Little did we realize his participation would be the impetus to a major controversy at that campus:

“Pro-choice” students from Carleton’s Womyn’s [sic] Centre were so upset at the debate that they complained to Carleton University Students’ Association (CUSA). They accused pro-lifers of intimidating them and harassing them with abortion pictures. They also argued that, because pro-lifers advocated for the legal protection of the unborn, our views endangered the lives of women. Thus they convinced CUSA to change their constitution to become officially pro-choice, raising concern that their policy would not recognize Lifeline as an official club.



This controversy drew national and international attention. In fact, reporters from the National Post, the Edmonton Journal, the CBC, and the Washington Post contacted Lifeline. Countless articles, editorials, and reports were circulated, most of them favourable to the free-speech rights of the pro-life students.

Top: My sister (right), my unborn niece or nephew, and me in B.C. over Christmas.

In the midst of this, CUSA president Shawn Menard slandered CCBR live on a popular Ottawa radio station, falsely claiming that GAP denies the Holocaust. We swiftly sent him a letter informing him that if he did not retract and make amends according to our requirements, then we would promptly sue him and CUSA. Mr. Menard buckled and, days later, on the same radio station which he had slandered us, he declared that his statements about GAP were “unequivocally false.”

Bottom: Jojo (right) with his friend James who welcomed him to stay in his home during Jojo’s fall speaking trip in Ottawa. We’re always appreciative when our supporters make extra sacrifices to further assist our efforts.

This month, Lifeline applied for club status and received it! Time will tell whether CUSA’s granting club status will last, but it appears, at least for now, that public pressure made CUSA realize censorship is not the way to deal with disagreements. Between this and CUSA’s retraction, it shows that pro-lifers must stay strong in the face of opposition and demand equity and accountability.

Over the holidays, I visited with one of you, a husband and wife who have been faithfully supporting us since 2002. We were expressing mutual appreciation—they for the work I do that they cannot, and I for their support that makes my participation possible. As CCBR reviews where we’ve been and where we’re going, particularly with the launch of the truck project, we thank you for standing with us.

Happy New Year,

*Stephanie*

Stephanie Gray

N.B.: Quotations may have been edited for grammar, punctuation, syntax, spelling, and/or length.

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