

Dear Friends: August 1, 2013

This summer has been an extremely busy time for EPC, as we prepare to defeat the euthanasia bill (Bill 52) in Quebec and as we respond to the constant media barrage which continues to promote euthanasia and assisted suicide.

The summer is a time when donations drop-off. Our work continues, our office remains open, our employees continue to be paid, the legal costs for our court interventions (*Carter case*, *Rasouli case*) continue to be paid, but donations dry up.

We are very pleased to announce that *Vivre dans la Dignité* (Living with Dignity) has hired Nic Steenhout as its new executive director. *Vivre dans la Dignité* is our partner in Quebec. EPC welcomes Nic Steenhout home.

Steenhout is a disability activist who was born and raised in Montréal. In the late 1990's, Steenhout worked for Progress Center for Independent Living in Chicago with Diane Coleman, the founder of the disability rights organization, Not Dead Yet. Coleman led the response from the disability community to the Jack Kevorkian criminal trial. Later, Steenhout directed an Independent Living Center in Georgia and for the past 10 years he has directed a Center for Independent Living in New Zealand.

We are working in partnership with: *Vivre dans la Dignité* (Living with Dignity), the *Physicians for the Total Refusal of Euthanasia*, *Toujours Vivant-Not Dead Yet* and others in Quebec.

During the last cabinet shuffle the Hon Peter Mackay became the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada. We need to contact the Minister of Justice and tell him why his department must oppose the decision of the Quebec government to legalize euthanasia through the back-door.

Action Item: We have created two sample letters. Send a letter (do not copy the sample letter, word for word) to: The Hon Peter Mackay, *Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada*, 284 Wellington St., Ottawa ON K1A 0H8, or email: mcu@justice.gc.ca or phone: 613-957-4222.

Hon. Peter Gordon Mackay Hon. Peter Gordon Mackay Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada: Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada:

I oppose the Quebec government's attempt to legalize I oppose the Quebec government's attempt to legalize euthanasia by redefining it as a form of health care and euthanasia through the back-door. defining it as part of palliative care.

The laws that prohibit euthanasia and assisted suicide Euthanasia is an act, whereby one person intentionally exist to equally protect every Canadian, including those causes the death of another person. This is a form of who are potentially the most vulnerable, such as people homicide. Killing is not Health Care. who are sick or elderly, and people with disabilities.

Please maintain euthanasia as a criminal code offense. Please continue to equally protect every Canadian.

We need your financial support to enable us to launch a co-ordinated campaign in September.

We need more people to become regular or monthly donors, by credit card or monthly cheque. We depend on our regular donors to cover our expenses. Call us at: 1-877-439-3348.

We are organizing the **'Euthanasia Symposium 2013'** on November 8/9 at the Renaissance Marriott Hotel in Toronto featuring international, national and regional leaders who are effectively working to stop the euthanasia juggernaut.

The Euthanasia Symposium features: Margaret Dore, *Choice is an Illusion* -US; Dr. Kevin Fitzpatrick, *EPC Europe*; Amy Hasbrouck, *Not Dead Yet-Toujours Vivant* -Quebec; John Kelly, *Second Thoughts* -US; Dr. David Richmond, *Euthanasia Debate* -New Zealand; Tim Rosales, *Californians Against Assisted Suicide*; Paul Russell, *HOPE Australia*; Dr. Peter Saunders, *Care Not Killing Alliance* - UK; Alex Schadenberg, *Euthanasia Prevention Coalition*; and more.

The registration fee for the Euthanasia Symposium 2013 is: **\$99.00** Conference only (regular), **\$79.00** Conference only (Students or People with Disabilities) + **\$50** for lunch on November 9. (A promotion sheet is inserted with the mailing.)

Book the hotel room at the Renaissance Marriott Hotel for \$119.00 per night by calling: 1-800-237-1512.

A donation of \$129.00 will enable a student or a person with a disability to attend the Euthanasia Symposium.

We have also organized a **'Leadership Forum'** on November 8. In the past we organized successful leaders' meetings. This year we are providing training sessions on issues related to: polling data, debating, media training, the language of the debate, team building, and more. The Leadership Forum is designed to train leaders to respond effectively.

The first edition of the book: *Exposing Vulnerable People to Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide* has sold-out. The second edition will include a chapter on the Groningen Protocol, which is the protocol for killing newborns in the Netherlands.

The **EPC facebook page** and **the blog** have grown phenomenally over the past few months. The internet traffic on the blog jumped last month soon after we established a new internet address for the blog: www.epcblog.org. The blog is one of the most important sites in the world with more than 1510 published articles over the past 5 years.

The Supreme Court of Canada notified us that a decision in the *Rasouli case*, that EPC intervened in, will be released soon. The *Rasouli case* will decide who can decide to withdraw life-sustaining treatment. We were informed that the decision will be available to the media, the litigants, and interveners, in advance, to enable us, to prepare responses before the actual decision is released. We were not given the actual date.

We continue to wait for the decision of the BC Court of Appeal in the *Carter case*, a case that EPC intervened in. The federal government appealed the decision of Justice Smith, in the *Carter case*. The *Carter case* will determine whether Canada's laws prohibiting euthanasia and assisted suicide are constitutional. The decision of the BC Court of Appeal, in the *Carter case*, will be appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Last week we paid \$8000 towards the cost of our legal fees for the *Carter case* intervention at the BC court of Appeal. We had hoped to pay off our legal expenses by the end of June 2013, but we still have \$25,000 remaining to be paid.

Donations can be earmarked to pay for the costs of the *Carter case* intervention.



We need your financial support to stop the legalization of euthanasia and assisted suicide. **Your donation is needed.**

Thank you for your continued support.

Alex Schadenberg Executive Director / International Chair