

BC KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PRO LIFE INITIATIVE 2012-2013

The following is a new priority for the BC and Yukon State Knights of Columbus.

SUPPORT FOR MOTION 408

In the fall of 2012, Conservative MP Mark Warawa, Langley BC, introduced motion 408 to the House of Commons to support M-408 and condemn discrimination against females occurring through sex-selective pregnancy termination. Mr. Warawa stated that “I’m not aware of anything else that 92 per cent of Canadians agree on. Gender selection has been strongly condemned by all national political parties,” added Mr. Warawa. Unequivocal condemnation from Parliament will send a strong message that will help to bring an end to this form of gender discrimination in Canada.

Mr. Warawa’s assertion is that the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation revealed in its news reports of twenty two clinics that ultrasounds are being used in Canada to tell the sex of unborn child so that expecting parents can choose to terminate the pregnancy if the unborn child is a girl.

He notes that sex selection was condemned by all national political parties and that 92% of Canadians believed sex-selective pregnancy termination “should be illegal”. (Enviro-nics poll) He also notes that the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada vehemently opposes sex-selection. Millions of girls have been lost through sex selective pregnancy termination, creating a global gender imbalance, causing girls to be trafficked into prostitution. Mr. Warawa has requested that Parliament needs to condemn this worst form of discrimination against females.

This will be a vote in parliament in the near future as it was for Motion 498. The first debate is scheduled to take place in March 2013 with the vote occurring in May 2013.

Mark Warawa was formerly a businessman and loss prevention officer as well as a city councillor in Abbotsford, British Columbia from 1990 to 2004, Warawa has been the Member of Parliament for Langley since 2004. On February 10, 2006, Warawa was named parliamentary secretary to the Minister of the Environment. He has also served as a member of the Standing Committee on Justice, Human Rights, Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness.

SO WHAT CAN WE DO AS CANADIANS AND KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS?

Quite a few politicians are generally supportive of Motion 408 but they need support from their constituents to make similar motions of support for Motion 408. These politicians want to put forward support for the motion but need support to demonstrate that this is the will and priority of the constituents in his/her riding as opposed to the support being his/her lone opinion.

This is a chance for local Councils to demonstrate what the *Knights of Columbus are all about* – genuine spirituality, family values, active pro-life advocates, informed and involved community members and that we are an organization of moral and ethical excellence and fortitude.

The local Knights of Columbus Councils can work with their Pastor to assist him rally support in the Council Parishes for support for Motion 408. More specifically, they can;

1. Meet with the Pastor in December to plan a petition campaign and the literature such as posters and letter templates;
2. Make a schedule for presentations in December-January from the at the end of Sunday masses on Motion 408 and designate a speaker (e.g. Grand Knight or Program Director or Council Pro-Life Director);
3. Launch the campaign to gain as many signatures of support in a petition or letter campaign for Motion 408;
4. Make available the petition or letter materials – templates and writing paper, pencils, envelopes and mailing address for the Parish’s local MP. This can be done on line also but may be more effective if done in writing;
5. Have Knights assist parishioners with the letters or petition after each mass.
6. Present the petition in person to your local MP if it can be arranged.

The local Knights of Columbus Councils can also work with other Christian communities and Special Interest groups such as the local pro-life groups. More specifically they can;

1. Organize meetings with the other Churches pastor in December-January to brief them on the campaign their local parish is planning to run in January 2013 and do some “technology transfer” by sharing our literature and logistical plans ;
2. Offer to have a Council Executive member or two attend their meetings to assist with providing information and logistical support and advice.
3. Assist by providing information materials such poster examples and the mailing addresses for the local MP’s (materials that are in the public domain).
4. Offer to attend any pro life meetings with the local MP to support our partners in pro life.

For more information on Mark Warawa’s Motion, refer to his website at the following link; <http://www.markwarawa.com/>

There is a petition on line at his web site for Knights to download to present to their parishes in support of MP Warawa’s motion. <http://www.markwarawa.com/>

The Association for Reformed Political Action Canada (ARPA Canada) also has a web site with tips and a web mailing program that will allow you to submit an e-mail to your local member of parliament. It also has some good petition tips on how to effectively petition your local MP. It can be found at the following web site;

<http://weneedalaw.ca/index.php/m408/what-is-it>

For information on the Knights of Columbus support for the Motion 408 initiative in BC, contact Dale and Debbie McGregor at 604-858-9316 or by e-mail at ddmcfan@telus.net