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THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION CONNECTING EDUCATIONAL PRO-LIFE GROUPS ACROSS CANADA

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RECOGNIZING THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ACCORD RIGHTS TO UNBORN CANADIANS AT LAST

Finally, the issue of abortion on demand is to be addressed in the House of Commons. Canada has been without a law on abortion since 1988, when the Supreme Court of Canada struck down the law in the Morgentaler case. The result has been record numbers of abortions - 1,517,323 between 1988 and 2002; over 100,000 per year, and a repeat rate which has soared from 20% in 1985 to 33% in 2002.

Canada is seriously out of step with virtually every other industrialized nation. Even Sweden which is touted as having one of the world's most liberal abortion laws, has an 18 week gestational limit for abortion on demand. After 18 weeks, abortions must be approved by the National Board of Health and Welfare.

Though our preference would be a bill seeking to extend Section 7 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to all unborn Canadians, we applaud this attempt to ban late-term abortion. We recognize that the Private Member's Bill introduced by MP Mr. Paul Steckle is a first step in the right direction.

Annual polls have repeatedly shown that Canadians oppose the status quo on abortion which provides no legal protection for the child in the womb. For the past four years, polls have consistently shown that the majority of Canadians believe that human life should be legally protected some time prior to birth.

The October 2005 poll by Environics revealed that a total of six in ten Canadians said unborn children should be protected some time before birth. Almost one-third (30%) of respondents supported protection from conception on (19% said after three months and 11% said after six months of pregnancy). Mr. Steckle's bill begins to address this widely held view that all human beings deserve protection.

The Supreme Court of Canada made it clear in the 1988 Morgentaler ruling that it is up to Parliament to decide when the unborn child should be protected. LifeCanada is encouraged that Members of Parliament are finally making some attempt to recognize and accord rights to children in the womb.

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