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REAL Women of Canada "Women Building a Better Society"

www.realwomenofcanada.ca

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WHAT HAPPENED TO TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE?

It is universally acknowledged and accepted that children thrive best growing up in a home with their married, biological parents. It is critical, therefore, that this family structure be protected and promoted.

Unfortunately, this important family structure, the key to raising well-adjusted children and establishing a stable society, has been undermined by a number of factors in the past few generations.

These factors include:

1. NO FAULT DIVORCE

In 1986, a "no fault" divorce law was passed in Canada. It was based on the notion that it was not necessary to establish "fault" in dissolving a marriage. To remove "fault" as a requirement to obtain a divorce, it was argued, would result in less recrimination and resentment in the separation. This did not happen. The challenge in any divorce remains the resolving of the issues of support and custody and these issues remain as intense and complex matters under no fault divorce as they did under previous divorce legislation.

Further, no fault divorce has removed two important aspects of marriage, which are commitment and permanency. No "fault" permits one partner to leave the marriage for no reason other than a desire to do so. In short, no fault divorce has introduced the concept that marriage is not permanent, but can be quickly and easily dissolved. This easy exit from a marriage has also created a bundle of other problems—one of which is the increase in the number of fatherless homes.

Fatherless Homes

A shocking number of inmates in prisons come from fatherless homes where they are left without direction and drift to gangs and guns. These young men identify the latter as signs of male virility. The prison population is 93% male, and it is men who commit the vast majority of violent crimes. Another example about youth from fatherless homes is the increase in suicide among boys. By age 10 to 14, there are twice the number of suicides for boys as for girls. Between 15 and 19, it is four times the number, and by age 18 to 23, it is six times the number. What fatherless boys are missing is the father role which functions to set boundaries, gives orientation, and provides firmness and expectations, which fathers generally do much better than mothers.

Father-deprivation can also cause boys to experience a volcano of frustrating anger. Boys have a much greater tendency to act out if they have been hurt, and they are more likely to retaliate by hurting others. These boys feel that they are without purpose and their lives are meaningless. This belief is one reason behind school shootings. In essence, these boys blame their schools for not fulfilling their needs by failing to be adequate substitute dads.



Cartoon: David Parkins, Globe and Mail, September 14, 2020

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Daughters, too, suffer when growing up in a fatherless home. The father's presence serves as a buffer for daughters against early sexual initiation, unwed pregnancy, and risky sexual behaviours. Fatherless girls are twice as likely to suffer from obesity and much more likely to drop out of school. They also have difficulty understanding male-female relationships and the ability to determine what constitutes appropriate behaviour with men.

2. PORNOGRAPHY

About 55–75% of men and 30–40 % of women under the age of 40 view pornography in a given year. Pornography is not a victimless activity since it has a significant detrimental effect on marriage. A study, published in the Archives of Sexual Behaviour (September 2017), drawing its data from 2006–2014 in the U.S. General Social Survey, found that the probability of divorce roughly doubled for married Americans who view pornography.

Pornography undermines marriage because it creates dissatisfaction with one's partner, and separates the marital partners emotionally from one another. It can also create deep psychological wounds, with feelings of betrayal, loss, mistrust, and anger when a partner consumes online pornography. Addiction to pornography is one of the main contributors to separation and divorce today.

3. WOMEN SEEKING FULFILMENT IN THE MARKET-PLACE, NOT THE HOME

Young women today have been instilled with the message that their value lies in what they do, rather than who they are. Our culture requires, and many parents insist, that daughters do something with their lives by “not letting their intellect go to waste” by attaining higher education and gaining success in the marketplace. Intellect, however, never goes to waste, since it is used to educate the entire family and is helpful for any station in life. Women today are, unfortunately taught not to worry about finding a man to marry, or even having children, because there are supposedly more important things to do with their lives.

Some women do find genuine fulfillment in their careers and do not wish to curtail their achievements by marrying and having children. If so, they should be free to do so.

Many other women however, even though they have been conditioned to believe marriage and motherhood constitute a lesser life, still do desire such a life. It's a natural instinct in most women to want to marry and have children. These women have prioritized higher education over marriage, and have, as a result, delayed marriage. Because of this delay, they have fewer opportunities to find an eligible partner and give birth to children, since fertility decreases with age.

Further, many women, even those satisfactorily working in their careers, still want more time at home to be with their children and to live a slower-paced life. They are reluctant to seek this goal because of financial and cultural pressures to achieve success in the paid workplace.

Perhaps it is time for women to decide what they really

want in life, and maybe this will mean prioritizing marriage over acquiring a professional or advanced degree and climbing the employment ladder. Neither a master's degree nor motherhood is suitable for every woman.

4. GOVERNMENT POLICIES UNDERMINE THE TRADITIONAL FAMILY

Government policies encourage parents to go solo. This is because welfare programs allow women to give birth out of wedlock by being financially supported by the state. These same women may also be reluctant to marry their child's father because it means the loss of a stable source of income provided by welfare. This discourages marriage. Rather, they believe it is better for them to cohabit with the father in order to retain these welfare payments. This constitutes a marriage penalty. Lawyers in some provinces, by way of Legal-Aid, are paid by the government to assist women to secure a no fault divorce (divorces are most frequently initiated by women) and this discourages them from the possibility of reconciliation since a divorce can be so easily and quickly obtained.

Tax deductions and subsidies are available for parents to send their children to daycare facilities, but not to those who care for their own children in their own home.

Decades of family policies, although intended to be helpful, have, in effect, undermined the family and produced our current social disaster.

5. THE FUTURE

More support should be provided for marital counselling to encourage couples to work out their personal differences, inevitable in every marriage.

Financial incentives should be available to reduce marriage penalties and otherwise discourage family instability. It would also be helpful to provide tax benefits for the married couple and strengthen child support enforcement when the couple has separated. The formation of financially sustainable single income families should be encouraged, with income splitting between husband and wife, providing families with more discretionary income to allow a mother to remain at home if that is what the family prefers.

In addition:

1. Career prospects for young Canadians, especially young men, should be provided.
2. The effects of pornography on adult partner relationships should be reviewed in order to curtail the easy access to pornography.

It is critical that recognition be given to the important role mothers provide the family and the community. A woman should be proud she is a wife and mother and not defensive that she is “just a stay at home mom”. In that role, she contributes stability and strength to society. It is a noble calling from which everyone benefits and women should be respected for making that choice. †

A FLAWED NATIONAL DAYCARE PROPOSAL

“If the federal government really respected parents and their choices it would provide the funds directly to the family... so that parents can decide the appropriate choice for their family.”

In the September Speech from the Throne, the Trudeau government included a proposal for a government funded national daycare program.

The government did not place a price tag on the program. However, in 1999, a leaked federal discussion paper from the Department of Health concluded that such a universal daycare program would cost, at that time, \$12 to \$15 billion annually. Inflation would raise this to \$18 to \$22 billion a year in 2020. This plan would add to the present \$928 billion federal debt.

Guess who is dancing with joy over this announcement? It's not whom you think. It's not the parents, but daycare workers, themselves, who are rejoicing because the program will most directly benefit them. They will obtain financial security on the government payroll with full benefits. Since 1982, lobbyists for a universal daycare program have worked for such a program, aided by millions of taxpayers' dollars from the federal Status of Women agency. These lobbyists never considered any alternative options for daycare but that of a licensed government funded daycare program.

Other left-wing segments of society, such as unions, are also lobbying to limit choice to the one option of a national daycare program. Unions have experienced a decline in membership over the last few years, with only 30% of female workers now unionized. A nationally operated and tax funded daycare program would provide the unions with an entirely new-class of public-sector jobs, namely the thousands of daycare workers who would fall under their jurisdiction. If this occurs, it will lead to increased wages for the unionized daycare workers as occurred in Quebec, which has a provincially funded licensed daycare program. Child care wages there have increased 40% due to union-led pressure carried out by sit-ins, walk-outs and threat of general strikes, which paralyzes the childcare system. This happened as recently as September 2020 when daycare workers undertook rotating strikes, which left thousands of families stranded.

The Trudeau government also stands to benefit from this national program in that it will obtain increased tax dollars because of women's increased employment due to the offer of government funded child care spaces. This means more money for Trudeau to throw around to his friends and colleagues, and it also centralizes more power in the Prime Minister's office since it will be determining national standards for child care.

The value of women to Trudeau, apparently, is the amount of money they can contribute to the gross domestic

product. Expensive tax funded daycare, however, should not be provided for the purpose of improving the economy, but rather should be to benefit children.

Feminist lobbyists are nonetheless arguing that the pandemic has created a “need” for a national daycare plan on the basis that women have borne the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic. They argue that the child care system is critical for the recovery and rebuilding of Canada by returning women to the workforce. The facts, however, do not support their argument. Women fared only slightly worse than men during the closing of the economy. Between February and August, 2020, 535,000 men and 562,000 women lost their jobs because of the lockdown. Also, many women are choosing not to return to work in order to stay home while their children attend school online.

All the universal child care programs in the world are not going to fix the real problem, which is concern about the coronavirus lockdowns, which have led to the collapse of our economy. If there are no jobs to return to, then obviously daycare is not required. There should be an economic recovery before we embark on an expensive child care program.

Such an option could be available to parents if they want it, but there is no reason why the government could not help financially support other alternatives. These alternatives could include raising the child at home themselves, or by other family members; by neighbourhood private daycare, or community-based care; or in a religious or ethnic-based child care centre, such as an aboriginal center, where children will learn their culture and heritage.

Child care is a decision of parents since it is the parents who understand what is best for their child. Empirical studies on parents' views on child care have been carried out for nearly three decades in Canada and indicate that they have a strong preference for a home and family approach to child care. This preference is being ignored.

If the federal government really respected parents and their choices it would provide the funds directly to the family, for example, by increasing child care benefits or by child tax credits so that parents can decide the appropriate choice for their family.

CHILDREN'S NEEDS

A sound child care policy should follow the findings of reliable research on children's wellbeing, which is to provide children with secure attachments with adult caregivers. Studies carried out on Quebec's highly touted universal daycare program have found worse daycare outcomes for children, including decreased measures of social and motor skills and increased illness and aggression.

Instead of imposing its own left-wing, progressive bias on Canadians, the federal government should re-think its daycare policy so as to accommodate the actual needs of children and parents. †

CHANGING MINDS AND HEARTS ON ASSISTED SUICIDE

“Society’s acceptance of assisted suicide stems from an ableism and ageism that exists in disharmony with the push for more mental health awareness and resources.”

The members in attendance at the AGM for REAL Women of Canada held on October 31, 2020, were presented with an interesting perspective on assisted suicide. The keynote speaker was Blaise Alleyne, who is the Eastern Outreach Director for the Canadian Center for Bio-Ethical Reform (CCBR) and is coauthor of the book, *A Guide to Discussing Assisted Suicide*. Mr. Alleyne presented compassionate and researched information on assisted suicide, as well as how to effectively engage in dialogue with those unopposed to assisted suicide and euthanasia.

He opened his talk by discussing Victor Frankl, author of *Man’s Search for Meaning*, who was an Austrian neurologist and psychiatrist, as well as a Holocaust survivor. In the 1920s and 1930s, he studied depression and suicide to develop effective suicide prevention strategies.

Frankl wanted to know why some in the Nazi concentration camps gave up and others continued to fight for life. He found that the survivors had some meaning, purpose or hope to propel them forward. Despair, he found, was suffering without meaning. This is opposed to our current culture and the media, who would have us believe that all suffering is bad and has no purpose.

The pro-euthanasia organization *Dying with Dignity* presents euthanasia and assisted suicide as a way to relieve suffering, especially physical pain. However, data collected from the Oregon euthanasia program indicates that most people contemplating assisted suicide are concerned about losing autonomy, loss of dignity, being a burden on one’s family and losing control of bodily functions, with only one quarter of people citing pain as a concern. That is, these concerns are chiefly about disability, rather than pain management.

Society’s acceptance of assisted suicide stems from an ableism and ageism that exists in disharmony with the push for more mental health awareness and resources. Mr. Alleyne illuminated this discordant society with a conversation he had with an individual while doing street activism. The individual said that he would not want to force an 80-year-old quadriplegic person with Alzheimer’s to stay alive. However, when asked if he felt the same about an 80-year-old Alzheimer’s patient not in a wheelchair, the individual said no because there were some forms of treatment for Alzheimer’s. In a different conversation, a woman stated that she would not want to force an elderly person to stay alive if they felt they were done living. When asked if she would say the same about a 19-year-old, she said no because the teenage years were a turbulent time.

Both of these conversations demonstrate that discussion of the matter of assisted suicide must answer two

questions regarding human rights:

- Who gets to decide whose life is important?
- Who should be given assisted suicide and who should be prevented from committing suicide?

Dr. Harvey Chochinov, a Canadian palliative care researcher, studied why society allows some people to end their lives. He found that people saw reduced/poor quality of life, unbearable suffering, incurable condition and terminal prognosis as compassionate reasons for allowing assisted suicide. However, in the course of his research he found that a process called dignity therapy helped patients to improve their quality of life, spiritual well-being and sense of worth. Dignity therapy is a perfect example of a truly compassionate and ethical response to suffering at the end of life.

Receiving treatment such as dignity therapy relies on access to support measures and palliative care at the end of life. It is said that 56% of Canadians have no access to palliative care. However, greater mental health resources and disability support prior to the need for palliative care are also necessary to ensure that people maintain their sense of worth. Many people accept assisted suicide because they fail to see the value in their own lives.

In regard to having conversations with others about assisted suicide, Mr. Alleyne addressed three responses to the question: who deserves assisted suicide and who deserves suicide prevention?

There are three possible responses. The first is the discordant response that assisted suicide is okay for some, but not for others. Few people realize that they have this confusion. Talking with them about suicide prevention for all from the perspective of human rights helps people to see the inconsistency of their own views.

The second possible response is that everyone, regardless of circumstance, should have a right to assisted suicide. Few people hold this view. In conversation, dialoguers should ask the people who do have this view to find a time when they would step in to discourage someone from ending his/her life, for example, by asking them, “Would you not step in if your best friend said that he/she wanted to end his/her life?” If the person acknowledges a time when he/she would try to discourage a person from ending his/her life, the dialoguer should then move the conversation toward establishing suicide prevention access for all.

Mr. Alleyne noted that it is important to establish common ground through conversations with people who have the first and second response. For example, if a person says, “It would be terrible to suffer alone,” dialoguers should affirm that statement. He also noted in the question period that it is important to focus on one topic per conversation to prevent an opposed individual from discounting everything said based on one’s stance on a separate issue.

The third response is the pro-life response that all deserve suicide prevention. To further explore the pro-life position, Mr. Alleyne showed a TED Talk from Dr. B.J. Miller,

a palliative care physician at the Zen Hospice Project. Dr. Miller summed up his argument:

We must work to relieve unbearable suffering and apply our creativity and imagination to improve quality of life, even when it is in short supply, even in a person's darkest moments or final days. Let death be what takes us, not lack of imagination.

We encourage you to read Mr. Alleyne's book and share the information with your loved ones. You can also check out the following websites for more information: carenot-kill.ca; thebridgehead.ca (blog of Jonathon Van Maren, Mr. Alleyne's coauthor) and endthekilling.ca (CCBR's website regarding abortion). You can reach Blaise Alleyne at balleyne@endthekilling.ca. †

REAL WOMEN'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OCTOBER 31, 2020

REAL Women's Annual 2020 AGM was quite an experience!

Because of the COVID-19 lockdown, we were permitted only 10 individuals to attend the meeting in person and the remaining members attended digitally by way of the Zoom platform.

To say it was a learning experience for us is to put it mildly. Our thanks to an Ottawa member, a computer programmer, who set up and monitored the Zoom platform for us. This unusual situation did have its glitches and confusion, of course, but we managed to cover our agenda as required under the *Not-For-Profit Corporations Act*. We hope, though, that we won't have to do it again at our 2021 AGM. Thanks to all who attended the meeting personally and digitally.

Two resolutions passed at the AGM as follows:

1. PROTECTING PALLIATIVE CARE IN CANADA

WHEREAS political pressure is being placed on palliative care hospices in Canada by the B.C. NDP government, and by physicians who perform assisted suicide in Ontario, to require such hospices to provide beds in their facilities to accommodate assisted suicide patients; and

WHEREAS palliative care supports the dignity of human life and the care and comfort of patients, including providing medication to relieve pain to allow the patient to have a natural death; and

WHEREAS assisted suicide encourages the sick and the terminally ill to consent to be killed by lethal injection in order to stop their suffering, either psychological or medical, regardless of the fact that their illness can be treated with medication and counselling; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Hospital Palliative Care Association and the Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians state that Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) and palliative care differ in many areas, including in their philosophy, intention and approach; and

WHEREAS the concept of physician-assisted suicide, now renamed Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID), and palliative care services are not compatible; and

WHEREAS the pressure placed on hospices to accommodate assisted suicide patients, if successful, will create a precedent that would lead to the extinguishing of palliative care in Canada; and

WHEREAS MAID legislation has been positioned as a "health-care right" under the Canada Health Act, so that it is publically funded, and accessible to all Canadians; and

WHEREAS palliative care has not been positioned as a health-care right under the Canada Health Act, publically funded and accessible to all; and

WHEREAS fewer than 30% of Canadians have access to palliative care and are thus denied access to such care, despite the fact that 98% of those dying in Canada do so naturally, not by assisted suicide;

BE IT RESOLVED that palliative care services in Canada operate independently from assisted suicide services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that palliative care be included in the Canada Health Act so that dying patients will have access to publically-funded and accessible palliative care services as their right at the end of their lives.

Please [buy a membership](#) in the beleaguered Delta Hospice Society which the B.C. NDP government is trying to take over. Also, the pro-euthanasia organization Dying with Dignity is buying up memberships in the Delta hospice to force it to change its policy to allow beds for assisted suicide. This must be resisted.

Please forward the resolution or a summary of it to your MP, and our party leaders, including PM Justin Trudeau, Erin O'Toole, Jagmeet Singh, and to the Minister of Health, Patty Hajdu. <https://www.ourcommons.ca/members/en>

2. THE MAINSTREAM MEDIA PROVIDE PARTISAN INFORMATION

WHEREAS the mainstream media (MSM) in Canada, including the major newspapers, the CBC and the other national TV networks, and cable TV, are providing information that lacks balance and objectivity; and

WHEREAS many MSM, including the CBC and major newspa-

per chains, are subsidized by the federal Liberal government and thus are beholden to them which inherently biases MSM journalism; and

WHEREAS the political narratives presented by the MSM fail to present facts or ignore important facts that are inconsistent with their narratives; and

WHEREAS the MSM's narratives are destructive to the democratic system and religious beliefs, since they deliberately undermine traditional moral values and principles that have been practiced and upheld for generations, tested by experience, and which have been shown to benefit society; and

WHEREAS the MSM are attempting to change society with partisan narratives by portraying unacceptable behaviour as normal, and presenting questionable values as the only authentic Canadian public opinion; and

WHEREAS such narratives by the MSM have caused Canadians to lose confidence in the MSM, and also in some of our national institutions, that are promoting the partisan narratives of the MSM;

BE IT RESOLVED that the partisan narratives provided by the MSM be rejected by REAL Women of Canada as inauthentic and manipulative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MSM, which have destroyed their own reputation and the profession of journalism by biased, partisan behaviour, be encouraged by REAL Women of Canada to regain their integrity by providing information that is objective, balanced and which reflects the diverse views and opinions of Canadians.

Please write to the media (either print or electronic) when it provides biased, prejudiced information. Do not hesitate to do so even if the media does not print or respond to your comment. It is important that they receive your comments so they know how the public is responding. (They are aware of your response, even if they don't publish it).

GUEST SPEAKER: BLAISE ALLEYNE

The guest speaker at the AGM was Blaise Alleyne (from Canadian Centre for Bioethical Reform) who gave a fascinating and illuminating talk on how to present arguments against assisted suicide to counter the dangerous Bill C-7, which widens even further access to the already treacherous assisted suicide law in Canada. See article included in this issue on his talk. †

MESSAGE BOARD

- **Action Item:** Please [buy a membership](#) in the beleaguered Delta Hospice Society which the B.C. NDP government is threatening to take over unless this pro-life Society offers euthanasia in their hospice. Anyone can become a member, which will allow you to vote on motions. Votes can take place either electronically, by mail, or in person at the members' meetings.
- **Action Item:** Please write to [your MP](#) ASAP to urge him/her to vote against the dangerous Bill C-7 which will be coming up for third and final reading very shortly. This bill will allow for same-day euthanasia on demand, removing what few safeguards were in place.
- **Two excellent books still available:** For a donation of \$100 or more to REAL Women, and if requested, you can receive one of the two excellent books that our co-founder, Vice-President and Legal Counsel, Gwen Landolt, has co-authored. One details the history of the abortion issue in Canada and the other is about the Canadian Charter of Rights. If you don't have a copy yet, now is the time! <http://www.realwomenofcanada.ca/> for more information. †

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