



WHAT'S NEW AT THE INSTITUTE...

April 2020

The deVeber Institute for Bioethics and Social Research

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP FOR AN INFORMED SOCIAL RESPONSE TO HUMAN LIFE QUESTIONS

Dearest Friend,

This upcoming year is set to be an extraordinary year for the deVeber Institute full of initiatives and new projects. I am personally excited to be back from maternity leave and have the honour of announcing some of these exciting advances.

These initiatives are accompanied by a proactive response to the stress and uncertainty that the Covid-19 pandemic has brought. We will be bringing our resources and valuable information directly to our members and supporters through electronic and virtual means. Our work is necessary now more than ever and we will continue to address the needs of the community through online access to our work and resources in 2020.



Kathy Matusiak Costa



Over the past year, a copy of our revised and updated edition of **Complications: Abortion's Impact on Women (Second Edition)**, was sent to every Canadian Member of Parliament. Additionally, an initiative in the US, delivered over 100 copies to various Congressmen and women across America advising them of the physical, mental and psycho-spiritual effects of abortion on women. Our work and invaluable research is getting into the hands of decision makers, influencers and leaders! This project is one which is ongoing through a dedicated and dynamic contact in the US, to help support this initiative, please contact us directly to learn more.



This last year has been one of significant change and loss. Last February, our founder, Dr. Barrie deVeber, passed away at the age of 90. He had an illustrious career as a pediatric haematologist/oncologist. His research in medicine saved the lives of many and continues to do so to this very day. On October 24, 2019 the deVeber Institute hosted an event at the University of Toronto to honor Dr. Barrie deVeber on personal, academic, and professional levels. A video from this evening is featured on our website on www.deveber.org for all those who wish to see the impact Barrie had on the lives of so many around him. **We love and miss you Barrie!**

The work of Dr. deVeber and our volunteers, members, associates, and Board members helps us continue our mission: to provide research and scholarship for an informed social response to important human life issues.



Group Picture from left to right: Ian Gentles, Dr. Will Johnston, Eileen deVeber, Dr. Heather S. Morris, and Dr. Gabrielle deVeber



Group photo from left to right: Simon Czajkowski, Caroline Wojdylo, Martha Crean, Minha Ha and Kathy Matusiak Costa



Gerry Matijczyk



Minha Ha

In store for 2020, we have **four dynamic and pivotal projects underway** to address the needs of citizens and you, our supporters.



I Our first project is to publish **short educational video clips** about our research on our website, YouTube channel, and social media platforms. This project will allow people worldwide to become better acquainted with the research that the Institute disseminates on various topics concerning the ‘sanctity of life’. The videos will enable viewers to utilize the Institute’s research for their own activities. For example, video content based on our updated edition of *Complications: Abortion’s Impact on Women* could improve the quality of pregnancy centre services, abortion prevention through education, and post-abortive care.

In addition to enhancing access to this research, we will feature the Institute’s palliative care experts in videos which will relay practical information to health care workers and leaders about ‘best practices’ in end-of-life care. As you may already know, the Canadian federal government has indicated it will be **expanding medical aid in dying in Canada** to include patients with illnesses that don’t necessarily have a clear trajectory towards death, such as chronic pain or psychiatric conditions. Please refer to some of our resources online to learn more about this and how it may affect your loved ones and community going forward.

II Our second project will occur later this year, when we plan on **leading two seminar series for front-line agency workers**, members of the community, our supporters, and interested guests. The first seminar will focus on women’s health and abortion, based on the findings in *Complications*. The second seminar will focus on end-of-life care, and specifically address issues such as conscientious objection, Canada’s legalization of euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide, palliative care, and medical decisions at the end of life. These seminars will be vital resources for women, families, seniors, and others with a vested interest in reproductive health or healthcare at the end of life. They will feature renowned speakers and experts on these topics who will facilitate meaningful dialogue and analysis.

III Our third project concerns **sharing the Institute’s work**. We plan to host movie nights and continue to disseminate our findings through the distribution of our print publications and participation in various conferences throughout the year. This will hopefully help to garner a younger and more diverse audience and foster new ties to local groups.

IV Lastly, our fourth project is already underway and involves **creating an online encyclopedia** encompassing various bioethical issues and accessible to everyone on our website! This is a formidable goal meant to increase access to resources on various topics dealing with beginning to end-of-life issues. Readers will find informative articles on pertinent topics along with recognized speakers and experts. The first of these articles is **scheduled to be released in May**, please stay tuned to our website and emails for details!

THE GOALS OF THESE PROJECTS INCLUDE:

- Increasing public recognition about the detrimental physical, psychological, and spiritual effects of abortion on women.
- Sharing the female narratives about the abortion experience, including healing options post-abortion.
- Educating internet users and digital media consumers about the distinctions between palliative care and medical assistance in dying (an umbrella term for euthanasia and physician assisted suicide).
- Providing easily-accessible educational material to third-party users who wish to educate leaders, the people of influence, and communities about the truth concerning euthanasia and assisted suicide.



“ It is extremely encouraging to see the way the world is pulling together to sacrifice so much to protect the lives of the vulnerable and the elderly. This is a heartening response to see so many lives being protected and is a wonderful example of a caring society. ”

From the president, Martha Crean,
in response to the Coronavirus epidemic.

For updates and news, please visit us at
www.deveber.org

For each of these initiatives, we require the financial assistance and support of our donors, in particular, **people like you.**

Already this year, we have seen a marked difference in donations as the Coronavirus crisis makes its way across the globe. We have also applied for summer student grants from the government of Canada. However, the results of these applications remain uncertain.

We respectfully ask you to consider a donation of any amount to support our upcoming initiatives. Your support now or monthly will make a significant difference in the outcome of these plans, their implementation, and ultimate success.

With your support and investment this year, we believe the Institute will become an even more effective vehicle for positive change in our society by promoting the dignity of every human person, from conception to natural death.

We thank you very much for your consideration of our appeal. We greatly appreciate any support you are able to provide. We wish you and your family continued health and well-being.

We look forward to keeping you updated on our important initiatives and accomplishments moving forward!

Sincerely yours,

Kathy Matusiak Costa

Executive Director



The deVeber Institute for Bioethics and Social Research

Founded in 1982

4936 Yonge St., Suite #255,
Toronto, ON M2N 6S3

Tel. 416-256-0555
Fax. 416-981-3546
bioethics@deveber.org
www.deveber.org

Executive Director
Kathy Matusiak Costa, BSc

Charitable Business Number
11896 4915 RR 0001