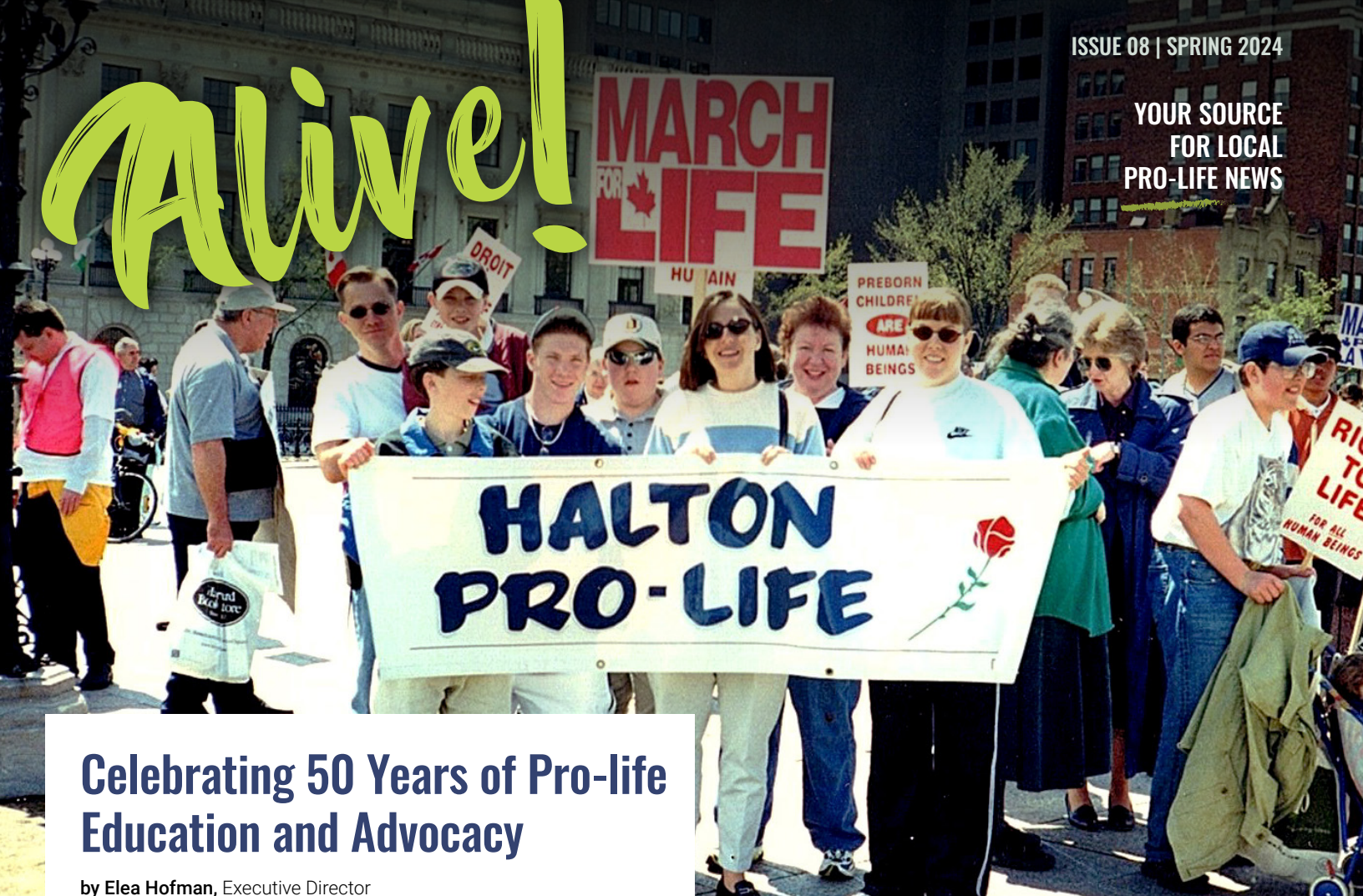


Alive!



Celebrating 50 Years of Pro-life Education and Advocacy

by Elea Hofman, Executive Director

We are excited to announce that 2024 marks our 50th anniversary since incorporation!

In 1969, when the Pierre Elliot Trudeau government amended the criminal code to legalize “therapeutic abortion” in some circumstances, life in Canada changed dramatically. The fight to protect the unborn began and a culture war that has divided Canadians ever since, was launched.

Many Canadians who understood that life in the womb is sacred, mobilized to push back and educate their peers on the issue of abortion. In the two decades that followed, many grassroots pro-life organizations were established including Halton Pro-life (now Halton Alive). On October 18, 1974, Halton Pro-life was formally incorporated and given charitable status.

The early founders, employees, board members, and volunteers worked hard to expose the truth about abortion and educate the Halton community. Several years later, on January 28, 1988, the Supreme Court of Canada, decriminalized abortion in the R. v Morgentaler decision.

Canada has remained without a law on abortion ever since and so we continue to push back on this issue. It hasn't taken long before the culture of death to expand to the born, and now we fight a battle for life on both ends, facing abortion and assisted suicide through MAiD (Medical Assistance in Dying).



We look forward to honouring those who paved the way and the hope we have for the future.

Halton Pro-life/Halton Alive has been on the forefront of these issues, educating, organizing, and mentoring new generations of pro-life advocates. Today we continue, standing on a foundation of dedicated, passionate individuals. We look forward to honouring those who paved the way and the hope we have for the future.

On exactly fifty years to the day, October 18, 2024, we will host a special Anniversary Gala. Save the date for this special occasion as we honour the many people who have helped make 50 years possible and share highlights and memories.

Be sure to follow us on social media @[haltonalive](https://www.instagram.com/haltonalive) to catch now and then highlights throughout the year.



LifeTalks

Conference

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024

EXPERT SPEAKERS | BREAKOUT DISCUSSIONS | Q&A |
INFO BOOTHS | RESOURCES & NETWORKING

Our speakers this year:



Amanda Achtman
Dying to Meet You Project
Canadian Physicians for Life
2023-2024 NextGEN Fellow at Cardus



Andrea Mrozek
Senior Fellow, Cardus Family



Kathy Matusiak Costa
Director,
Compassionate Community Care



Keturah Dumaine
Eastern Strategic Initiatives Coordinator,
Canadian Centre for Bio-ethical Reform

AND MORE!

ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH
4691 PALLADIUM WAY, BURLINGTON, ON
9:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

INDIVIDUAL \$40 | STUDENTS \$20
MEAL AND REFRESHMENTS ARE INCLUDED

REGISTER: [HALTONALIVE.CA/LIFETALKS](https://haltonalive.ca/lifetalks)

Join us for a gathering of passionate individuals united by their commitment to defending the sanctity of life.

This one-of-a-kind conference invites attendees to hear expert speakers, engage in breakout sessions and discussions, gather resources, and network with others in the pro-life movement. This full day event will equip you with the tools to challenge misconceptions and foster a deeper understanding of the issues through a lens of compassion and grace.

Become a more effective ambassador for life this year by attending **LifeTalks**.

Appropriate for youth and adults.



ROE Canada Screening



The kick-off event for our 50th anniversary year was a viewing of the pro-life film **Roe Canada: The True North in a Post Roe World** by *DunnMedia*. The film follows a pair of young pro-life women as they journey across

Canada and the US interviewing pro-life advocates, asking the question, "Could we see a similar triumph in Canada?"

We were extra excited to show this film since one of those young women is Josie Luetke, a former student and intern at Halton Alive who is now the Director of Education & Advocacy at Campaign Life Coalition.

We are so honoured to be part of launching the next generation of pro-life advocates and leaders. A local pro-life group like Halton Alive is essential to creating space for today's youth to find their footing and be mentored into their future opportunities in the movement. Keep up the great work Josie!



If you missed the film, you can rent it online at roecanada.com.



THE LATEST DATA ON MAID IN CANADA AND HALTON



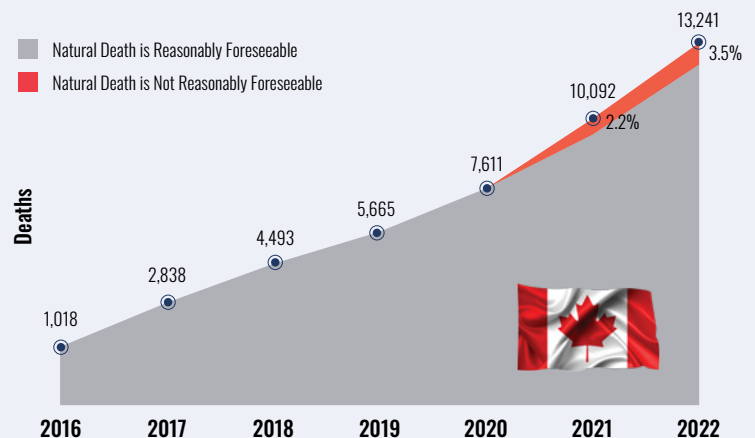
The total number of medically assisted deaths reported in Canada since the introduction of Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) legislation in 2016 is 44,958 (as of 2022). Alex Schadenberg of Euthanasia Prevention Coalition estimates we may have reached as many as 60,000 by the end of 2023.

Canada's legalization of MAiD in 2016 was a pivotal moment, marking a significant shift in societal attitudes towards end-of-life care. Since then, we have seen the rapid expansion of this program in our country. So rapid, in fact, that we have outpaced all other countries, worldwide, to become the fastest growing adopter of this program, in history. The Netherlands, where assisted death has been legal for more than two decades, has the highest global physician-assisted death rate at 5.1%. As of 2022, MAiD accounts for 4.1% of all deaths in Canada.

Canada intends to expand MAiD eligibility to people on the basis of mental health, however, in January 2024, Canada's Health Minister, Mark Holland, introduced a bill that would delay the implementation of assisted suicide for mental illness until March, 2027. The delay is based on "system readiness" to "get it right", not a hesitation on the ethics or morality of the expansion.

Federal data on MAiD for 2023 is not yet available, however the Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario has released 2023 data showing that to date, there have been 18,373 MAiD deaths in Ontario, 4,641 in 2023 alone. A further breakdown of the data for the month of December 2023 indicates that 19 MAiD deaths occurred in Halton Region.

The data in this article is taken from the Fourth Annual Report on Medical Assistance in Dying released by the Government of Canada and the December 2023 data released from the Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario.



Visiting the Elderly with Boxes of Hope

The Inspire Hope Winter initiative, *Boxes of Hope*, was a resounding success, bringing warmth and cheer to the seniors in our community during the Christmas season. We delivered over 500 boxes and had more than 100 volunteers visit with seniors in long term care homes. There was so much positive feedback from volunteers and staff at the homes are eager to continue the program and increase visitation.

"This was the best experience ever! We loved it and look forward to doing it again! Initially, our teenager was hesitant to do the visit, but when we got there and started handing out the presents to elderly residents and talking with them, she changed her attitude, and was actually very happy! After the visit my kids really understood the importance of caring for elders in terms of compassion, empathy, and how even actions like a simple hug, smile or just being there makes a real difference." - M. Minakawa, Volunteer

"Thank you so much for the wonderful gifts for our residents who don't have much and don't have many family members. You are all angels! They will certainly have a Merry Christmas thanks to the generosity of Halton Alive and your volunteers!" - Staff Member, Wyndham Manor, Oakville

There were so many boxes that we were able to bless local ministries who give to the homeless with the extras. This is truly what it means to live out pro-life values. While our core focus is on the life issues of abortion and euthanasia, there are so many related issues in between and we affirm life at every opportunity.

We are so thankful for a generous community that helps make programs like Inspire Hope happen. Stay tuned for more information about our Spring Inspire Hope Initiative!



PRO-LIFE EVENTS CALENDAR

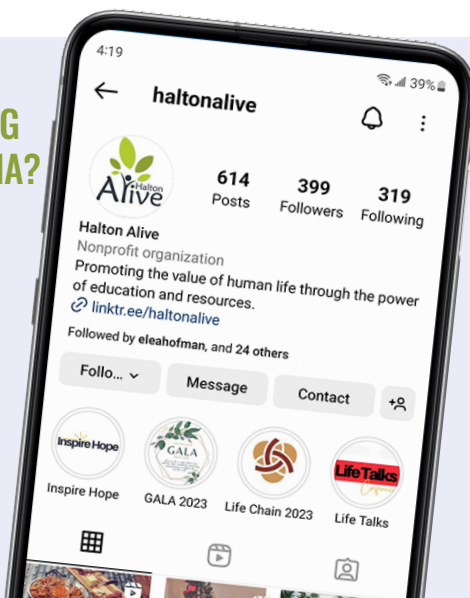
Stay up-to-date on pro-life events with our online calendar at haltonalive.ca/calendar.

Don't miss our **Walk For Life** on **Saturday May 25, 2024!**



ARE YOU FOLLOWING US ON SOCIAL MEDIA?

See more of these cute faces and special moments from *Boxes of Hope* by following @haltonalive on social media.



LET'S DO BIG THINGS FOR THE PRO-LIFE MOVEMENT TOGETHER!

Your giving is an important part of making pro-life education and resources available and creating opportunities to live out those values through Halton Alive programs. Help us raise the funds needed to educate, equip, connect and launch our community.

haltonalive.ca/donate

