

CCBR: Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform

Making Abortion Unthinkable

November 2006

Did this presentation motivate you to want to do something to stop abortion? “Yes! I am a pre-med student and found this extremely inspiring!” –19-year-old female, St. Francis Xavier University

Dear Friends,

On October 30, Jojo Ruba took on two abortion advocates in a debate at Carleton University: Tracy Davidson, the executive director of Planned Parenthood Ottawa, and Jeannette Doucet, a volunteer spokeswoman with Canadians for Choice. While Jojo had numbers and gender against him, he had the *truth* for him. Even some abortion advocates, while still professing to be “pro-choice,” couldn’t help but admit that Jojo won the debate:

- “It did open my eyes to more points on the pro-life side. **I feel that the pro-life side was better prepared, more passionate, and much more informative.**” –21-year-old female, Nursing, University of Ottawa
- “[I now have] **more respect for the pro-life position.** Pro-life [won the debate as he] addressed the fundamental question but received little response. –31-year-old male



▲ Jojo (far left) debates Tracy and Jeannette.

A medical student from the University of Ottawa strengthened his pro-life resolve as a result of the debate: “Jojo spoke with ease, with grace, and was clearly well-prepared. **I am quite sure that my resolve on this issue has deepened** on the side of defending the unborn *persons* that our society has tragically decided will not receive this designation. You provided a sense of clarity on the issue that I have not heard for some time.”

On November 2 and 7, I also participated in debates. The first was at Simon Fraser University (SFU) against PhD candidate Lyle Crawford and the second was at my alma mater, The University of British Columbia (UBC), against Philosophy professor Dr. Scott Anderson. Here are some students’ reactions:

- “**Stephanie Gray obviously won.** She presented a very strong argument. Lyle Crawford just gave up and, to me personally, he sounded like he became pro-life himself.” –18-year-old female, Arts, SFU
- Position on abortion before the debate: “Wrong; exception I had: abortion after being raped.” Did your position change? “**Yes, slightly on my exception of someone being raped, that she should not abort.**” –24-year-old male, Kinesiology & Physics, SFU
- Position on abortion before the debate: “I’ve always thought of myself as pro-choice because I am strongly opposed to a government telling me what I can or cannot do with my body... That being said, I really wish that people never needed to have abortions—that such a situation would never come up.” Did your position change? “**I ended up a little more pro-life,** but still remain a little bit in the middle.” –20-year-old female, Arts & Social Sciences, SFU

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- Position on abortion before the debate: “I believe in abortions, though I don’t like the idea of them. If abortion is due to the gender of the child then I don’t agree.” Did your position change? **“It did, due to the scientific arguments. And the video. Pro-life won since Stephanie’s main point was that embryos ARE people and this was not refuted.”** –18 year old female, Arts, UBC

This fall I did my first speaking tour in the Maritimes. This included presenting at Atlantic Baptist University in New Brunswick and Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia, as well as being interviewed live on ATV news (an affiliate of CTV)! Here is a selection of feedback from that speaking tour:



▲ Dr. Anderson (right) and I.

- Position on abortion before the presentation: “I felt that abortion was wrong, but that it was not my body, so I felt I had little to say.” Did your position change? **“Yes. Now I feel that abortion is a great injustice because it is basically legalized killing.”** –16-year-old male, St. Stephen’s Church, Halifax, NS
- “Prior to this presentation, I believed that abortion was wrong; however, I also believed that those who decided to abort their unborn child could do so if that is what they believed and had reason to do so.” Did your position change? **“Yes, after listening to this presentation my views did change strongly that abortion is wrong.”** –19-year-old female, Nursing, St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, NS
- “Before the presentation: I feel that abortion comes down to a personal decision. I personally feel that abortion is wrong and that everyone has the right to life.” Did your position change? **“Yes!!! It is not a personal decision. It is morally wrong.”** –19-year-old male, St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, NS
- “The presentation was very ‘mind-opening’ to me. I was against abortion but supported stem-cell research because I viewed it as being beneficial and since it’s just cells, it’s not really killing. Though the presentation didn’t touch much on stem-cell research, it really reinforced the idea that after fertilization life begins. **Now I am totally against stem-cell research (using embryos). Acts based on immorality will not do humanity any good.**” –male, age not given, St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, NS
- Did this presentation motivate you to want to do something to stop abortion? **“It made me think to tell others I know who might do it that it’s wrong.”** –16-year-old male, Association of Christian Schools International, Maritime Conference, Moncton, NB
- Position on abortion prior to the presentation: “Pro-choice.” Did your position change? **“Yes—now pro-life!”** –57-year-old male, Association of Christian Schools International, Maritime Conference, Moncton, NB

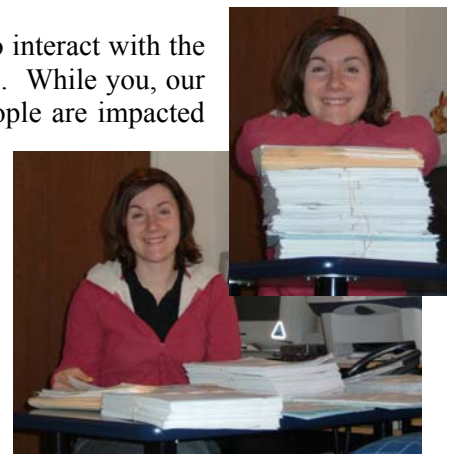
During prayer after one of my talks, I reflected on how it is such a blessing to interact with the people whose thinking—and *lives*—are changed by CCBR’s pro-life message. While you, our supporters, aren’t on the front lines, your role is just as essential. These people are impacted because of your giving—thank you!

Stephanie

Stephanie Gray

N.B.: Quotations may have been edited for grammar, punctuation, syntax, spelling, and/or length.

- Michéla has almost completed her internship with us. She has been a huge help to us, such as with categorizing piles and piles of presentation surveys!



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