

The Interim

PLUS

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Curriculum Supplement For Schools

The *Interim Plus* is a periodical dedicated to educational matters and specifically designed to assist teachers in integrating relevant life issues in their lesson planning.

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In the final edition of *The Interim Plus* for this academic year we include an advance announcement for the 2012-2013 Father Ted Colleton Scholarship program, new challenges to the formation of families, consideration of a few more aspects of the 2011 Canadian Census report, fairness of tax policies, and an evaluation of Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms thirty years after its initial introduction.

Please share the material with colleagues. Make them aware of this service. Hopefully, it assists you in your lesson planning where applicable.

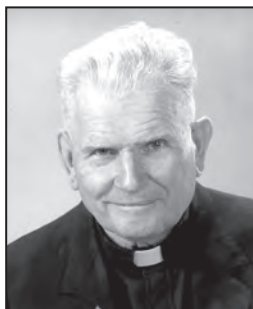
We wish you the best for the coming vacation period, so richly deserved and so needed. Enjoy the time off school, but don't take a vacation from learning.

Father Ted Colleton Scholarship

In an effort to give candidates more time and encourage greater participation among senior high school students, the Father Ted Colleton Scholarship program is announcing the theme for the essay writing component of the scholarships now rather than waiting for the reopening of school in the fall. The topic was inspired by an article written by George Weigel that appeared in the December issue of *First Things* magazine. His statement was adapted to read this way:

Effective witness in the public square requires a new focus on what is important to young people. What can be done to convince young people, your peer group, that "the life issues are not only genuine social-justice issues; but they are the priority social-justice issues"?

The deadline for submission of application packages will remain November 30, 2012. The details for applications, eligibility rules, and the length of the original essay can be found at www.theinterim.com and then clicking on the scholarship icon. Photos of the three winners from the 2011-2012 scholarship program appear across.



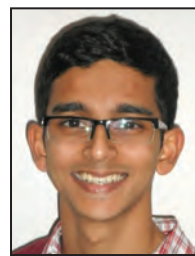
Fr. Ted Colleton



1st prize
Isaac Longworth



2nd prize
Selina Hunt



3rd prize
Aditya Rau

New Urban Living: Heaven or Hell?

Large urban centres are increasingly the magnets for young people across Canada. They are opting for condo living. This new phenomenon is creating a higher population density than heretofore in the bigger Canadian cities. For example, in Toronto, at the time of the last census in 2006, close to 11% of homeowners lived in condos, up from just over 3% in 1981. Comparable numbers from the 2011 census won't be released until this fall but there is every indication that this trend is expanding to other major urban centres across the country from the east to the west, including Vancouver.



whispersfromtheedgeoftherainforest.blogspot.com

What is driving this new internal migration of people? What are the special attractions of condo-living? What implications does it have for the formation of families and the care

of older people? The media have reported on these and related issues. A couple of articles appeared in the Toronto Star on the topic and are worth reading. Students can be asked to read the articles and then to answer the questions below, and engage in discussions either as a class or in groups.

This intense urbanization may be picking up pace here in Canada but it has been going on apace in other nations for a while. Consider this list of the 30 largest urban centres around the world. Our Canadian cities pale in comparison.

World rank	City	Country	City population	Metro population
1	Karachi	Pakistan	15,500,000	18,000,000
2	Shanghai	China	14,900,000	19,200,000
3	Mumbai (Bombay)	India	13,900,000	21,200,000
4	Beijing	China	12,460,000	17,550,000
5	Delhi	India	12,100,000	16,713,000
6	Buenos Aires	Argentina	11,655,000	12,924,000
7	Manila	Philippines	11,550,000	13,503,000
8	Seoul	South Korea	11,153,000	24,472,000
9	Sao Paulo	Brazil	11,038,000	19,890,000
10	Moscow	Russia	10,524,000	14,800,000
11	Jakarta	Indonesia	10,100,000	24,100,000
12	Istanbul	Turkey	9,560,000	12,600,000
13	Bangkok	Thailand	9,100,000	11,970,000
14	Mexico City	Mexico	8,841,000	21,163,000
15	Tokyo	Japan	8,653,000	31,036,000
16	Tehran	Iran	8,430,000	13,450,000
17	New York City	USA	8,364,000	20,090,000
18	Kinshasa	Congo D.R.	8,200,000	10,100,000
19	Dhaka	Bangladesh	7,940,000	12,797,000
20	Lagos	Nigeria	7,938,000	9,123,000
21	Cairo	Egypt	7,764,000	15,546,000
22	Lima	Peru	7,606,000	8,473,000
23	London	UK	7,557,000	12,200,000
24	Tianjin	China	7,500,000	11,750,000
25	Bogota	Colombia	7,320,000	8,361,000
26	Ho Chi Minh City	Vietnam	7,100,000	
27	Hong Kong	China	7,055,000	
28	Guangzhou	China	6,458,000	10,182,000
29	Dongguan	China	6,446,000	7,650,000
30	Lahore	Pakistan	6,100,000	8,600,000
101	Toronto	Canada	2,571,000	5,100,000

<http://www.citymayors.com/statistics/largest-cities-mayors-1.html>



<http://imageshack.us/photo/my-images/801/presale.jpg/>

The two reporters, Paola Loriggio and Jayme Poisson reported on this phenomenon and related the motives and experiences of people who have opted for this new urban living.
2011 Canada census: Young professionals, baby boomers fuelling Canada's condo boom

Paola Loriggio, February 8, *Toronto Star*

<http://www.moneyville.ca/article/1127883--2011-census-young-professionals-baby-boomers-fuelling-canada-s-condo-boom>

Census: Condo boom driving up Toronto's density

Jayme Poisson February 8, 2012

<http://www.thestar.com/news/article/1128354--census-condo-boom-driving-up-toronto-s-density>

Questions

1. Why are Toronto and other urban centres going “vertical”?
2. Why would an older couple choose to “pack it all in for a spacious condo”?
3. What would be economic and demographic factors contributing to this new trend?
4. With land growing scarcer and condominiums becoming the norm for couples, what are some of the effects this can cause on a society, especially the life of the family?
5. Do you think eliminating such skills and activities as shovelling snow, gardening, stair-climbing, lawn-mowing and daily house maintenance is always a good thing? (According to Census 2011 it is the reason many people move to high-rise apartments and condominiums.)
6. What if anything are these young people and older couples sacrificing in return for an expected “better and easier” lifestyle?
7. Are there any reasons why those traditional activities associated with living in and maintaining a house can actually benefit a person and a family? Explain, and think outside the box!
8. Will there be room for actual families with children in these new urban centres? Should this be a concern?

9. Where would you prefer to live with your family in the future, in a city or a suburb? For example, would you rather live in downtown Toronto in a high-rise condominium or a house on a street with a backyard, in Milton or an Edmonton nearby community? Explain and use examples.
10. Think about your childhood, how you grew up and the environment that you lived in. What was it like? Did you have a backyard or a front yard? Did you have neighbours to play with? What aspects did you like and didn't you like? Why?
11. What kind of environment would you like your children to grow up in?
12. Are there more opportunities for children in a city such as Toronto, living in a high-rise condominium or in a suburb like Richmond, B.C., living in a house or semi-detached house? Explain.
13. Planners in Edmonton want to draw families away from the suburbs into the city. If a family moves into the city, do you think it would be more cost-efficient? Why and how?
14. If a family moves to a large city will its members be more inclined to spend money and be distracted from their respective family responsibilities and relationships?
15. Would park spaces, schools, and infrastructures add to the life of the family in a large metropolis like Toronto (Vancouver, Montreal, Calgary)?
16. What are 5 important community traits that are necessary for the family?
17. Would it be more challenging to build a culture of life in a large urban centre? Why or why not?
18. Do the following aspects of a busy city such as media, consumerism, and entertainment promote a healthy and positive lifestyle for a family? Do they encourage a spiritual lifestyle?
19. Could the condo boom go bust? What would this do to the housing market?



For discussion and reflection

1. Think about large hectic cities (like Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Calgary, etc.) and all of the attractions that lure people into the city daily (traffic, pedestrians, shopping, restaurants/entertainment, site-seeing). Do these things promote the culture of life?
2. Compare and contrast living in a satellite like Milton, ON or Langley, BC and living in a city like Toronto or Vancouver. Which promotes family, life and health more? Why? Use specific examples and connect your reasons to your own personal experience.
3. Group activity: Students can create model cities of either a small, growing satellite city like Milton or burgeoning city like Calgary, to promote and sell to a selected target audience. For example: "Come to Milton, home of the family!" or "Toronto, destination family!" Models would have to include housing, schools, parks, nature, transportation etc. The purpose is to sell their city, to promote why families should move to their city.
4. Compare and contrast the incidence of crime, policing costs, and health care costs in high density communities versus suburbia or rural communities. What might account for these differences?



progressiveearlychildhoodeducation.blogspot.com

The Family and the Census



Andrea Mrozek of IMFC

One of the facts that came out of the census of 2011 is that there was a "small uptick" in Canada's fertility rate. Although this pleased demographers it was not a significant increase, not large enough to allay growing fears about Canada's aging population and its social and economic implications. Some think-tanks have been studying this problem. The following article sums up the findings of a recent study undertaken by the Institute for Mar-

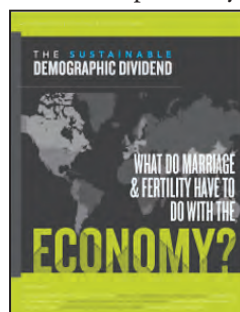
riage and Family Canada (IMFC). In an interview with Lifesite News, (*Strengthen family to avert social collapse: new report*, Peter Baklinski, February 8, 2012, LifeSiteNews.com) Andrea Mrozek of IMFC highlighted the executive summary points of The Sustainable Demographic Dividend and tied it to the Census figures. (see <http://sustaindemographicdividend.org/> for a copy of the full report):

- A sustainable birth rate and a flourishing economy go hand-in-hand with stable marriage
- a healthy society that has enough people to support its elders needs to have the replacement rate of 2.1
- Canadian demographics are “troubling,” and remain at a level that is “not sustainable”
- men who get and stay married work harder, work smarter, and earn more money than their unmarried peers
- within a decade there will be more Canadians over the age of 65 than under the age of 15
- nations wishing to enjoy robust economic growth and be viable welfare states over the long-term must maintain fertility rates high enough to meet the replacement rate level of 2.1
- the quantity and quality of the next generation workforce is essential to economic growth
- children reared outside of an intact family are “significantly less likely to acquire the human and social capital they need to become well-adjusted, productive workers
- divorce, non-marital childbearing, and delayed or foregone marriage allows for a large numbers of children and adults to spend a major portion of their lives outside of an intact, married family
- large key sectors of the modern economy—from household products to insurance to groceries—are more likely to flourish when men and women marry and have children

But, not content to just outline the problems, the authors of the report also offered some suggested solutions ‘to avert a future social collapse’:

- the government should honour work-family ideals of all women by recognizing “diversity among women” and focusing not only on the needs of working mothers but on needs of home-centered mothers.
- companies should use their cultural influence to get behind positive, family-friendly advertisements and public education campaigns about the benefits of marriage and the hazards of single parenthood
- countries should increase access to affordable health care and lifelong learning to strengthen the economic foundations of family life.
- public policy should support marriage and responsible parenthood by, for instance, extending generous tax credits to parents with children in the home..... public policy should stop penalizing marriage

- the culture needs to be cleaned up because television and other global media have played a big role in driving birth and marriage rates down (for example, pop stars’ efforts to push the sexual envelope, salacious and immoral Hollywood films, violent video games, and ubiquitous Internet pornography, send a strong message to young people that a family-centered way of life is passé)
- political authorities should respect the role of religion as a prenatal force; while childlessness and small families are increasingly common among secularists, religion contributes positively to family life and fertility



<http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/strengthen-family-to-avert-social-collapse-new-report>

The bottom-line message of *The Sustainable Demographic Dividend* is that business, government, civil society, and ordinary citizens would do well to strengthen the family—in part because the wealth of nations, and the performance of large sectors of the modern economy, is tied to the fortunes of the family.

Questions

1. What is the connection between a sustainable birth rate, a flourishing economy and stable marriage?
2. Why does Mrozek view the demographics of Canada as “troubling” and “unsustainable”?
3. What does the term replacement rate of 2.1 mean?
4. Are there any surprising findings among those listed?
5. According to the study how does divorce, single parenthood or non-marital childbearing contribute negatively to economic and social stability?
6. Do the proffered solutions make sense? Which would you support and why? Which might be problematic and why?

Unfair Tax Policies?

Whenever a government tinkers with the tax system, there are winners and losers in that society – some people pay more and some people pay less in taxes, and some people pay no taxes at all. When budgets are being struck, many factors go into the mix, as to spending on social services, tax rates for corporations, job creation measures, deficit reduction, new programs, regional equity, unemployment rates, etc.

The effect of budgets on family finances is very important, because as the family goes so goes the whole society. If family formation is weak that society is weak. If the tax policies don’t encourage stable, responsible family formation the society and the economy suffer. In an article in the April edition of *The Interim* (*Ottawa gets family benefit, tax mix wrong*) Lena Schuck comments on current tax policies of Canada as they impact on families. Her main points are:

- Canadian government promotes policies that dissuade

responsible parenting and in some cases, encourage irresponsible parenting; for example, the Canadian Child Tax Benefit (CCTB) effectively pays parents progressively more, the higher their degree of financial irresponsibility

- the CCTB exonerates all Canadians from helping their neighbours by forcing their charity via government taxes. The philosophy seems to be “Let the government take care of them”
- the impact on society is not good as a recent UNICEF report says that that growing up in single-parent families and stepfamilies pose greater risk to well-being – including a greater risk of dropping out of school, leaving home early, having poorer health, or low skills and low pay

Schuck provides a personal example of the CCTB in action saying that she has four children and if they had a family income of less than \$23,000 per year, she would be eligible for \$1,101.08 a month – more than \$13,000 a year in tax-free income (\$17,000 per year if living in Ontario). On the other hand if she were working full time at minimum wage with a \$20,000 in pre-tax income, she would be much worse off, (being liable for EI and CPP payments and possibly child-care costs). If a woman lived in a chronically depressed area with very high unemployment and she wasn't able to get a job anyway, having more children would be the surest way to more income for the annual CCTB income increases over \$4,000 for each additional child. Chuck goes on to state that the CCCB also discourages low-income families from trying to make more income. Imagine a family with an annual income of \$42,000 and three children under six living in Ontario. Taking an extra weekend job to raise their annual income by \$1000, the family would lose \$413.04 in tax-free CCTB benefits (or \$544.55 of pre-tax income) and owe 24.15% in income tax (provincial and federal). This leaves a net gain of \$213.95. Those extra weekends spent away from home give them only 21 cents per dollar.

Questions

1. Find out how much of all taxes go to Child Benefits, which include CCTB, Universal Child Care Benefit and other programs?
2. How do these programs and the tax policies associated with them act as a disincentive for stable family formation?
3. What could be done or should be done by the government to promote responsible, stable family formation?

Chartermania?

In the May issue of *The Interim* newspaper, the feature article deals with Canada's *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. Paul Tuns, editor of *The Interim* takes a sober second look at the Charter of Rights and Freedoms on the occasion of its 30th anniversary (signed into law April 17, 1982). The Charter remains a contentious piece of legislation. The article *Going gaga over 30th*



anniversary of Charter would be a good reading assignment for students. Questions are provided to help guide student reading and stimulate class discussion.

In his critical analysis of the Charter, Paul Tuns raises valid points usually ignored by the mainstream media. The latter heralds the Charter as an unquestioned success, having led Canada into the 21st century and having helped to mould Canada into a modern, happy, well-adjusted democracy. The Charter is cited as the chief reason for the expansion of human rights, gender equality, and “progressive” social changes in Canada.

However, the reality may be quite different from the accepted narrative. Politicians and the media like to act as if all controversial social issues have been put to rest and that Canada enjoys social peace. Well, abortion and other life issues just won't go away. Each year there is growing evidence that many Canadians (indeed, a majority) express dissatisfaction with the “status quo” fabricated by judicial decisions with the silent complicity of politicians. Private members' bills keep cropping up. Polls show a majority wanting Parliament to deal with the issues. The issue of gender-selective abortion received lots of attention even from the main papers that are generally pro-choice.



The PepsiCo responded to the enormous pressure of a one-year boycott over their use of aborted fetal tissue in their production of flavour enhancers for their drink. There is ample evidence that efforts multiply daily in raising the life issues, and people are rethinking the status quo and they signal that they want elected officials to do the same.

The latest example of a demand for a public debate is the motion introduced on February 6 of this year by Stephen Woodworth (MP for Kitchener-Centre). In his motion Woodworth called for Parliament to establish a special committee to consider when human life begins. As he put it “no Member of Parliament should remain silent in the face of any law that says some human beings are not human beings.” He wants Parliament to re-examine section 223 of Canada's Criminal Code, a 400-year old holdover from British common law. This provision states that a child only becomes a “human being” once

he or she is born, that is, once it has fully proceeded from the womb.

Woodworth's motion faces a huge uphill battle since even his own Conservative party leader, Prime Minister Stephen Harper, did not want the motion introduced and intends to vote against it. Woodworth noted that "history is littered with disastrous examples of laws which pretended some people were not human beings to achieve some desired result or suit someone's philosophy". He wants the motion debated because as he explained "just laws must be based on accurate evidence, not arbitrary lines unrelated to reality. If there's no objective criteria for who's a human being, then personhood and the fundamental rights that go with it can be defined in any way any powerful person or group decides. Is that the Canada you want?"

Pro-life and faith-based groups are backing Woodworth's motion. They hope that it gains sufficient support to warrant public input and they have voiced their support. For example,

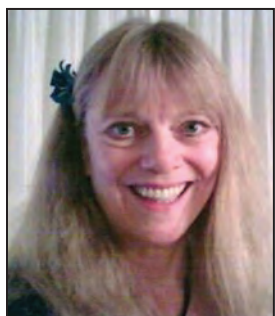


Mary Ellen Douglas, national organizer for Campaign Life Coalition, feels that the law needs to be updated and ought to "recognize that the child in the womb is a human being and as such deserves protection in law." Natalie Hudson Sonnen, executive director of the national pro-life education group

LifeCanada, states that denying children the status of "human being" until he or she has fully exited the womb "sets up a medically and scientifically untenable position."



Meanwhile, Joanne McGarry, executive director of the Catholic Civil Rights League points out that "Canada's Criminal Code provisions surrounding the legal rights of the unborn child are confusing and not in step with medical and social realities....Medical science has seen numerous advances in pre-natal treatments for the fetus, so we believe many Canadians would like to see laws affecting personhood updated to reflect today's realities."



Of course those in favour of abortion rights, like Joyce Arthur of the Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada oppose the motion because she sees it as a first step to the re-criminalization of abortion. Her views are echoed by the NDP leadership and

numerous federal MPs.

However delicate and complex are life issues like abortion, one can also appreciate the irony and absurdity found in the logic of section 223. Under section 223, if a child dies after birth due to injuries sustained while in the womb, the child's death is deemed a homicide. But the section adds that if that child dies while still in the womb, no charges would apply. It is difficult to make sense of such a law. Woodworth's motion seeks to raise the issue and have this debated so that a just law can be put in place, one that at least takes into account modern medicine, modern science and an honest understanding of pre-natal development of the human being, however tiny it is at the start.

Canadian MP files historic motion to debate personhood of unborn in Parliament

by Patrick B. Craine February 6, 2012 (LifeSiteNews.com) –

PM Harper pledges to vote against pro-life motion, says 'unfortunate' it was deemed votable

by Patrick B. Craine April 26, 2012 (LifeSiteNews.com)

Pro-life groups unite behind politician's call to reopen Canadian abortion debate

by Patrick B. Craine January 5, 2012 (LifeSiteNews.com)

www.lifesite.net/news/pro-life-groups-unite-behind-politicians-call-to-reopen-canadian-abortion-d

Questions

1. What are serious flaws of the Charter?
2. Was the process for the passage and adoption of the Charter What are the strengths of the Charter?
3. fair to all Canadians?
4. Why does the mainstream media love the Charter?
5. Why was the anniversary not really played up big-time in Canada? Was there partisanship involved?
6. Tuns makes the point that "the Charter is a free pass to cowardly politicians". What does she mean by that? Do you agree?
7. What fears did Campaign Life Coalition spokespersons express regarding the Charter in 1981? How have their predictions been proved true?
8. Is the Charter a document to be celebrated and revered or a tool for social engineering by radical groups in society?
9. Is the Woodworth motion needed?
10. If a majority of Canadians find the abortion status quo unacceptable, what can be done to bring about an open debate on this very important public issue?

May 9, 10, 11, 2012

**ABORTION
HURTS
EVERYONE**



WEDNESDAY MAY 9

*Candlelight Vigil at
The Canadian Tribute to Human Rights,
corner of Elgin and Lisgar Streets*

*Rose Dinner,
Guest Speaker: Steven W. Mosher
and Youth Banquet
Hampton Inn, Ottawa*

*Youth Conference
Hampton Inn, Ottawa*

NATIONAL
MARCH FOR LIFE

Further information
and ticket prices for banquets
and conference
are available by calling
800-730-5358 (toll free)
416-204-9749 (Toronto)
613-729-0379 (Ottawa)
or
www.marchforlife.ca



Campaign **Life** Coalition 