

December 14, 2023

Dear Mayor Morgan and Members of London City Council,

My name is Katie Dean, and I am the co-founder of the **Viewer Discretion Legislation Coalition** based out of London Ontario. We are a group of like-minded individuals trying to bring change to how graphic anti-abortion images can be displayed and distributed. We have become a movement that has expanded to different cities and provinces across the Country.

In October of 2020, we formed in response to the very graphic and disturbing images of supposed dead fetuses being delivered to private homes and shown on busy street corners, here in London. From there, we started working with all levels of political representatives, from municipal to provincial and federal. People were extremely upset by these images, and we heard countless stories of how it was affecting the children that saw them, as well as people who had gone through pregnancy loss. These images cause **demonstrable harm** to the thousands of people that are forced to see them, without consent.

For me, I have been told by a professional that I have PTSD from my own experience with an abortion. I ended my pregnancy at 19 weeks in 2004 for medical reasons. It was the single most traumatic experience of my life and the single most difficult thing I have ever done. This was a planned pregnancy, a wanted baby. At 18 weeks she was diagnosed with a serious medical condition that was impeding the way she was developing. Terms such as lemon shaped skull and banana shaped cerebellum were being thrown my way. Her prognosis was not viable with life. This was never a position I thought I would ever be in – I mean, you get pregnant, you have a baby – right? Not right, not even close to being right.

Let me be clear - I do NOT regret my decision BUT it does not mean it was not hard. It was my RIGHT and my CHOICE.

My team have stood on street corners of London, in front of these horrific graphic images to cover them so children in school buses driving by don't have to see them, so the women who have gone through ANY type of pregnancy loss don't have to be thrust back into that trauma of the devastation of their loss. **This is a huge issue, and this is abuse.** Plain and simple.

By continuing to allow these images to be displayed in London as they have been, you are saying it is okay to shame people and it is okay to bully. Nobody should be reminded of the most difficult decision they have ever had to make; nobody should be reminded of the baby they lost no matter what way they lost them; nobody should be told they don't have a right to make their own choice, and nobody should be hurting kids with these images.

London passed a Graphic Flyer bylaw in May of 2022. That Council ended up following the wording in our Private Members' Bill that was introduced into Queens Park. This is now coded Bill 80 and waits for second reading.

Since then, Woodstock, Ingersoll, St Catherine's and Calgary have followed suit and implemented the same bylaw. London took the lead with the graphic flyer bylaw and could take the lead with a more detailed streets bylaw.

To anyone who is worried about "**censorship**" and Charter rights...please take it from an invaluable source, Nathaniel Veltman. During his trial for the murder of four Muslim Londoners, he acknowledged that, as a young person, **he was subjected to these images, taught that abortion is murder and made it a goal to go to an abortion clinic to shoot the place up**. Please feel free to read this article from the London Free Press:

<https://lfpres.com/news/local-news/nathaniel-veltman-trial-what-the-jury-didnt-hear>

Go back to SECTION 1 of the Charter. **These images cause DEMONSTRABLE harm. Veltman just told the world.**

These images incite shame, hate and anger. They are inappropriate to be displayed on public streets. Please take time to consider what I am showing you. I have stood on these streets and listened to a man call me a "stupid woman" who doesn't know what she is talking about. Let me tell you, I was raised by very strong, independent, educated women. I let him know that I do, indeed, know what I am talking about. Misogyny plays a very big part in the message these images portray. He [REDACTED] on the last Thursday of every month with his gore. His name [REDACTED] Feel free to have a discussion with him if you see him.

Thank you all for taking the time to read my message and for continuing this very important work. Other municipalities are watching this Council on this issue. I guarantee they will follow suit.

Best Regards,

Katie Dean

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