

To the Community and Protective Services Committee (CPSC) and City of London Council:

July 5, 2024

This letter is to express my concern, as a Canadian, upon being made aware that the Council is considering a proposed by-law that would ban images of babies from public view. Babies – born or pre-born, healthy or injured, living or dead – are part of our reality and, although images of babies injured and killed through abortion are disturbing and saddening, it is the ugly truths that are in greatest need of public attention.

I am surprised that such a by-law was even proposed in the first place, as it is in clear violation of Section 2(b) of The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which declares as one of the “Fundamental Freedoms” the “freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication”. <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/const/page-12.html> Both the opinion that abortion of a baby is wrong and the expression of that opinion through the media of images are protected by Canada’s Constitution, and no municipal by-law may stand that contravenes that constitutional protection. As a student at York University, I studied -- among other things – embryology, foetology, and issues in human reproduction and development. I can tell you that, the first time I saw a streetside photographic display of the gore that is abortion, I considered it a triumph of academic freedom. Finally, I thought, we are facing documented reality of what abortion does to a baby in her or his embryonic or foetal stages.

I did not join the protestors on that day, but I have joined others since on other occasions. I have heard people complain that they should not have to face “gross” signs, but the Charter does not recognize a right not to face disturbing messages.

I should say that I have also been thanked on several occasions for displaying images reflecting the reality of abortion. On one occasion, a woman stopped to talk to me because of a photograph of an aborted foetal-stage baby. She explained to me her regret that her baby had been aborted – not because of her choice, but, rather, because her husband had insisted on

an abortion. Evidently, this mother denied of her motherhood wanted someone to talk to and a sign with a mortally wounded baby on it was a sign to her of a sympathetic ear.

I truly hope that London City Council will see fit not to deprive Canadians of their constitutionally protected fundamental rights or of opportunities to learn about and discuss the reality of abortion and its effects on babies, mother, and their families.

Sincerely,

W. R. Myers

To the Community and Protective Services Committee (CPSC) and City of London Council:

I consent to have my letter on the previous page included in any agenda of either party and/or as part of the public record.