

**From:** Anna Marchand

**Sent:** Sunday, November 01, 2020 9:07 PM

**To:** CPSC <[cpsc@london.ca](mailto:cpsc@london.ca)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please submit to Agenda for Nov. 3 meeting

I consent for the following to appear on the public agenda:

To the Community and Protective Services Committee:

I am Anna Marchand, President of London Area Right to Life, or LARLA, which is a charitable organization representing the pro-life community in London since 1974. LARLA seeks to provide education on the value of human life, and support for vulnerable lives in the community.

Thank you for the opportunity for me to speak to the proposal for the bylaw amendment. I strongly oppose the proposal, because I feel that the petition behind this amendment is an affront, not just to the Canadian Centre for Bioethical Reform (CCBR), but also to the entire pro-life community in London. I am concerned that this is not a mere soliciting or graphic display complaint but is a threat to my right and duty to exercise freedom of expression.

LARLA has supported peaceful annual events such as Life Chain this past October, and the 40 Days for Life Campaign, both very peaceful demonstrations where we held non-graphic signs with texts such as "Adoption is an Option" and "Pray to End Abortion". And yet, in the past year, we have had to report numerous vandalism incidents, harassment, verbal abuse, and even threats aimed at people attending these pro-life events. A couple of months ago, a pro-life billboard in a nearby community was destroyed in act of arson, costing thousands of dollars to replace. The sign was non-graphic. Clearly, there is good cause for concern to those who simply do not agree with abortion.

I respect each of your opinions about the legality of abortion, and I now ask our councillors to respect people's rights to be educated on this matter, which includes CCBR's mission to inform us on abortion. I propose that our councillors recognize the local pro-life community as well as every community, which have the same rights to be heard. If Londoners have been educated against abortion, they should be allowed to express their views, safely and unhindered.

In short, I ask that you hold into account potentially tweaking a law in favor of one side; and I fear that making a motion to change these bylaws will only encourage continued discrimination against those who do not agree with abortion, which to us is a human rights violation.

*Anna Marchand*

*President*

*London Area Right to Life Association*

*"For preborn children, our silence can be the difference between life and death. And that's why it's not an option." (Maaike Rosendal)*