

Greetings Ms. Bunn,

Could you please see that the attached letters are added to the agenda for the CPSC meeting on July 26, 2022? I would also like to request delegation status to speak to the committee on both topics ~ one addressing the fireworks by-law and the other addressing public signage by-law.

I grant permission for my correspondence to be added to the agenda.

Thank you.

Kindest Regards,

Deanna Ronson

**To:** Mayor Ed Holder, Members of the Community and Protective Services Committee

**From:** Deanna Ronson

**Re:** 9th Meeting of Community and Protective Services Meeting, July 26, 2022, Signage Containing Graphic Images of Alleged Aborted Fetuses

Greetings Mayor Holder and Committee Members,

In the Fall of 2020, the city of London was heavily inundated with brainwashed young volunteers from the CCBR distributing flyers and displaying signs covered with graphic images of alleged aborted fetuses.

Joyce Arthur, the Executive Director of Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada and I began a counterattack calling upon the City to enact by-laws that would end this anti-woman hate propaganda.

We called for the City to create:

1. An amendment to an existing bylaw or a new bylaw that would ban the delivery of flyers to homes that have a "no flyer" sign. (Calgary, Winnipeg and Ottawa already have these bylaws)
2. An amendment to an existing bylaw that would state that the content of any signs, including temporary signs, must adhere to the Canadian Code of Advertising Standards.

In regards to number one, although we later changed our wording and requested a full ban (regardless of "no flyer" signs), I think we achieved an effective compromise in allowing these flyers to be distributed in an opaque envelope with a warning label on the outside.

In regards to number two, we have yet to have reached our goal. We were told in the Fall of 2020 that it was best to focus on only one change at a time. Since that time, anti-choice protestors have continue pop-up around London, particularly close to LHSC. These protestors purposely attempt to distract passing motorists by standing on congested street corners very close to the road; in some instances blocking traffic signs. This is a traffic safety concern not only for motorists, but pedestrians.

When the imagery is shown on city streets, hapless pedestrians and drivers may pass by without warning, or drivers may be caught in traffic and cannot

escape for several minutes. Free speech rights do not extend to forcing oneself on a captive audience, which must have the equal freedom to avoid the message without undue inconvenience or restriction of movement.

As with the issue of flyers containing graphic images of alleged aborted fetuses, the main issue at stake, is the grievous harm (of which, the municipal council has received substantial evidence) that has been perpetrated on thousands of residents of London (and visitors to our city), when they happen upon these signs in public.

We believe that the City of London has the authority to pass a new or updated sign by-law banning these images and that such a by-law will be defensible under Section 1 of the Charter. There is no right to freedom of expression when your audience has no ability to refuse the message.

Since we have achieved our first goal (a flyer by-law), it is now time to act on pushing through our second goal and we need your help to do so.

On June 15, 2022, Toronto's City Council adopted the following motion without amendments,

*"City Council request the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards and the General Manager, Transportation Services, in consultation with the City Solicitor, to assess and report to Executive Committee with options to prohibit the distribution of graphic imagery to private residences, as well as prohibit and regulate the display of graphic imagery in the public realm, based on the interventions proposed by other Canadian jurisdictions."*

Ms. Arthur and I would like to request that a member of the CPSC put forward a similar motion at this afternoon's meeting.

A CPSC motion could read something like this,

*"The CPSC requests that City Staff, in consultation with the City Solicitor assess and report back to the CPSC with options to prohibit and regulate the display of graphic imagery in the public realm."*

We understand that it will be impossible to see this motion through to a by-law being put in place before Council ends this term. However, it is our hope that by requesting that City Staff start researching the feasibility and legality of options now, we will have a head start on CPSC and Council being able to take decisive action on this matter in early 2023.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Deanna Ronson  
ARCC, member  
Joyce Arthur,  
ARCC, Executive Director,