

NY Abortionist - "Taking Life" Empowers Women

Merle Hoffman, president and CEO of Choices Women's Medical Clinic (Choices) in Jamaica, New York, who was questioned under oath yesterday by Liberty Counsel, has said that the "act of abortion positions women at their most powerful" because abortion gives women "power-and the responsibility-of taking life" so that they may control their own lives. "Merle Hoffman has acknowledged the obvious -- that abortion is the taking of human life. What is shocking is that she believes killing a helpless child empowers women by enabling them to achieve their selfish goals," said Mat Staver, Founder and Chairman of Liberty Counsel.

In court yesterday, Hoffman admitted she collaborated with New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman to bring this frivolous federal

lawsuit seeking to punish and silence pro-life and Christian speech on public sidewalks outside of her facility. Their "mere existence," she said, is a "crime against women." The case is being heard in a federal court in Brooklyn and will resume next week.

Liberty Counsel represents one of the 13 defendants, Scott Fitchett, Jr., a pre-K teacher who has spent Saturdays peacefully sharing the gospel on public sidewalks wherever he goes, including outside Choices.

Hoffman's abortion facility has performed hundreds of thousands of abortions since 1971. During the hearing this week, the abortionist millionaire testified that peaceful sidewalk counselors are the "American Taliban" and that "their mere existence is a crime against women."

In Hoffman's memoir, Intimate Wars: The Life and Times of the Woman Who Brought Abortion from the Back Alley to the Boardroom, she shares the experience of her own abortion. "The idea of abortion was a valve, an opening, a way to breathe. There was no question of whether I would have one. As we crossed the Fifty-Ninth Street Bridge, I held my stomach and said aloud, 'Sorry little one, it's just not time.' My diary entry from that night reads, 'For one night I am a mother.'" (emphasis added).

Hoffman further states in Intimate Wars that abortion is the taking of human life, and that is why it makes women so powerful. "Does the fetus not impede a woman's tendency to maintain her own existence? Is it not an unjust aggressor, threatening the survival of the mother? Is not

a woman's choice of abortion an act of self-defense?... I wasn't immune to the physicality of abortion, the blood, tissue, and observable body parts. My political and moral judgments on the nature of abortion evolved throughout the years, but I quickly came to realize that those who deliver abortion services have not only the power to give women control over their bodies and lives, but also the power-and the responsibility-of taking life in order to do that. Indeed, acknowledgment of that truth is the foundation for all the political and personal work necessary to maintain women's reproductive freedom...The act of abortion positions women at their most powerful, and that is why it is so strongly opposed by many in society. Historically viewed as and conditioned to be passive, dependent creatures, victims of biological circum-

stance, women often find it difficult to embrace this power over life and death. They fall prey to the assumption, the myth, that they cannot be trusted with it." (emphasis added).

Horatio Mihet, Vice President of Legal Affairs at Liberty Counsel, who questioned Hoffman in court on Thursday, said: "The depravity of those who find 'empowerment' from taking what they rightly acknowledge to be defenseless human lives is matched only by their insatiable desire to shut down any speech that exposes them." Commenting on the documented connection between Hoffman's ideology and the frivolous lawsuit filed by the State of New York, Mihet added: "The very fact that Merle Hoffman has assisted in the destruction of hundreds of thousands of 'little ones' over the last half-

century is unspeakably tragic. But her conspiring with New York's Attorney General Eric Schneiderman to punish Scott Fitchett, Jr. for peacefully preaching truth on a public sidewalk is unconscionable. Their fraudulent scheme must be exposed and defeated."

"Merle Hoffman and Attorney General Schneiderman are examples of the shocking reality of the abortion industry," said Staver. "Countless precious lives have already been lost at Hoffman's abortion clinic. Hoffman and Schneiderman are now fighting to punish the peaceful free speech of Scott Fitchett, Jr. and others. It is no wonder they do not care about the First Amendment because they do not care about defenseless human life," said Staver.

THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA OUTLINES NEXT STEPS IN CLEAN-ENERGY TRANSITION

Choosing cleaner electricity helps protect the health of Canadians, cut carbon pollution, and create opportunities for the middle class. The transition to clean energy is accelerating around the world, and Canada is part of a growing group of countries that are committed to phasing out traditional coal-fired electricity. Last fall, Canada and the U.K. founded the Powering Past Coal Alliance, which has already attracted over 30 governments and business members, whose combined wealth totals over \$170 billion.

Today, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Catherine McKenna, announced amendments to existing regulations to phase out traditional coal-fired electricity by 2030, along with new greenhouse gas regulations for natural-gas-fired electricity. These measures are part of Canada's clean-growth and climate action plan, the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change.

Accelerating the phase-out of traditional coal-fired electricity will cut carbon pollution by 16 million tonnes in 2030, roughly equivalent to the emissions of four million cars in a year. By reducing our exposure to harmful air pollutants from coal plants, the phase-out will also improve the quality of the air we breathe. Air pollution from coal plants is linked to health risks, such as asthma and heart disease, which can lead to hospital admissions and contribute to premature deaths.

Canada's proposed regulations for natural-gas-fired electricity complement the proposed amendments to coal-fired electricity regulations. These draft regulations have been designed to ensure that efficient technology is used with new natural-gas-fired electricity generation. They are expected to encourage some facilities to convert from running on coal to natural gas and to provide regulatory certainty for new investments in electricity generation.

Copies of both proposed regu-

lations will be published in The Canada Gazette, Part I, on February 17, 2018. Provinces, industry stakeholders, and interested Canadians are invited to provide comments to Environment and Climate Change Canada, by April 18, 2018.

Minister McKenna also announced the creation of Canada's Task Force on the Just Transition for Canadian Coal-Power Workers and Communities, which will provide the Minister with recommendations on how to make the transition away from coal a fair one for workers and communities. The Task Force will include representatives from labour associations, unions, and municipalities, along with representatives with expertise in sustainable development, workforce development, and the electricity sector. Its work is expected to start in March and continue until the end of 2018.

"Phasing out coal is good news for our climate, for our health, and for our kids. I'm thrilled to

take the next steps in powering past coal in Canada, with regulations to end the use of traditional coal power, in 2030. We know the environment and the economy go hand in hand, so we're committed to making that transition a fair one for coal workers and communities. The task force we're launching today is a big step toward meeting that commitment."

– Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change.

By accelerating the phase-out of traditional coal-fired electricity to 2030, Canada will reduce carbon pollution by 16 million tonnes that year.

Despite generating only about 11 percent of Canada's electricity supply, coal-fired electricity is responsible for 72 percent of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions from the electricity sector.

The proposed amendments will result in 260 avoided premature deaths, 40 000 fewer asthma episodes, and 190 000

fewer days of breathing difficulty and reduced activity—resulting in health benefits of \$1.2 billion, from 2019 to 2055.

Coal-fired electricity facilities are among the world's largest sources of air pollution, including sulphur dioxides, nitrogen oxides, and mercury pollutants, which have significant health and environmental impacts.

In Canada, clean energy accounted for more than 56 000 jobs and contributed \$25.4 billion (1.3 percent) to Canada's gross domestic product in 2016.

Worldwide, the renewable-energy sector employs almost 10 million people. Jobs in solar and wind energy have doubled since 2012.

Employment and Social Development Canada is already working closely with the Province of Alberta to assist people impacted by changes in the coal-fired electricity and the mining sectors.

Budget 2017 announced the Government of Canada's Innovation and Skills Plan, an ambitious effort to make

Canada a world-leading centre for innovation, help create more well-paying jobs, and help strengthen and grow the middle class.

Through Budget 2017, Canada is investing \$21.9 billion in green infrastructure, including \$5 billion for green-infrastructure projects through the Canada Infrastructure Bank, which may include projects that promote renewable power.

Natural Resources Canada's Emerging Renewable Power Program is providing up to \$200 million to expand the portfolio of commercially viable renewable-energy sources available to provinces and territories and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from their electricity sectors.

Canada's electricity-generation mix is already one of the cleanest in the world, with 80 percent of our electricity coming from renewable or non-emitting sources in 2016.

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