Rachael Harder's Public Position on Abortion

Compiled by Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada, Sep 25, 2017

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Harder has (near) perfect "Pro-life rating" with Campaign Life Coalition

Rachael Harder has a 100% voting record in favour of right-wing causes: https://www.campaignlifecoalition.com/voting-records/view/level/mp/province/ab/id/11953/name/rachael-harder. She is against abortion for any reason except to save the life of the woman. She is in favour of unlimited conscientious objection for healthcare personnel. She's also against medical assistance in dying and legalizing marijuana, and she voted against Bill C-210 for a gender-neutral anthem.

Campaign Life Coalition (CLC) amended her full "pro-life" rating from green to yellow ("caution") based on an allegation that Ms. Harder had said in an all-candidates meeting during the 2015 election campaign that she believes "all Canadian women should have access, regardless of where they live," to abortion services. Harder's campaign manager called the CLC to ask that the "pro-life" rating be restored, claiming that Harder had been misquoted. The CLC refused to amend the rating until they got assurance directly from Harder that she did not say that, but Harder did not contact them. More details in this Aug 31 iPolitics story.

ARCC believes that Harder probably was misquoted, as the alleged comment sounds totally out of line with her stated positions/beliefs and votes.

From Campaign Life Coalition website:

Here is Rachael Harder's voting record relating to life and family issues:

VOTES, SURVEYS AND POLICY DECISION	VOTE	SCORE
Bill C225 - 'Cassie & Molly's Law' bill, would amend the Criminal Code to make it a separate offence to kill or injure a preborn child while committing violent crime against a woman while knowing she is pregnant. It would also add stiff minimum sentences if the unborn child is killed or injured. ▼	Yes -- co-sponsored	✔
Amendment to protect freedom of conscience for doctors, nurses, pharmacists and healthcare institutions to refuse to participate in euthanasia, either directly or indirectly ▼	Yes	✔
Bill C14 - 3rd reading of Liberal gvmt bill to legalize euthanasia and assisted suicide ▼	No	✔
Bill C225 - 2nd reading of 'Cassie & Molly's Law' bill, which would amend the Criminal Code to make it a separate offence to kill or injure a preborn child while committing violent crime against a woman while knowing she is pregnant. It would also add stiff minimum sentences if the unborn child is killed or injured. ▼	Yes -- co-sponsored	✔
Bill C14 - 4th reading of a bill to legalize euthanasia and assisted suicide (after it was amended by the Senate) ▼	No	✔
Bill C16 - 2nd reading of a Bill to amends the Canadian Human Rights Act to add "gender identity" and "gender expression" to the list of prohibited grounds of discrimination. ▼	Absent or abstained	--
Bill C45 - 2nd reading of a bill to legalize the possession and recreational use of cannabis (commonly known as marijuana). ▼	No	✔

Here are the answers for the questionnaire as provided by Rachael Harder on October 31, 2014.

QUESTION	RESPONSE
Do you believe that life begins at conception (fertilization)?	Yes
If elected, will you strive to introduce and pass laws to protect unborn children from the time of conception (fertilization) onward?	Yes
If elected, would you support all legislative or policy proposals that would result in a meaningful increase of respect and protection for unborn human life?	Yes
Are there any circumstances under which you believe a woman should have access to abortion? (note: Medical treatments to save the life of a mother and which result in the UNINTENDED death of her unborn child, are NOT abortions. Eg. in case of tubal pregnancy or cervical cancer)	life of the mother
If elected, will you oppose any legislative or regulatory measures designed to permit the deliberate euthanasia of a human being or designed to permit "doctor-assisted suicide"?	Yes

Harder funds anti-choice centres

iPolitics story, Aug 31, "New Tory status of women critic gave grants to anti-abortion centres": http://ipolitics.ca/2017/08/31/new-tory-status-of-women-critic-gave-grants-to-anti-abortion-centres/

> According to a breakdown of federal funds distributed under the 2016 Canada Summer Jobs Grant program, Harder allocated a total of $11,681 in the form of two grants to the Lethbridge Pregnancy Care Centre and the Lethbridge and District Birthright Society last year.
>
> The Lethbridge and District Birthright Society got $3,383 of that total to create one job, and according to its website believes that "it is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth, and the right of every child to be born."
>
> The largest chunk of that, or $8,298, is listed as creating two summer jobs at the Lethbridge Pregnancy Care Centre, which is affiliated with the international anti-choice groups Heartbeat International and CareNet, and which states on its website that it does not perform abortions or make referrals to abortion services.

Also see Spreadsheets 1 and 2 on pages 6 and 7 for details of past and current funding.
Please note that Harder was elected in Oct 2015 so she is not responsible for prior grants.

Harder hypocritically cites Conservative policy to not reopen abortion debate

From Aug 31, 2017 iPolitics story: http://ipolitics.ca/2017/08/31/new-tory-status-of-women-critic-gave-grants-to-anti-abortion-centres/

> "I am very proud to serve as the Shadow Minister for the Status of Women and I look forward to working with my colleagues on all sides of the House to advance shared issues of importance to women and girls," Harder said in a statement shared by her team Thursday. "As you are aware, **it is the official policy of the Conservative Party that a future Conservative Government will not reopen the abortion debate."**

Harder's citing of the Conservative policy on abortion is **meaningless and cannot be trusted**. She co-sponsored and spoke/voted in favour of Bill C-225, which would have given rights to fetuses. Further, she pledged in CLC's questionnaire in 2014 that she would strive to introduce and pass anti-choice laws, and support legislative and policy proposals to increase protection for the "unborn".

Harder said sex selection abortion is "gender-based violence"

In late March 2017, Women's Minister Maryam Monsef appeared before the Status of Women Committee to talk about the government's campaign against "gender-based violence": https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oo6AiE-ID7Q. Rachael Harder questioned Maryam Monsef – words in bold indicate a strong and dedicated anti-choice belief system:

> Question: "Do sex-selective abortions, which overwhelmingly target **unborn females**, qualify as "gender-based violence?" She refers to it as "**an issue I am very passionate about**", and says that in Canada there are "upwards of 2000 abortions that are **committed** every year in order to essentially get rid of girls". She herself believes that sex selection abortion is "gender-based violence targeted against **little girls, pre-born girls**"

Harder co-sponsored and strongly supported Bill C-225 for fetal rights

Harder co-sponsored Bill C-225 in 2016, "Cassie and Molly's Law", which would have amended the Criminal Code to create a new offence for injuring or killing a fetus during a crime against a pregnant woman – thereby giving some legal recognition to fetuses as persons. Harder stood in close solidarity with MP Cathay Wagantall and Cassie's family (see following photo). She also spoke in favour of the bill during the Parliamentary debate on Oct 17, 2016: https://openparliament.ca/bills/42-1/C-225/, saying in part:

> "I stand here today in full support of this piece of legislation. I recognize that there is a significant gap in the Criminal Code, which fails to protect pregnant women and their preborn children."

From: http://www.alissagolob.com/top-10-canadian-prolife-stories-in-2016/:
"9. Bill C-225 (Cassie & Molly's Law) was tabled in Parliament, renewed discussion on unborn victims of crime"

"From left to right: MP's Harold Albrecht, Michael Cooper, Rachel Harder, Jeff Durham (Molly's father), MP's Cathay Wagantall, Nancy Kaake (Cassie's mother), MP's Garnett Genuis, Kelly Block and Mark Warawa."

Harder said public educators encourage risky sexual behaviour and experimentation

In 2011, before becoming an MP, Harder told Christian Week: http://www.christianweek.org/worrying-trends-in-teen-sexuality/

> "One of the things I suspect influences risky sexual behaviour is that our society as a whole, media especially, encourages experimentation," says sociologist and young adult pastor Rachael Harder. "In the media, we do that by making it look like fun to take risks, to push the boundaries, to break the rules. That infiltrates the way we think about life."
>
> … Harder says that in Alberta, many public educators encourage students to experiment with their sexuality.
>
> "That boundary of what's acceptable is being pushed all the time," says Harder, a former teacher. "My own personal bias is that education has to begin in the home."

Spreadsheet 1 – Federal Ridings, 2017 Canada Summer Jobs Grants to Anti-choice Groups

Canada Summer Jobs Grants by Constituency						
2017						
ANTI-CHOICE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT WALL OF SHAME						
Province	Federal Riding	Member of Parliament	Twitter	email	Party	Anti-choice Organization
AB	Banff -Airdrie	Blake Richards	@BlakeRichardsMP	blake.richards@parl.gc.ca	Conservative	Cochrane Pregnancy Care Centre
	Lethbridge	Racheal Harder	@RachaelHarderMP	Rachael.Harder@parl.gc.ca	Conservative	Lethbridge And District Birthright Society
	Lethbridge	Racheal Harder	@RachaelHarderMP	Rachael.Harder@parl.gc.ca	Conservative	Lethbridge Pregnancy Care Centre
	Red DeerMountainView	Earl Dreeshen	@earl_dreeshen	earl.dreeshen@parl.gc.ca	Conservative	Central Alberta Pregnancy Care Centre Society
	Edmonton-Griesbach	Kerry Diotte	@KerryDiotte	Kerry.Diotte@parl.gc.ca	Conservative	Alberta Pro-Life aka Wilberforce Project
BC	Courtenay-Alberni	Gord Johns	@GordJohns	Gord.Johns@parl.gc.ca	NDP	Comox Valley Pregnancy Care Centre
	Abbotsford	Ed Fast	@HonEdFast	ed.fast@parl.gc.ca	Conservative	Fraser Valley Crisis Pregnancy Society aka Your Pregnancy Options
	New Westminster-Burnaby	Peter Julian	@MPJulian	peter.julian@parl.gc.ca	NDP	Christian Advocacy Society
	Kamloops-Thompson-Cariboo	Cathy McLeod	@Cathy_McLeod	cathy.mcleod@parl.gc.ca	Conservative	Pregnancy Care Centre
	Surrey Centre	Randeep Sarai	@randeepssarai	Randeep.Sarai@parl.gc.ca	Liberal	Pregnancy Options
ON	Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Medonte	Alex Nuttall	@AlexNuttallMP	Alex.Nuttall@parl.gc.ca	Conservative	Barrie Pregnancy Resource Centre
	Chatham-Kent-Leamington	Dave Van Kesteren	@DVK_CKL	dave.vankesteren@parl.gc.ca	Conservative	Priests for Life Canada
	Haldimand-Norfolk	Diane Finley	N/A	diane.finley@parl.gc.ca	Conservative	Haldimand Pregnancy Care & Family Centre
	Haldimand-Norfolk	Diane Finley	N/A	diane.finley@parl.gc.ca	Conservative	Norfolk Pregnancy & Family Resource Centre
	Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock	Jamie Schmale	@Jamie_Schmale	Jamie.Schmale@parl.gc.ca	Conservative	Priests for Life Canada
	Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock	Jamie Schmale	@Jamie_Schmale	Jamie.Schmale@parl.gc.ca	Conservative	Kawartha Lakes Pregnancy Centre
	Hamilton Centre	David Christopherson	@DaveChrisMP	david.christopherson@parl.gc.ca	NDP	Pregnancy Support Services of Hamilton
	Kanata-Carleton	Karen McCrimmon	@karenmccrimmon	Karen.McCrimmon@parl.gc.ca	Liberal	First Place Options
	Kitchener-Conestoga	Harold Albrecht	@Albrecht4KitCon	harold.albrecht@parl.gc.ca	Conservative	Campaign Life Coalition
	Kingston and the Islands	Mark Gerretsen	@MarkGerretsen	Mark.Gerretsen@parl.gc.ca	Liberal	Kingston Pregnancy Care Centre
	Markham-Unionville	Bob Saroya	@BobSaroya	Bob.Saroya@parl.gc.ca	Conservative	Campaign Life Coalition
	Kitchener Centre	Raj Saini	@RajSainiMP	Raj.Saini@parl.gc.ca	Liberal	THE PREGNANCY CENTRE
	Mississauga-Streetsville	Gagan Sikand	@gagansikand	Gagan.Sikand@parl.gc.ca	Liberal	JFJ HOPE CENTRE
	Niagara Falls	Rob Nicholson	@HonRobNicholson	rob.nicholson@parl.gc.ca	Conservative	South Niagara Life Ministries
	Niagara West	Dean Allison	@DeanAllisonMP	dean.allison@parl.gc.ca	Conservative	MY Canada Association
	Oshawa	Colin Carrie	@ColinCarrie	colin.carrie@parl.gc.ca	Conservative	Campaign Life Coalition
	Ottawa-Vanier	Mona Fortier	@MonaFortier	Mona.Fortier@parl.gc.ca	Liberal	St. Mary's Home
	Perth-Wellington	John Nater	@JohnNaterMP	John.Nater@parl.gc.ca	Conservative	Stratford House of Blessing
	Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke	Cheryl Gallant	@cherylgallant	cheryl.gallant@parl.gc.ca	Conservative	Priests for Life Canada
	Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke	Cheryl Gallant	@cherylgallant	cheryl.gallant@parl.gc.ca	Conservative	The deVeber Institute*
	Sarnia-Lambton	Marilyn Gladu	@MPMarilynGladu	Marilyn.Gladu@parl.gc.ca	Conservative	The Pregnancy Options & Support Centre
	Scarborough Centre	Salma Zahid	@SalmaZahid15	Salma.Zahid@parl.gc.ca	Liberal	Rosalie Hall
	Toronto Centre	Bill Morneau	@Bill_Morneau	Bill.Morneau@parl.gc.ca	Liberal	Aid to Women
QC	Longueuil-Saint-Hubert	Pierre Nantel	@pierrenantel	Pierre.Nantel@parl.gc.ca	NDP	Action Nouvelle Vie
SK	Saskatoon-Grasswood	Kevin Waugh	@KevinWaugh_CPC	Kevin.Waugh@parl.gc.ca	Conservative	Saskatoon Pregnancy Options Centre

Note: These grants haven't been formally announced or paid out yet and the amounts are not yet known.

Spreadsheet 2 – Alberta, 2011-2017 Canada Summer Jobs Grants to Anti-choice Groups

Canada Summer Jobs Grants in Alberta Ridings by Anti-choice Recipient										
2011-2017										
Anti-choice Organization	Member of Parliament	twitter	email	2011 - 2012	2012 - 2013	2013 - 2014	2014 - 2015	2015 - 2016	2016 - 2017	Grand Total
Alberta Pro-Life	Tim Uppal				5,045					5,045
Calgary Pregnancy Care Centre Association	Joan Crockatt				11,771	12,076	12,379			36,226
	Kent Hehr	@kenthehr	kent.hehr@parl.gc.ca					12,782	13,629	26,411
	Lee Richardson			11,014						11,014
Canadian Centre For Bio-Ethical Reform	Devinder Shory			16,205	15,040	16,380	16,716	17,136		81,477
Central Alberta Pregnancy Care Centre Society	Earl Dreeshen	@earl_dreeshen	earl.dreeshen@parl.gc.ca				5,323	6,038	3,696	15,057
Cochrane Pregnancy Care Centre	Blake Richards	@BlakeRichardsMP	blake.richards@parl.gc.ca			3,437	4,008	3,766	3,372	14,583
Crossroads Clinic Association	Martin Shields	@MartinBowRiver	Martin.Shields@parl.gc.ca						3,378	3,378
Lethbridge And District Birthright Society	Racheal Harder	@RachaelHarderMP	Rachael.Harder@parl.gc.ca						3,383	3,383
				2,112		4,505				6,617
Lethbridge Pregnancy Care Centre	Racheal Harder	@RachaelHarderMP	Rachael.Harder@parl.gc.ca					5,817	8,298	14,115
							5,488			5,488
Priests For Life	Kevin Sorenson	@KevinASorenson	kevin.sorenson@parl.gc.ca	4,327	3,980					8,307
Grand Total				33,658	35,836	36,398	43,914	45,539	35,756	231,101