

CANADIAN CATHOLIC BIOETHICS INSTITUTE

CONSCIENCE RIGHTS AND HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2017

SUMMARY Theologians, lawyers and healthcare professionals will address conscience issues arising from the laws and policies of Canada's provinces and regulatory bodies. Presentations include research on conscience rights; continuing education on conscience rights in professional practice; and right action and professional practice.

LOCATION The Coop in Brennan Hall, 81 St Mary Street, University of St Michael's College

PART ONE: 1 – 5 PM

WELCOME David Mulroney, President and Vice-Chancellor, USMC and
Dr Moira McQueen, Executive Director, Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute

EACH PRESENTATION WILL BE FOLLOWED BY Q&A AND DISCUSSION

- 1:10 – 1:55 Dr Moira McQueen, *Conscience in Professional Life*
- 1:55 – 2:40 Bishop Ronald Fabbro, *Cooperation in Assisted Death: Moral Issues Arising for Healthcare Professionals*
- 2:40 – 3:00 Break
- 3:00 – 3:45 Christina Lamb, *Nurses, Conscience and Assisted Death*
- 3:45 – 4:30 Albertos Polizogopoulos, *Legal Implications of Assisted Death Regulation*
- 5 pm Part One concludes; dinner on own

PART TWO: 7 - 9 PM

PANEL REPRESENTING THE PROFESSIONS: PROFESSIONAL CODES OF ETHICS AND CONSCIENCE

Law: Albertos Polizogopoulos
Nursing: Helen McGee
Pharmacy: Kathleen Leach
Physicians: Dr Maria Wolfs

SPEAKERS

Most Rev. Ronald P. Fabbro, CSB, Bishop of London, obtained his Baccalaureate in Mathematics from Queens University, Kingston, and a Master of Mathematics from the University of Toronto. He studied at the Faculty of Theology of the University of St. Michael's College, where he received his Master of Divinity degree. He next completed a Licence in Theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, and in 1989, he was awarded a Doctorate in Moral Theology from that same university. From 1986 to 1990, he was an Assistant Professor of Theology at St. Joseph's College in Edmonton, and from 1990 to 1997, he was Professor of Theology at the University of St. Michael's College in Toronto. He was ordained Bishop of the Diocese of London on August 15, 2002. He was granted an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity on Saturday, November 16, 2002, from the University of St. Michael's College.

Bishop Fabbro was a member of the Theology Committee of the Canadian Religious Conference (National), and served on the Administrative Council of the Canadian Religious Conference (Ontario). He has also served as a member for several CCCB Commissions and Committees, the Episcopal Commission for Liturgy, the Catholic Organization for Life and Family (COLF), and is Co-Vice-President of the Executive Committee of the Canadian Council of Churches (CCC). Bishop Fabbro was elected as President of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO) in March 2016.

Christina Lamb, PhD (c) is a doctoral candidate in the Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing at Western University. Her doctoral research is titled: "Exploring the Lived Experience of Conscientious Objection for Registered Nurses in Ontario". Christina's research interests include: bioethics and nursing, conscience-driven care, pediatric and global health populations. With a background in pediatric oncology nursing practice and clinical bioethics, Christina has served in various ethical capacities, including a Canadian International Development Agency's funded project to re-structure the Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Care in Rwanda. Christina's doctoral specialty is in education, and she is committed to further developing and sustaining pediatric and conscience-based ethical health care systems as part of her research program upon completion of her Ph.D.

Kathleen Leach

Helen McGee, RN, MN, is a psychiatric nurse and adjunct lecturer at the Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing, University of Toronto. She has extensive clinical experience with individuals and families affected by schizophrenia. She currently works as an advanced practice clinical leader, with a focus on medication safety and care planning. She has a longstanding concern that nurses' ethical decision-making be respected in practice.

Moira McQueen, LLB, MDiv, PhD, graduated in law from the University of Glasgow, Scotland, and worked in family law and juvenile court. After her Master of Divinity Degree from the Faculty of Theology, University of St. Michael's College and the Toronto School of Theology, she earned a PhD in moral theology, also from St. Michael's. She has been teaching moral theology at the Faculty of Theology since 1994. She is interested in the interdisciplinary aspects of theology, law and medicine as they apply

in daily life. Dr. McQueen was appointed Executive Director of the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute in July, 2004.

Albertos Polizogopoulos is a Partner with the firm Vincent Dagenais Gibson LLP/s.r.l. in Ottawa, Ontario. His practice is largely devoted to serving faith-based institutions and organizations. He regularly appears before courts and appellate courts including the Supreme Court of Canada to advocate for his clients' rights to freedom of religion, freedom of conscience and other civil liberties. He also frequently appears in media interviews and on panels to discuss constitutional law. Albertos was counsel in the Carter case and is counsel for the groups and physicians challenging the CPSO policies which force physicians to violate their conscience.

Dr Maria Wolfs is an endocrinologist at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto and an assistant professor at the University of Toronto. Her clinical interests are in endocrine disorders in pregnancy and women's health. She is a clinician-teacher involved in undergraduate and postgraduate medical education and is the Bioethics Coordinator for the Division of Endocrinology.

The **Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute** has a mandate to conduct research and education in bioethics from a Roman Catholic perspective, and pursues bioethical issues in palliative and end-of-life care, reproductive technologies, stem cell experimentation and regenerative medicine, genetics, mental health and other current areas.