



THE Expression

NEWSLETTER OF THE PRINCE GEORGE
pregnancy care centre

July 2018

Dear Churches, Supporters, Friends, Family, and Clients

Jeff Paetkau –Board President

After more than two decades of operation, **August 2nd, 2018 will be the last day that the Prince George Pregnancy Care Centre is open to serve clients.** I want to let you know exactly what is happening, how we got to this point, and where we might go from here.

I want to take a moment here to thank everyone who gave faithfully to our ministry over the last two decades. Your support in time, money, prayer and resources has had an impact on lives that numbers can't begin to measure. There are people who know and love Jesus because of you. There are children who are now loved and adored who may not have survived. There are wounded hearts that have found healing. There are families who have received much needed material support. This is the work that Jesus set before the church and I'm proud that I had the opportunity to partner with you to carry out this good work.

On Monday, July 9th, we had a budget committee meeting followed by a board meeting. At this meeting, we decided that we had no alternative other than to close. We chose August 2nd as our last client day on the advice of our Executive Director. It was a date chosen to protect our ability to reopen. Our staff have been notified and termination notices sent. They will remain employed for a short time after we close to make sure everything is shut down and stored in an orderly manner. Our landlord has been notified and our lease will cease at the end of August. We will continue to exist as a charity until near the end of 2019.

In order to allow time to wrap up our books, we will no longer issue receipts for any donations received going forward. Most donations, other than straggling baby bottles will be refused. However, please note that you will receive a receipt for all donations up to this point.

You are probably asking **why?** In the end, it came down to a lack of manpower.

Of course, we had several other major challenges. As always in a small organization like ours, there is never "enough" money. There was also the constant struggle to make sure clients who could benefit from our ministry knew we existed. Given the changing culture, this was continually getting harder and harder. However, we were working hard to meet these challenges and they didn't really factor into the final analysis. The budget committee reported that although we didn't have as much money as we may have wanted we had sufficient reserves to keep going at least until the end of the year. And regarding clients, although we always desired to be more effective, the board meeting began with the happy report that **one of our clients has just given birth to a baby boy!**

All that said, without people it is impossible to complete that mission no matter how critical. Our ED reported that several volunteers have had to step back due to personal reasons. Volunteer numbers are now so low that it is very difficult or impossible to keep the doors open as there must be two people in the office at all times for legal and safety reasons. Additionally, Crystal, our ED, recently notified the board that she would resign effective once we found her replacement. Finally, our board Treasurer resigned, for personal reasons, leaving

us with only two directors and no Treasurer. The two of us who are left are very near the end of our terms and burned out. Legally, we need at least 3 directors and one must be willing to serve as Treasurer.

It was that last point that really forced our hand. We knew this day was coming and in the months leading up to now, we did our best to find and recruit new board members with vision and calling. Many, many, godly people carefully and prayerfully considered taking up this cause. However, every single one of them, in the end, gave the answer "not now, maybe one day."

I have described this decision as "no alternative" and "forced our hand." Although these are true and accurate descriptions of the situation, they are not the whole story. It was the unanimous opinion of the board and staff, that it is God who wants us to close, at least in our current configuration. However, we are doing so in a way that should maximize the possibility that another group with a fresh vision and full of passion can take over and start something new. This is our hope.

We hope that you are as disturbed by this news as we are. We hope that God gives you and several of your friends, family, and church members a passion to see this ministry reborn. We hope that you are able to cast a fresh vision and come up with a workable plan.

We expect to continue to exist as a charity until near the end of 2019 at which point we will legally dissolve. At that point, any remaining funds will be distributed to a similar ministry as per our constitution.

If before then a group of individuals, a church, or another organization, wants to take over this ministry please contact me at jeff@paetkau.ca or 778.349.1544! We would love to work with you to turn over whatever assets and resources remain after the shutdown process. The sooner this happens the better. July 2019 is the latest we could start working on making this happen.

This is an important ministry that our city needs! Our culture lies, telling many women they have no choice except abortion. We must combat the lie with the truth. You do have a choice, you can choose life, and no matter what you choose God's people will be there to love you and support you.

Please make this happen. We've done what we can. Church it's up to you now.

Wherever the Shepherd Leads

Crystal Campbell – Executive Director

Sometimes the grass is green for miles, and the waters are blue and still, and the rest is sweet. Sometimes the path leads through dark valleys that seem endless. In both, always, we have the presence of the good Shepherd. We have followed and He has blessed us.

Psalms 23 provides beautiful metaphors for our ministry:

We have provided a peaceful and safe place for people in crisis - the green grass and still waters needed. We have helped hundreds of women to navigate an unplanned pregnancy.

We have walked with clients facing the darkest valley: the grief of the loss of a child, and their own role in that. They have discovered the banquet prepared within the healing, forgiving, love of God.

It has been a joy to see the change and growth in volunteers as they discover their cup overflows, even in the face of their own trials.

As a staff member, I have been blessed to make it through my own dark valley with the support of the women and men who are on this team.

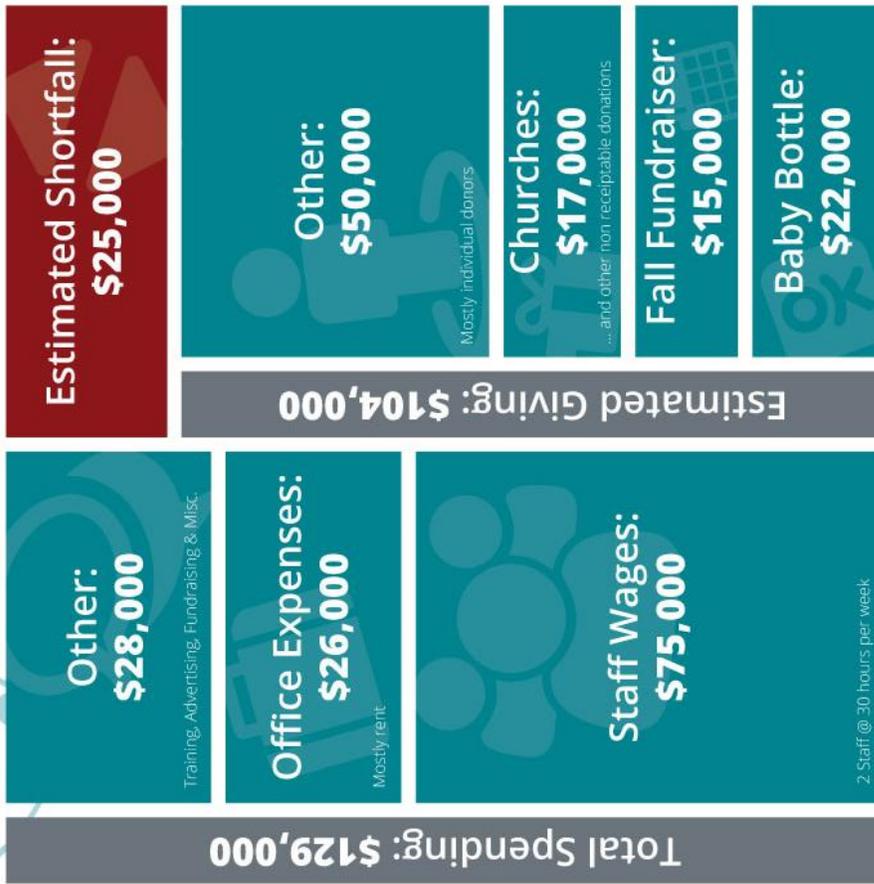
We have seen the goodness and mercy of God follow our clients, our volunteers and our team.

I am excited to see what He will do next, even as I am sad for the end of this season for the Pregnancy Care Centre. I am rejoicing that God is doing a new thing. He knows the needs and will meet them, but it will not be through our Centre, at least for now.

The phrase "at least for now" is an invitation... Dream and Pray about what God can do, what new thing He can bring about in our city, through His people. Dream big. Pray for more than we can ask or imagine... Then follow wherever He leads!

2018 Finances

at a glance



We are open until August 2.

PRAY THAT CLIENTS WHO NEED US CONNECT WITH US DURING THESE LAST WEEKS!

Future Plans...

The current board will stay on for one year. This time will allow others who love this ministry to step forward, if God so leads.

If you think you might be interested, our current board chair will connect you with others of like mind, and support you as much as he is able. (Jeff@paetkau.ca for info)

Our policies are in great shape and the pieces are in place to undergird a great ministry... But we need new passion and new people to build it.

Pray that God would raise up those who should carry this ministry in PG. Pray that He gives clear vision and direction.

CHANGE FOR LIFE!

Your generosity provided \$20,000



These donations are allowing us to stay open until Aug 2, and then will provide funds to reopen when a new board steps in.

2017 Stats

at a glance



% figures are compared to an average of the previous 3 years.

Thoughts from our Client Services Director

Kathleen Linton

It is hard to believe that it has been a year since I began my journey with the center and I am disheartened to see it come to an end. In so many ways, time has gone quickly and a richness has definitely been added to my life. Interesting though, this richness, which often comes from “fertilizer,” doesn’t always look great or appear to have value at the time but when it’s added to our lives, God takes it and does His amazing work and produces growth and fruit. – Only God!

This past year we have met so many courageous women! Complete strangers who boldly entered our center and graciously let us see a part of themselves. Women, who were already feeling so vulnerable and scared, allowed us to see into their crisis and speak into their lives. And although I cannot share the details of these conversations, I’d like to say that like the “fertilizer” in my life, only God could work in the lives of these ones and turn their chaos into richness as well.

Just recently, I had two separate ladies come, looking for solutions to the challenges they were facing. They truly were hoping to find a quick fix to their dilemmas but as we talked about their options, it became evident to them that such a magic eraser did not exist. As these ladies left, it seemed like they believed an abortion was the best solution. However, when I texted them later that week to see how they were doing, they informed me that they had chosen to carry! That is a work that only God can do...it was such a blessing to see how He was able to give these women courage to say yes to life.

One of the challenges of this job is not being able to shout the victories from the mountain tops, or know exactly if our interactions with our clients are making a difference. But every once in a while, God gives a glimpse of the impact this ministry has in the lives of various woman in Prince George and it makes it all so very worth it.

support • encourage • empower

You can help us as we move forward:
Pray that God would be clear as he guides.
Pray that the board, staff and volunteers would honor him as we
wind up this season of ministry.
Pray that God would raise up new board members, if it is
his will that this ministry continues.

WHO WE ARE: The Prince George Pregnancy Care Centre is a non-profit Christian society, administered by an Executive Director who is accountable to a Board of Directors. Our financial support comes exclusively from private sources. The PCC is a member of CAPSS (Canadian Association of Pregnancy Support Services), a Canadian network of centres for women facing unexpected pregnancies. The Centre is staffed by trained volunteers, under the supervision of our Executive Director.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS and STAFF:

President: Jeff Paetkau
Vice President: (vacant)
Treasurer: Lisa Haslett
Secretary: Randi Snively
Executive Director: Crystal Campbell
Client Services Director: Kathleen Linton



Contact us until AUGUST 2 @

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www.pgpcc.ca

August 3 and after: jeff@paetkau.ca or 778.349.1544