



ARCHDIOCESE OF WINNIPEG

Catholic Centre

1495 Pembina Highway
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2C6

August 14, 2008

Right Honorable Michaëlle Jean
Governor General of Canada
Rideau Hall
1 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A1


Your Excellency,

As leader of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Winnipeg, I wish to add my name to the long list of people who have been shocked and outraged by the awarding of the Order of Canada to Dr. Henry Morgentaler. The Order of Canada recognizes excellence among the citizens of Canada, citizens who have worked heroically to better the life of our country. Large numbers of Canadians believe firmly that abortion is the taking of an innocent life and hence does anything but improve the quality of our communal life. It is utterly abhorrent to so many of us that a person who has done so much to promote and facilitate abortion should be given the highest honor of our country.

I assume that the purpose of creating the Order of Canada was to draw us together as a nation by honoring those whose life and work promote the values and ideals that unite us. I can assure you that awarding the Order of Canada to Dr. Henry Morgentaler is having the exact opposite result.

I make two simple requests. First, I ask that in your capacity as Chancellor and Principle Companion of the Order, you annul the award to Dr. Morgentaler. Second, I ask that you undertake a revision of the selection procedures so that this important symbol of Canada can be salvaged.

Sincerely yours,

 James Weisgerber
Archbishop of Winnipeg

c.c. Right Honorable Stephen Harper

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