

## Alberta March for Life 2023 Key Note Speaker Highlights

We are so grateful to Alex Schadenberg who inspired and challenged us on three occasions this week! These selections of quotes from his speeches do not capture all the passion and colourful details, but they capture the essence of his heart to move our hearts to act with a personal compassionate presence.

### Alex Schadenberg

Wednesday Evening and Thursday's Rally

Is it acceptable for me to kill you?! Be honest. Be straightforward. Keep it simple. I am opposed to killing people. There are lots of things that we can do to properly care for people. I think it is not safe to live in a country that allows Doctors and Nurses the right to be allowed to kill me.

Why is someone asking for euthanasia in the first place? We are told this is about eliminating suffering. When I ask people 'why?', I hear "I feel my life lacks meaning, hope or purpose." These are deaths of despair. We are abandoning people in their time of need. If you know someone dying of MAID find out why. You need to love them. This is the true antidote. Be with others. Care for others. Your kind compassionate response is necessary.

"Renew the Personal Touch" - Thursday's The Rose Dinner Speech

Many Pro-Life groups are now celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In the beginning in the 1970s, groups were focused on the personal touch: reaching out, getting to know, becoming friends with the church groups, focusing on prayer for pro-life and teaching about pro-life. The individualistic element of our present me-culture denies the nature of the human personal touch. We were created for the purpose of interdependence and interaction which is what truly combats loneliness and despair. 30% of Canadians don't talk to more than one person in a week. Loneliness is powerful. When we're talking about life and death and the caring of others and the need to be with people we recognize that that requires a personal touch. We need to recommit ourselves to the concept of the personal touch.

We are fundamentally required to initiate a renewal of the personal touch. Humans are complicated interconnected beings physically, psychologically, socially, and spiritually. We need to be fundamentally inter-dependent – caring for others and being cared for. Our individualistic culture denies us this need. Suffering brings us down and in this lonely time we need people. We need relationships. Answer the personal call to not let others suffer alone.

Alex shared a lot of personal stories about people in suffering and seeking MAID and the personal touch and relationships that changed their mind on MAID. Our present culture has negated relationships and what it means to be human. When you truly show care for someone, when you spend time with someone, and when you love one another; you become human! You become a human person capable of showing empathy and compassion. God made us to be interconnected. Caring for the other is essential and necessary. Be human! Reconnect! ***The only antidote to the culture of death is love. If you want to build a Pro-Life world, share your life with others.***