



The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council



The Honourable Jason Kenney, M.L.A.  
Premier of Alberta  
Office of the Premier  
307 Legislature Building  
10800 – 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

July 9, 2020

Dear Premier Kenney,

We write to thank you for the provincial government's ongoing efforts to prevent transmission of COVID-19, especially among the most vulnerable. We endorse the earliest possible development of safe, effective anti-viral vaccines and the broadest uptake of vaccination.

**We urge your government to encourage the funding of vaccine research which does not involve the use of abortion-derived cell lines (eg PER.C6 and HEK 293).** One excellent Canadian example is being developed at the University of British Columbia by Dr. Wilfred Jefferies, whose methodology uses self-amplifying mRNA, made entirely in a test tube without cells or tissues.<sup>1</sup>

**Further, we urge your government that if two equally effective vaccines for COVID-19 are identified, and one did not involve the use of abortion-derived cell lines, that your government choose to distribute to Albertans the vaccine that did not involve the use of abortion-derived cell lines.** The Pontifical Academy for Life published in 2005<sup>2,3</sup> "Moral reflections about vaccines prepared from cells of aborted human fetuses" which guides members of the Catholic community when ethical dilemmas such as the current COVID-19 pandemic arise and there is need for an urgent and effective vaccine. This guidance states that all clinically recommended vaccinations can be used with a clear conscience when there is no other equal alternative due to the moral responsibility to vaccinate in order to avoid serious health risks for children, the vulnerable, and the general population. However, as Catholics, we ethically object to the continued use of cell lines derived from abortions (even if derived in the 1960's) as part of vaccine research and would like to see this practice discontinued and other alternatives found. A reference list follows the signature on this letter.

We thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our views and, like you, hope an effective vaccine for COVID-19 will be found soon.

Yours Sincerely,

*Judy Look*

ABMK Provincial President  
Catholic Women's League of Canada

[abmkprovpres@gmail.com](mailto:abmkprovpres@gmail.com)

*"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it*

Cc: The Honourable Tyler Shandro, M.L.A.  
Minister of Health

## References

1. Charlotte Lozier Institute [Internet]. Arlington, VA: Lozier Institute; May 2020. An ethics assessment of COVID-19 vaccine programs; 2020 May [cited 2020 May 9]; Available from <https://lozierinstitute.org/an-ethics-assessment-of-covid-19-vaccine-programs/>
2. Pontifical Academy for Life [Internet] Rome, Italy; 2005 (reprinted 2019). Moral reflections about vaccines prepared from cells of aborted human fetuses. Available from <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0024363919855896?journalCode=lgra>
3. Pontifical Academy for Life [Internet] Rome, Italy; 2017 July 31. Note on Italian vaccine use. Available from <http://www.academyforlife.va/content/pav/en/the-academy/activity-academy/note-vaccini.html>