

**June 11, 2009**

Letter to the Editor of the Vancouver Sun in response to Pamela Fayerman's article in the Vancouver Sun on June 9, 2009: Women must now wait to 40 for publicly paid amnio test.

By B. Goode

I live with a disability. I believe we all have disabilities of some kind. We make our communities so rich like a rainbow with different gifts. This is a very upsetting topic to me. Even though this is a complicated issue, we need to talk about it and be able to understand it. The money it costs to have this done is too high and not needed. I AM VERY PROUD TO BE A DISABLED WOMAN.

**June 11, 2009**

Letter to the Editor of the Vancouver Sun in response to Pamela Fayerman's June 9, 2009 article, titled Women must now wait to 40 for publicly paid amnio test.

By Dale Froese

In this life I come to realize that this world is limited especially for the disabled. Being downs myself, I feel strongly obligated and have compassion for the mothers that go through the question of the prenatal. My heart goes out to the parents especially when they wonder if everything will be all right. There will be a lot of negativity and scientific and genetic technologies. But what we the society do not know is we have a divine gift and it is worth giving us a try.

**June 15, 2009**

Dear Sir;

Re: Women must now wait to 40 for publicly paid amnio test: Chance of miscarriage, better blood tests cited as reasons

**By Tamara Shaw**

This article indicates a specific need for a prenatal test to identify Down syndrome and other chromosomal problems in fetuses. I am disheartened by our society's increasing desire to terminate pregnancies that indicate the possibility something different. I am concerned that, as mentioned by David Hingsburger in his October 1, 2008 blog, that "abortion is seen as the 'cure' for Down syndrome".

(<http://davehingsburger.blogspot.com/search?updated-max=2008-11-14T02%3A02%3A00-05%3A00&max-results=50>).

Why are we, as a society, advocating for the eradication of a group of people that are present in every society, culture, race, religion, and socioeconomic group? Why are we asking the public to fund genocide?

Krista J. Flint, Canadian Down Syndrome Society Executive Director, says “Parents have told me that they heard this child with Down syndrome would “ruin their life” or ‘would never be toilet-trained’ – that’s not information; that’s a bias...People with Down syndrome enhance the learning, lives and citizenship in our schools, workplaces and families...My children’s children may inherit a world without Canadians with Down syndrome – and that’s not a good future.”

([http://www.cdss.ca/site/news/press\\_releases/index.php](http://www.cdss.ca/site/news/press_releases/index.php))

I’d rather we fund better access to unbiased information, and to have a society that embraces difference rather than opting to annihilate a group of people because of gross misinformation.

Tamara Shaw, BCR

**June 16, 2009**

This is in response to the article published on June 9, 2009 titled, “Women must now wait to 40 for publicly paid amnio test.....

**By Kathleen McMullin**

Medical screening is used for all Canadians at varying stages of life to optimize our health. It should not be used to terminate a person with Down Syndrome, as stated on the BC Prenatal Genetic Screening Program website when more than 90% of mothers choose to terminate. Langlois’ uses of the term normal babies makes one think she has time-travelled from a Nazi camp to start her own version of Down cleansing, which, by the way, is the view of many Canadians including some people who support Down Syndrome persons in their homes. I think she’s been living in a petrie dish too long and should jump out to experience the rest of life. To make matters worse, amnio brings to my mind a picture of a circus wheel centered with a Downs Syndrome baby praying that the knife thrower will miss, for more reasons than one, either way, he dies. Worse is the fact that Langlois’ makes it sound like it’s okay if he dies during amnio, but it’s not okay if a “normal” dies. All this talk about normal and abnormal detracts from finding the purpose of the extra gene. I’m sure glad the nurse who discovered that a very dear person to me, who had two arteries reversed and two holes in her heart, didn’t decide that she wasn’t worth it. I find it hard to believe that there isn’t a law to protect Down Syndrome babies.