

# Canadian Association for Repeal of the Abortion Law

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5:30 p. m.

The founding general meeting of the Canadian Association for Repeal of the Abortion Law was held last evening in Ottawa.

More than 100 CARAL members from across Canada attended, representing Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. CARAL also has members in Prince Edward Island, N. W. T., and the Yukon.

The meeting made final plans for its educational lobby of Members of Parliament which was carried on today, between 10:00 a. m. and 4:00 p.m.

Elected directors at large were:

Marjorie Baskin, Hamilton; Nicki Bergen, Ottawa, June Callwood, Toronto, David Carr, Hamilton, Corinne Devlin, Hamilton, Ruth Evans, Toronto, Hilda Heath, Edmonton, Gertrude Katz, Montreal, Mereille Lafortune, Montreal Mary McKim, London, Ruth Miller, Ottawa, Diane Mineau, Kingston, Henry Morgentaler, Montreal, Elinor Neubauer, St. John's, Eleanor Pelrine, Toronto, E. B. Ratcliffe, Preston-Cambridge, Norma Scarborough, Toronto, and Sally-Ann Williams, Saskatoon.

Representatives of Doctors for Repeal of the Abortion Law, ACT, ARCAL, Ottawa and Hamilton, and The Committee to Defend Dr. Morgentaler also attended the first directors meeting which followed the general meeting.

Executive officers elected were:

President: E. B. Ratcliffe  
Vice President: Ruth Evans  
Secretary: Norma Scarborough  
Treasurer: Kae House  
Exec. vice president: Eleanor Wright Pelrine.

It is expected that regional vice presidents and honorary directors will be elected soon.

CARAL proposes to keep the issue of the inequity and unworkability before legislators until Section 251 of the Criminal Code has been repealed.

From June, 1973, to the present, CARAL has been operating with an interim steering committee, which has conducted public relations campaigns and mailings on the abortion issue.

The organization, which regards itself as pro-repeal and civil libertarian, not pro-abortion last night reiterated its statement of purpose:

"The purpose of CARAL is to ensure that no woman is denied access to safe, legal abortion in Canada.

"Our aim is the repeal of all sections of the Criminal Code dealing with abortion, and the establishment of comprehensive contraceptive and abortion services, across the country.

"We regard the right to safe legal abortion as a fundamental human right."