

CARAL/National History

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REPEAL OF THE ABORTION LAW

INTERIM CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

September 1974

I STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

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

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

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

II MEMBERSHIP

Private membership shall be open to individuals and families resident anywhere in Canada. Prospective members will be asked to sign an indication of accord with our purpose and pay the appropriate fee required by By-Law.

III GROUP MEMBERSHIPS

Group memberships are open to all groups of Canadian residents which make an indication of accord with our statement of purpose and pay the appropriate fee required by By-Law.

Local groups may be organized as independent chapters of CARAL on the same terms. In this case a uniform series of names, (example CARAL DUNDAS) is suggested.

IV ENDORSING ORGANIZATIONS

Endorsing organizations are those groups which publicly endorse our statement of purpose but which are not currently member groups.

V HONOURARY DIRECTORS

Honourary Directors consist of individuals who have demonstrated extra ordinary interest or achievement in our areas of concern but who currently are unable to accept positions with active administrative responsibility. Honourary Directors are elected for one year by the Board of Directors.

VI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The board of Directors shall be the governing body of CARAL.

Directors are elected either by member groups (Sect. III) or by individual and family members.

Each group membership is entitled to elect one director and one alternate. Groups contributing more than \$200.00 to the association may elect 2 directors.

Directors-at-large are elected by individual and family members in the ratio of one director-at-large for every 20 individual or family memberships.

In addition to these directors all officers (Sect. VII) and the immediate past president and the executive vice-president shall be members of the board.

VII OFFICERS

The officers of CARAL shall be elected by the Board of Directors either from their own number or from the membership at large. Regional Vice Presidents shall be elected from directors or members for that region. Term of office shall be one year.

The President shall preside at all meetings of CARAL, its Board of Directors, and its Executive Committee (Sect. VIII). Between meetings the president shall have authority to represent the Association and to act in its name within its declared policies. He shall be a member ex-officio at all committees.

The Vice President shall, in the absence of the President or upon his direction perform all the duties of president.

The Secretary shall be responsible for notices and minutes of meetings.

The Treasurer shall be responsible for financial records and accounting, for collection and disbursement of money. He shall present a financial statement at each regular meeting of the Executive Committee and of the Board of Directors. He shall furnish a draft budget to the executive committee.

Regional Vice-Presidents are elected as follows:

- 1 from the 4 Atlantic Provinces
- 2 from Quebec
- 1 from Ontario
- 1 from Manitoba
- 1 from Saskatchewan
- 1 from Alberta
- 1 from British Columbia
- 1 from Yukon
- 1 from North West Territories

They shall be responsible for promoting communication and membership in their respective regions.

VIII EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee of 8 shall consist of the President, the immediate past president, first vice president, the Executive vice president, the secretary, the treasurer and two other members of the Board of Directors elected by the board.

The Committee shall assume all authority of the Board of Directors between board meetings. It shall conduct the affairs of CARAL according to its constitution, by-laws, and policies.

Attendance of 50% of the members shall constitute a quorum.

IX EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

The administrative chief of Caral shall be an Executive Vice President employed by the Executive Committee. She shall be empowered to hire staff, recommend policy, and arrange details as necessity dictates and finances permit.

X MEETINGS

General meetings will be held at least once in each calendar year and generally in conjunction with a conference, visit to Parliament etc. General meetings are called by the secretary on instructions from the Board of Directors. 30 days notice is required.

Board of Directors meetings will be held at least once in each calendar year, generally in conjunction with general meetings. Meetings of the Board of Directors will be called by the secretary on instructions from the executive committee or on petition by any 10 directors. 15 days notice required.

Executive Committee Meetings will be scheduled monthly with special meetings as necessary. Special meetings may be called by the secretary at the request of the President or by petition of any 4 members of the committee.

XI CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

The constitution may be amended or by-laws passed at any meeting of the Board of Directors, provided the intent to change and sections affected are included in the notice of the meeting.

