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Come to the second Cross Canada Conference for Abortion Law Repeal

The Canadian Women's Coalition to Repeal the Abortion Laws is hosting a cross-Canada conference in Toronto, March 16-18. This conference will bring together women from across Canada to protest Canada's restrictive abortion laws and to plan further activities to press for repeal of these laws. All women who support the struggle to make abortion a woman's right to choose are urgently invited to participate in this conference.

The recent decision of the U.S. Supreme Court--which overturned restrictive abortion laws in 46 states and made abortion a private matter--marks a significant victory for women's struggles around the world. In the tradition of the suffrage movement, a movement of women has grown powerful enough to force action from the highest body in the United States.

We must use this valuable precedent to pressure the Canadian government to act now to repeal Canada's anti-abortion laws. The cross-country conference provides an important opportunity for women from all parts of the country to plan a strategy and project ways of building a movement powerful enough to win repeal in Canada.

The record of the Canadian government on this issue has been one of indifference and cynical disregard for the needs of women. When M. P. Grace MacInnis challenged the government to act in response to the U.S. Supreme Court decision, Justice Minister Otto Lang's reply was clear and to the point: "We see no need for a debate on this matter."

This is the government's considered opinion after thousands upon thousands of Canadians have expressed support for women's right to decide, for themselves, whether or not to have an abortion.

Nearly 100,000 Canadians have already signed their names to a petition calling for repeal of the abortion laws. Students on seventeen campuses voted overwhelmingly last spring for a woman's right to choose abortion. Hundreds of Canadians have marched in the street and attended rallies for the right to abortion. Thousands have bought and circulated the campaign newspaper, Spokeswomen. Large organizations such as the Canadian Medical Association, the Federation of Women Teachers Association, the New Democratic Party and the United Church have expressed opposition to the present abortion laws. A January Gallup Poll showed that 61% of Canadians support abortion as a private matter.

Still the government refuses to act. Its refusal to take action places it solidly on the side of all those who seek to deny women the right to control our reproductive lives.

With the growing sentiment in Canada and the recent victory in the United States we must move immediately to step up the campaign--to investigate new possibilities for action and to involve thousands more women. This is the only way we will win this struggle.

We call on women and organizations across Canada to support and participate in the Cross-Canada conference for abortion law repeal, March 16-18 in Toronto.

The Canadian government can equivocate no longer. We must work together to win this important victory for ourselves and for women around the world who, like ourselves, are victims of restrictive, archaic abortion laws. Together we will win!

REPEAL THE ABORTION LAWS NOW! ABORTION IS A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE.

To make the conference a success we need your full support--your time and energy, your money, endorsement and, of course, your participation. Please clip and mail to: Canadian Women's Coalition, P. O. Box 5673, Station A, Toronto. (416)863-9773

- I(my group) endorses the Cross-Canada Conference.
- Enclosed is \$5. ; \$10. ; \$25. ; \$50. ; \$100. ; other _____ to help build the conference. **FUNDS URGENTLY NEEDED!**
- I(we) want to help build the conference. Please contact me.
- I(we) am interested in attending the conference. Please send more information.

NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

ORGANIZATION/SCHOOL _____

