

NEWS RELEASE

Sunday, September 24, 1989

Editors Note: **A Copy of the Ad, appearing in 20 Canadian dailies on Monday, the day Parliament opens, is attached.**

CANADIANS FOR CHOICE AD ACROSS CANADA AS PARLIAMENT OPENS

Toronto - An advertising blitz on the abortion issue begins Monday across the country, sponsored by a group of concerned Canadians intent on making the issue the No. 1 priority as Parliament opens.

Men and women from "mainstream" Canada have identified reproductive choice as the crucial issue in today's democratic society. If Members of Parliament are intent on ignoring the polls which demonstrate the Canadian preference for choice, then these advertisements will provide one means of getting the message to those politicians. This summer we have been treated to the "kneejerk" reaction of promised new legislation without any justification as to its necessity.

Appearing in 20 Canadian daily newspapers tomorrow, the day federal politicians go back to work, the advertisement is designed to focus public attention on the essence of this issue - choice. Money raised will assist with public education and action at this critical point in Canadian history.

A consortium of prominent groups and individuals has been assembled to indicate the broad range of support for choice in this country, including:

Men for Women's Choice	Pierre Berton
National Council of Women of Canada	June Callwood
Physicians for Choice	Susan Fish
Tories for Choice	Nancy Jackman
Canadian Labour Congress	Michele Landsberg
Grandmothers for Choice	Dr. Henry Morgentaler

For further information: Marilou McPhedran 967-9485
Michael Kaufman 736-5237
Gordon Cleveland 323-0513
Susan Fish 532-0202



his choice or hers?

We think the choice is hers. And we know that most of you agree with us.

In recent months, Canadians — both men and women — have been shocked to see young women dragged through the courts by disgruntled ex-boyfriends seeking to prevent an abortion.

The privacy of women has been grossly violated. Women's most intimate acts, thoughts and decisions have been exposed to everyone.

This demeaning carnival of publicity is a sombre warning of what a minority in Canada intends to inflict on all of us.

The next woman singled out for humiliation — and for a medically dangerous delay — could be your sister, your daughter, your friend . . . or you.

Our freedom of choice is in danger.

The Canadian government is now considering whether to put abortion back in the Criminal Code. We don't need a new criminal law. Pregnant women are not criminals. Their intimate decisions are not a matter for the public courts.

The Supreme Court of Canada has spoken. Last year, Canada's highest court ruled that each woman controls her own child-bearing. Any rule requiring her to seek the consent of any party (aside from her doctor) is a violation of her constitutional right

to personal security, liberty and freedom of conscience.

And, in fact, the Court did not invite the government to make a new law. We don't need one because 99.6% of all abortions in Canada are performed before the end of the 20th week of pregnancy.

What do we need?

We need a truly adult and responsible approach to reproductive health care. The government should act decisively to provide:

- access to women's health care (including abortion) across the country
- more family planning counselling
- more education
- more birth control centres — prevention is better than abortion

Help us mount an effective, grassroots lobby across Canada.

We need your generous contributions to work toward safeguarding choice. And we urgently ask you to write or call your Member of Parliament. We must act swiftly, before Parliament tries to strip away our rights to reproductive dignity, health and freedom.

Some of the organizations that oppose any new abortion law:

Canadian Association of Sexual Assault Centres -
L'Association Canadienne des Centres Contre La Viol;
Canadian Labour Congress;
Canadian Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs;
Canadian Union of Public Employees;
Canadian Unitarian Council;
CARAL, Canadian Abortion Rights Action League;
Grandmothers For Choice;
Humanist Association of Canada;

Law Union of Ontario;
Men for Women's Choice;
National Action Committee on the Status of Women;
National Association of Women and the Law;
National Council of Jewish Women;
National Council of Women of Canada;
Planned Parenthood Federation of Canada;
Physicians For Choice;
The Issue Is Choice;
Tories for Choice

Please make cheques payable to

CANADIANS FOR CHOICE
Box 280, 238 Davenport Road
Toronto, Ontario M5R 1J6

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Province _____ Postal Code _____

VISA Mastercard No. _____

Expiry Date _____ \$ _____

Signature _____

We are unable to provide tax receipts

Enclosed is my cheque for \$ _____