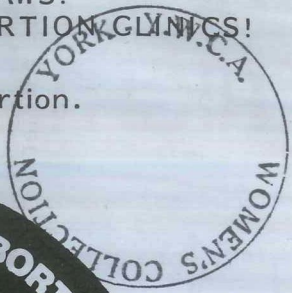
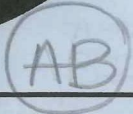
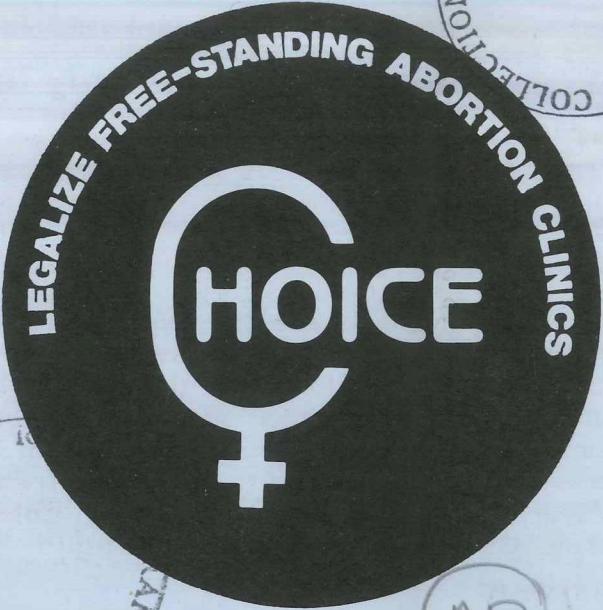


AB 159

DEFEND A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE!  
REPEAL ALL ANTI-ABORTION LAWS!  
LEGALIZE FREE-STANDING ABORTION CLINICS!



The issue is not pro- or anti-abortion.  
The issue is CHOICE.



72% of Canadians agree that a woman should have the right to decide if and when to bear a child.  
--Gallup poll June 1982

Abortion is legal in Canada, but only under extremely controlled conditions and many women who choose to have an abortion are unable to obtain them.

CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR CHOICE ON ABORTION  
P.O. Box 24617, Station C  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
V5T 4E1  
Telephone: 876-9920

# **DEFEND A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE**

## **In Canada abortions are only legal under certain conditions**

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In 1969, the federal Criminal Code was amended so that abortions remain illegal unless approved by a committee of three doctors in an approved hospital. But hospitals are not required to set up committees and even those that have committees are not required to perform abortions. Due to pressure from well-organized anti-choice groups, many hospitals have decided not to perform abortions at all. According to health centres and women's groups, the situation in British Columbia and across Canada is steadily worsening.

## **Free-standing abortion clinics**

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A practical answer to the acute need for accessible abortion is free-standing clinics. These are clinics outside of a hospital, where abortions are provided on an outpatient basis. They offer a supportive environment, in contrast to the trauma of seeking approval through a therapeutic abortion committee. They provide thorough counselling and follow-up birth control information. Studies show that first trimester abortions are as safe or safer than those performed in hospitals and are less costly to provide under government funding.

Dr. Henry Morgentaler and his colleagues have courageously set out to establish free-standing abortion clinics in centres across Canada.



# **NO CHOICE EQUALS COMPULSORY PREGNANCY**

## **The stakes in the battle for clinics**

Mark McGuigan, the Federal Minister of Justice, has recently stated that provincial ministers of health have the power to legalize these clinics. The clinics could be declared "approved facilities" thus satisfying the requirements of the present law. An approved clinic would be eligible for coverage by medical insurance. There would be no grounds for prosecuting staff if the clinics were made legal. In fact the only thing illegal about free-standing clinics is that they are not governed by a hospital or the restrictions of a therapeutic abortion committee.

Clinics already exist in Canada. In Quebec, government-funded community clinics provide medically-insured abortions despite the federal law. In Europe and the U.S. clinics are the accepted norm. However, outside of Quebec, doctors operating free-standing clinics face prosecution and costly trials.

A public campaign can help secure acquittals for these doctors and prevent closure of the Morgentaler clinics. It has been done before. In the mid-70's, the Quebec government found the law unworkable because no jury would convict Dr. Morgentaler. He was acquitted three times by juries on charges of operating an illegal abortion clinic in Montreal.



## **Legal challenges to the present law**

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In Regina, the Borowski case was heard in May, 1983. Borowski, a fervid anti-abortionist, is seeking a court ruling that the fetus is a person from conception and thus entitled to protection under the Charter of Rights. If he succeeds, all abortions, and even some methods of birth control will become illegal. The Regina court refused to hear the pro-choice side when it denied the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League (CARAL) intervenor status at the trial. It sealed itself off from public opinion, which is strongly pro-choice, clearing the way for Borowski to win. However, a great public outcry from the pro-choice majority can still affect the court's decision.

A pro-choice countersuit has now been launched in the Ontario courts. Brought by Norma Scarborough, president of CARAL, it seeks to have all reference to abortion removed from the Criminal Code on the basis that a woman's right to liberty and security of person, guaranteed in the Charter of Rights is being denied. If this case succeeds, abortion will be a matter between a woman and her doctor.



## **What is a defense campaign?**

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With the stakes so high, all pro-choice Canadians must be drawn into an abortion rights defense campaign. Its aims are to legalize free-standing abortion clinics and repeal the present law. The defense campaign will work to set out the facts, and create a climate of opinion that will

- prevent a victory for Borowski,
- build support for the Scarborough case,
- win acquittals for doctors and staff of free-standing clinics.

In addition we must raise the money for these legal battles. How can this be done? Through pro-choice groups and coalitions forming across the country. Through the actions of concerned individuals and community organizations.

Already more than a dozen pro-choice groups across the country are organizing co-ordinated events on October 1, 1983 -- a Day of Action for Freedom of Choice on Abortion.

## **What YOU can do to help:**

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Join in building the largest possible turnout for the events of the Day of Action for Freedom of Choice on Abortion in October. Endorsements and funds are needed for this action, for the three pro-choice demands, and for the Legal Defense Fund. Contact CCCA for motions to take to your union or organization. Help publicize the Day of Action.

Don't stop there. Join CCCA. Our meetings are open to all who sincerely support our aims. There are no membership fees. Contact us for the date of the next meeting.

# We need your support to:

Help build the Canada-wide  
*DAY OF ACTION FOR CHOICE ON ABORTION*  
October 1, 1983

Help publicize the  
*SCARBOROUGH LEGAL SUIT*  
against the present abortion law

Contribute to  
*THE ABORTION LEGAL DEFENSE FUND*

## Did you know...

*PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS HAVE THE POWER TO*

- legalize free-standing clinics
- include clinics under medicare
- halt prosecution of clinic doctors

*CCCA IS ENDORSED BY MORE THAN 100 ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE MEMBERS TOTAL A QUARTER OF A MILLION BRITISH COLUMBIANS.*

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I am enclosing \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help CCCA  
DEFEND A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE,  
REPEAL ALL ANTI-ABORTION LAWS, and  
LEGALIZE FREE-STANDING ABORTION CLINICS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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CITY \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: CCCA, P.O. Box 24617, Station C,  
Vancouver, V5T 4E1