

abortion



No woman should have to pay!

FUND CLINICS IN ALL PROVINCES

EXPAND SERVICES

STOP FEDERAL HEALTH CUTBACKS

DEMONSTRATE

Bay & Wellesley
Ministry of Health
for further information contact:

Ontario Coalition for
Abortion Clinics
969 - 8463

MAY 25 12 NOON
1991

FREEDOM OF CHOICE -- STILL FIGHTING

On January 31 the Senate voted down Bill C-43, the federal government's attempt to put abortion back in the criminal code. This victory was the result of a massive campaign in which dozens of major feminist, labour, student, health care, legal and other community groups opposed any new criminal law; in which over 60% of the population were against Bill C-43; and in which the pro-choice movement mobilized thousands across the country.

We have won a major victory by defeating this law, but we can't stop now. The crisis of access created by Bill C-43 and by years of government neglect and inaction still remains.

Whole regions of the country have no abortion services at all;

Women in many communities across Ontario have to leave their communities to obtain this essential health service.

We have defeated the law. But we haven't yet won freedom of choice for all women. We must keep up the pressure on both federal and provincial governments to ensure that no woman is denied access to safe and free abortion because of where she lives or how much money she has.

The Federal government must:

use the Canada Health Act and other legislative powers to force provinces to provide comprehensive health care, including abortion;

This, of course, is not going to work if the federal government continues to cut back its transfer payments to the provinces. The reproductive rights movement must join with others fighting to preserve universal health care.

The Ontario government must

Improve hospital services, provide abortion in community health centres and use whatever means are best suited to local conditions to ensure equitable access in all regions of the province;

Immediately fund the existing abortion clinics in Toronto so that no woman has to pay for reproductive health care;

Create a network of community clinics providing abortion services and counselling;

As soon as possible these community abortion clinics must be transformed into women's reproductive health centres that provide the full range of care in one accessible location: safe and effective contraception, abortion, community midwifery, pre-natal care and education, well-woman and well-baby care, and sexuality counselling.