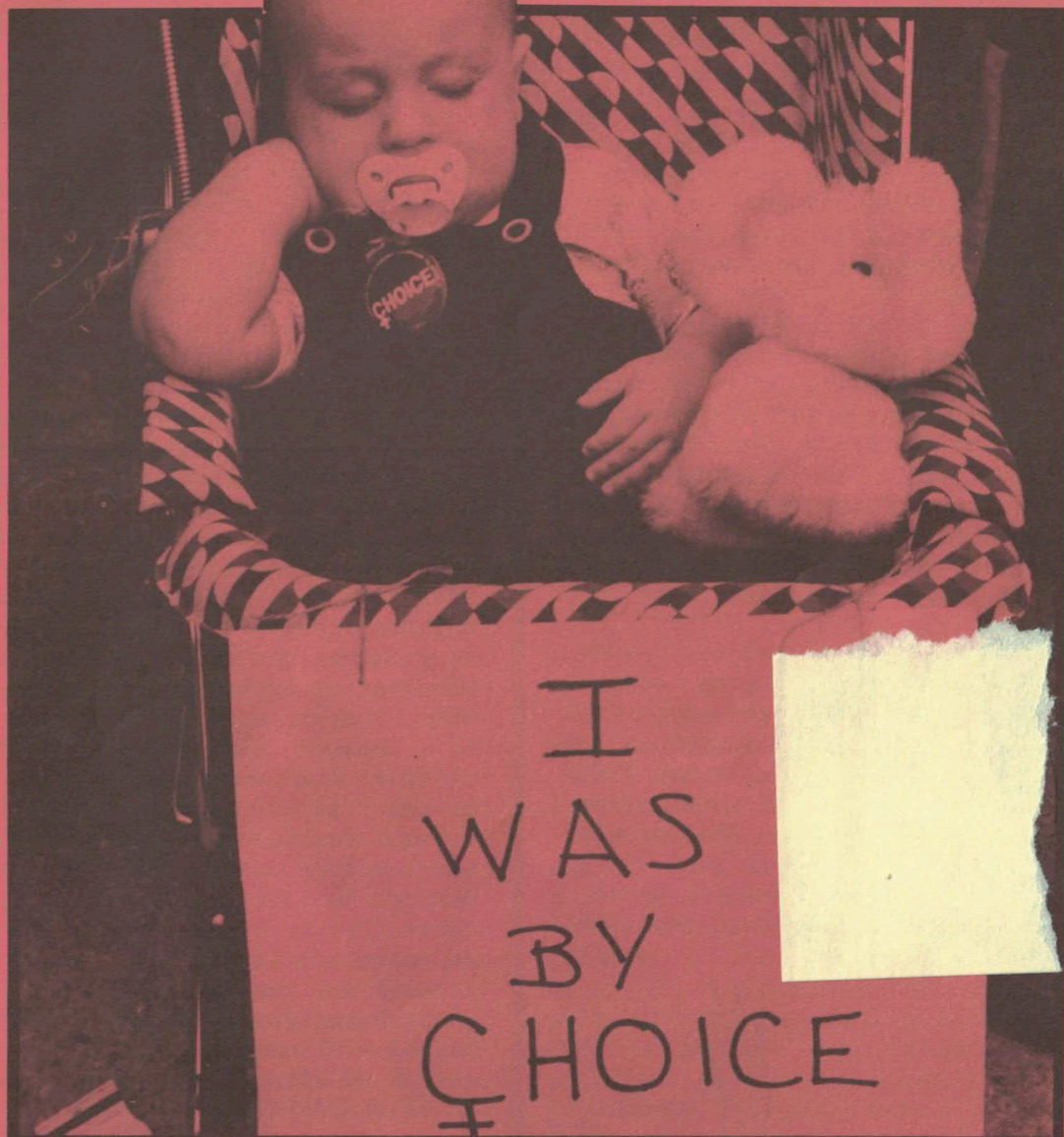


CANADIAN ABORTION RIGHTS ACTION LEAGUE (CARAL)  
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE POUR LE DROIT A L'AVORTEMENT (ACDA)

# NEWSLETTER

FALL

1983



Box 935 · Station Q · Toronto, Ontario · M4T 2P1 · (416) 961-1507

## Message From the President

At 4 a.m. on July 29, I was awakened and told that the building at 85 Harbord Street, housing the Morgentaler clinic, was on fire.

By the time I reached the clinic a short while later, my initial shock had turned to anger and outrage.

The Morgentaler Clinic has become a symbol to the pro-choice movement - and a very special symbol because the building also housed the Women's Book Store, an institution close to the hearts of all feminists.

This kind of destructive tactic was not totally unexpected. When women in the United States won freedom of choice, the clinics there had to face a barrage of vandalism, firebombings and harassment. But somehow we did not believe that it would happen here - at least, not yet!

But the anti-choice forces which strike in the night with threatening 'phone calls and which fill our mail boxes with anonymous hate mail don't care about human life; they care only about controlling the lives of women. That people who would set fire to a building where others are sleeping would dare to call themselves pro-life is ludicrous.



Le 29 juillet, à 4h du matin, j'ai appris que la maison située rue Harbord, au no 85, qui abrite la clinique du docteur Morgentaler, était la proie des flammes.

Une fois arrivée à la clinique, le choc que j'avais ressenti au début s'est transformé en colère.

La clinique du docteur Morgentaler est devenue un symbole pour le mouvement pour le droit à l'avortement. C'est un symbole particulièrement important parce que l'édifice en question abrite également la librairie des femmes, un endroit auquel toutes les féministes sont très attachées.

Ce genre de tactiques destructrices n'était pas tout à fait inattendu. Aux Etats-Unis, lorsque les femmes ont obtenu le droit à l'avortement, les cliniques ont été l'objet de nombreux actes de vandalisme, d'attentats divers et de tactiques de harcèlement. Toutefois, nous ne pouvions pas croire que les mêmes actes de violence commenceraient ici - pas si tôt, en tout cas. Mais ceux et celles qui s'opposent au droit à l'avortement et nous menacent la nuit par téléphone ou nous envoient des lettres vindicatives anonymes, n'ont aucun respect pour la vie humaine. Au contraire, leur seul objectif est de contrôler la vie des femmes. Et dire que ces gens qui se considèrent comme "pro-vie", sont capables de mettre le feu à une maison où d'autres personnes sont en train de dormir.

## Quelques Mots de la Presidente

The man who set fire to the clinic may be on the unstable fringe of the anti-choice movement. But it is the anti-choice movement which must accept responsibility for the destruction caused by the fire. For years these groups have spewed their lies and their hatred. They have done it in classrooms, in courtrooms, in churches, and in the streets, and they have done it, not because they care about life, but because they are threatened by the idea that women will have the right to control their own destiny.

We in the pro-choice movement will not be stopped by these tactics. We are gaining momentum and we are winning the fight. We are doing it by reason and logic. People who for years have not taken a stand on this issue now know what we mean by CHOICE - and CHOICE is the key word in the abortion debate. We believe that women must have the right to choose when, and how many children, they will bear and we believe that no woman should be forced to bear a child against her will. Childbirth should be a time of joy and celebration - not a penalty for sexual activity.

But we still have a job to do convincing the lawmakers and those responsible for health care that the majority will no longer tolerate repressive legislation and inadequate reproductive health care for women.

Il se peut que la personne qui a incendié la clinique ne soit qu'un membre d'un groupuscule extrémiste qui évolue à la périphérie des organisations opposées au droit à l'avortement. Mais ce sont précisément ces organisations qui doivent accepter la responsabilité des dégâts causés par l'incendie.

Depuis des années déjà, ces groupes déversent leurs mensonges et leur mépris dans les écoles, dans les tribunaux, dans les églises et dans les rues. Ils se comportent ainsi non parce qu'ils aiment la vie, mais parce que le droit des femmes à contrôler leur propre destin constitue pour eux une menace.

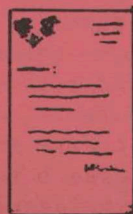
Le mouvement pour le droit des femmes à l'avortement, ne se laissera jamais intimider par ce genre de tactiques. Au contraire, notre mouvement prend de plus en plus d'ampleur; c'est nous qui sommes en train de gagner la bataille, en nous servant de la raison et de la logique. Il y a de plus en plus de gens qui n'ont jamais eu une opinion sur la question de l'avortement et qui maintenant comprennent que c'est une question de libre arbitre; et c'est ça l'aspect essentiel du débat sur l'avortement. Nous croyons que chaque femme doit avoir le droit de décider si et quand elle aura des enfants, et qu'aucune femme ne devrait être obligée de mener une grossesse à terme contre sa volonté. La naissance d'un enfant doit être une occasion de

That is why I urge each and every one of you to take pen in hand and write a letter to one or all of the individuals whose names appear here, expressing your support for repeal of Section 251 and the establishment of free-standing abortion clinics.

Letters urging Repeal should be sent to the following people in the federal government and need no postage:

The Right Hon. Pierre E. Trudeau  
The Hon. Mark MacGuigan, Minister of Justice  
The Hon. Judy Erola, Minister For the Status of Women  
The Hon. Monique Begin, Minister of Health  
Your own M.P.,  
House of Commons,  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

*Norma Scarborough*



se rejour et non une punition infligée à celles qui se sont rendues "coupables" d'avoir eu des rapports sexuels.

Il faut cependant continuer nos efforts afin de convaincre le législateur et les responsables des services de santé que la majorité n'acceptera plus des lois répressives ni des services de santé inadéquats pour les femmes.

C'est pour cette raison que j'encourage chaque personne à écrire au moins une lettre aux responsables ci-dessous, pour les exhorter à rayer l'avortement du code criminel canadien et à légaliser les cliniques d'avortement indépendantes.

Les lettres expédiées aux représentants fédéraux pour exiger l'abrogation de la loi fédérale ne doivent pas être affranchies.

L'Hon. Pierre E. Trudeau, premier ministre  
L'Hon. Mark MacGuigan, ministre de la Justice  
L'Hon. Judy Erola, ministre de la condition des Femmes  
L'Hon. Monique Bégin, ministre de la Santé  
Le député parlementaire de votre région

Pour exiger l'établissement de cliniques d'avortement et leur légalisation, ainsi que la cessation des poursuites

## Anti-choice activities

judiciaires contre les membres du personnel des cliniques de Toronto et de Winnipeg, écrire à:

en Ontario:

L'Hon. William Davis, premier ministre  
L'Hon. Keith Norton, ministre de la Santé  
L'Hon. Roy McMurtry, ministre de la Justice  
Le député provincial de votre région

au Manitoba:

L'Hon. Howard Pawley, premier ministre  
L'Hon. Roland Penner, ministre de la Justice  
L'Hon. L. Desjardins, ministre de la Santé  
Le député provincial de votre région

We frequently report anti-choice activities in our Across Canada section. For this issue, we felt that their level of activity in recent months deserved an overview of tactics being employed throughout various parts of the country.

### Attacks on the Media

We're hearing so much whining from the anti-choice people about unfair media practices. Unless their mouthings are granted equal billing in every news item, they cry foul.

An angry protest was directed against the publicly funded National Film Board after the production of a docudrama on Dr. Morgentaler. Letter-writing campaigns have been urging anti-choice recruits to break the "pro-abortion stranglehold on the media" by writing to Pierre Juneau and the executive producers of The National and even the Toronto Star editors.

In addition, in response to two columns in Homemaker's Magazine which discussed the need for free-standing clinics, Campaign Life attempted to organize a boycott of advertisers in that magazine.

Unfortunately, in response to a threatening letter from an anti-choice writer, an advertising manager at Carnation Inc. implied that the non-continuation of their advertising of a product in Homemaker's was linked to the abortion issue.

**Campaign  
Strike**



# Anti-Choice Activities

When we asked the president of Carnation to clarify this situation, he assured us that the cancellation was not related to the abortion issue and that the company is scheduling advertising for other products in Homemaker's in 1984.

However, Mr. Lang went on to say. "While we do not condone pressure tactics (such as product boycotts) that attempt to alter editorial policies, we do prefer to advertise in environments which are not controversial. Any dissatisfaction we have with Homemaker's editorial policy is that they are controversial on this issue and thus place advertisers vulnerable to consumer consequences."

One of the appealing features of Homemaker's has been it's willingness to deal with controversial issues in our lives. We hope that it will continue to do so, and we urge readers who agree to support this editorial position.

The CBC has been similarly targeted. Coverage of the Borowski trial, happenings at the Winnipeg and Toronto clinics and Dr. Morgentaler's actions brought forth 212 critical letters and 1 letter of commendation for fair reporting!

Anti-choice members will go to any lengths to insist their viewpoint be heard loudest.

Unless we want the CBC to think of pro-choice advocates as dwindling numbers, rather than the majority that we are, please express your support for fair journalistic practices to

Pierre Juneau  
Canadian Broadcasting Corp.  
CBC Building  
1500 Bronson Avenue  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1G 3J5



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## Personal Harassment

Another example of anti-choice harassment is the campaign against Iona Campagnolo, one of CARAL's Honourary Directors and President of the Liberal Party of Canada.

Ms Campagnolo has frequently been a target for anti-choice groups but since her election as President of the Liberal Party, the attacks have become more concentrated.

Demonstrators picket outside every public meeting she attends, some labelling her as a baby killer. They write letters to Keith Davy and Prime Minister Trudeau claiming that she denigrates the Liberal Party. Campaign Life is distributing a "fact sheet" criticizing her pro-choice activities.

# Anti-Choice Activities

## Use of School Children

Since these activities began accelerating in the Spring, only one time have pro-choice people demonstrated their support for her. In Thunder Bay, where she was speaking pro-choice women stood with her against anti-choice picketers.

We urge all pro-choice supporters to write to the Prime Minister or their MPs endorsing Ms Campagnolo's pro-choice position. These malicious attacks can happen to any high-profile, pro-choice advocate and we need to present our condemnation of these tactics as well as our support of all our spokespeople.

\*\*\*\*\*

*they're not right-to-lifers,  
they're meddle-in-your-lifers*

When the anti-choice lobby heard that there was to be a rally and march in Toronto as part of our Day of Action activities, October 1st, they promptly decided to hold a rally of their own on the same day. As part of their publicity, they arranged to have flyers sent home with every child in the separate school boards of Metro Toronto.

Six-year-old children were seen carting home STOP ABORTION flyers. An outraged mother expressed her disgust at the schools being used to propagandize in such a manner!

This is reminiscent of our story in a previous newsletter about school children being given anti-abortion stamps picturing a distraught woman superimposed on a graveyard filled with crosses.

Perhaps the pro-choice movement could be given equal access to the public school boards!



# Anti-Choice Activities

## Hospital Harassment

Anti-choice picketers marched outside Saskatoon City Hospital last May in an effort to get the Hospital Board to release information about abortion patients and figures on the number of abortions performed.

When they were unsuccessful, they packed a City Council meeting and demanded that the city council members get the information for them. In a separate presentation women from the Saskatoon Women's Reproductive Rights Movement pointed out the harassment tactics being used by Campaign Life.

The Board of the Hospital refused to divulge the information sought and maintained its position that the Therapeutic Abortion Committee operates within the law.

Undeterred by the hospital's refusal to divulge personal information about patients, the zealous leader of Campaign Life, a Dr. James McGettigan, insisted that he would personally get the province to divulge not only how many abortions were performed at the hospital, but also the birth control history of women receiving these abortions!

What possible use could this information be put to other than to harass and hold up to public scorn the women who have chosen the abortion route. The ramifications of this possibility are mind boggling.

## Intimidation of Government

In Nova Scotia this summer, The Senate of Priests of the Archdiocese of Halifax submitted a brief to the Legislature's committee on health stating that the way Section 251 was being interpreted in the province's hospitals was allowing too many abortions.

The committee, obviously afraid at the power wielded by the priests, responded by passing a motion asking Premier John Buchanan to appoint an inquiry into the legality of abortion practices in Nova Scotia. Social Services Minister Edmund Morris and Dr. Colin Stewart, committee chairman, voted in favour of the inquiry. Health Minister Gerry Sheehy opposed it saying he did not believe the law was being abused.

Premier Buchanan said the Cabinet would look at the recommendations but (surprise! surprise!) abortions are a federal responsibility.



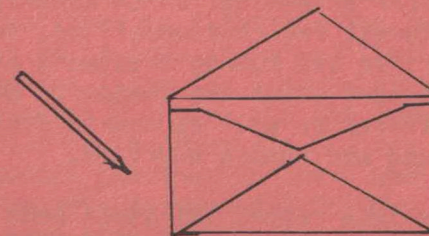
## Conclusion

This overview of anti-choice activity has not been comprehensive. We have not dealt, for example, with the costly television and newspaper ads bombarding some communities.

But we hope that this article has conveyed two messages. First, that anti-choice campaigns are not to be taken lightly. While we can draw encouragement from the desperation that is shown in some of their actions, such tactics show that these people are not about to carry on the abortion debate in a rational, reasonable way.

Second, that as the anti-choice element knows, everybody counts numbers. Politicians count. Newspaper editors count. Advertisers count. Let them count you.

Your opinion is not automatically recorded because you are among the majority on this issue. You've got to use your powerful voice, both individually and in groups.



The Bishop of New York to Margaret Sanger:

**"THE CHURCH CAN BE A POWERFUL ENEMY."**



"The true contraceptive lesson of the '60's and '70's is that increased use of contraceptives leads to more abortions ... Instead of promoting contraceptives, what we need is to accept that pre-marital and extra-marital sexual relations are both an offence against God and socially regressive, leading to abortions, venereal disease, marital infidelity and other evils."

Father Alphonse de Valk  
Ottawa, in The Citizen  
(Sept. 29, 1983)





And you once said you'd cut off your right arm for me!

METRO TORONTO YWCA CLAIMS  
ABORTION NEEDS NOT MET

## Ontario

In response to a statement by former Health Minister, Larry Grossman, that he wasn't aware of problems obtaining abortions, the Metro Toronto YWCA convened a group of health care professionals to share their experiences in abortion counselling and to make recommendations to the Minister.

Citing examples of delays, bureaucratic obstacles, attitudinal barriers amongst doctors and nurses, the group stated that women's needs are not being met for safe, early and humane abortion.

They recommended that facilities for early abortion must be made available outside the hospital system. Clinics should provide breast cancer screening, birth control, maternal health counselling, supportive and humane treatment of pregnant women who choose to bear children as well as counselling for those who choose abortion.

The YWCA report has since been sent on to the new Health Minister, Keith Norton.

# ACROSS CANADA

## CLINIC CHARGES HEARD IN TORONTO AND WINNIPEG

As we prepare this report, defence and prosecution lawyers are summing up at the preliminary hearing of the abortion related charges against Dr. Henry Morgentaler, Dr. Robert Scott and six staff members of the Winnipeg clinic.

In Toronto a preliminary hearing has been waived and a trial date of November 21st is set to hear the charges arising from the clinic here. This date was later than had been expected, and Dr. Morgentaler immediately announced that he would reopen the Toronto clinic because the need for abortion services is so pressing.

In the meantime, pro-choice groups and coalitions across the country are raising money for the defence of the doctors and staff charged in the clinic raids in Winnipeg and Toronto. CARAL has sponsored the Pro-Choice Defence Fund to fight these legal battles and, among other plans, is using a direct mail fundraising campaign to raise money for the Fund.

Both of the provincial groups established to fight for the legalization of free-standing clinics (the Coalition for Reproductive Choice in Winnipeg and the Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics in Toronto) continue to press their respective governments to drop the charges and legalize the clinics.

Both provincial governments have been silent on police and prosecution handling of the cases, saying that they are leaving it to the officials involved to do their jobs. Health ministers in both provinces have refused to approve the clinics as hospitals, which would permit them to perform abortions within the current law.

Letters urging free-standing clinics and the end of prosecution of those charged in the clinic raids in Ontario and Manitoba should be directed to:

### Ontario

The Hon. Wm. Davis, Premier  
The Hon. Keith Norton, Minister  
of Health  
The Hon. Roy McMurtry, Minister  
of Justice  
Your own M.P.P.  
Parliament Buildings,  
Queen's Park,  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 1A1

### Manitoba

The Hon. Howard Pawley, Premier  
The Hon. Roland Penner, Minister  
of Justice  
The Hon. L. Desjardins, Minister  
of Health  
Your own M.L.A.

Legislative Building  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3C 0V8

Story continued...

# ACROSS CANADA

## Winnipeg

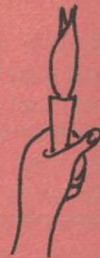
Since the clinic was raided twice in June there have been continual complaints about police harassment during their investigations. The police investigation has raised concerns about the confidentiality of medical records. The records were seized during the raids and Winnipeg Deputy Police Chief Ogelski maintains that these files are no longer confidential. Women have been unexpectedly approached by police for interviews in their homes when spouses and families were present. Ogelski insists that the women took the chance of being investigated when they went to the clinic.

On the weekend of September 11 and 12 the Manitoba College of Physicians and Surgeons ruled to remove abortion from the list of surgical procedures that must be performed in a hospital. College Registrar James Morison said that the doctors felt that abortions were just as safe if performed in a clinic as in hospital. He said studies here and elsewhere show that clinic abortions can be performed more cheaply than in hospital.

Ellen Kruger, spokesperson for the Coalition for Reproductive Choice, greeted the doctors' decision with cheers. Manitoba Health Minister Larry Desjardins, however, said that despite now having the legal power to declare the clinic as a hospital, he won't do so.

When the preliminary hearing began on October 5, the Crown announced that they would proceed only with the charges of conspiracy to procure a miscarriage; they would not proceed with the charges of procuring an illegal abortion that had been laid against Dr. Scott and two staff members.

The Coalition for Reproductive Choice expressed its concern about this move in a news release that accused the government of attempting to sabotage a clear challenge to Section 251 of the Criminal Code. Spokesperson Ellen Kruger told us that an acquittal on the conspiracy charges could be interpreted as having no impact on the law itself.



## Toronto

The clinic in Toronto was raided on July 5 and equipment was seized by the police. Charges of conspiring to procure an abortion were laid against Dr. Morgentaler and Dr. Leslie Smoling, and of procuring an abortion against Dr. Smoling and Dr. Scott. The three doctors were held in the Don Jail while waiting for their bail hearing. This action generated a lot of public sympathy including a demonstration in front of the Don Jail.



# ACROSS CANADA

## BOROWSKI LOSES FIRST ROUND

Joe Borowski lost his first round in court on October 13 when Mr. Justice W. R. Matheson of the Court of Queen's Bench, Saskatchewan ruled that "there is no existing basis in law which justifies a conclusion that fetuses are legal persons." Therefore Borowski's challenge that the abortion law contravened the rights of fetuses was dismissed.

Borowski announced that he would appeal the decision to the Supreme Court of Canada, if necessary. He was quoted as saying that his challenge "proved beyond a shadow of a doubt" that a fetus is a human being.

The Crown Counsel, Alan Cooper, attempted to keep the doctors in jail unless they agreed to stay away from the clinic. The Provincial Court Judge, David Scott, decided to release them on \$3,000 bail, however, stating that he believed they would not attempt to perform any abortions and did not wish to see them become martyrs of the abortion cause.

Presently the clinic is only providing counselling and referrals to clinics in Quebec and New York state. An average of 12 calls a day are being received from women asking for help. A date for the clinic reopening has not been announced.

CARAL President Norma Scarborough issued a media release saying that there was reason to be gratified by the decision because the alternative would have had serious consequences to the health and lives of Canadian women.

She went on to say, however, that "the abortion law that has been upheld is still a bad law and we won't give up our fight until it is out of the Criminal Code. The decision about abortion must be left to the women facing unwanted pregnancies."

Scarborough said that this decision implies a good outcome in her own constitutional challenge. "The rights of women were not even discussed in the Borowski case and still the judge held against Borowski. We look forward to a court decision in our own case, after evidence about the needs and rights of women has been heard," she said. "The Charter of Rights and Freedoms certainly does apply to women and our rights are being denied by the abortion law."

## CARAL HONOURARY DIRECTOR LAURA SABIA CHOSEN FOR PERSONS AWARD

Congratulations to Laura Sabia, who was one of five women chosen this year to receive a Persons Award. The awards recognize outstanding contributions made towards improving the status of women in Canada. Among her many achievements, Sabia was a founding member of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women.

# ACROSS CANADA

## KITCHENER-WATERLOO MAYOR OFFICIATES AT RIGHT-TO-LIFE WALKATHON

CARAL members in this Ontario city protested recently when their mayor officiated at a Right-to-Life walkathon.

The mayor claimed that he participated in the fund-raiser as a private citizen and, ironically, was quoted as saying, "When the time comes when you are told by activists what you can and cannot do in your private life, it's too bad."

## Maritimes

### NOVA SCOTIA CUTS AID TO UNWED MOTHERS

The elimination of welfare benefits for unwed teenage mothers will contribute to "table top abortions, teenage suicides, forced marriages and child abuse" charged the Nova Scotia Civil Liberties Association. The Bill is intended to shift financial responsibility to the young woman's sexual partner or her parents. How's that for invasion of privacy and discrimination based on marital status? It follows that this proposal comes from a province with one of the worst records for providing birth control and abortion services.

## Saskatchewan

### PRINCE ALBERT GROUP PETITIONS HOSPITAL TO REINSTATE TAC

The Prince Albert and District Pro-Choice Coalition has gathered 900 names on a petition supporting women's right to safe, legal abortion and urging Victoria Union Hospital to reinstate therapeutic abortion services. The therapeutic abortion committee was shut down in August 1982 in response to anti-choice suggestions that it might be operating illegally. The issue, which affected the Moose Jaw hospital the same way, is whether a hospital must offer obstetrical services in order to have a TAC. (The two hospitals mentioned did not have these services because the Roman Catholic hospitals in these cities did.) Reassurances that these services are not required for abortion services to be legal have not brought the TAC's back.

## British Columbia

### ANTI-CHOICE LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION

The "Annual Canadian Bar Association" conference held this past August saw the formation of an association of anti-choice lawyers.

This association is an extension of British Columbia's "Advocates for Human Life", which has approximately 80 members including retired judges and law professors.

This group has placed 4 members on hospital boards in the province. Two of these boards have since drafted stringent guidelines on abortion.

One of the stated purposes of this lawyers' association is to educate themselves on the Charter of Rights as they believe the abortion issue will be settled in the courts, not in the legislatures. They are also attempting to organize local opposition to abortion.

### BRITISH COLUMBIA CUTS OFF PLANNED PARENTHOOD FUNDING

In September, the B.C. government ended its funding to Planned Parenthood, creating a \$116,000 gap in the annual budget. The group warned that teenagers will be the hardest hit by the cut because they make up the majority of its clients. B.C. Health Minister, Jim Nielson stated that teenagers should tell their parents when they need birth control: Oh the naivete!

## Quebec

### Federation Des Femmes du Quebec

(from a telegram to Mark MacGuigan October 3, 1983)

Afin de placer le debat dans le contexte approprié nous vous prions, monsieur le ministre, d'amender le code penal pour en retirer toutes les dispositions qui font de l'avortement un acte criminel.



No woman can call herself free who does not own and control her own body. No woman can call herself free until she can choose consciously whether she will or will not be a mother.

Margaret Sanger



# ACROSS CANADA

## NEW CHAPTER ACTIVITY

In the last few months, the CARAL/Moncton/ACDA group has formally constituted a chapter, CARAL/Halifax has been rejuvenated and CARAL/York Region has been established.

All of these groups have ambitious plans to make their presence felt in regions where anti-choice activity has been fierce. If you live in one of these areas, check the address of your local chapter on the back of the newsletter and GET INVOLVED.

### ARE YOU MOVING? PLEASE TAKE US WITH YOU!

The post office has change of address cards which you can send free. Please let us know where you're going.

We wish to welcome the following new affiliates:

Nous souhaitons la bienvenue aux nouveaux groupes suivants, qui ont décidé de devenir membre de l'ACDA:

Le Centre de Santé des Femmes (Sherbrooke, Qué)  
 Le CLSC Centre Sud (Montréal)  
 Le Conseil du travail du Toronto métropolitain  
 Les Editions du Remue-Ménage  
 Cranbrook Women's Health Network

## JULY 1983 POLL OF M.D.s

A survey by the Canadian Medical Association indicates:

① 49.5% of doctors polled would approve abortion in the first trimester simply because it was requested.

② 53% of doctors thought the Criminal Code section on abortion should be amended, with 51% of those favouring removal of the requirement for therapeutic abortion committees.

③ 5% would not approve an abortion for any reason.

④ 61.5% would approve a first trimester abortion for socio-economic reasons, but after 3 months only 17.5% would approve.

⑤ 86% said rape or incest would be cause for abortion in the first trimester and 87.7% would approve.

It is obvious that physicians are fully aware that the current legislation is inadequate and must be changed.

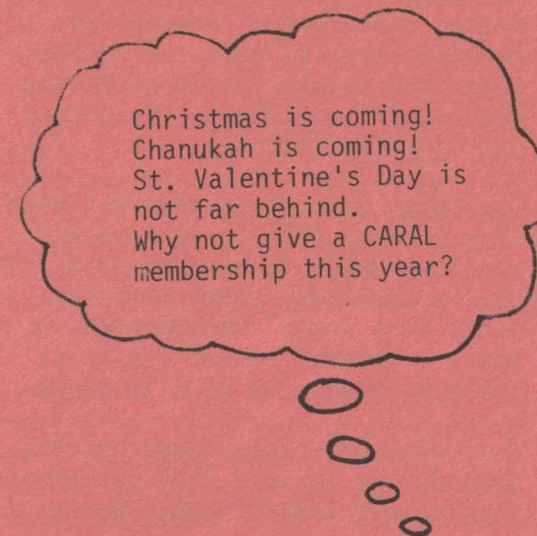


## ANTI-CHOICE, PRO-CHOICE SUMMARY

	Anti-choice ("Pro-life")	Pro-choice (not "Pro-abortion")
<u>Believe:</u>	Abortion always wrong (or almost always) for themselves and everyone else	Some believe abortion would be wrong for themselves Some would choose abortion for themselves
<u>Public Action:</u>	Persuade others that abortion is wrong  Try to make all abortion illegal (authoritarian)  Either ignore or oppose contraception	Do not persuade: respect personal beliefs and conscience of others  Try to get good access to safe legal abortion for those who choose it (democratic and humane)  Believe in prevention: strongly support family planning and sex education

"Arguably, nothing has been quite so powerful a vehicle for male domination as the historic relegation of women to the inevitable role of "carrier" or "receptacle" of the species. Rather than celebrating this unique, life-giving characteristic of women as a wonderful option to be exercised willingly and voluntarily, it has been used historically as a mechanism to control their spirit and bodies."

Jack London, Dean of Law, University of Manitoba, quoted from a CBC broadcast, June 13, 1983.



## October 1<sup>st</sup> Report

The Day of Action for Choice on Abortion, co-sponsored by CARAL and pro-choice groups and coalitions across the country, was both a success and a failure. Events and actions did take place in every province, and organizers uniformly report that, although the numbers were smaller than expected, participants enjoyed the events and went away more committed than ever to the fight for choice.

Rallies and marches took place in Victoria, Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Moose Jaw, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa and Fredericton. Public meetings were held in Halifax and Saskatoon, the latter being one of several cities where events took place over two days.

In Montreal, a Friday evening presentation by the Improvisation League on the theme of abortion was followed on Saturday by ads in four Quebec newspapers. Pro-Choice Defence Fund ads were run in Newfoundland papers, while groups in London, Prince Albert and Terrace put on mall displays.

The CARAL slide/tape show was used at a library drop-in in Cranbrooke, a film night in Saskatoon and a film day in Edmonton. Some participants in a women's conference in Hearst, Ontario set up a display table with pro-choice literature.

More than 100 groups endorsed the demands put forward that the provincial and federal governments

La journée d'action pour l'avortement libre, organisée par l'ACDA et divers autres groupes et coalitions luttant pour le droit des femmes à l'avortement, a été à la fois un succès et un échec. Des activités et des manifestations ont bien eu lieu dans toutes les provinces. Les organisatrices nous informent que, bien que les participants aient été moins nombreux qu'on ne s'y attendait, celles-ci ont quand même montré beaucoup d'enthousiasme et sont reparties plus décidées que jamais à se battre pour le droit à l'avortement.

Des manifestations ont eu lieu dans les villes suivantes: Victoria, Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Moose Jaw, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa et Fredericton. A Halifax et à Saskatoon, des rassemblements ainsi que d'autres activités ont eu lieu pendant deux jours de suite.

A Montréal, la "Improvisation League" a présenté un spectacle la veille du 1<sup>er</sup> octobre, sur le thème de l'avortement. Le lendemain, un message sur le droit des femmes à l'avortement libre a été publié dans quatre journaux québécois. D'autres annonces ont été publiées dans des journaux de Terre-Neuve afin de recueillir de l'argent pour le "Pro-Choice Defence Fund", un fonds établi pour payer les frais d'avocat de toute personne travaillant dans une clinique d'avortement et qui ser-

## Le 1<sup>er</sup> Octobre: compte rendu

should: defend a woman's right to choose, legalize free-standing abortion clinics and remove abortion from the Criminal Code.

Unfortunately, the scope of the Day of Action was generally not conveyed to the public because of the media focus on the anti-choice rally in Toronto. National television coverage that did mention demonstrations in other cities tended to make it sound as if anti-choice demos had also taken place. This is not true.

The fact is that there was one large "Stop Abortion Clinics" rally in Toronto. Approximately 20,000 people attended, many of them bussed in from around the province in Roman Catholic separate school board buses. High school students in separate schools were "encouraged" to attend and were bussed in from their school meeting points. The Metro Toronto separate school board sent flyers advertising the rally home with every child FROM GRADE 1 UP.

The role of the Church in the anti-choice effort is becoming more blatantly political, and it is encouraging to see Catholic Canadians beginning to react publicly to the pressure being put on them by Church hierarchy.

A group from Hamilton, Ontario appeared at our Toronto rally under a Catholics for a Free Choice banner. Marjorie Maquire from Catho-

ait poursuivie en justice. A London, à Prince Albert et à Terrace les groupes en faveur du droit à l'avortement ont monté des expositions dans les centres commerciaux.

A Cranbrooke, à Saskatoon et à Edmonton, on a présenté le montage audio-visuel de l'ACDA. Plusieurs femmes ayant participé à un colloque organisé à Hearst ont installé une table et ont offert de la documentation concernant la lutte pour l'avortement libre.

Plus d'une centaine d'organisations ont appuyé officiellement les trois objectifs de la journée d'action: défendre le droit des femmes de décider si elles veulent avoir un enfant, légaliser les cliniques d'avortement et rayer l'avortement du code criminel canadien.

Malheureusement, à cause d'une grande manifestation anti-avortement à Toronto, les médias ont négligé les diverses manifestations pour le droit à l'avortement organisées dans les autres villes du pays. Et quand la télévision faisait mention de ces autres manifestations, elle donnait en même temps l'impression que des contre-manifestations avaient aussi été organisées dans toutes ces villes, ce qui est faux.

En réalité, une seule manifestation contre les cliniques d'avortement a eu lieu: à Toronto. Environ 20 000 personnes y ont participé, dont une grande partie a été transportée à Toronto grâce à une armée

## October 1<sup>st</sup> Report

lics for a Free Choice in the United States was well received by groups in Moose Jaw, Regina and Saskatoon, September 29-October 1.

We at CARAL thank all of the organizers, speakers, participants and endorsers involved in the Day of Action. The organizing groups we're aware of, and I'm sure there are more, are listed below.

CARAL/Victoria  
 Concerned Citizens for Choice on Abortion  
 Cranbrook Women's Health Network  
 CARAL/Calgary, Abortion by Choice  
 Abortion by Choice, Edmonton  
 Citizens for Reproductive Choice  
 Saskatoon Abortion Rights Assoc.  
 Saskatoon Women's Reproductive Rights Movement  
 Prince Albert and District Pro-Choice Coalition  
 Coalition for Reproductive Choice  
 CARAL/Kitchener/Waterloo  
 CARAL/London  
 Hamilton Committee for Choice  
 Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics  
 Ottawa Coalition for Choice  
 CARAL/Ottawa  
 Centre de Sante des Femmes du Quartier  
 CARAL/Halifax  
 CARAL/Moncton/ACDA  
 New Brunswick Advisory Council on the Status of Women  
 P.S. The Prince Albert group successfully petitioned their city council to proclaim October 1 Reproductive Choice Day! Congratulations. This is a first, as far as we know. Leslie Pearl  
 CARAL Coordinator

d'autobus appartenant aux écoles catholiques. Les élèves des écoles secondaires catholiques ont été "encouragés" à participer à cette manifestation et ont été transportés par autobus au départ des écoles. En plus, le Conseil scolaire catholique de Toronto a distribué des tracts annonçant la manifestation anti-avortement à tous les enfants, y compris aux élèves de première année.

Le rôle joué par l'Eglise catholique aux côtés des organisations anti-avortement prend de plus en plus ouvertement un caractère politique. Heureusement, beaucoup de catholiques commencent à réagir contre les pressions exercées sur elles par la hiérarchie de l'Eglise. Par exemple, un groupe de Hamilton (Ont.) s'est présenté à la manifestation de Toronto avec un calicot où figurait l'inscription "Catholics for a Free Choice" (les catholiques pour le droit à l'avortement). Par ailleurs, du 29 septembre au 1er octobre, Marjorie Maguire, membre de l'organisation américaine Catholics for a Free Choice, a été chaleureusement accueillie à Moose Jaw, à Regina et à Saskatoon.

Nous voudrions remercier les organisatrices, les oratrices, tous les groupes qui nous ont donné leur appui ainsi que tous les manifestants qui ont participé à la Journée d'action pour le droit à l'avortement. Les groupes organisateurs figurent dans la liste qui suit. (Nous espérons n'avoir oublié personne.)

## October 1<sup>st</sup> Report

ACDA - Victoria  
 Concerned Citizens for Choice on Abortion  
 Cranbrook Women's Health Network  
 ACDA - Calgary, Abortion by Choice  
 Abortion by Choice, Edmonton  
 Citizens for Reproductive Choice  
 Saskatoon Abortion Rights Asso.  
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 Ottawa Coalition for Abortion Clinics  
 ACDA - Ottawa  
 Centre de Santé des Femmes du Quartier  
 ACDA - Halifax  
 ACDA - Moncton CARAL  
 New Brunswick Advisory Council on the Status of Women

THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
 GENEROUS SUPPORT

Our appeal for funds to hire an Urgent Action Network Co-ordinator was met with a most wonderful response. We have received enough funds to hire Leslie Pearl to fill this demanding and vital position. Leslie has been working on the Day of Action for Choice on Abortion and has established contact with many new groups across the country.

Those of you who contributed to the fund, please accept our warm thanks. We know you will agree with our decision not to send individual "thank yous" this time. The office staff is overwhelmed with work and, in addition, we think we should save the postage and put it to work for freedom of choice.

### did you know?

St. Thomas Aquinas observed that a fetus becomes a human being and develops a soul 40 days after conception ... if it is a male fetus; but if it is a female fetus, the soul develops after 80 days !!!

# OCTOBER 1<sup>st</sup> Observation

On October 1, 1983 I took part in the pro-choice rally which was held in Nathan Phillips Square, Toronto. The energy and enthusiasm of everyone present was overwhelming. From where I stood, I thought that we had made our cause heard.

That night, I excitedly turned on the 11:00 p.m. news to watch the coverage of our rally. Each station's broadcast opened stating that there had been a large anti-choice rally at Queen's Park, Toronto, with attendance exceeding 20,000. Participants had bussed in from all over Ontario, some as far away as Kapuskasing. Meanwhile at City Hall, the pro-choice groups held a small rally of their own.

I was devastated at the way this had been presented, and the message it relayed.

The next morning I ran to the local store to check the papers. On the front page of the Sun was a half-page photo of the anti-choice rally. Inside, there was an article on the rallies: 4 more photos of the anti-choice rally, one of the pro-choice rally, and 3 of a scuffle. The Star had an anti-choice coverage article on the front page and a pro-choice article on the second page with a photo from the anti-choice rally as its heading.

Further devastation.

That afternoon my husband called me in to where he was watching T.V., as he had tuned into the last 5 minutes of an audience debate program. The subject was abortion. A spokesperson from an anti-choice group had the floor and was presenting her views. The host then gave the floor to several people in the audience at random. Each presented a pro-choice argument. The last speaker was a young man who directed his question to the spokesperson from the anti-choice group, which was: as it is the woman's body, should she not have the freedom to make her own choice? The audience applauded loudly.

The host then asked for a show of hands for those in favour of the woman having her choice - to which the majority of the audience raised their hands. He then asked for a show of hands by those who believed that abortion should not be permitted under any circumstances. Very few hands were raised.

As polls, as well as this studio audience, have proven, the majority of Canadians are pro-choice on abortion. Why, then, does the anti-choice element draw such media attention?

Simply enough: they are making more noise and appearing stronger in support.

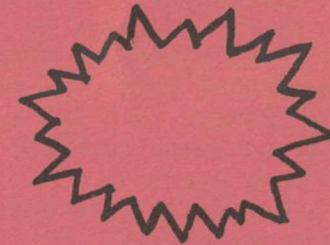
The time has come for each and every pro-choice person to act on what we so strongly believe. No one can afford to sit back and let

others act on their behalf; otherwise the anti-choice groups will continue to have the stronger voice in the eyes of the media, as well as the government and the courts!

We must all write - call - speak out!! And we must continue to do it frequently!

We are the majority --- we have to prove it!!!

Cathy Dranitsaris



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER. In July we sent a reminder to some of our members who have failed to renew their membership. If you had already renewed, and you received one of our reminders, please forgive us.

We are currently putting our membership list on computer and we hope to have fewer "slip-ups" in future.

## Dr. Henry's Morgentaler's book



Morgentaler

Abortion & Contraception is available from CARAL at a reduced rate. Store price is \$16.00. From CARAL it is \$10.00 plus \$1.50 postage.

### ABORTION IS...

At its root, abortion is a political issue; the ultimate symbol of the struggle of women to escape from the bondage of a sexist society. It is a fight for political and economic emancipation. It is a fight for a kind of personhood which is not limited by old-fashioned stereotypes of what the role a woman ought to be. It is a fight for the right to choose to be who and what a woman wants to be; a fight for the right to control her own lifestyle and her own body.

excerpt from a CBC, June 13, 1983 broadcast on Morning Edition

by Jack London  
Dean of Law  
University of Manitoba

# Response to Abortion Issue

## New Democratic Party

The Federal New Democrats recently reaffirmed at their national convention their long-standing policy that abortion is a matter of choice and that the Criminal Code should be amended to give all women the legal right to abortion on request. They overwhelmingly condemned police harassment of patients and staff at Dr. Morgentaler's abortion clinic in Winnipeg and called for the government to establish similar clinics wherever necessary.

Bob Rae, Leader of the Ontario NDP, issued a communique in July calling for repeal of the sections of the Criminal Code dealing with abortion; more emphasis on sex education in the health care and school systems; increased funding for research on methods of contraception and that contraception should be freely available to all; establishment of women's health centres to provide birth control plus counselling and abortion services. . . . .

## The Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women

Lucie Pepin accused the federal and provincial governments of failing to live up to their obligations under the 1969 changes in the Criminal Code which allow abortion to protect the life or health of the pregnant woman. "One cannot accept the fact that women do not have the choice to obtain an abortion if they so desire it," Pepin said in a July news release.

Pepin also said that both levels of government have shirked their responsibilities for providing adequate birth-control and family-planning services.

## United Church

A spokesperson for the United Church of Canada stated the church remains committed to its pro-choice stand on abortions taken in its 1980 report on abortion. The church maintains that a woman should be allowed to bring her own moral and religious insights into human life in reaching a decision about whether or not she should continue a pregnancy.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

We have put our mailing list on computer and need to know if there are errors in your name or address on the mailing label. Please include the label with the correction so that we can locate you.

# Response to Abortion Issue

We recently received a letter from a member who had chosen an abortion and was unable to confide in anyone. She expressed a desire for a group or an individual's telephone number so that she might discuss her experience.

Please drop us a line if you know of available counselling services that we can help promote.



Studies show that women facing the abortion crisis do better emotionally if they have a "significant other" to confide in or a support system of some kind. This kind of support is available through clinics where birth control and pregnancy counselling exists. And women are always welcome to return for post-abortion counselling.

In Toronto, Planned Parenthood's new facility for teenagers, The House, has recently established post-abortion groups.

Anti-choice organizations, intent upon making women guilty for making the abortion decision, contribute a great deal to the distress some women feel after abortion. When women are bombarded with insensitive and strident propaganda against abortion (messages which claim they are killers and play upon sexual guilts many of us have), it is no small wonder that women are affected.

Having someone to talk to during and/or after an abortion can make a very important difference.

### DIRECT MAIL

Our direct mail campaigns to reach many prospective CARAL supporters involves trading lists with other groups. Trading means simply that we provide another group with a copy of our labels for use once, and they provide us with a copy of theirs under the same conditions. No copies are made of anyone's list for future use. Most people don't mind receiving mail and solicitation of funds from various groups. They understand that in order to survive and grow and be effective non-profit groups need to reach new contacts.

Some people, however, object strongly to having their name exchanged and have asked us not to do so.

If you do not wish to have your name exchanged please let us know in writing and your name will not be included in future exchanges.

# Around the World

## Ireland

On September 7th, half of the electorate of Eire turned out to vote on putting a ban on abortion into the Irish constitution. Of those who voted, 5% voted for the constitutional ban, 34% voted against it, and 1% spoiled their ballots.

The amendment reads: "The state acknowledges the right to life of the unborn and, with due regard to the equal right of the mother, guarantees in its laws to protect, and, as far as practicable, by its laws to defend and vindicate that right."

While some have opposed the amendment on the grounds that it would impose a Catholic ethic on non-Catholic minorities, some lawyers oppose the ambiguous wording, saying it could make abortions easier to get.

Many Irish voters had said they would not vote, to protest the referendum, which they believed is divisive. The campaigns on the issue created what the Irish newspapers called a "moral civil war." President Patrick Hillery's signature is needed to make the amendment part of the constitution. He should be back in Eire now after a Far Eastern tour. Hillery, who originally endorsed the ban during the last election campaign, later urged rejection of the proposal.

## Spain

A bill to allow abortion in cases of rape, malformation of the fetus or danger to the woman's life was passed in Spain in October. This relaxation of the law has been criticized both by the Roman Catholic Church, which opposed the bill, and by those who say it did not go far enough.

It has been estimated that 300,000 Spanish women have illegal abortions every year, partly because of the lack of knowledge or access to contraceptives. The recent change in the law follows years of protest and a trial last year in which 10 women charged with having abortions were acquitted.

## Poland

The Pope and the Roman Catholic clergy have been trying to persuade Polish women not to have abortions with little success. Abortion has been freely available in Poland since 1956 and an estimated 1 million take place every year.

The high abortion rate is due in part to the lack of effective methods of contraception and to the uncertain living conditions due to shortages of food and housing. Most abortion patients are married women who already have children.

## Mexico

Under extensive revisions to the criminal code, legal abortion would be available in Mexico under very limited circumstances. This would be the first revision of Mexico's criminal code since 1931.

Until now abortion has been illegal although it is acknowledged that hundreds of thousands of illegal abortions are performed there every year.



## United States

Last newsletter we reported that the United States Supreme Court struck down legislation in several states aimed at restricting abortion.

Soon afterward the U.S. rejected a constitutional amendment to empower Congress and the States to ban abortions. The amendment fell 18 votes short of the necessary two-thirds majority. The defeat was a blow to the anti-choice forces and a strong victory for the growing pro-choice movement.

# U.S. NUN QUILS ORDER

On May 9, 1983, Agnes Mary Mansour left her order which she had served for 30 years rather than quit her job as Director of Michigan's Department of Social Services, having been ordered to do so by a papal emissary a week prior. The welfare agency which she has headed since December funds Medicaid abortions.

It was "with deep regret, sorrow, and limited freedom", Ms. Mansour said, that she chose to leave the order "to honour my freedom of conscience and my continuing commitment to the people of Michigan, especially the poor".

Although Ms. Mansour originally received church approval for her position from her order, the Sisters of Mercy, and from Detroit Archbishop Edmund Szoka, she quickly became the centre of Church debate which not only included abortion, but also religious obedience. Szoka withdrew his support last February when Ms. Mansour refused to publicly oppose Medicaid for funding abortion.

At a State Senate confirmation hearing March 8, 1983, Ms. Mansour stated that although she was "morally opposed to abortion", she "recognized that we live in a morally pluralistic society that government must be aware and respectful of and that my morality may not be someone else's morality". Two hundred nuns in the audience cheered her stand.

# FREEDOM OF CHOICE



CANADIAN ABORTION RIGHTS ACTION LEAGUE (CARAL)

ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE POUR LE DROIT A L'AVORTEMENT (ACDA)

a quick reading summary on **THE PURPOSE OF CARAL** — from our Constitution

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."**

## National CARAL

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(416) 961-1507

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### CARAL/WINNIPEG

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### CUARAL

c/o Carleton University  
Women's Centre,  
Colonel By Dr.,  
Ottawa, Ont.

### CARAL/HALIFAX

P.O. Box 101, Station M  
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I support the statement of purpose of CARAL and wish to become a member

Name..... Phone..... Date.....

Address..... City.....

Province..... Postal Code..... Occupation.....

Name of Federal Riding or Member.....

Indiv. Member \$10.00

Family \$15.00

Limited Income \$3.00

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Affiliated Group \$25.00

Sponsor \$100.00

Donation \$.....

Your cancelled cheque is your receipt.

Return to **CARAL**, Box 935, Station "Q", Toronto, M4T 2P1