



ABORTION
A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE

ABORTION
A LEGITIMATE HEALTH NEED

- no hospital quotas
- no forced sterilizations
- abolish therapeutic abortion committees.
- create easily accessible clinics controlled by women.
- total procedural coverage by OHIP.
- free contraceptive and birth control information

MARCH MAY 28

ASSEMBLE: 12 NOON

ALLEN GARDENS *(corner of Sherbourne and Carlton)*

RALLY: 2 p.m. QUEEN'S PARK

*THE MAY28th COALITION FOR ABORTION RIGHTS
3008 Queen St. East. #7, Scarborough, Ontario
416-694-9536*

REPEAL THE ABORTION LAW

The May 28th Coalition for Abortion Rights is a coalition of organizations and women's groups formed in response to the deteriorating situation around the availability of abortion in Toronto. Its purpose is to build a widely sponsored demonstration on May 28th.

There has been a facade of legalization and accessibility around the issue of abortion - that they were easy to obtain. However, in recent months, hospitals have tightened up on their quotas, Doctors are demanding fees well above OHIP to do the procedure, and Women's College Hospital has closed its public gynecological clinic to abortion procedures.

The Federal Government recently released its expensive report (The Badgley Committee Report) otherwise known as the Report of the Committee on the Abortion Law. It clearly proves that the law is both unworkable and inequitable. It does not however, recommend repeal of the law and the government has made it quite clear that it will not act on changing this law!

It is devastating to think that in 70 years of the women's movement from the suffragists to the present that despite the time, energy, sacrifices and numbers the most basic of human rights has yet to be won - that of control of our bodies.

The Coalition demands that: 1) clinics and related birth control services be established in all communities including immigrant communities, under the control of the women who use them, 2) that contraception be free of charge and available to women of all ages in their own languages, 3) that abortion be fully covered by OHIP and fully available to women who can't afford OHIP, 4) that a woman have the right to choose whether to have or not to have children and that the government provide the necessary services such as child care, maternity leave etc. to ensure this right.

WE urge everyone who believes in a woman's right to choose when and if to have a child to join us on May 28th to help win the long struggle to remove abortion from the criminal code and make it truly accessible to all women living in Canada.

INITIAL SPONSORS LIST:

THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE REPEAL OF THE ABORTION LAW, THE ABORTION AND CONTRACEPTIVE COMMITTEE OF TORONTO, THE BIRTH CONTROL AND VENEREAL DISEASE INFORMATION CENTRE, HASSLE FREE CLINIC, THE TORONTO WOMEN'S BOOK STORE, THE WOMEN'S REFERRAL AND EDUCATIONAL COLLECTIVE, THE RAPE CRISIS CENTRE, TIME'S CHANGE WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT SERVICE, LEAGUE FOR SOCIALIST ACTION, TORONTO WOMEN'S CREDIT UNION, CANADIAN WOMEN'S PRESS, YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF METROPOLITAN TORONTO, ORGANIZED WORKING WOMEN, LESBIAN ORGANIZATION OF TORONTO, GAY ALLIANCE TOWARD EQUALITY, REVOLUTIONARY MARXIST GROUP, COUNCIL OF THE YORK STUDENT FEDERATION, HARBINGER.

PLEASE CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MAY 28th COALITION FOR ABORTION RIGHTS
3008 Queen St., E., #7.
Scarborough M1M1A4, Ont.,
694-9536.

____ MY/OUR NAME MAY BE USED AS AN ENDORSER OF THE MAY 28th COALITION
____ ENCLOSED IS \$_____ TO HELP BUILD MAY 28TH.

____ PLEASE CONTACT ME. I WOULD LIKE TO BE INVOLVED.

____ PLEASE SEND FURTHER INFORMATION.

NAME.....PHONE.....
ADDRESS.....
ORGANIZATION(if applicable).....

THE MAY 28th COALITION FOR ABORTION RIGHTS

TORONTO HOSPITALS: THE COST AND AVAILABILITY OF ABORTIONS

It will be shown in the information that follows that there is a great variation in the cost and availability of abortion—from hospital to hospital in Toronto. For exactly the same medical procedure the cost ranges from \$70. at the Toronto General Hospital, to \$563. at the Wellesley Hospital. The length of the hospital stay, for an identical procedure, ranges from a few hours in the Outpatient Department at some to three days and three nights at others. These lengthy hospital stays have been shown to be medically unnecessary for early suction abortion. In addition to the financial burden to the tax money that supports these institutions, there is the fact that an otherwise healthy woman is forced to take up a hospital bed and lose two or three days from work or her family. We can only assume that these lengthy hospital stays are motivated by factors other than the health and well-being of the patients.

It has become increasingly difficult to obtain an abortion in Toronto; in fact we are approaching a crisis situation. Because abortion is not available in many parts of Ontario, Toronto serves as regional centre for abortion services.

Hospitals have established quotas on the number of abortions done, and when these quotas are filled a woman must seek a procedure elsewhere. Often this entails travelling to the U.S. and paying for a service her OHIP premiums should cover. All hospitals in Toronto do not do abortions and all do not have a public clinic. The majority of private gynecologists do not participate in OHIP and charge well over the OHIP fee allowed. Women who cannot afford the \$150. or so that these doctors are demanding (usually in advance of the procedure) must continue the pregnancy, at even greater expense, both emotionally and financially.

The lack of consistent standards creates confusion for anyone attempting to understand the abortion situation, especially someone seeking a procedure. The chart below illustrates the tremendous variations between Toronto hospitals, however, these facts are subject to change with the rotating therapeutic abortion committees or by an individual doctor.

HOSPITAL/CLINIC	WRLY QUOTA	UPPER TIME LIMIT * L.M.P.	TYPE OF ANAESTHETIC	LENGTH OF HOSPITAL STAY	REQ'D # OF HOSP. VISITS BEFORE ABOR.	OHIP COST
To. General Hosp.	30	12 wks	local or ne	4-8 hrs.	3	\$70.
To. Western Hosp.	20	12 wks	general	1 night	2	\$410.
Mt. Sinai Hosp. **	12	10 wks	general	4-8 hrs	5	\$210.
Scarboro Centenary***	14	12 wks	general	4-8 hrs	2	\$190.
Sunnybrook Hosp.	10-11	12 wks	general	1 day	2	\$200.
Wellesley Hosp.	16	12 wks	general	3 nights 3 days	2	\$563.
Hosp. for Sick Child***6		12 wks	general	2nights, 3days	4	\$512.

- * L.M.P. last menstrual period
- ** This clinic filled by referrals from doctors within the Hospital and not available.
- *** Serves only Scarborough area residents
- **** Abortions done at T.G.H.

Women's College Hospital there is no clinic for six months due to a change of the senior gynecological resident.

SPONSORS LIST:

The Canadian Association for the Repeal of the Abortion Law
 The Abortion and Contraceptive Committee of Toronto
 The Birth Control and Venereal Disease Information Centre
 Hassle Free Clinic
 The Toronto Women's Book Store
 The Women's Counselling, Referral and Educational Collective
 The Rape Crisis Centre
 Times Change Employment Service
 League For Socialist Action
 Toronto Women's Credit Union
 Canadian Women's Press
 Young Women's Christian Association of Metropolitan Toronto
 Organized Working Women
 Lesbian Organization of Toronto
 Gay Alliance Toward Equality
 Revolutionary Marxist Group
 Council of the York Student Federation
 Harbinger
 Three of Cups Collective
 Youth Services Network
 Ontario Federation of Students Graduate Student Union
 Central Abortion Referral and Education Service
 Doctors Committee to Repeal the Abortion Law
 Rev. Robert Alexander, Elinor Sniderman, Marilyn Malpass, Eleanor Wright Pelrine,
 Megan Finlayson, Dorothy Curzon, Florence Vale, June Callwood, Suzanne Newman,
 Joyce Pace, Dr. Michael Rachlis, Judith Golden, Anita Lerek, Connie Young,
 Sherran Ridgely, Ottie Lockey, Linda Blackwood, Mary Stern, Iva Stanley, Karen
 McCorriston, Kay MacPherson, Dr. Helena Jaczek, Dr. Howard Krieger, Dr. Ken
 Johnson, Susan Quipp and all those who organized and supported May 28th.

ON THURSDAY JUNE 23rd, at 519 Church St. at 8 p.m. there will be a meeting organized to evaluate the demonstration and to discuss future strategies for an ongoing movement for abortion law repeal. For further information please call 789-4541.
