

## You Can Count on Me!

I \_\_\_\_\_, support the legalization of free-standing clinics to provide medically insured abortions.

### Enclosed is my membership fee:

- \$10 Individual
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$5 or whatever you can afford for low-income individuals)
- \$25 Group
- \$100 Sponsor
- Enclosed is my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to support the ongoing work of the Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ PROVINCE \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Make cheques payable to:

**Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics**  
P.O. Box 753, Station P  
Toronto, Ontario M5S 2Z1

I want to contribute to the defense of those charged because they were helping women obtain safe abortions in free-standing clinics.

### I am enclosing:

- \$25     \$50     \$100     \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ PROVINCE \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Make cheques payable to:

**Pro-Choice Defence Fund**  
P.O. Box 753, Station P  
Toronto, Ontario M5S 2Z1

## Stand Up and Be Counted

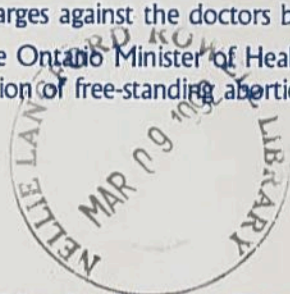
The vast majority of Canadians believe that the decision to have an abortion should be left to the woman concerned — not to governments or the courts.

To date, four separate juries (in two provinces) have acquitted Dr. Henry Morgentaler, further indicating that people in Canada find the existing abortion law to be both unfair and unenforceable. But still, governments refuse to ensure a woman's right to choose if and when she will have children.

The stakes are high. Women's right to choose is in danger if the Pro-Choice majority does not speak out! **Stand Up and Be Counted.**

Here are some of the ways that you can make your voice heard:

- Wear a Pro-Choice button and give them to your friends.
- Contribute to the Pro-Choice Defence Fund.
- Join OCAC. All memberships help us to strengthen our organization and Active memberships increase our effectiveness.
- Invite OCAC speakers to your groups and organizations, and make information pamphlets available to your friends and co-workers.
- Write to the federal Minister of Justice requesting the removal of abortion from the federal criminal code.
- Write to the Ontario Attorney General demanding that the charges against the doctors be dropped
- Write to the Ontario Minister of Health urging the legalization of free-standing abortion clinics.



**Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics**  
P.O. Box 753, Station P  
Toronto, Ontario M5S 2Z1  
Telephone 416/532-8193



# Stand Up for Choice on Abortion

## The Crisis of Access

In 1969, the federal criminal code was amended to make legal abortions a possibility in Canada; but only if approved by a committee of three doctors in an approved hospital. The law does not require either that hospitals set up committees or that they provide abortion procedures for women who need them.

In fact,

- More than 75% of hospitals in Canada do not perform abortions at all.
- More than 30% of Ontario women live in areas where hospitals do not provide abortions.

Even in cities where committees exist and where procedures are performed, access remains a problem.

- At Toronto hospitals, it is often necessary to spend several hours, sometimes even days, just to get through on the telephone to try to book an appointment.
- One major Toronto hospital receives 75 inquiries a day for abortion procedures. It books only six appointments.

Hospital quotas, limited space and the committee system cause considerable delays, creating unnecessary anxiety and increasing the risk of medical complications.

In fact,

- Canadian women are 40% more likely than American women, to have a high-risk (over 12 weeks) abortion procedure.

## Freedom of Choice

**The Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics (OCAC)** believes that **Reproductive Choice Is Absolutely Crucial To Women's Lives**. This means the right to choose if and when to have children. Because available contraceptives often fail or have serious side effects, access to safe, free abortion remains an essential component of this right.

Currently in Canada, however, many women have little real choice. In a society in which women are sexually and economically exploited the desire to parent a child may remain unfulfilled more from necessity than true choice. We cannot forget that,

- Women are raped, and physically abused;
- Lesbians face pervasive discrimination;
- Women on average earn 60% of what men do;
- Women and children are the majority of those living in poverty in this country;
- Women carry the major responsibility for childcare;
- Good quality childcare support to parents is either unaffordable or unavailable.

These are some of the reasons why OCAC supports other sectors of the women's movement in the fight for Equal Pay, Affirmative Action, Universal Day Care, the End of Violence Against Women and other struggles, while we are fighting for Choice on Abortion. Choice on Abortion is part of, and critical to, all issues of women's rights.

## The Stakes are High

The struggle for Choice and for access to safe abortion in Ontario has, since 1983, focussed on the Morgentaler Clinic and its related legal battles.

The Morgentaler Clinic challenges an unjust law. But, the clinic is far more than a legal challenge. It is an urgently needed facility. The delays which Canadian women must face in arranging for hospital procedures increase the fear and anxiety of the patient, the likelihood of medical complications and the costs. Clinics can provide counselling services, birth control information and a personal and supportive environment.

OCAC's aim is the establishment of government-funded Community or Women's Clinics which would provide a full range of medical and counselling services, including access to safe abortions performed by medically qualified personnel, fully covered by medical insurance.

Since the fall of 1982, OCAC has been actively organizing pro-choice support. An increasing number of organizations representing millions of Canadians have endorsed the legalization of free-standing abortion clinics.

## The Opposition Is Strong

In the last year, legal harassment has continued. As the Ontario government appealed Morgentaler's jury acquittal, Toronto police re-arrested and re-charged Drs. Morgentaler and Scott.

In addition to this state harassment, however, there have been attacks on the clinic and its patients by the anti-abortion activists. This anti-choice minority is well-organized, heavily financed and vocal. Their most visible activity is currently the harassment of women who enter the clinic; however, their lobbying continues.

The stakes are high. Women's right to choose is in danger if the Pro-Choice majority does not speak out! **Stand Up and Be Counted!**