

# CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS



# CONGRES DU TRAVAIL DU CANADA

2841 Riverside Drive, Ottawa, Ont. K1V 8X7  
(613) 521-3400

CABLE: CANLABCON • TELEX 053-4750

FAX: TÉLÉCOPIEUR (613) 521-4655

President/Présidente  
Shirley G. E. Carr

Secretary-Treasurer  
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Richard Mercier

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February 10, 1992

The Right Honourable Brian Mulroney,  
Prime Minister,  
Room 309-S, Centre Block,  
House of Commons,  
Ottawa, Ontario,  
K1A 0A6

cc CAW Council  
Q's Cmtee  
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Reggy.

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

The Canadian Labour Congress strongly urges your government to immediately disband the Royal Commission on New Reproductive Technologies and to launch a parliamentary enquiry into the operation of the Commission.

It is clear to us that the Commission, particularly after the firing in December of four Commissioners, is irrevocably off the rails. Even those who originally pressed for the formation of the Commission, such as Dr. Margrit Eichler, are appalled by the total disregard the Commission has shown for the concerns of women, minorities and labour.

It has become evident, in fact, that the Commission has been shaped, by its Chair and by direct interference on the part of your government, to reflect only one point of view: that of the powerful scientific and medical establishments in this country. To this end, hirings and firings of Commissioners have been done to weed out alternate points of view; reports to the Commission appear to have been deliberately altered; and one important study, on new reproductive technologies and the role of the pharmaceutical industry, has been contracted to individuals biased in favour of that very industry. Finally, it is obvious that no attempt has been made so far to assess the social role or impact of the new technologies, and, given what has transpired to date, we have no reason to suppose that this will be done in the future.

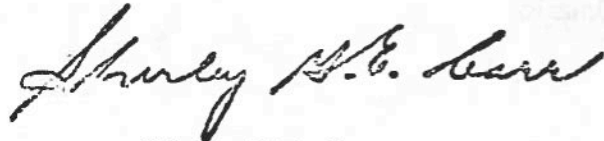
We cannot, for the reasons above, support the continued existence of a Royal Commission whose proceedings have been so seriously compromised. It is abundantly clear that its findings will be biased and irrelevant to many of those constituencies who called for the establishment of a Royal Commission in the first place.

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What Canada needs is a serious debate on the new reproductive technologies, one which will permit many voices and viewpoints to be heard in an open and democratic manner. That kind of debate will not take place so long as the medical and scientific community, and the pharmaceutical industry, with the assistance of your government, are permitted to predetermine the outcome of the inquiry.

Sincerely yours,



Shirley G.E. Carr,  
President

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c.c.: Hon. Marcel Danis, Minister of Labour

C.L.C. Executive Council

C.L.C. Women's Committee

National Action Committee on the Status of Women

Dr. Margrit Eichler