



LifeCanada - VieCanada

376 Churchill Avenue, Suite 310

Ottawa ON K1Z 5C3

www.lifecanada.org

1-866-780-LIFE

THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION CONNECTING EDUCATIONAL PRO-LIFE GROUPS ACROSS CANADA

For Immediate Release January 22, 2008 Abortion: Have we gone too far?

January 28 marks the 20th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision that removed all legal restrictions on abortion in Canada. In those 20 years, during which abortion has been allowed throughout all nine months of pregnancy, almost 2 million Canadian babies have been aborted.

LifeCanada, a national educational pro-life group, has launched a media campaign asking Canadians, "Have we gone too far?" by allowing unrestricted abortion. There are over 100,000 abortions each year in Canada and taxpayers pay for almost all of them.

"This isn't health care," said LifeCanada President Joanne Byfield. "It isn't life saving or life giving. It takes a human life and increases a woman's risk of many subsequent health problems. It is time we re-examined unrestricted abortion."

Provincial and local groups across the country have sponsored billboards, transit ads and radio and newspaper ads asking Canadians to re-think their position on abortion. The ads promote a website, www.AbortionInCanada.ca, which includes statistics, history, medical research and other information on the issue.

Byfield says a pro-abortion attitude has infected our politics, our media and our national psyche. "Have we gone too far?" she asked. "Let's look at the evidence."

- Abortions can be performed throughout all nine months of pregnancy for no medical reason and data show that hundreds are performed each year after 20 weeks gestation, the point of viability.
- Pro-life people who protest or pray near abortion facilities can be arrested, charged and jailed for expressing their opinions.
- Campus pro-life groups across Canada are denied club status because student governments don't want to hear pro-life opinions and don't want others to hear them either.
- To date, the cities of Fredericton and Hamilton have refused to allow our ads to run in their transit shelters. One city councillor in Hamilton found them "offensive."
- A bill currently before Parliament to allow the killer of a pregnant woman to be charged with two deaths is opposed on the basis that it threatens abortion rights even though the bill includes an exception for abortion. Some Canadians would rather ignore the murder of a "wanted" child than risk some notional threat to abortion rights.

Byfield said a majority of Canadians believe there should be legal protection for the unborn. In an October 2007 poll by Environics Research, 62% of Canadians said they supported legal protection at some stage of pregnancy. Women and young people aged 18 to 30 were even more supportive at 67%.

"Despite 20 years of unrestricted abortion and the suppression of a public debate on the issue, there is still strong support for protection of the most fundamental of human rights---the right to life for all human beings," said Byfield.

"After 20 years, it is time to reassess the policy," said Byfield. "We hope Canadians will go to the website, read the material and think carefully about the question we pose: 'Abortion: Have we gone too far?' Canada is the only western country with no legal restriction on abortion and we think it is time for a national discussion on this issue. Questioning Canada's abortion policy should not be a taboo subject."

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For more information, call Joanne Byfield at 780-939-6365 or 780-445-0344 (cell) or Gudrun Schultz at 613-722-1552. For interviews in French, contact Nicole Pyle at 306-683-0829.

Canadians Embracing Life!
