

Highlights

of ARCC's work in 2022



Abortion Rights
Coalition of Canada

- We worked many extra hours responding to the leaked Roe v. Wade draft and subsequent overturning of abortion rights in the U.S.:
 - Our spokespeople did about 150 media interviews.
 - We successfully shifted the narrative towards addressing access issues in Canada, and worked with other groups to unite our message and lobby the government to act.
 - We created a [Take Action](#) list for the public, and a [Change.org petition](#) urging the federal government to improve abortion access.
 - At least 40 Canadian events occurred, which ARCC tracked and promoted. We helped organize some and spoke at some.
 - We responded to dozens of inquiries from the public about how to get involved.
 - We welcomed hundreds of new members and donors, using the new funds to boost our capacity and workloads by recruiting new staff and expanding our volunteer teams.
 - We worked closely with other groups on initiatives such as this [Reproductive Rights Manifesto](#).
 - We published "[Don't enshrine abortion rights into law](#)" and sent it to key decision makers in government. (The government dropped the idea of a law.)
- We repeatedly lobbied the Liberal government to keep its 2021 election promises on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) issues, which include enforcing the Canada Health Act to ensure equitable abortion access across the country, publishing a website portal with abortion information at Health Canada, and stopping charitable status for anti-choice groups. (Progress is being made!)
- We submitted two new complaints against anti-choice groups to the Canada Revenue Agency, and asked the CRA to re-assess our previous complaints made against anti-choice groups. We worked with the Finance Ministry regarding the Liberal Party promise to no longer give charitable tax status to anti-choice groups.
- ARCC partnered with the University of Ottawa to research belief-based care denial (aka "conscientious objection"), in New Brunswick, Ontario, and Alberta, by finding people who've been refused abortion or contraception care based on a provider's personal beliefs. [Recruitment of subjects](#) began in October.
- We worked with law students from the University of New Brunswick, through the Pro-Bono Students Canada program, to produce these excellent legal reports for our advocacy work: "[Comparative research looking at CPC regulation in Canada and five countries](#)"; and "[Safe access zones in Atlantic Canada](#)".

- We continued our research project examining the websites of all "crisis pregnancy centres" (CPCs) in Canada looking for misinformation or deception. The study is complete and we expect to publish our report in Feb 2023. [[study is here](#)] Thanks to the BC Humanist Association for their collaboration.
- We investigated the practice of universities allowing students (medical, nursing, or social work) to complete practicum placements at CPCs, as well as the delivery of sex-ed programs in public schools by CPCs, with the goal of curtailing these practices.
- Working with local activists, we successfully lobbied the City of London to pass a "viewer discretion" bylaw requiring graphic flyers of aborted fetuses to be enclosed in an envelope with identifying information and a warning on the outside.
- We sent letters to over 80 cities across Canada to provide guidelines around a new legal standard for municipalities to follow when deciding whether to allow advocacy advertising on transit vehicles/structures or on public property. ARCC's intervention in the 2021 Guelph bus ad case was crucial. Cities must balance freedom of expression rights of anti-choice groups against other rights and considerations, including reproductive rights, gender equality, city objectives, and the Advertising Code.
- We applied to intervene in a new lawsuit launched against the City of Hamilton by the Association for Reformed Political Action (ARPA), a religious group that sued the city for refusing to run an inaccurate anti-choice bus ad against sex selection abortion. The case will be heard later in 2023.
- Our list of anti-choice MPs [went viral](#) in June, ultimately enabling us to expand our list of Conservative pro-choice MPs. There are now 17 confirmed pro-choice Conservatives and we are hopeful this will curtail the influence of anti-choice Conservatives.
- We organized two successful activist workshops – one in March on gender inclusion hosted by Dr. A.J. Lowik, and the second in June on how to work with politicians hosted by Paige Mason. More workshops are planned for 2023.
- We worked closely with a number of other advocacy groups and entered into several collaborations or partnerships to do research or media projects. Just a few include: BC Humanist Association (CPC research), AccessBC campaign (help with publicity and funding), Cultch Theatre ("In Response to Alabama" performance), Lily Pictures ("When I Sing" documentary), and University of Victoria (reproductive justice literature review).
- We published [cards in eleven languages](#) on our new Shop page, with information for the public about abortion rights and access.
- We regularly updated [key ARCC resources](#) that the public and researchers rely on, including our:
 - [COVID-19 resource page](#) related to sexual and reproductive health and rights
 - List of [abortion clinics](#) and support services
 - Current [statistics](#) on abortion in Canada
 - Detailed lists of over 300 Canadian [anti-choice groups](#)
 - List of [anti-choice MPs](#) and those with Unknown stance
 - Papers on abortion-related [court decisions and laws](#) and [safe access zones](#)
 - [Position papers](#) (with continued translation into French)