

# Highlights

## of ARCC's work in 2024



Abortion Rights  
Coalition of Canada

**Regulation of Charitable “Crisis Pregnancy Centres”:** After several years of lobbying by ARCC, the Liberal government finally proposed legislation in October that would amend the *Income Tax Act* to require anti-choice “crisis pregnancy centres” to transparently disclose whether they provide or refer for abortion and contraception, or lose their charitable tax status. Although the legislation died with the prorogation of Parliament in January 2025, our work finally did pay off and set an important precedent.

**Government Web Portal for Abortion:** Health Canada’s new webpage on abortion finally launched in October – again after years of lobbying by ARCC. The site is accurate and informative, features links to both national and provincial services, and reduces stigma by normalizing abortion.

**Pro-Bono Students Canada Projects:** ARCC worked with law students at the University of New Brunswick and published three reports by UNB students, including on legal strategies to restrict anti-choice speech, how charity tax status impacts reproductive rights, and the Canada Health Act.

**2025 Election Toolkit:** A new committee has mostly completed a toolkit that will include an online petition, a Solidarity Statement for signing, questions for candidates, a sample letter for candidates, stickers and cards, and more. We will also produce a voting guide when we launch the toolkit at the start of the federal election campaign.

**Activist Workshops:** Our Fundraising Committee organized three workshops over 2024:

- How to Host Safer Events, Sept 14. Video recording.
- Colonialism in Reproductive Healthcare: Past & Present. June 22. Video recording.
- Indigenous Voices: Decolonizing Reproductive Justice, Feb 17. Video recording.

**E-petitions:** We launched and promoted three Parliamentary e-petitions. All three were successful!

- E-petition 4826: Health Canada Website on Abortion
- E-petition 4934: Crisis Pregnancy Centres
- E-petition 4827: Canada Health Act and Sexual and Reproductive Health

**Palestine/Israel Statement:** In March, ARCC published a statement in response to the genocide in Gaza: Reproductive Justice Requires a Free Palestine. We extended our solidarity to the people of Palestine, recognizing their liberation as a feminist issue.

**Research:** Our Reproductive Justice Committee partnered with the University of Ottawa on 3 studies:

- Patient experiences with belief-based care denial (aka “conscientious objection”) of reproductive healthcare. Our first paper was published in the *Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality* in Oct.
- Patient and family experiences with obstructions to medical assistance in dying (MAiD), often due to belief-based care denial. We partnered with Dying with Dignity to recruit participants for the study, including patients, family members, and providers.
- Impact of seeing graphic images of alleged aborted fetuses on residents, so we can provide cities with a peer-reviewed study showing the harms of the graphic images.

**Rabble Articles:** We published four articles over 2024 at Rabble.ca – three at our Rabble blog Viewpoint: Reproductive Justice, and one by Joyce Arthur. Joyce was also a guest for a Rabble podcast.

**Small Grants Program:** We continued our [Small Grants Program](#) to help small or low-resource reproductive rights groups cover expenses for their project or campaigns. In 2024, we gave out nine grants for a total of \$7,700. We invite grantees to tell us their [success stories](#) and now have seven.

**Campaigns Against Anti-choice Graphic Images and Advertising:** We advised numerous residents on how to deal with graphic images and advertising, helping them submit complaints or prepare submissions for City Councils. We also worked with or made submissions to 18 municipalities.

- We worked with Burlington and New Westminster to pass “viewer discretion” bylaws requiring graphic flyers to be enclosed in envelopes with a warning on the outside and the sender’s information. [Nine cities](#) have now passed these bylaws.
- The anti-choice group Assoc. for Reformed Political Action (ARPA Canada) sued St. Catharines, claiming the city’s flyer bylaw prevented distribution of their flyer with an ultrasound image. ARCC applied to intervene but the city repealed the bylaw in August as there was no evidence ultrasound photos could be harmful. We asked the other 8 cities to amend their bylaw definition of “graphic image” to avoid potential lawsuits. Two cities have amended their bylaws so far.
- In April, we made submissions to the City of Toronto for the regulation of graphic flyers and signage. City staff refused but ARCC was able to have the matter sent back to staff for review.
- In the fall, we worked with Toronto City Councillor Paula Fletcher to obtain an outside legal opinion on how a flyer bylaw can be constitutional and enforceable, to help convince their Legal Dept and some councillors to propose a bylaw.
- We created [Google forms](#) asking the public to send us impact statements on the graphic flyers and signage, so we can provide evidence to support cities with their bylaws.

**CPC Projects Committee:** Our team of volunteers continued to counter the influence of “crisis pregnancy centres” (CPCs) in collaboration with the BC Humanist Association (BCHA). Some highlights:

- **Sex-ed:** Stopping CPCs from teaching sexual health programs in public schools. We assisted BCHA with their detailed review of school board policies in BC and laid the groundwork for contacting all school districts and boards in BC in 2025.
- **Funding:** Stopping funding of CPCs from United Way, gaming grants, municipal tax exemptions, and other provincial/municipal sources. We lobbied the United Way of Canada to stop funding CPCs and drafted a letter to send in 2025 to all United Way chapters.
- **Medical:** Stopping CPCs from providing unregulated medical services such as ultrasounds. We drafted a letter for nursing and sonography associations/colleges with the aim of preventing their members from working or volunteering at CPCs.
- **Media:** Exposing CPCs in the media and raising awareness. In Dec, we screened the documentary “Preconceived” about CPCs in the U.S. and co-hosted a panel to discuss the film. We created a [Google form](#) for people to submit stories of their experiences at CPCs.
- **Referral:** Removing CPCs from referral lists at doctor’s offices, clinics, hospitals, and social service agencies. We drafted referral lists for BC, Alberta, and Ontario of abortion clinics and sexual health centres so medical professionals know who to refer to.
- **Charitable status:** Submitting complaints to Canada Revenue Agency about CPCs not following charitable tax law or guidelines. We gathered CRA info on all anti-choice charities to flag issues.

**Social Media Team:** We created about one thousand posts across our platforms, including reels, videos, news alerts, and more. You can access our social media accounts at our [LinkTree page](#).