

Highlights of ARCC's work in 2025



Abortion Rights
Coalition of Canada

2025 Election Toolkit: ARCC created a dynamic [Election Toolkit](#) for the April federal election, with a suite of tools for pro-choice voters, including a voter's guide, questions for candidates, stickers and buttons, and much more. We also researched party positions, threats to reproductive rights, and the history of hardline anti-choice incumbents. Check out our [Report on ARCC's 2025 Election Toolkit – Success!](#)

Activist Workshops: Our Fundraising Committee organized three workshops over 2025:

- Advocating for SRHR – A Master Class. Sep 27 [View recording](#)
- Let's Mobilize! ARCC's Election Toolkit is here. April 5 [View recording](#)
- Having Hard Conversations About Abortion. Feb 15 [View recording](#)

Research: We researched and wrote an academic article that critically analyzed the use of language in reproductive rights, concluding that the term "conscientious objection" should be replaced with "belief-based care denial." The article is awaiting publication. In addition, our Reproductive Justice Committee continues to partner with the University of Ottawa on three studies:

- Impacts of belief-based care denial on patients denied abortion and contraception (two articles with in-depth interviews awaiting publication)
- Impacts of belief-based care denial on patients denied medical assistance in dying (scoping review and article with in-depth interviews awaiting publication)
- Impacts of anti-choice graphic images on individuals and communities (scoping review draft almost complete).

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 2025, we gave out 12 grants totalling \$11,675. The program was such a success that we completely depleted our budget.

Advertising company survey: After unsuccessfully trying to place pro-choice ads in Atlantic Canada, we recruited a university student to contact ad companies to determine who would accept our ad. Results: 8 companies said Yes, 15 said No, and 10 didn't respond. A report will be published in January and we hope to place our ads in Spring 2026.

Fact check on Alberta UCP resolution: We produced this [fact check](#) on a United Conservative Party resolution to defund third trimester abortions, and sent it to all Alberta Opposition MLAs before the UCP's convention on Nov 28-30.

Supreme Court intervention: We applied to intervene at the Supreme Court of Canada, in a case where a pregnant woman was mistreated by her doctor and suffered serious injury. If accepted, our intervention will focus on the negative impact to abortion rights if the doctor prevails.

Pro-Bono Students Canada projects: ARCC worked again with law students at the University of New Brunswick and published two reports, including [Abortion and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and International Law, Abortion, and Canadian Jurisprudence](#).

Rabble articles: We wrote and published seven blogs in 2025 at our Rabble.ca blog: [Viewpoint Reproductive Justice](#). Three articles were related to the election.

Position Papers: We recruited students and new volunteers to write and research new Position Papers. Five were published in 2025, with more on the way:

- #12 Widening the Role of Midwives in Abortion Care
- #29 Self-managed Abortion: Incidence and Legality
- #59 Trudeau's Record on Reproductive Rights
- #108 Coerced and Forced Sterilization
- #110 Reproductive Care Violence

Anti-choice graphic images and advertising: We supported about two dozen residents who had received a graphic flyer or saw a graphic sign or anti-choice ad. We worked with or made submissions to about 14 municipalities asking them to regulate the graphic imagery or to refuse ads. We collected 124 impact stories from people who received flyers or saw the images, using their stories in an Ontario court case to show the harms of the graphic images, and sharing with mayors and councils.

UPC Projects Committee: ARCC continued to limit the influence of unregulated pregnancy centres (UPCs, or “crisis pregnancy centres”). Highlights:

- **Sex-ed:** *Stopping UPCs from teaching sexual health programs in public schools.* We sent letters to all BC school districts asking them not to allow UPCs into public schools, and created a list of qualified sex-ed trainers in BC for the districts.
- **Funding:** *Stopping funding of UPCs.* We forced the Fraser Health Authority in BC to distance themselves from a collaboration with a UPC (see this Tyee article). We worked with United Way Centraide (national office) to successfully stop the funding of UPCs by their branches.
- **Medical:** *Stopping UPCs from providing medical services.* We researched UPCs with medical services and issued a press release: “Unregulated pregnancy centres should not provide non-medical ultrasounds,” prompting an excellent article by Radio-Canada.
- **Media:** *Exposing UPCs in the media and raising awareness.* We created two “walkthrough videos” critiquing UPC websites, and developed a game show format to poke fun at UPCs (first episode coming soon). We collected 11 stories of experiences at UPCs to share on social media and with reporters. We created a brochure on UPCs and a sample letter opposing their funding.
- **Referral:** *Removing UPCs from referral lists at medical and social service agencies.* We created provincial abortion referral lists with information on abortion clinics and sexual health centres, to help avoid accidental referrals to UPCs. We got some UPCs removed from Ontario 211 listings.
- **Charities:** *Requiring transparency from charitable UPCs via regulation.* We supported BC Humanist Association with their letter tool about the omission of the *Income Tax Amendment* from the federal budget. We lobbied the Ministers of National Revenue and WAGE to pass the amendment.

Social Media Team: You can access our social media accounts at our LinkTree page. Highlights:

- Launched our new shop in November with many new stickers and more merch to come.
- Held a giveaway contest with prizes to celebrate achieving 15,000 followers on Instagram.
- Hosted a “Why I give campaign” where supporters made videos about why they support ARCC.
- Created Visual Identity Guidelines to help with our branding and graphics.
- Promoted the initiatives of many allied groups and did several social media collaborations.

Abortion Care Canada conference: Two board members and our Executive Director attended this conference in Ottawa on Oct 25-27. We hosted a busy exhibitor’s table where we gave out literature, and our ED delivered a well-received talk on “Understanding Anti-choice Narratives.”

Allyship / Inclusivity: We created a Communications Plan and expanded our inclusivity and our outreach to many allied groups. Examples: We held a DEI workshop for 40 volunteers, staff and board members. We joined two feminist organizing networks. We invited hundreds of groups to our Sep 27 workshop. We created a Safe Events Guide to help allied organizations organize safe and inclusive events.