

# Questions to Ask Your Candidates

The Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada has prepared these suggested questions that you can ask candidates about their stance on abortion and reproductive rights and access. Feel free to ask your own questions according to your local reproductive justice issues and what's important to you!



## Questions for All Candidates

Abortion access and reproductive justice are critical issues that must be prioritized in Canada. As voters, you can help ensure these topics remain at the forefront by posing questions to candidates during all-candidate meetings, when they canvass in your community, or through direct communication such as emails, calls, or social media posts. **Consider asking the following.**

### Addressing Rural and Northern Abortion Access

Many people living in rural areas and northern communities, including Indigenous people, face significant barriers to accessing abortion services, often needing to travel long distances or navigate logistical and financial challenges.

**What will you do to expand equitable abortion access outside of major urban centres?**

### Enforcing the Canada Health Act

Some abortion clinics in Ontario are not fully funded for procedural abortion and most hospitals across Canada do not provide abortions. This creates unnecessary financial burdens for individuals seeking care and violates the Canada Health Act.

**If elected, how will you ensure that all provinces comply with the Act by making procedural abortion fully funded and accessible, including in more hospitals?**

### Expanding Access to Medication Abortion

Access to the abortion pill (mifepristone and misoprostol) could be significantly improved if midwives were allowed to prescribe it. Currently, nurse practitioners can prescribe abortion pills in all provinces, but midwives can only do so in Quebec.

**If elected, will you work with provinces to expand prescribing privileges to midwives to ensure more equitable access?**

## Questions for Conservative Candidates and Leader Pierre Poilievre

**The Conservative Party has a history of supporting anti-choice policies, and its stance continues to pose a risk to reproductive rights in Canada.** While the party often claims it will not legislate on abortion or re-open the debate, this assurance is not enough. Maintaining the status quo ignores the urgent need to address gaps in abortion access and leaves room for individual MPs to push anti-choice agendas. It's essential to hold Conservative candidates and their leader, Pierre Poilievre, accountable with **these critical questions:**

### Expanding Access Beyond the Status Quo

While your party claims it will not legislate on abortion, that is not enough. Canadians in rural and underserved communities still face significant barriers to accessing abortion care.

**If elected, how will you work with the provinces to improve access so Canadians can promptly access abortion care in their own communities?**

### Maintaining the Sexual and Reproductive Health Fund

The Liberal government established the Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) fund to support projects that improve access to SRH services and education, especially for underserved populations.

**If elected, will you commit to maintaining or increasing funding for the Sexual and Reproductive Health fund to support community-based projects and improve abortion access?**

### Maintaining Global Commitments to Sexual and Reproductive Health

In June, Prime Minister Trudeau committed \$1.4 billion annually over 10 years to support maternal and child health, as well as sexual and reproductive health, in developing countries. This includes critical funding for family planning and safe abortion.

**If elected, will you ensure this commitment is maintained and the funding is disbursed as intended?**

### Private Members' Bills and Free Votes on Abortion

Pierre Poilievre: Previous Prime Minister Stephen Harper allowed Conservative MPs to introduce private members' bills that could restrict abortion and to vote freely on them.

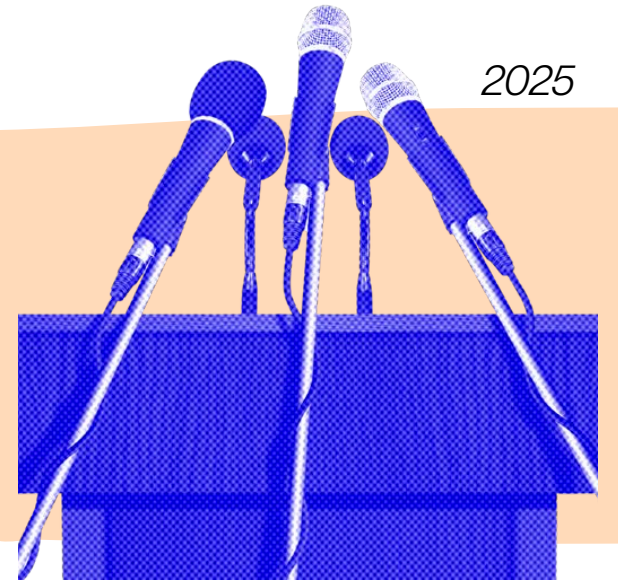
**If elected, will you take steps to ensure such bills do not proceed? If not, will you require your Cabinet to vote against them, as Stephen Harper did, to ensure they will not pass?**





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## Short Questions for Social Media

Post any of these questions on your candidate's social media. Add hashtags as appropriate.

**Do you support free access to contraception, and promise to reach agreements with all provinces to ensure universal coverage for all Canadians?**

**What is your plan to reduce unplanned and unwanted pregnancies in Canada?**

**Do you support allowing midwives to prescribe Mifegymiso for easier abortion access?**

**Will you work to increase the number of doctors providing abortion care?**

**Will you enforce the Canada Health Act to ensure abortion is accessible and fully funded in every province?**

**Do you support the development and availability of male contraceptives?**

**Will your leader commit to participating in a debate on gender equality issues?**

**How will you advocate for the rights and equality of transgender, non-binary, and gender-diverse individuals?**

**Do you support providing free menstrual products in schools across Canada?**

**What will you do to protect women and gender minorities from harassment and violence?**

**Will you maintain the current block on Canada Summer Jobs funding for groups that would use the funds to discriminate or undermine human rights, including anti-choice groups?**

**How will you address intersecting barriers to reproductive justice and ensure inclusive, equitable access to abortion and gender-affirming care for marginalized communities?**

