

Reproductive Rights

	Conservatives	Liberals	NDP	BQ	Greens
A majority of MPs voted against Bill C-484 at second reading	X	✓	✓	✓	n/a
Committed to allocating a % of official development assistance specifically for sexual and reproductive health services	X	X	X	X	X

Abortion: A Reproductive Health Right

Since 1998, abortion has been without criminal restrictions under Canadian law. However, only 15% of Canadian hospitals provide abortion services and it is impossible for women to obtain an abortion in PEI. In New Brunswick, the provincial government refuses to fund abortions being provided in private clinics. The situation in Canada is in direct violation of international commitments. It also contravenes the Canada Health Act, which guarantees that insured health services must be funded without financial or other barriers. Despite Canada's commitment to ensure access internationally, 0% of official development assistance is allocated specifically for sexual and reproductive health services.

Make No Mistake: An Erosion of Women's Reproductive Rights

- Q. How did you vote on Bill C-484, and how will you vote on any subsequent bills that threaten to erode women's right to choose?
- Q. What will your party do to restore funding to the Canadian Health Network, and ensure access to comprehensive health information, including sexual and reproductive health, for Canadians?
- Q. What will your party do to ensure that Canada meets its ODA commitments, and to ensure that some of these funds are allocated specifically to sexual and reproductive health services?

A series of private members' bills that could erode abortion rights were introduced in Parliament during the last session. Disguised as protection for pregnant women against violence, these bills do nothing to deter violence. But they do open the door to the recognition of a fetus as a separate legal entity - a slippery slope for women's rights.

Women Need Access to Accurate Health Information

Accessibility includes more than just access to services; it also includes access to information. In 2007, the government cancelled the Canadian Health Network web portal. The absence of this excellent source of sexual and reproductive health information leaves a huge void for Canadians seeking confidential and reliable sources of information.

* This analysis is based on public information available as of September 10, 2008.