



You are needed in the coming election.

My name is Sarah Kennell. As Director of Government Relations, I’ve spent years fighting attempts to re-criminalize abortion. This means: many late nights on parliament hill, briefing parliamentarians, developing evidence-based resources, and building coalitions primed to hold the line on abortion.

Our federal election is one month away. Some leaders are telling us that abortion isn’t on the table. It is. From members of parliament “premiering” the anti-choice propaganda movie *Unplanned* on parliament hill, to organizations rallying volunteers in ridings across the country to elect anti-choice candidates.



Abortion is STILL very much political.

You can help in this coming election. We are growing a movement of individuals across the country who will hold the line on reproductive rights in Canada. Not *if* but when our elected officials try to push restrictions on abortion, we will stand firm until abortion is treated like any other health service. Our work is not done until abortion care is available in every community across the country, without barriers. Not just to those who can afford it.

As you likely know, we support individuals who need travel funds to access abortion services and provide evidence-based sexual health information online and through our 24/7 toll-free Canada-wide Access Line. The barriers people face reveal where policy is failing—particularly for marginalized people.

That is why I am writing to you today. **Your help is needed in rallying forces across the country to stand up for sexual rights like abortion access, pharmacare, and sex-ed.**

Please send an urgent donation today to hold the line on abortion access in Canada! Your donation will go to work right away 1) supporting people to access services and 2) working on the political frontlines to push back against attacks on abortion and to advocate for better sexual rights laws and policies.

Good sexual health policies save lives. This is not hyperbole. I have witnessed firsthand how changes to policy impact the lives of individuals. From making the abortion pill free, to securing millions of dollars for abortion care in Canada's development assistance. Our advocacy efforts are working.

Our fights aren't just in Ottawa. We've mobilized against attacks on sex-ed in Ontario, stood in solidarity with abortion activists demanding a clinic in PEI, fought for safe access zone legislation to protect those seeking and providing abortions in Alberta. After over a decade calling out and knocking down injustice, I will not accept any roll-back on our sexual and reproductive rights! Candidates are campaigning on threats to restrict abortion while access to abortion remains deeply unequal, **WE CANNOT REST NOW.**



I've seen firsthand the resources and tactics employed by those seeking to restrict access to abortion. Make no mistake, there are direct connections between Crisis Pregnancy Centres, anti-choice campaigning groups, groups opposed to sex-ed, and men's rights groups. These actors mobilize from the ground up and are incredibly strategic when it comes to engaging in political matters.

We need your help. Do you know your candidates? Ask them about their position on abortion, sex-ed, and pharmacare.

1 in 3 women of reproductive age have an abortion in their lifetime

YET only 1 in every 6 hospitals offer abortion

Let. That. Sink. In.

Unnecessary rules, political spin, complacency, and a well-resourced anti-choice movement are all among the barriers that prevent pregnant people from accessing healthcare.

Our work is chipping, no SLAMMING, away at these barriers. But we need your help!

I'm tired, and frankly enraged, by having to walk through the bus-loads of publicly-funded school aged children that descend on Ottawa every year for the "march for life." When pink and blue flags litter parliament hill. When posters spreading confusion and fear litter our streets.

Each week we are featuring an online issue leading into the election.

Here are questions you can ask your candidates:

1. Barriers to abortion access in Canada are much worse for people who live outside urban centres, in the North and on First Nations reserves. What steps would you take to address them?
2. Due to regulation 84-20, New Brunswick is the only province in Canada where a person must pay out of pocket to get an abortion in a freestanding clinic. As a federal MP, what could you do to end this discrimination?
3. Health Canada publishes a range of health-related information. Meanwhile, anti-choice organizations continue to publish and disseminate misleading information about abortion. If elected, what would you do to make sure everyone could access accurate, evidence-based information about abortion? What steps would you take to eliminate the barriers created by anti-choice organizations on access to abortion care?

I'm personally committed to not allowing our political leaders off the hook when it comes to abortion. So for me, the personal is STILL political and will be until everyone, everywhere has full bodily autonomy. It has been our mission for 50 years and continues to be.

This is why the campaign we created is called "The Personal is STILL Political."

Many of the barriers before us can be fixed by better laws and policies that enable people to make their own decisions in supportive environments. These are the human rights we fight for at the UN and in our advocacy in Canada, people's lives and health are at stake.

This is why evidence-based advocacy is needed to guarantee sexual rights in Canada, including abortion access. We need to raise awareness to the abortion barriers, and talk about these services. Myths and misinformation are dominating the discussions around abortion. And we will not stand for it. Too many stories and resources are missing evidence-based and accurate information!

Speaking of evidence-based information, do you know about Access at a Glance? This unique info chart was first produced by one of our legacy organizations, Canadians for Choice. Though it paints a grim picture of the state of abortion in Canada, it compels us to act. Access at a Glance is the tool we need to make evidence-based arguments with governments about unequal access.

Will you help us hold the line on sexual health and rights? Please send us your urgent donation today.

Thank you and please be sure to vote!



Sarah Kennell

PS: You are needed! Your support is vital to hold the line on sexual rights, like abortion, in Canada. Once you have sent in your gift please take a moment to explore links on our website or in emails to you for ways you can take action on pharmacare, sex-ed, abortion, sexual and reproductive health and rights around the world, and sex-worker rights. You can also join the Commit to Resist campaign to stay in touch about actions to resist rollbacks on abortion access and sexual rights. If you want more Access at a Glance postcards, please email us anytime!

