

Motion to Establish CUSA as a Pro-Reproductive Rights and Justice Organization (C-33) E-08, P-08, I-08

LONG TITLE	A CUSA Council Motion Respecting CUSA’s Position in Favour of Reproductive Rights and Justice	DATE OF ENACTMENT	25 July 2022
		LAST AMENDED	
REFERENCE No.	E-08, P-08, I-08	NEXT REVIEW	30 May 2027
CATEGORY	Equity	COMPETENT CHAMBER	Council

Whereas on June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court of the United States of America overturned *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, stripping constitutional protections to abortion access under the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment;

And whereas on January 28, 1988, the Supreme Court of Canada decriminalized abortion in *R v. Morgentaler*, conceding that any attempt to include abortion in the Criminal Code of Canada constitutes a “breach of security of the person,” under Section 7 of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. Abortion is recognized and regulated as a legitimate and essential health service under the *Canada Health Act*;

And whereas the Carleton University Students’ Association (CUSA) has maintained a “neutral” position since 12 December 2012 on reproductive justice and abortion services;

And whereas the Safe(r) Space policy defines safe(r) spaces as “supportive, non-threatening environment where all participants can feel comfortable to express themselves and share experiences without fear of discrimination or reprisal. Further emphasising, that this place does not tolerate sexism, racism, ableism, Islamophobia, transphobia, or any other form of discrimination”;

And whereas “reproductive rights/justice” refers to the production of legal and social conditions which allow people to access a full range of reproductive health care, including safe and legal abortions. Everyone has the right to access and provide informed consent to abortion, birth control, sex education and other forms of sexual and reproductive health care;

And whereas “reproductive oppression” refers to the control and exploitation of the bodies, sexualities, and reproduction of targeted groups and individuals, including forced pregnancy and enforced sterilization, recognized by the United Nations as international crimes against humanity;

And whereas reproductive oppression fundamentally contradicts the *Canada Health Act’s* five principles of medicare: public administration, portability, comprehensiveness, accessibility, and universality; therefore

Be it resolved that the CUSA establish itself as an organization in support of reproductive rights and justice;

Be it further resolved that CUSA acknowledge longstanding systemic barriers to abortion access in Canada, such as socio-economic status and proximity to healthcare facilities. These barriers most greatly impact historically oppressed and marginalized communities, such as Northern and remote Indigenous, Black, and communities of colour; migrant workers; and trans/gender non-conforming people;

Be it further resolved that CUSA acknowledge the historical and ongoing systemic reproductive oppression of Indigenous and disabled people through forced and coerced sterilization, in both legally documented and undocumented cases. Oppression does not exist in isolation but rather through interconnected, intersecting structures. The denial of regular reproductive healthcare and enforced sterilisation are cyclical, with inconsistent access to healthcare producing conditions wherein informed consent to sterilization is denied;

Be it further resolved that the Community Engagement Committee (CEC) conduct an environmental scan of the existing reproductive justice services for the aforementioned communities in the National Capital Region, to

determine how current service availability might impact Carleton students and to identify any existing and missing resources associated with reproductive health services;

Be it further resolved that the Vice President Community Engagement, in collaboration with the CEC, work to establish partnerships with organizations in support of affirming and expanding reproductive justice efforts and resources for Carleton students, in order to secure better healthcare services for our students.