



OTTAWA RAPE CRISIS CENTRE  
P.O. Box 35 Station B  
Ottawa K1P 6C3

LE CENTRE D'AIDE AUX VICTIMES DE VIOL  
Case Postale 35 Succursale B  
Ottawa K1P 6C3

*detache-union  
11 dec 1980*

PRESS RELEASE

Date: 9.00 p.m.,  
December 11, 1980

For information: Pat Reid, 563-1974  
Cindy Moriarty  
238-6666

OTTAWA RAPE CRISIS CENTRE ATTACKS "RIGHT TO LIFE"

Ottawa...The Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre today blasted an anti-abortion group's proposals earlier this week that Canada's constitution should deny access to abortion to women, even to victims of rape or incest.

"These people are the real nut fringe", said spokesperson Cindy Moriarty. She pointed to a 1978 *lifer* publication which states that rape "acts as a psychological 'birth control'" because victims are too traumatized to ovulate. "Believe in that and you believe in the Easter Bunny," said Moriarty, noting that statistically, at least 5% of rape victims do become pregnant as a result of rape.

The Centre's position is that sexual assault is one way women are denied control over their own bodies; compulsory pregnancy is another. Rape crisis centres are working to eliminate all forms of coercion that are used to restrict women's freedom.

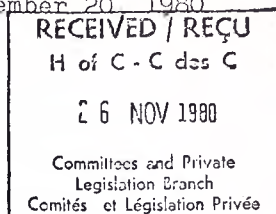
"On abortion", said Moriarty, "our position is firmly pro-choice. I cannot imagine the heartlessness of people who want to extend the already lengthy suffering and trauma of a rape victim by forcing her to bear and raise an unwanted child as well."

Moriarty stressed that the Rape Crisis Centre is not 'pro-abortion'. "We neither advocate, impose nor propose abortion in our counselling. Abortion is an option the victim may choose to investigate or she may not. We feel that all women should be free to choose either way without coercion from any quarter."

*sub only*

67 Siebert Avenue  
Kitchener, Ontario  
November 20, 1980

Joint Clerks  
Special Joint Committee on the  
Constitution of Canada  
Postal Box 1044  
South Block  
Parliament Buildings  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A7



Dear Committee Members:

In response to your request to participate personally in the process of constitutional renewal, I herewith make the following recommendations:

Firstly, since there are contradictions in the law concerning the unborn's status, let the Charter of Human Rights to be incorporated in our new constitution clarify the personhood of the unborn child.

Secondly, include in the Charter of Human Rights the most fundamental human right on which all other rights depend, the right to live. Unless the new Canadian constitution specifically refers to that fundamental human right, it will not be complete or acceptable and the other human rights, if spelled out therein, will be meaningless.

Yours sincerely,

*Mary B. Bruder*

cc: The Hon. W. G. Davis, Mary B. Bruder  
Q.C.  
The Hon. J. Jean Chretien, MP  
The Right Hon. Pierre Elliott  
Trudeau



# RIGHT TO LIFE ASSOCIATION

K.W. AND AREA INC. 91 FREDERICK ST., KITCHENER, ONT. N2H 2L5  
742-0761 745-0497



*sent*

November 20, 1980

Joint Clerks  
Special Joint Committee on the  
Constitution of Canada  
Postal Box 1044  
South Block  
Parliament Buildings  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A7

Dear Committee Members:

In response to your invitation to participate in the process of constitutional renewal by offering suggestions for improving that statement of principles, our Association, representing over five thousand members and supporters in the Region of Waterloo, submits the enclosed statement.

Yours sincerely,

Mary B. Bruder  
(President)

Enc.

cc: The Right Hon.  
Pierre Elliott Trudeau,  
The Hon. J. Jean Cretien, MP,  
The Hon. W. G. Davis, Q.C.

SUBMISSION TO THE JOINT CLERKS OF THE COMMITTEE

At present, there are contradictions in the law concerning the unborn's status. Therefore, the Charter of Human Rights to be incorporated in our new constitution must clarify the personhood of the unborn child.

The draft of the Charter of Human Rights does contain some basic human rights, but no mention is made of the most fundamental human right on which all other rights depend, which is obviously the right to live. No new Canadian constitution is complete nor acceptable without specific reference to that fundamental human right, especially if it does spell out other human rights.

Respectfully submitted by:

THE RIGHT TO LIFE ASSOCIATION OF  
KITCHENER-WATERLOO AND AREA INC.

*Mary B. Bruder*

November 20, 1980

Mary B. Bruder  
(President)