



Canadian Unitarian Universalist Women's Association
February 15, 2016

Honourable H. Wade MacLauchlan and Members of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island:

At the May 15 2015 Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council, the congregations voted to promote and educate Canadians regarding the need for universal access and availability of abortion in Canada. The Canadian Unitarian Universalist Women's Association sponsored this resolution.

One does not need to be a Unitarian or Universalist to appreciate that every mother should be willing to bear and able to care for every child she conceives and that every child that is born should be a wanted and desired human being. The long-term social and psychological costs to the mother and children born, and to society are too grave when choice is denied. Anyone who studies birth and death demographics knows the consequences, plus the dangers of ancillary diseases.

The immediate financial pressures upon women who desire an abortion in Prince Edward Island present a barrier to many. Because no abortion services are offered on the island, and abortion is an exclusion under reciprocal billing between PEI and its neighbouring provinces (New Brunswick and Nova Scotia), women seeking abortions are required to have at least \$2400 to pay hospital service (\$1900) in addition to travel and lodging costs. Yes, this cost is reimbursable if a doctor referral has been given, but requiring that much cash on hand is prohibitive to many women in this difficult situation.

Since 1980, our Unitarian faith community has articulated and upheld Abortion Rights; this resolution was recently amended to state:

The Canadian Unitarian Council encourages member congregations and individual members to work to ensure that Canada continues to permit the right to abortion to be determined exclusively by the woman in consultation with a physician, and to ensure that abortions are available and accessible to all Canadians at a reasonable cost.

We act now, as a national women's organization, to request that you make abortion available and accessible in Prince Edward Island to ensure that all women across Canada have the same access and the same right.

Dr. E L Donaldson, Chair of CUUWA Council on behalf of the membership
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