

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

An introduction

**BROUGHT TO YOU BY PLANNED PARENTHOOD NL
SEXUAL HEALTH CENTRE**

Brief Timeline of Reproductive Rights in Canada

- **Mid 19th Century:** Gradual abolition of Abortion, prompted by male physicians.
- **1880s-1990s:** Indigenous Residential Schools rob mothers of their children and the Canadian State commits (attempted) genocide on countless indigenous communities through assimilation and forced sterilization. Even though residential schools have now closed, colonisation is still an ongoing process.
- **1969:** Decriminalization of Abortion. People seeking abortions have to justify and argue for it in front of a "Therapeutic Abortion Committee", according to section 251 of the Criminal Code.
- **1970:** The Abortion Caravan: 17 women from Vancouver drove 4,500 kilometres across Canada to Ottawa, gathering supporters as they went. They invaded Parliament Hill and shut down the House of Commons, demanding for the decriminalisation of abortion.
- **1984:** The Charter of Rights and Freedoms brings new light on abortion debate
- **1988:** The Morgentaler Decision: the law on abortion is ruled as unconstitutional
- **1991:** Mulroney Government attempts to criminalize abortion, gets blocked by historic Senate tie. Abortion care is now regulated by the medical community in each respective province and territory.
- **1995:** British Columbia is the first province to enact "safe access zone" laws, in order to protect the privacy and safety of those delivering and seeking sexual and reproductive health care. Newfoundland and Québec followed in **2016**, Alberta in **2017**, Ontario in **2018** and Nova Scotia in **2020**. In **2021**, similar bills have been proposed in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. PEI, NB, YK, NU and NT remain.
- **2015:** Canada finally approves the use of the medical abortion drug RU-486, also known as Mifepristone.
- **2017:** PEI's first abortion clinic opens.
- **2020:** Clinic 554 announces its closing due to lack of funding. Ongoing legal battle and protests against the NB government has followed.

Reproductive Justice is...

First introduced by the "National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda" in 1994, Reproductive Justice is an intersectional framework that focuses on the way socio economic issues overlap with each other and **influence a person's decision and ability to access reproductive health services.** It highlights the variety of **structural conditions that limit the reproductive reality of formal choice** and moves away from the binary of "pro-choice v.s pro-life" rhetorics to focus on abortion in a larger context which **addresses the systemic oppression** of BIPOC women, trans folks and non-binary people who have traditionally been excluded from the feminist movements and whose reality and reproductive lives have been neglected.

1. The right to **have** a child
2. The right to **not have** a child.
3. The right to raise a child in a **safe and healthy** environment

The ultimate goal? To give people the power and resources to make decisions about their bodies, sexuality and reproduction.

Bottom line is this; choice is important, but if people do not have rights, if people do not have justice or access, what does it matter?

THE RIGHT TO HAVE A CHILD



FERTILITY

Pregnancy is an emotional and physically challenging journey. People going through it should have access to resources and support--free of social pressure and stigma---to go through it the way *they* want to.



INCLUSIVITY

Queer people can be parents too! Heteronormativity should not be the gatekeeper of parenthood. Moreover, fertility care (along with all healthcare) should be decolonized in order to make space for people to access traditional knowledge systems of care if they wish to.



CHILD CARE

Affordable---or free--- child care can help break the cycle of poverty and all things that intersect with it (such as gender inequality and systematic racism). It can also alleviate barriers that single parents face in particular.

Reproductive Justice goes beyond the Abortion Debate. The control of fertility has been used as a tool of oppression for far too long.

THE RIGHT TO NOT HAVE A CHILD



SEX EDUCATION

Sex education invites people to explore the interconnections of health, identity and sexuality. It is crucial in the empowerment of bodily autonomy, as well as promoting a consent-focused mindset.



BIRTH CONTROL

Birth control is a necessity, not a luxury; it should be funded by a national healthcare program as such. People should not be penalized for having uteruses!



ABORTION

Despite being decriminalized, abortion is still widely inaccessible in Canada. Provincial governments have the power to defund abortion clinics and limit reproductive health care even more.

Knowledge is a powerful tool in promoting bodily autonomy and making informed choices.

However, choice is meaningless if people cannot access the resources to make that choice.

Reproductive care is health care, and should be provided with the adequate funding.

THE RIGHT TO RAISE THAT CHILD IN A SAFE AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT



SYSTEMIC RACISM

Every parent and child deserves to feel safe at all times and live a life free of discrimination.



CLIMATE CHANGE

In 2020, Human Rights Watch announced that **each year, more than "1.7 million children under the age of five lose their lives as a result of avoidable environmental degradation."**



SOCIAL SERVICES

Access to services like education and healthcare (including mental health), are essential for *everyone*.

Reproductive Justice aims to...

- **Change policies**, especially regarding abortion and contraception **access**



- **Improve services**, such as child care and sexual health **education**



- **Collaborate with other social justice movements** (like the feminist movement, Black Lives Matter, Climate Justice, Idle No More, etc.)



Important Values of Reproductive Justice

Bodily Autonomy

Bodily autonomy refers to the **right to govern our own bodies**. In other words, it is the freedom and ability to make decisions about what to do and *not* to do with your own body. This is true in matters of health, gender expression, physical activity, sex and reproduction. As such, **personal agency** (capacity to make decisions/actions) and **informed consent** (giving permission to others) are key components of bodily autonomy. A pregnancy also demands for consent--- if you don't want it, then you have the right to say no and get an abortion. **Having control over your reproduction is your right to bodily autonomy.**

Intersectionality

Coined by black legal scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw, Intersectionality is defined as "the **interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender** as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating **overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage.**" It is an analytic tool used in Reproductive Justice, which can help in **decolonizing our health system**, in order to provide more **accessible** reproductive and sexual health services for everyone.

Sex Positivity

Sex-positivity is "an attitude towards human sexuality that regards all **consensual sexual activities as fundamentally healthy and pleasurable**, encouraging sexual pleasure and experimentation." It is crucial in Reproductive Justice theory as we seek to **change norms and stigma** surrounding reproductive care in order to make it more accessible.

Harm Reduction

A harm reductive approach starts with **respecting self-determination** and knowing that you can't be the expert about someone else's life (and body).

It is about meeting people's needs in order to live the life **they** want to live--like providing accessible reproductive and sexual health services!

The Problem of Accessibility

Rural areas



Some folks live hours--or even days-- away from the nearest health clinic and have to take public **transport** to get there, as too many hospitals do not offer abortion care.



Commuting can be very **expensive**.



Lack of resources and education about sexual and reproductive rights/health.



Lack of **privacy**; word gets around fast in a small town.

Marginalized communities

Indigenous Communities

The ongoing process of Colonization is deeply tied to the reproductive freedom of indigenous peoples, as the control over women's reproductive abilities has often been used as a tool of genocide. With the dismissal and/or erasure of traditional knowledge systems surrounding reproduction, indigenous communities face even more barriers in accessing sexual and reproductive care.

Transgender and Queer Folks

Sexual and reproductive health care and education is not always inclusive of trans identities, and can lead to gender dysphoria, discouraging some folks from seeking services.



Funding

Funding differs from province to province, which can be problematic for students and out-of-province workers since their health card may not cover their abortion or doctor's appointment.



Contraceptives (condoms, birth control pill, IUDs, etc.) as well as fertility treatments are not covered by provincial medical insurance cards. This is a very big barrier for low income populations. **Controlling your reproductive health is not a luxury, it is a necessity!**

Social Stigma

Social stigma acts a big barrier to seek out reproductive health care, due to **shame** surrounding these services. This can induce great amounts of stress, fear, and depression for patients and cause delays in the diagnosis and treatment of their conditions. Sex workers, people with addictions and folks with disabilities may even face stigma from their health care professionals.



Also, pregnant people may face harassment and violence from anti-choice protesters, both before and after deciding what to do about their pregnancy.

Advocating for Reproductive Justice...

Through Language

Language is fundamental in changing social norms. By changing the way we talk about things-- or *what* we talk about-- we can collectively reconstruct the way society operates. **So, first step in advocating for reproductive justice; speak up about it!**

Using Gender Neutral Language

Transgender and non-binary people have abortions too! No one should be left out of the conversation, because **reproductive justice is for every body**. So, it's best to not default to the gender binary ("women" v.s "men") when talking about reproductive and sexual rights and health. For example, you can use the term "**pregnant people**" instead of "pregnant women". Or, when talking about a medical operation or condition that is specific to a vagina, you can say "people with a vagina", and that way, trans men and non-binary folks are included. Other gender neutral terms include folks, human, person and individual.

Hashtags to lookout for

#mybodymychoice, #abortionishealthcare,
#abortionisessential, #bodilyautonomy, #reprojustice
#NotHere #srhr #saveclinic554

Advocating for Reproductive Justice...

Through Politics

One of the best things you can do as a supporter of the Reproductive Justice Movement **is to stay informed on current political affairs**, whether it concerns legislature or debates on abortion, new contraception methods or child care services.

In Canada, the issue less concerns the right to have an abortion and focuses more around **the precariousness of reproductive and sexual health access**. Moreover, while Provinces cannot necessarily ban abortion and other reproductive health services, **politicians in power can cut funding** to clinics, which inevitably results in their closing down---like what is currently happening with clinic 554 in New Brunswick. **Reproductive health is an essential service, and should be supported with the funds as such.**

What can you do about it?

- **Call out** your political representatives
 - Sign **petitions**
- Take part in physical and virtual **protests**
- **Vote** for pro-choice feminist politicians

Political Toolkit

Political Representatives

On their website, Action Canada upkeep a comprehensive list of members of Parliament who vote anti-choice on abortion-related bills. The list is a useful tool to find out if your MP supports Reproductive Justice efforts, or if they act as a barrier against it. You can find the list by following the link bellow:

<https://www.arcc-cdac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Anti-choice-unknown-MPs-2021.pdf>

It is also useful to keep an eye out for candidates that are supported by Campaign Life Coalition (CLC), an organization which seeks to nominate and elect candidates who oppose abortion at all levels of government. Indeed, Macleans reported that Doug Ford, Ontario's premier, was heavily supported by CLC during his 2019 campaign. You can read their full article by following the link below.

<https://www.macleans.ca/politics/how-canadas-growing-anti-abortion-movement-plans-to-swing-the-next-federal-election/>

Petitions

By following pro-choice organizations on Facebook (like Action Canada and your local sexual health clinic), you will be able to keep up to date on what needs your support. To start you off, here are some petitions to save Clinic 554;

<https://www.actioncanadashr.org/campaigns/commit-resist/new-brunswick-needs-your-help>

<https://ccla.org/reproductive-justice/>

Examples of Reproductive Justice Policy Demands

- **Accessible abortions**; providing full Medicare funding for clinics, expanding abortion training opportunities for care givers, improving hospital access across Canada, etc.
- **Safe Access Zone Legislation**
- **Calling out misleading "Pro-life" ads** in public spaces
- Universal **education programs** on reproductive and sexual health
- Health-Care funded **contraception**
- Affordable **Child Care**
- To Address **Systematic Racism**
- **Decolonize** healthcare
- **Climate Justice**
- **Decriminalize** Sex work

Dealing with "Pro-life" Advocates

Politically, Canada is not critically divided over abortion issues; in fact, politicians tend to steer away from the topic ever since the historic Senate tie in the 90s, and most Canadians (**71%** according to a 2020 DART & Maru/Blue Voice Canada poll) **agree that abortion regulation does not need to be revisited in government.**

However, there are still **big anti-abortion organizations** that lobby students, teachers and politicians in order to limit access to abortion. Here are examples "Pro-life" organizations in Canada (you can access a complete list on the Action Canada website):

- Campaign Life Coalition
- Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform
- National Life Campus Network
- REAL Women of Canada

Why should we care about "Pro-life" advocates, if they do not represent the majority of Canadians?

- Because they propagate **fake information** about sexual and reproductive care
 - They **bully and try to manipulate** people seeking abortions
- Have **monetary influence** on politicians that have the power to limit reproductive care access
 - They also use their platform to lobby **queer and transphobic** views

Misleading Anti-abortion Campaigns

Anti-abortion groups are often thought of as male-led, misogynistic, fetus-centric and religious right groups. However, scholars Kelly Gordon and Paul Saurette have demonstrated that the Canadian anti-abortion movement has changed its face and rhetoric to appeal to a more "contemporary" audience---while **appropriating a feminist-sounding narrative**, claiming to protect women's rights. The resulting paternalistic sentiment is evident; women are vulnerable, and abortion is a form of oppression/abuse. **Agency, consent and bodily autonomy are completely disregarded in their arguments.**

Recognizing and calling out anti-abortion campaigns is important to uphold Reproductive Justice. Whether that be volunteering as an escort at an abortion clinic, reporting a misleading anti-abortion ad, or demystifying false information.

Advocating for Reproductive Justice...

Through Education

People do not stop having abortions. They stop having safe abortions, which is why it is important to demystify false information about reproductive and sexual health in order to advocate for Reproductive Justice. **Sex education saves lives!**

Sex Education Needs To

- Be **sex-positive**
- Be feminist and **intersectional**
- Be Queer and Trans **inclusive**
- Teach about **healthy** relationships and boundaries
- Highlight the importance of **consent**
- Invite students to explore the dimensions of **gender and identity**
 - Secular and **fact-driven**
 - And taught to **all** ages!

It is never too early to learn about your body.

How can you help?

Educate yourself. Volunteer for your local sexual health clinic. Call out fake news. And most importantly, destigmatize sexuality by openly talking about it!

Facts and Fictions About Abortion in Canada

Fiction: The right to have an abortion is a guaranteed right in Canada.

Canada does not have any official legislature on abortion---it is seen as a medical procedure, and so is treated as any other medical issue; under provincial jurisdiction. In other words, decriminalization gave the responsibility of regulating abortion to the medical community, and not the Criminal code. Despite the Morgentaler decision which struck down legal restrictions on abortion care, **the right to have an abortion has never been guaranteed under the law**--- rather, preventing a person to have an abortion has been ruled as unconstitutional under section 7 of the Charter, which protects a person's right to security.

Fiction: Abortion is completely covered by the Canadian health care system.

Fact: It depends where you are from and where you are getting your abortion. Some provinces only fund hospital abortions (where you will most likely need parental consent and/or a note from your doctor), and not abortion clinics. Or, if you are an out-of-province patient, **your home provincial health card may not cover abortion services in your province of residence**. For example, at the Athena Health Centre (in NL), an abortion will cost 1000\$ for folks with an Quebec health insurance card.

Fiction: Only young women get abortions

Fact: In 2019, Statistica reported that those aged 25-29 had the highest number of reported abortions. Less or equal to 17 years old reported 1 7222, 18-24 years old reported 18 879 abortions, 25-29 years old reported 20 458 abortions, 30-34 years old reported 16 760 abortions, 35 and older reported 16 954 abortions and unknown ages reported 8 803 abortions. Hence, evidence supports that older age groups are the ones that are most likely to get abortions, bringing us to the conclusion that **being in control of your reproductive system is not conditional of age**.

Fiction: Abortion is harmful for women and can cause PTSD

Fact: While the procedure itself can be nerve racking, it does not hurt the person with a uterus. In fact, they often feel relief afterwards. Being in control of your own reproductive health is empowering; you decide what to do with your own body. **Social stigma and shame are the harmful agents**.

Fiction: Women should learn to control themselves and accept that pregnancy is a consequence of sex.

Fact: Abortion is an essential service for the health and safety of women, non binary and transgender folks. Pregnancy should not be seen as punishment, but rather as an activity that requires consent. **Bodily autonomy is unconditional**.

Advocating for Reproductive Justice...

Through Donating

The Norma Scarborough Fund

Action Canada's Norma Scarborough Fund aims to help alleviate financial barriers for people seeking abortions, by paying for their travel, medication and related expenses. You can learn more by visiting their website at <https://www.actioncanadashr.org/ways-to-help/donate-norma-scarborough-fund>

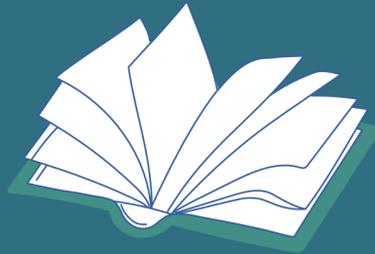
Idle No More Movement

Reproductive Justice goes hand in hand with decolonizing efforts and climate justice. The Idle No More Movement is a woman-led "inclusive, continent-wide network of urban and rural Indigenous working hand in hand with non-Indigenous allies to build a movement for Indigenous rights and the protection of land, water, and sky". You can donate by visiting their website.

Reproductive Justice New Brunswick

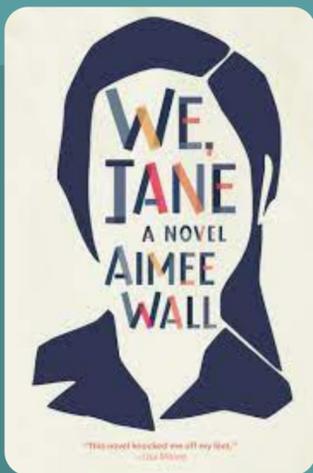
Help save Clinic 554 by donating to the Reproductive Justice NB Charity. You can also donate directly to the clinic by visiting their website.

...And to your local Reproductive Health Clinic, like Planned Parenthood NL!



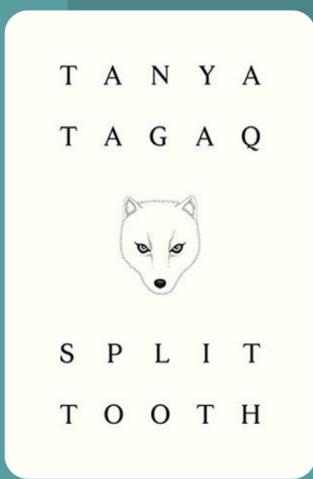
REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE RESOURCES

-
- Literature
 - Films
 - Podcasts
 - Social media



"We, Jane"

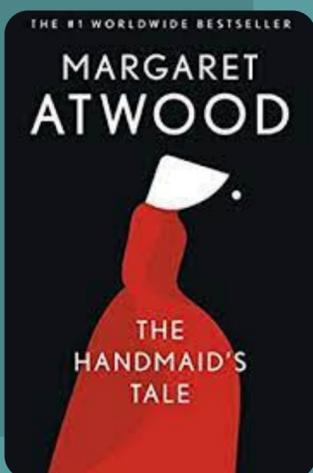
Newfoundland author Aimee Wall explores the precarity of rural existence and the essential nature of abortion through the story of two women who travel back to their home town in Newfoundland to take part in an underground movement providing services to people seeking abortions.



"Split Tooth"

Acclaimed Inuit throat singer Tanya Tagaq presents the story of an Inuk girl in the 1970s that must navigate through both the spiritual and natural world in her community, all while being pregnant. This book is a provoking portrayal of the realities of indigenous peoples living in Northern Canada.

Trigger warning: sexual abuse, child abuse, and violence



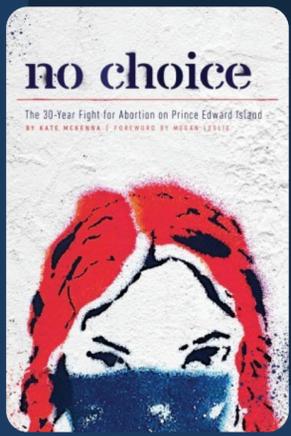
"The Handmaid's Tale"

This renowned novel of Canadian author Margaret Atwood is a classic, must-read feminist dystopian fiction. Written as a satire of the USA in the 1970s, it serves as a warning of what could happen in a world where the religious right were in control, ecological disasters ensued and women's rights were stripped away.

Trigger warning: sexual violence

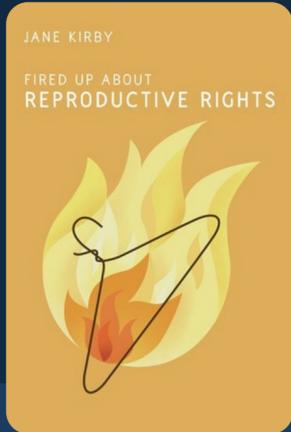


Canadian Fiction Books



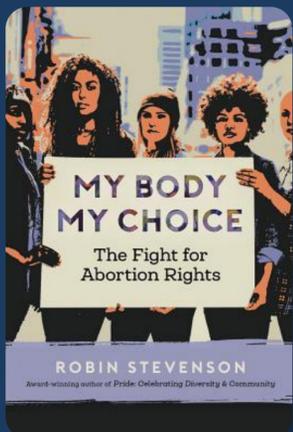
"No Choice: The 30 year Fight for Abortion on Prince Edward Island" by Kate McKenna

In 1969, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau passed a law legalizing abortion in Canada. But making abortion legal did not guarantee women access to these services. Kate McKenna offers a firsthand account of Prince Edward Island's refusal to bring abortion services to the Island, and introduces us to the courageous women who struggled for over thirty years to change this.



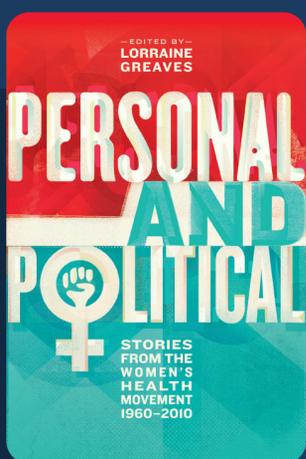
"Fired Up About Reproductive Rights" by Jane Kirby

Shattering the myth that the battle for reproductive rights has already been won, Fired Up about Reproductive Rights shows us the many ways our reproductive lives remain subject to state control. From the fight for safe, legal, and accessible abortion services to the fight against coercive sterilization, eugenics, and population control, threats to our reproductive control remain alive and well in our communities.



"My Body My Choice: The Fight for Abortion Rights" by Robin Stevenson

The long fight for abortion rights is being picked up by a new generation of courageous, creative and passionate activists. This book is about the history, and the future, of that fight.

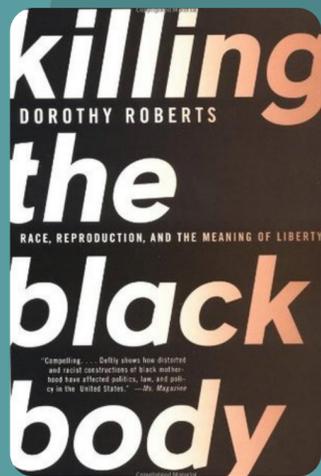


"Personal and Political: Stories from the Women's Health Movement 1960-2010" by Lorraine Greaves

Personal and Political details the innovative, courageous, and creative activism of the "second wave" women's health movement in Canada between 1960 and 2010. This activism (re)claimed women's bodies, created women-centered spaces and services, and challenged a medically dominated health system. It is accessible in PPNSLHC's library.

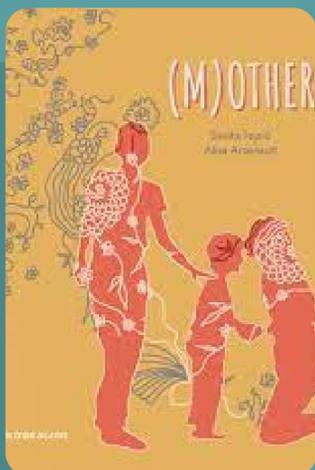
Canadian Non-Fiction Books





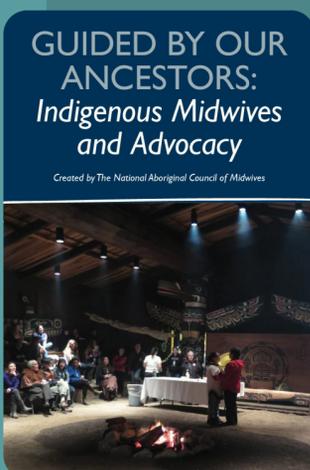
"Killing the Black Body": Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of Liberty

Written by Dorothy Roberts, this book is a wake up call to systemic racism as it pertains to fertility. It exposes the control of Black pregnancy and motherhood as a tool of oppression and white supremacy, both in a historical and contemporary legal context.



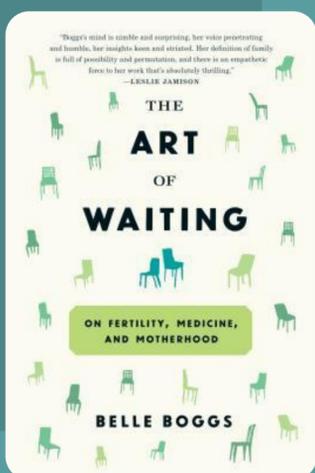
"(M)other"

In this picture book, Sanita Fejzić presents her and her wife's journey raising their son in a heteronormative world. Sanita Fejzić is a Canadian-Bosnian award-winning poet, writer and playwright based in Ottawa. It is beautiful and honest poetry that calls out social norms in order to shift them towards inclusivity.



"Guided by our Ancestors: Indigenous Midwives and Advocacy"

This booklet, created by The National Aboriginal Council of Midwives, explores the role of Indigenous midwives in reproductive justice, rights, recognition and restoration in Canada. It is available on the National Aboriginal Council of Midwives website, along with many other booklets and information about indigenous midwifery.



"The Art of Waiting" by Belle Boggs

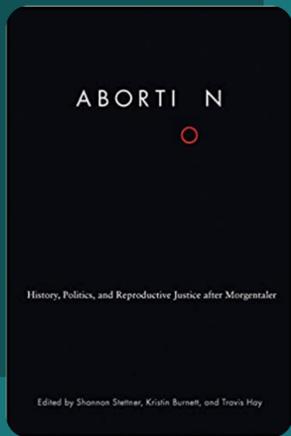
In this book, Belle Boggs explores fertility from all sides: psychological, medical, natural, political. She recounts stories of couples who adopted, LGBTQ+ couples considering surrogacy, and people living childfree lives.

Books about fertility and Parenthood



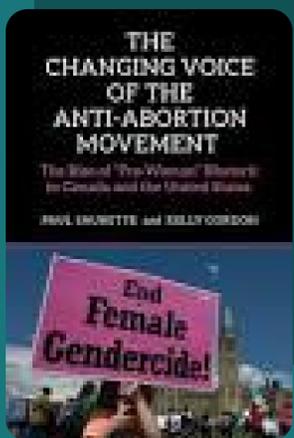
“Abortion: History, Politics and Reproductive Justice after Morgentaler” by Shannon Stettner, Kristin Burnett and Travis Hay

In this book, some of Canada’s foremost researchers challenge current thinking about abortion by revealing the discrepancy between what Canadians believe the law to be after the 1988 Morgentaler decision and what people are experiencing on the ground. Showcasing new theoretical frameworks and approaches from law, history, medicine, women’s studies, and political science, these timely essays reveal the diversity of abortion experiences across the country, past and present, and make a case for shifting the debate from abortion rights to reproductive justice.



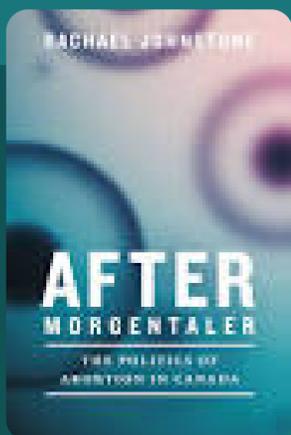
“The Changing Voice of the Anti-Abortion Movement” by Kelly Gordon and Paul Saurette

Through 5 years of extensive research, Gordon and Saurette find that Canadian anti-abortion activism increasingly presents itself as "pro-women": using female spokespersons, adopting medical and scientific language to claim that abortion harms women, and employing a wide range of more subtle framing and narrative rhetorical tactics that use traditionally progressive themes to present the anti-abortion position as more feminist than pro-choice feminism. The book outlines the implications that flow from these findings



"After Morgentaler: The Politics of Abortion in Canada" by Rachael Johnstone

Rachael Johnstone examines the state of abortion access in Canada today and argues that substantive access is essential to full citizenship for women. Using case studies, Johnstone assesses the role of both state and non-state actors in shaping access. This book affirms the need to recognize abortion as an issue fundamentally tied to women’s equality, while stressing the utility of rights claims to improve access.



Canadian Academic Works on Abortion



ARTICLES YOU CAN FIND ON GOOGLE

"The politest form of racism: sexual and reproductive health and rights paradigm in Canada" by Meman M. El-Mowaf, Abdiasis Yalahow Dina Idriss-Wheeler and Sanni Yaya

"Reproductive justice – for real, for me, for you, for now" By Native Youth Sexual Health Network

"Reproductive justice: Beyond safe abortions" By Battered Women's Support Services

"How Reproductive Justice Serves as a Model for Progressive Organizing" by Elisa Slattery, Open Society Foundations.

"Decolonizing healthcare could help tackle racism" Marie-Claude Tremblay, The Conversation

VIDEOS YOU CAN FIND ON YOUTUBE

"What is Reproductive Justice?" by USC Annenberg

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l4mwQhKLBiM>

"Reproductive Rights-- Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" by CBC

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WSXpjd52tuo>

"The Racist Roots of Reproductive Rights in America" by FUSION

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQSovaJlqyM>

"My Body, My Choice. Sex Work and Reproductive Justice" by

Decriminalize Sex Work

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1H8pBFbihJY>



Quick-Learning: Articles & Videos

Films and Documentaries

Abortion Access in the Maritimes

This VICE documentary, produced by Sarah Ratchford (they/them), an associate editor at Maisonneuve Magazine and abortion activist from New Brunswick, exposes the barriers people face in order to receive abortion care in the Maritime provinces. It is available on Youtube.

Trigger warnings: deals with topics of self-harm, suicide, depression.

The VICE logo is displayed in a white, stylized, outlined font against a black rectangular background.

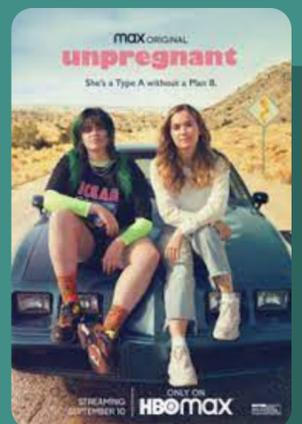
Netflix series "Sex Explained"

From sexual fantasies to childbirth, this Netflix series takes on a medical and sex-positive approach to sexual and reproductive health.



Unpregnant

Based on the book of the same name, this American film follows the story of a 17-year old girl who has to go on a road trip in order to get an abortion, because her state does not offer such services without parental consent. Although comical, the movie portrays the very real reality of abortion access in the USA.



The V Word: Dr. Jenn & Dr. Erica, two badass gynecologists, tackle relevant women's health and reproductive policy issues. Also- vaginas.

RePROs Fight Back: Sexual and reproductive health and rights are under an escalating assault, both in the US and abroad. This podcast is about explaining what is happening and how you can fight back.

The Sex Agenda Podcast: produced by Decolonizing Contraception, an organization created by black & people of colour working within Sexual & Reproductive Health.

CHOICE/LESS: delivers powerful, personal stories of reproductive injustice and the laws, politics and people beyond the headlines.

The Pink Zone.fm: Sexual health writer. Abortion doula. Amateur holistic health enthusiast. Here to talk about reproductive justice, health, and wellness.

Contractions: the politics of midwifery: addresses the analysis and practical change of political issues surrounding childbirth, such as obstetric or reproductive violence, care, workload, sexism or racism.

Intro to Feminist and Social Justice Studies Podcast: hosted by McGill Professor and Dr. Alex Ketchum, this podcast served as class lectures and were made public during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Podcasts



ORGANIZATIONS TO SUPPORT

...AND FOLLOW ON SOCIAL
MEDIA

Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights

Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada

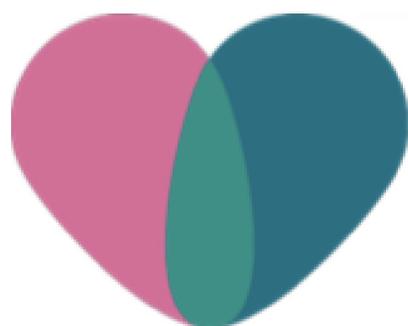
Native Youth Sexual Health Network

Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF)

**The Sex Information & Education Council of Canada
(SIECCAN)**

National Aboriginal Council of Midwives

...and most importantly, **your local reproductive &
sexual health clinic!**



It's All Connected...

Sexual & Reproductive Rights

Accessibility of Health Care

Poverty

The costs of contraceptive methods, abortion expenses (like transport to clinics) and childcare can be very high, especially for low income families and individuals. They are an essential service, not a luxury.

Environmental Issues

Climate and Reproductive Justice are deeply intertwined, as they both aim to protect our right to live and grow in a safe and sustainable environment. Ecological disasters, extreme weather and pollution can affect fertility and general health.

Gender Equality

Allowing all genders to have control over their reproduction is essential to promote gender equality.

Systemic Racism

Reproductive Justice was created by women of colour to call out the lack of inclusivity in the feminist movement. Rights are not enough: we need equal access to services, which requires the dismantling of racism in healthcare.

2SLGBTQ+ Rights

The Healthcare system can be very discriminatory towards people that do not conform to the binary construct of gender. Sex education and parenting norms are also very heteronormative



Violence Against Women

According to BWSS, women who experience violence have more difficulty using contraceptives effectively due to the power and control exerted by their abusive partners.



Labour Rights

Having the ability to control when and if you want children--and how to care for them--has a great impact on a person's career.



Sex work

Sex work is partially criminalized in Canada, and workers can get arrested by being in the possession of condoms, which invites very harmful practices (like working without protection). They can also face discrimination while accessing health care due to social stigma.



Immigration

Climate change can force people to flee their countries to escape environmental disasters. In Canada, funding for abortions differs from province to province, which can be problematic for students and out-of-province workers since their health card may not cover their abortion or doctor's appointment.

