

## **Election 2008 – Don't Play With Women's Rights**

Women's reproductive rights are under threat. Before Parliament was dissolved, a series of Private Members' Bills were introduced that sought to chip away at a woman's right to choose. Last spring, all but four Conservative MPs voted in favour of Bill C-484 – The *Unborn Victims of Crime Act*, which would have moved us toward the re-criminalization of abortion.

What has the Conservative government done in response?

- Said they “will introduce legislation that will punish criminals who commit violence against pregnant women but do so in a way that leaves no room for the introduction of fetal rights” during a press conference held 12 days before Parliament was dissolved
- Done nothing to protect women's right to access to quality public abortion services

Points to remember:

- All women, pregnant or not, deserve to live lives free from violence. The Criminal Code already recognizes spousal violence and pregnancy as aggravating factors and allows harsher sentences for such crimes.
- According legal rights to the fetus is contrary to Canadian law. Legally, a child becomes a human being once it is born and has emerged living from its mother's body.

If you are concerned about women's equality and reproductive rights, join us on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008 to educate, lobby, mobilize and demonstrate.

Days of Action are currently planned in the following cities:

| <b>City</b> | <b>Contact Person</b>  |
|-------------|--|
| Montreal    | Nathalie Parent <a href="mailto:nparent@fqpn.qc.ca">nparent@fqpn.qc.ca</a>           |
| Ottawa      | Jessica Squires <a href="mailto:jsquires@chebucto.ns.ca">jsquires@chebucto.ns.ca</a> |
| Regina      | Bernadette Wagner <a href="mailto:wagmitfam@sasktel.net">wagmitfam@sasktel.net</a>   |
| Toronto     | Carolyn Egan <a href="mailto:c.egan@sympatico.ca">c.egan@sympatico.ca</a>            |
| Vancouver   | Joyce Arthur <a href="mailto:joycearthur@shaw.ca">joycearthur@shaw.ca</a>            |

Groups will also be mobilizing in Winnipeg and Edmonton. For more information on activities being planned in Winnipeg, please contact Madeline Boscoe ([ed@cwhn.ca](mailto:ed@cwhn.ca)) And for Edmonton, please contact Lianne McTavish ([lmctavis@ualberta.ca](mailto:lmctavis@ualberta.ca)).

If there is no action already scheduled in your community for September 28, organize one! Please contact Dina Epale at [dina@acpd.ca](mailto:dina@acpd.ca) if you're planning your own event!

For all of these activities and for more information, please go to the Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada website at: <http://www.arcc-cdac.ca/c484.htm>