

Abortion and a Woman's Right to Choose

Date of Adoption: May 16, 2003*

Date of Expiration: May 16, 2006

Preamble: Whereas, according to the Action Life (<http://www.actionlife.org/>) website, 83% of Canadian women who had abortions in 1998 were not currently married at the time of their abortion, and according to the Allan Guttmacher Institute (<http://www.agi-usa.org/>), more than 13,000 women have abortions every year because they were raped or were victims of incest; *and*

Whereas, according to the Allan Guttmacher Institute (<http://www.agi-usa.org/>), more than twenty (20) million abortions are obtained illegally worldwide every year; *and*

Whereas abortion is often chosen due to a woman's own personal health concerns regarding pregnancy-related risks, concerns regarding the health of the fetus, and other concerns regarding a woman's own physical or mental well being; *and*

Whereas abortion is often chosen due to socio-economic barriers, including but not limited to: the financial burden of raising children; a lack of support from a woman's partner and / or family; unemployment and the disruption of a woman's education, be it at the secondary or post-secondary levels; *and*

Whereas user fees, tribunals and other barriers to the accessibility of abortion violates a woman's rights as laid out in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and subsequently reaffirmed in R v. Morgentaler; *and*

Whereas every woman should have access to quality health care, family planning, and counseling services that meets their needs, and allows them to make informed decisions about their own body; *and*

Whereas there are women who experience contraceptive failure due to, but not limited to: improper use of contraceptive materials, the failure of contraceptives to work properly, as well as the consideration that contraceptives are not always available or affordable to all women; *and*

Whereas every woman deserves the right of choosing whether or not to have a child; *and*

Whereas every child has the right to be wanted.

Resolution: Therefore, Be it Resolved that the Kwantlen University College Student Association support a woman's right to decide what choice is best for her in regards to pregnancy and childbearing; *and*

Be it Further Resolved that all women who choose to have an abortion should have safe abortion services available to them, regardless of geographic location or socio-economic status.

* **Note:** A motion to support pro-choice and a woman's right to have an abortion was passed on this date. This policy was subsequently drafted and approved at some point in 2003, but the exact date of the meeting at which this happened is currently unknown.

