



Youth Health Pulse is your source for all things Planned Parenthood Toronto, reproductive justice, queer liberation, and youth advocacy.

Protect Public Healthcare & Reproductive Freedom

Our Mother's Day post looked back at the 56th anniversary of the Abortion Caravan and explored a sometimes overlooked reality: the fight for abortion access has always been tied to the fight for public healthcare.

And that connection couldn't be more relevant today.

Our friends at Action Canada for Sexual Health & Rights have launched a tool calling on the federal government to enforce the Canada Health Act in response to Alberta's Bill 11, which introduces a two-tiered, privatized model of care.

As Action Canada writes:

"Bill 11 is a direct threat to the foundations of sexual and reproductive health and rights – universal public healthcare... Privatization chips away at this pillar, and jeopardizes the health of our communities."

DEMAND ACTION

Click the button above to send a letter to the Federal Health Minister and your MP demanding action to protect universal, accessible healthcare.

Why does this matter for reproductive freedom?

Because throughout history, abortion rights advocates have understood that legal rights mean little without access to care.

In 1970, the Abortion Caravan travelled to Parliament Hill in a VW van with "Smash Capitalism" painted on the side, criticizing a healthcare system that had yet to guarantee universal public healthcare across the country and demanding free abortion on demand.

Throughout the 1980s, activists challenged Canada's abortion law, culminating in a landmark Supreme Court decision that struck it down and affirmed that abortion decisions belong to a patient and their healthcare provider, not the criminal justice system.

And in the 1990s, a network of Black feminists who developed the reproductive justice framework, formally launched the movement with a full-page statement in The Washington Post opposing reforms that preserved the U.S. private insurance system. They went on to found SisterSong, and argued that reproductive freedom requires healthcare and an entire ecosystem of conditions that isn't dependent on income, employment, race and identity.

Across different decades and movements, activists have organized around the same foundational tenet: reproductive rights depend on public healthcare.

Some of the biggest threats to abortion access aren't always legal bans or anti-abortion zealots. They come from the quiet underfunding of

healthcare: longer wait times, worsening staffing shortages, and shrinking access to care that opens the door to a private, for-profit system. When public healthcare is weakened, access diminishes – especially for the people who already face the greatest barriers.

If reproductive freedom matters to you, take a few minutes to take action and follow in the footsteps of the activists who linked abortion rights to public healthcare. Write to your MP and demand that the federal government enforce the Canada Health Act.

WRITE TO YOUR MP

Honouring Lineages of Care

Asian Heritage Month might be in May, but we know the importance of remembering, celebrating, and honouring our diverse communities all year round. We're thinking about the long histories of communal care that are inherent to so many Asian communities and that make reproductive justice so much more possible.

While, of course, every culture is different and Asia is certainly not a monolith, many grew up with the understanding that wellbeing is connected.

Aunties stepping in to raise children collectively. Uncles and cousins providing rides to appointments. Grandparents filling in whenever they're needed. Neighbours feeding each other without formal invitations. Knowledge about birth, remedies, and caregiving were passed on across generations, and not through institutions.

For many Asian communities, care isn't an individual burden, but a shared infrastructure.

How did your family or community care for each other?

SHARE WITH US

Join Our Non-Binary BIPOC Drop-In (aka NBD!)

We are excited to announce the re-launch of PPT's Non-Binary BIPOC Drop-In (NBD). This weekly drop-in program is for youth between 13-19 years old who are both non-binary, queer, trans, or questioning, as well as Black, Indigenous, and/or a person of colour. What's on this month?

- June 13 | 1-3 p.m. | Archives Open House Tour
- June 18 | 6-8 p.m. | Sign-Making Workshop
- June 25 | 12:30-8 p.m. | TRANScend Conference & Kiki Ball
- June 30 | 6-8 p.m. | Indigenous Queer Bead Crafting Workshop

Youth do not need to attend every session, but are asked to RSVP to help us prepare logistics.

PLEASE SHARE WIDELY

Apply for PPT's Youth Futures Leadership & Advocacy Program

The Youth Futures program invites community-oriented young leaders from across the City of Toronto to engage in capacity- and knowledge-building workshops, skills and community development activities, and advocacy initiatives aimed at supporting youth in empowering their communities to combat disinformation.

APPLY BY JUNE 10

Thanks so much for reading, and always for your support of Planned Parenthood Toronto!

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