

*myth:*

Most abortions are done for medical reasons.

**FACT:** Almost all abortions are done because women ask for them, not because a doctor recommends them. The Canadian Abortion Rights Action League (CARAL) president, Marilyn Wilson, told a Commons Finance Committee on October 31, 2001, that women seek abortions,

“...for socio-economic reasons. Sometimes it is a desire to complete their education and become financially independent. In many cases, couples with children wish to restrict their family size in order to provide adequate financial support.”

Abortion is almost never done for medical reasons. It’s a personal choice.

**SO JUST HOW MANY ABORTIONS ARE WE PAYING FOR?**

- The B.C. Medical Services Plan paid for 15,369 abortions in 2003
- 1/3 of all abortions are performed on women who have had one or more previous abortions
- 50% of women who have abortions are adults between 20 and 35 years old
- Using pro-choice estimates for hospital and clinic abortions, defunding would save B.C. taxpayers \$12,500,000.00 per year.

*Source: BC Ministry of Health Services and Statistics Canada*

**FACT:** Abortion has a number of complications and side effects both physical and psychological.

In the late 70s, the Badgley Commission, appointed by the federal government, conducted two background papers that found women who had abortions were more likely to experience physical and mental health problems than women who carried their babies to term.

More recently 28 of 37 studies conducted around the world have found a link between breast cancer and abortion. In addition, there are complications such as excessive bleeding and perforated uterus.

*Source: www.abortionbreastcancer.com*

Abortion also increases the risk of subsequent premature and low birth weight births. *Source: www.vcn.bc.ca/~whatsup/APB-major.html*

(2005) The information in this brochure was compiled by Campaign Life Coalition BC

**IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM YOUR MLA THAT CONTRADICTS THIS INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT US.**

# TAX-FUNDED ABORTIONS

## T H E F A C T S .

British Columbians are being asked to consider alternate forms of healthcare delivery due to escalating costs.

Abortion should be de-insured because women choose to have abortions for personal reasons, not medical reasons.

Polls consistently show that the majority of British Columbians (and Canadians) support de-insuring abortions.

Why are British Columbians paying for abortion-on-demand?

How many are we paying for?

Who decides whether abortions are paid for?

Is abortion healthcare?

*myth:*

Abortion is a safe procedure.

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## myth:

The Canada Health Act requires provinces to pay for abortions.

**FACT:** The Canada Health Act says that provinces must fund medically necessary services. The act does not mention abortion or any other services as being medically necessary.

On March 8, 2001, Health Canada stated in a letter:

*"This is further to your request under the Access to Information Act, dated August 1, 2000, for: Documents, reports & correspondence in the department that provide evidence that abortions are "medically necessary". I regret to inform you that after a thorough search of all likely record holdings, departmental officials have confirmed that they have no records relevant to your request."*

*For information on the Canada Health Act: [www.canada.gc.ca](http://www.canada.gc.ca)*

## myth:

The federal government provides the provinces with a list of medically necessary services that they must fund.

**FACT:** Provinces decide what services are medically necessary and will therefore be funded through the health care system.

The Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, headed by Liberal Senator Michael Kirby, states in its interim report, of March 2001, that:

*"the determination of what services meet the requirement of medical necessity is made in each province by the provincial government in conjunction with the medical profession."*

In a letter dated July 10, 2002, Canada's Justice Minister, The Honourable Martin Cauchon, states:

*"The delivery of abortion services is currently regulated through the provincial governments' responsibility for the delivery of health care services."*

**FACT:** There has not been any court ruling on who should pay for abortions.

The Supreme Court of Canada and courts in British Columbia and other provinces have addressed issues relating to abortion – but none of them has concluded that taxpayers must fund abortions. On the contrary, pertinent discussions tend to support the authority of provincial governments to determine which abortions, if any, are "medically necessary", and which abortions, if any, taxpayers will pay for.

Vancouver lawyer Joshua Hauser has reviewed the summary of abortion case law compiled by Alberta lawyer Mark McCourt, and concludes:

*"It is very rarely necessary to abort a fetus to save a pregnant mother's life, and few British Columbia pregnancies can fairly be called 'medically necessary'. Nothing in Canada's abortion case law prevents British Columbia from recognizing that abortions – all but a tiny percentage if not all – are done as an expensive form of 'birth control'. Nothing in Canada's abortion case law prevents British Columbia from de-insuring those abortions and freeing B.C.'s taxpayers from the burden of paying for them."*

**FACT:** When asked whether doctors are consulted on which procedures are medically necessary and therefore funded by taxpayers, Dr. Jim Lane, Past President of the British Columbia Medical Association, stated:

*"De-insuring of medical procedures is often done for economic and political reasons. Physicians are consulted when new procedures are considered for coverage. The final decisions are made by government."*

## myth:

The Supreme Court of Canada has said taxpayers must pay for abortions.

## myth:

Doctors decide which procedures are medically necessary and therefore paid for by taxpayers.