

1998 GREEN PARTY'S SUPPORT FOR THE RECENT DECISION BY THE SUPREME COURT DECISION ON A WOMEN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE

Asserting that a woman has an unfettered right to choose whether or not an abortion is appropriate in her individual circumstances it is necessary to :

- recognize the inseparability of the Woman and foetus
- endorse the recognition that only the woman has rights and that the rights of the child begin when born
- acknowledge the disproportionate effect of a legal requirement to seek treatment on groups of women who experience disadvantage based on colour, economic status or ability {paraphrase of Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF)}.

ACTIONS NECESSARY TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE

- increased funding for research into and development of safe and healthy birth control measures including support for alternative medicine
- discourage abortion as a means of birth control, but ensure accessibility in all regions of Canada, to safe abortions
- remove the stigma and guilt about having an abortion so that women who choose to go to term want to go to term
- implement educational programs outlining the consequences of not being healthy during pregnancy:
 - poor diet
 - substance abuse
 - pharmaceutical abuse
 - exposure to toxic, hazardous, and atomic substances and wastes
 - polluted air, water and food
- Ensure that women would never be turned away from obtaining help towards overcoming substance abuse due to lack of funds, and offer support and counselling proactively.
- Provide substance abuse treatment programs that include housing for women and children to live together during treatment (often poor women do not opt for treatment because of fear of having their children taken away)

- Ensure that all basic needs are guaranteed:
 - right to shelter
 - right to food organically grown pesticides -free food
 - right to social security
 - right to health care
 - right to a safe environment

- Commit to create and support strong communities and increase funding for women's centres, transition houses, legal support and lobbying, and political advocacy groups

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