

# We Need a Law



## International Standards Abortion Law

In 1988, the Supreme Court struck down the previous abortion law and looked to Parliament to make a new, better law. The court recognized Parliament could legitimately protect fetal interests and fully expected the government to pass a law restricting abortion at some point before birth. But Parliament failed to do so and has allowed the abortion debate to become politically polarizing despite broad agreement among Canadians on the importance of at least some restrictions.

**Canada is the only democratic country in the world with no restrictions on abortion.**

We are advocating for a law that restricts abortion after the first trimester. This law would be in line with many western European countries that are culturally and politically similar to Canada.

	WAITING PERIOD (DAYS)	COUNSELING	GESTATIONAL LIMIT (WEEKS)
Belgium	6	✓	12
Canada	-	-	-
Denmark	-	✓	12
Finland	-	✓	20
Germany	3	✓	12
Iceland	-	✓	16
Italy	7	-	12
Netherlands	6	✓	24
Norway	-	✓	12
United Kingdom	-	-	24
Portugal	3	-	12
Spain	3	-	14
Sweden	-	-	18
Switzerland	-	✓	12





A majority of Canadians support some restrictions on abortion, even if they identify with the “pro-choice” label. A 2020 poll<sup>1</sup> found that just under half of Canadians believe that abortion should be illegal in the second trimester, and that number jumps to 70% who are opposed to abortions in the third trimester. This poll also showed that the majority of Canadians are concerned with women getting support to pursue alternatives to abortion.

## An International Standards Law affirms the value of both women and their children.

In Canada, approximately 100,000 abortions occur every year. Most are done in the first trimester, but up to 15%<sup>2</sup> of abortions occur later in pregnancy – 12.7% at 13 weeks or later and another 2.4% after 20 weeks, including when the baby would be viable outside the womb. This amounts to approximately 15,000 pre-born children per year.<sup>3</sup>

An International Standards Law affirms the value of both women and their children. It ensures women are provided support and are given real choice, while also recognizing the humanity of the life growing in her womb. It is time for Canada to take steps to restrict abortion, as other countries around the world have successfully been able to do.

<sup>1</sup> <https://weneedalaw.ca/2020/06/canadian-opinions-on-abortion/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cihi.ca/en/induced-abortion-reports-in-canada-in-2017>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.arcc-cdac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/statistics-abortion-in-canada.pdf>

