



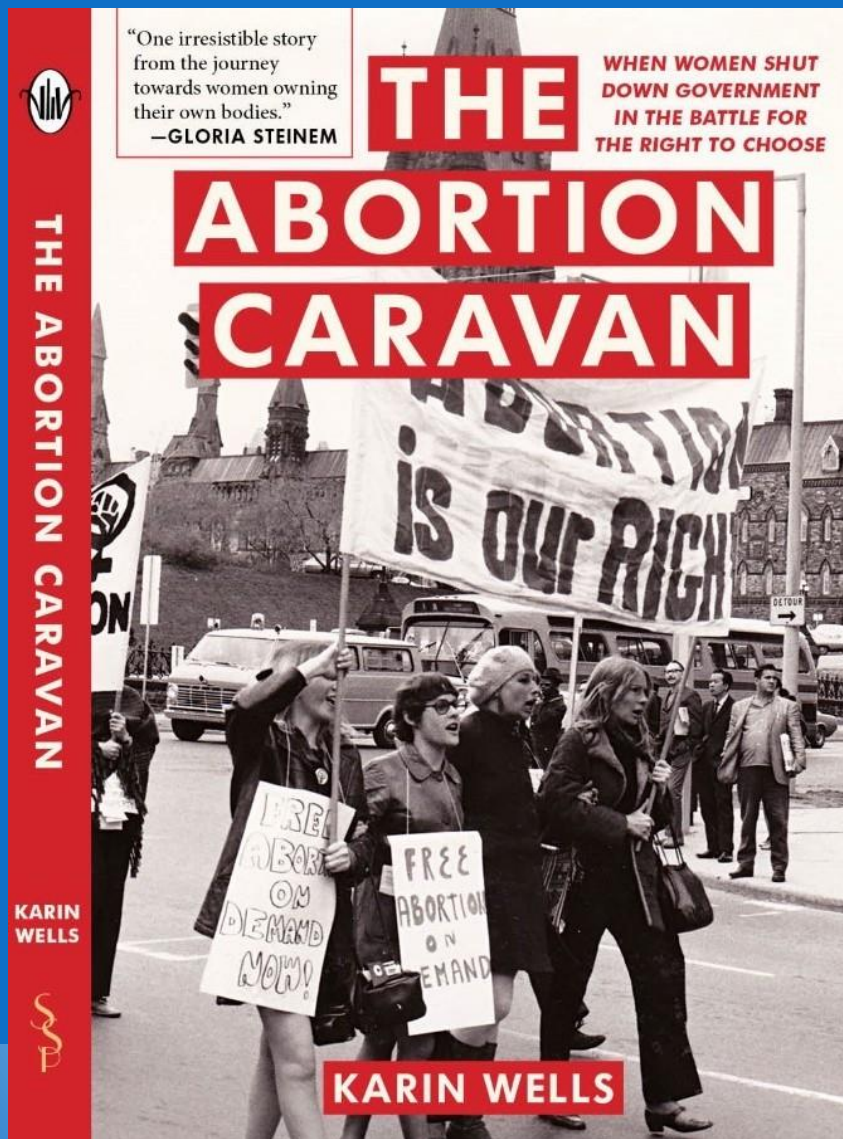
Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada

**Coalition pour le droit à
l'avortement au Canada**



**Action Canada
for Sexual Health & Rights**

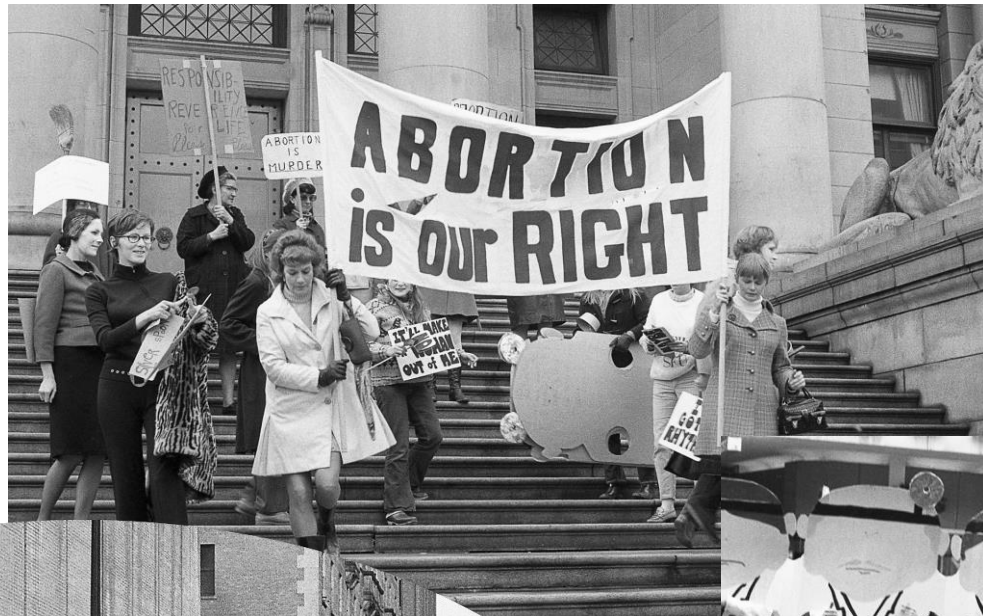




**THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE ABORTION CARAVAN—
THE REMARKABLE WOMEN WHO HELPED
BRING ABOUT ABORTION REFORM**



Over 250 women march through Vancouver on Valentine's Day 1970 to begin a 3 month national campaign on abortion rights



March/April 1970

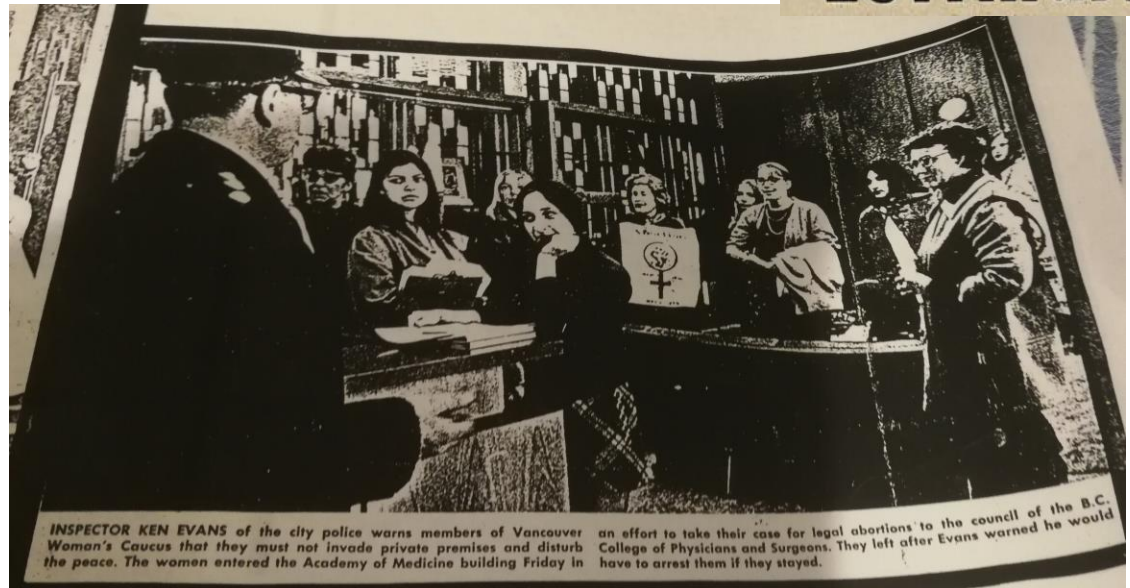
Demonstration in support of Dr. Robert Makaroff after his arrest for abortion offences



Women Confront Loffmark

Protestors confront local doctors at Lawn Tennis Club meeting

Women descend on BC legislature and confront BC Health Minister Loffmark



women descend on BC legislature

"Strangers in the House"

AP 3-16 Wednesday

Join Cross Canada Abortion Campaign



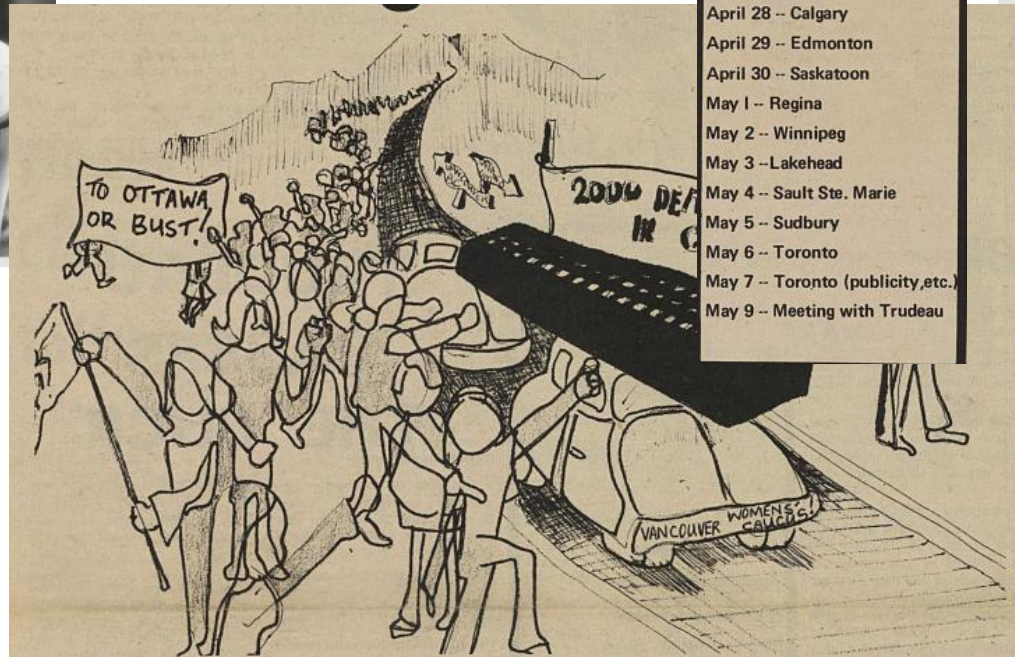
Working on the Pedestal

THE PEDESTAL

Cavalcade Schedule

(TENTATIVE)

April 27 -- Van. to Kamloops
April 28 -- Calgary
April 29 -- Edmonton
April 30 -- Saskatoon
May 1 -- Regina
May 2 -- Winnipeg
May 3 -- Lakehead
May 4 -- Sault Ste. Marie
May 5 -- Sudbury
May 6 -- Toronto
May 7 -- Toronto (publicity, etc.)
May 9 -- Meeting with Trudeau



JOIN THE ABORTION CAMPAIGN CAVALCADE TO OTTAWA! The cavalcade will leave Vancouver April 27 (see story & schedule p. 2) and will stop in major cities, with women joining in along the route. The women will reach Ottawa before Mother's Day demanding that abortion be removed from the Criminal Code. Demonstrations will be held across Canada in support of the Ottawa action. ABORTION IS OUR RIGHT!

Office of Justice
Minister John Turner
refuses meeting in
reply to March 19th
letter from Vancouver
Women's Caucus

JOHN TURNER

Minidtrt of Justice will not be available to meet your group
May 9th in spite of ultimatums, demands, and threats as set out in
your letter of Mar.. 19th.

Richard D.. Hayes

Executive Assistant for the
Minister of Justice

Ottawa 4

Caravan heads off
from Vancouver in
Cathy Walker's
Volkswagen van,
Betsy Wood's
(Meadley)
convertible and
Charlotte Bedard's
truck



Caravan stops for
gas in Hope, BC

(l to r) Betsy Wood
(Meadley), Dodie
Weppler, Ellen
Woodsworth,
Gwen Hauser,
Bonnie
Beckwoman



Members of
Caravan bed
down for the
night



Caravan members
raise fists in photo
beside Betsy
Wood's (Meadley)
convertible



Cathy Walker's van
as the Caravan
travels through
the Prairies



Women join hands
in solidarity at an
Abortion Caravan
event



During a stop in
Calgary - Cathy
Walker is standing
in the door of the
van, with Charlotte
Bedard's truck and
camper in the
background



Members of the Caravan prepare for guerrilla theatre during a stop in the Prairies



Thunder Bay

Margie Taylor –
Thunder Bay
supporter

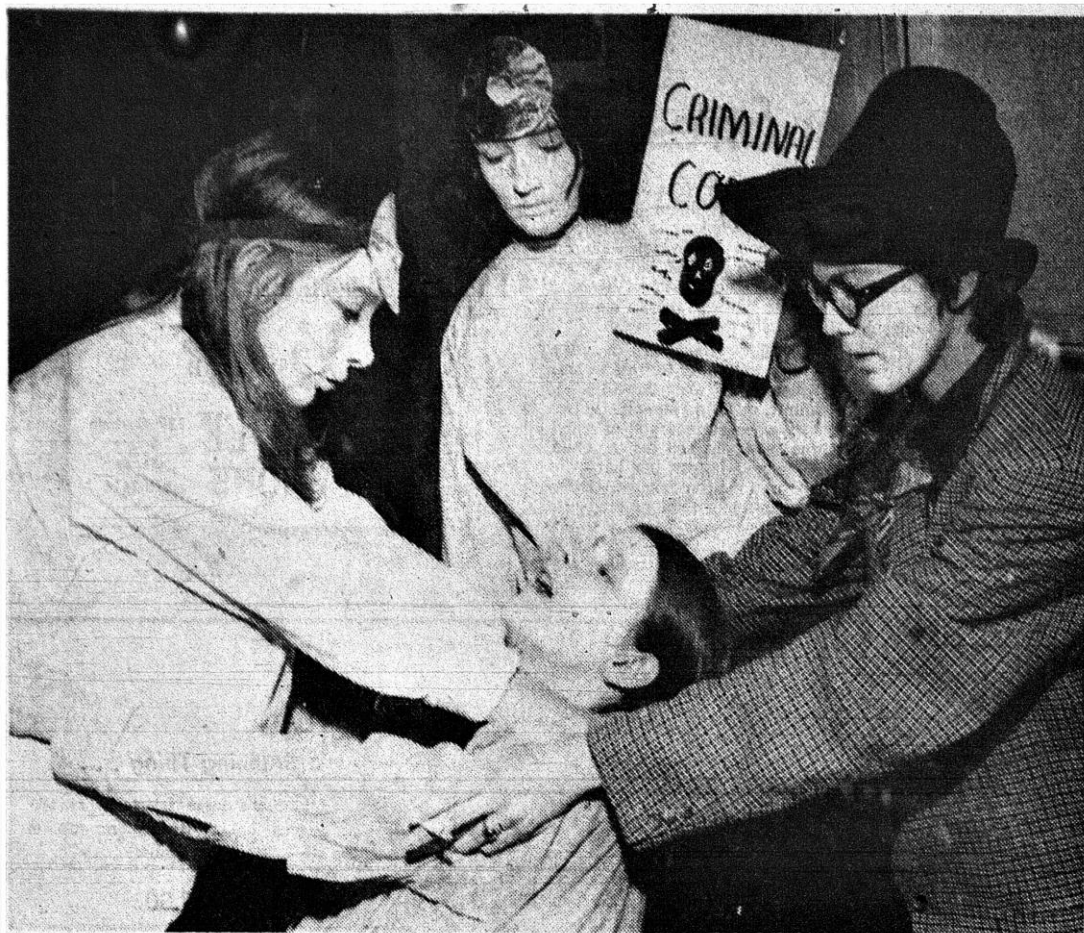
Church in
Thunder Bay
where the
meeting was held

Lynn Curry –
Thunder Bay
contact



Sudbury

This Sudbury Star photo of Abortion Caravan Guerrilla Theatre skit identifies actors as Mary Norton, Margaret Sanger, Emma Goldman and Helena Sutteridge(!)



GUERRILLA THEATRE — Shown during presentation of a Guerrilla Theatre skit by members of the Vancouver Women's Caucus to point out difficulties experienced by women who seek a legal abortion, are, from left, Mary Norton, as a doctor; Margaret Sanger, as the pregnant woman; Emma Goldman, another doctor, and Helena Sutteridge, representing the enforcers of Canada's abortion laws

Toronto

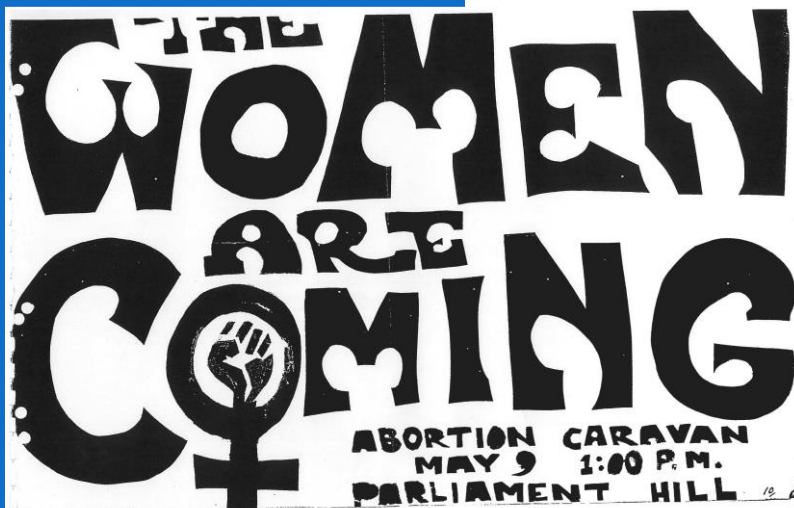
Marcy Cohen &
Dawn
Hemingway
(Carrell) give
clenched fist
salute during
event held at St.
Lawrence Centre



CLENCHED FIST salute is given by Marcy Cohen, t, and Dawn Carrell, Vancouver members of women's

caravan travelling to Ottawa where they'll ask government Saturday to remove all legal restricti

ON TO OTTAWA



Women's Cavalcade Hits City To Protest Anti-Abortion Laws

By JAMES TOST

Just two days before the nation's tribute to Mother, the anti-unwanted-motherhood leaders gathered in Ottawa to protest against restrictive abortion laws.

Four carloads of a cross-the-country cavalcade, which began April 26 in Vancouver, pulled into the Shoppers City plaza on Baseline Road about 6:30 p.m. Friday.

Shouting words of encouragement to the 30 Ottawa women waiting to greet them, the cavalcade women left their cars to generate an impromptu rally on the spot.

Fists raised in the marching sign of the Women's Liberation Movement, the gathering, consisting mainly of women in their late teens or early twenties, began singing victory hymns.

"Hold the fort, we are coming . . . Victory will come . . ." sang the women who place the right to freedom of abortion on a par with freedom of speech.

GUERRILLA THEATRE

Complementing the determined faces of shirt-and-pants attired women was a guerrilla theatre performance illustrating the frustrated pregnant Canadian woman in the throes of rejection by unyielding figures of law and medicine.

"We've come to seek an end to the laws against abortion . . . We want our rights," announced a Winnipeg cavalcade member to the cheers of her cohorts.

While the women had their say, a male supporter stood by with his 12-month-old

daughter perched on his shoulders.

"Sure I'm sympathetic . . . They've been denied their rights of petition . . . But I've supported unpopular causes before," commented Henry Rucker, a government economist and husband of an Ottawa Women's Liberation member.

Banners carried by the women bore messages like "Illegal Abortions Kill 12,000 a Year in North America."

In Canada, hospitals in six provinces carried out 235 therapeutic abortions in the first three months of 1970, Dominion Bureau of Statistics figures show.

The provinces included in the study are Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

PERSONAL SURVEYS

Although DBS has no similar figures on illegal abortions, Women's Liberation figures, gleaned from personal surveys, claim 2,000 Canadian women die each year from illegal abortions while 20,000 women are hospitalized due to complications of illegal abortions.

Federal law on abortion, revised last year, allows therapeutic abortion where a hospital committee certifies that continued pregnancy will endanger the mother's health.

Ottawa Women's Liberation spokesman Jackie Larkin Brown said about 1,000 women—to bus, hike or drive in from Toronto, Montreal, Kingston and other centres are expected to gather at 1 p.m. Saturday on Parliament Hill to demonstrate for the



FREE ABORTION LAWS

Cheers and fists raised in the sign of the Women's Liberation Movement greeted a guerrilla theatre production illustrating a pregnant Canadian woman facing rejection by the medical and legal institutions. The performance highlighted an impromptu women's rally Friday.

(Journal Photo by Dominion Wide)

removal of all abortion law from the Criminal Code.

Prime Minister Trudeau, who along with Justice Minister John Turner is being sought by the women for discussions on abortion, told the Commons Friday the government does not intend to

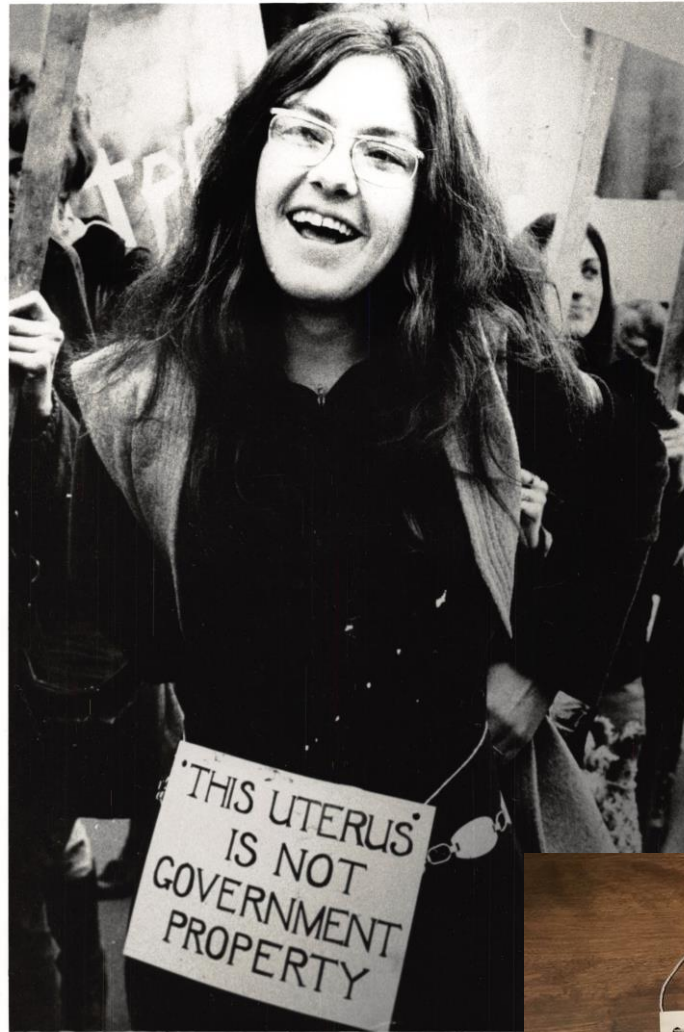
amend the law further at the present time.

Although both government figures are not expected to greet the women Saturday, a counter anti-abortion group of women, the Alliance for Life, has indicated it will be present.

Ottawa

"This Uterus is
Not Government
Property"

Jackie Larkin
with sign worn by
marchers at
Parliament Hill



Ottawa

Women
protest for
abortion
rights on
Parliament
Hill



Ottawa

Gwen Hauser
reads a poem
during the sit-in
outside Prime
Minister's
residence at 24
Sussex Drive.

Dawn
Hemingway
(Carrell) is to her
right.



Ottawa

Demonstrators of the Abortion Caravan crash police lines at the entrance to the Prime Minister's residence

THE OTTAWA JOURNAL

Monday, May 11, 1970



PRO-ABORTION GROUP RUSHES POLICE LINE

RCMP officers attempt to turn back demonstrators of the Abortion Caravan who linked arms to crash police lines at the entrance to the Prime Minister's residence at Ottawa Saturday following a demonstration on Parliament Hill. Police finally gave

way to the group and allowed them to place a coffin—symbolizing the deaths of Canadian women from illegal abortions—at the doorstep of the prime minister's home.

(CP-Journal Wirephoto)

Ottawa

Marcy Cohen
uses megaphone
while negotiating
with RCMP
during Abortion
Caravan
occupation of
the Prime
Minister's lawn at
24 Sussex



Ottawa

On May 11 Margo Dunn reads a speech outside the House of Commons before "the law" (Section 237) being held by Sandra Conway is symbolically burned



Ottawa

Protesters
wearing red
headscarves
circle the
Centennial Flame



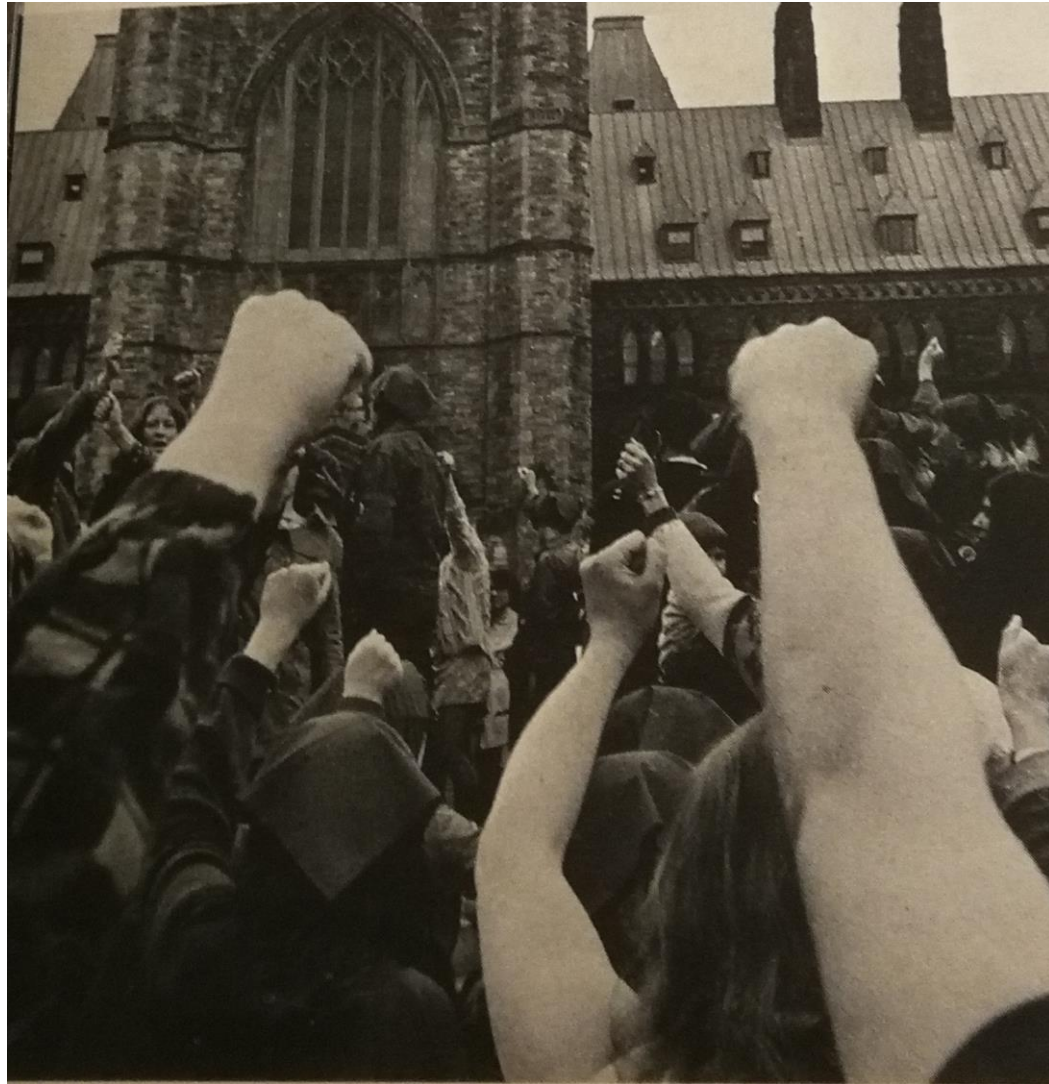
Ottawa

Women with
upraised fists
outside House of
Commons as
inside protesters
manage to halt
the sitting of
Parliament



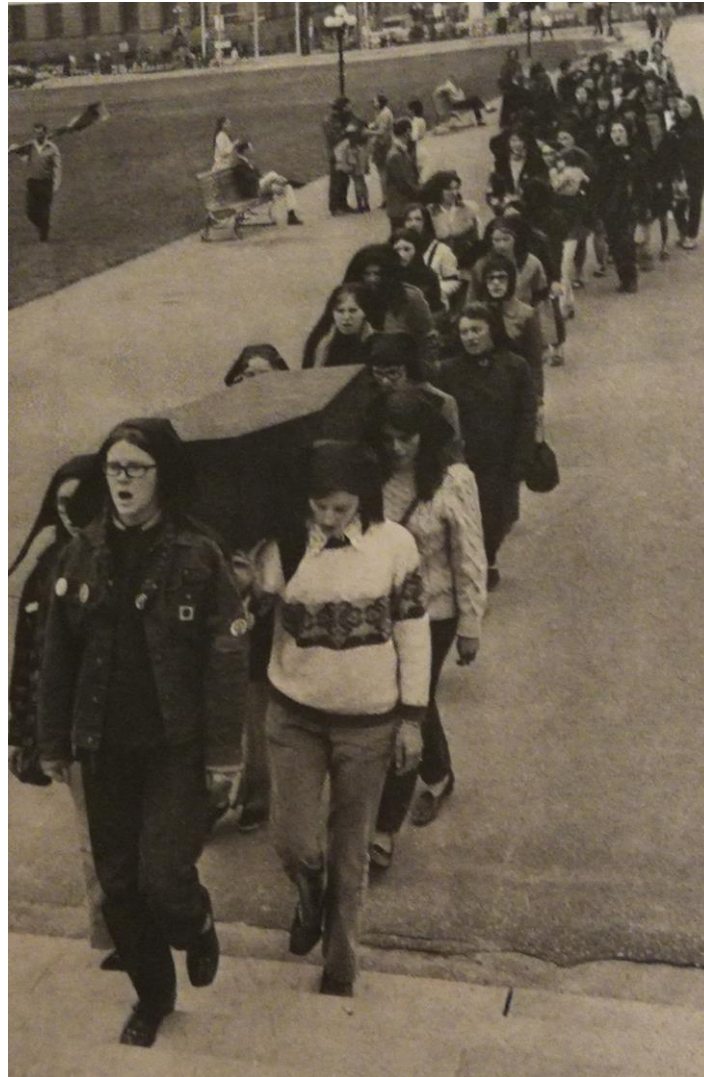
Ottawa

Solidarity!



Ottawa

Protestors
parade coffin up
Parliament Hill
steps. Charlotte
Bedard is the 1st
right pallbearer.



Ottawa

Activists
organize protest
from the galleries
inside the House
of Commons and
force an
unprecedented
adjournment of
proceedings.

Demand free abortions

Angry women halt sitting of Parliament

Protesters Force House To Adjourn

Women Carry 'Abortion War'
Into Commons Galleries

THE CALGARY HERALD

MAY 11, 1970

'Free-Abortionists' Bring House To Halt

Gallery Uproar Jolts Commons

By BEN TIERNEY and PETER CALAMAI
(The Herald's Ottawa Bureau, copyright 1970)

OTTAWA — Shouting and chanting from every part of the public galleries, about 100 women forced adjournment of the House of Commons sitting today.

The women were demonstrating in favor of free abortions and it was clearly a well-organized protest. They rose in various parts of the spectators' galleries of the Commons to shout in favor of unrestricted abortions for women.

It is the first time since 1967 that the House of Commons has been adjourned because of a demonstration.

*Women yelling
for abortion
halt Commons*

Ottawa

Women hug
following release
from protest
inside the House
of Commons.

(l to r facing
front: Dawn
Hemingway
(Carrell), Alma
Marks)



Vancouver – May 8, 1970

Vancouver
Women's Caucus
March features
Jean Rands as
Federal Health
Minister John
Munro and Anne
Roberts as BC
Health Minister,
Ralph Loffmark



Abortion Caravan Activists

Then

Colette Malo

Margaret
Mahood
(Saskatoon)

Cathy Walker



Marge Hollibaugh
& Dodie Weppler

Pat Davitt



And Now ...

**Joan Baril
(Thunder Bay)**



**Doris Power
(Toronto)**

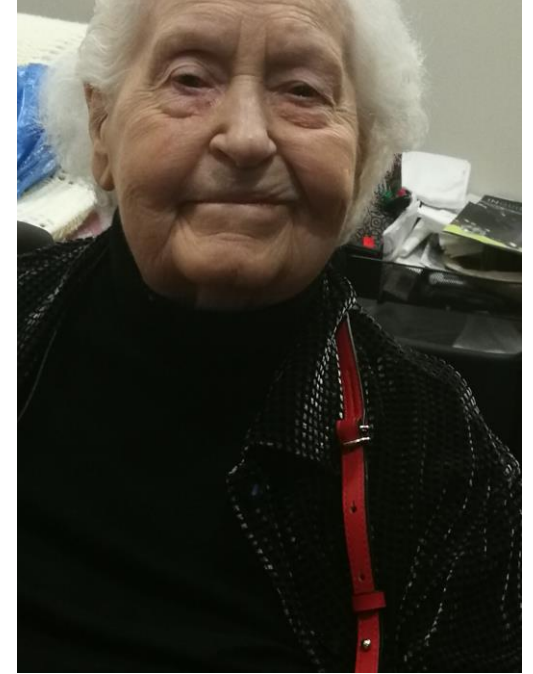
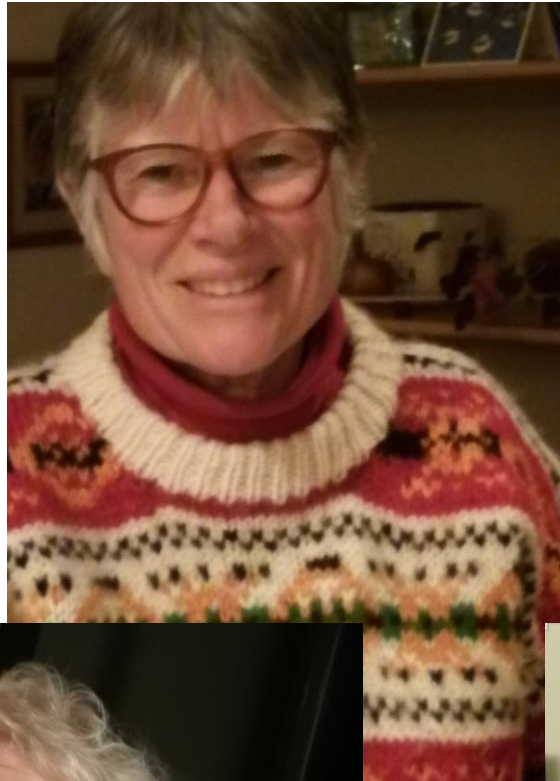


**Kathryn Keate
(Ottawa)**



**Sally Mahood
(Regina)**





Charlotte Bedard
Ellen Woodsworth
Margo Dunn
Betsy Wood
(Meadley)
Judy Darcy

“ORIGINALS”

Bonnie Beckwoman
Charlotte Bedard
Marcy Cohen
Margo Dunn
Hannah Gay
Vicki Goodman
Gwen Hauser
Dawn Hemingway (Carrell)
Barbara Hicks
Colette Malo
Mary Mathieson
Betsy Wood (Meadley)
Melody Rudd
Maxine Schnee
Mary Trew
Cathy Walker
Ellen Woodsworth
Dodie Weppler

Thanks to the women whose vision inspired the Abortion Caravan, the "originals" who set off from Vancouver in April 1970, and the many many more who joined, organized and supported it along the way.

And thanks also to all those since then and those still on the frontlines in the fight to secure the right to choose.