



CCLA Statement of Support Vigil for Clinic 554 – 25 September 2020

Reproductive justice – and the right to abortion – is critical for ensuring the fundamental rights of women, girls, and trans people.

Recently departed United States Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said it plainly:

“Abortion prohibition by the State... controls women and denies them full autonomy and full equality with men.”

What is at stake, she asserted, is “the roles women are to play in society. Are women to have the opportunity to participate in full partnership with men in the nation's social, political, and economic life?”

Without reproductive rights, RGB taught, there can be no real gender equality.

And it is critical to ensuring privacy, liberty, autonomy, and other fundamental freedoms.

Today, New Brunswick stands at a critical juncture. If Clinic 554 closes at the end of the month, many marginalized and vulnerable women, girls and trans people will lose access to abortion, access to gender-affirming healthcare, and along with these losses, healthcare that underlies the attainment of many other rights.

This is dangerous and unacceptable. The role of the government is to protect the health of its citizens. It is not to erect barriers that hurt vulnerable women, girls, and trans folks, or to interfere with their rights. It is not to send people in need of abortion into desperate situations where their health and safety may be endangered.

The Canadian Civil Liberties Association supports the activists and protesters who will gather today to celebrate the achievements of Clinic 554 and its predecessor, the Morgentaler Clinic.

We join with them and continue to demand that the province amend the blatantly discriminatory Regulation 84-20.

CCLA continues to demand that the province and federal government meet their obligations to protect the women, girls, and trans people in New Brunswick.

We demand they take urgent measures to ensure that abortion is recognized as a basic, critical form of healthcare, and ensure that it is made available, publicly funded, and accessible to women, girls, and trans people.

CCLA commends the organizers of this important event and the many activists who have worked to promote access to abortion in this province. We support you and stand with you.