

Pro-life parliamentarians and their bills and motions

Over the past three decades, there have been dozens of pro-life private members bills and motions introduced in the House of Commons and Senate (as well as some pro-abortion ones). While none of them have passed – many were never voted on and some died when the House was prorogued or the Writ was dropped (thus ending Parliament), it is worth recognizing the work of some of the MPs who have tried to curb and question abortion in Canada. If no outcome is listed, the bill or motion was not voted upon. Research and analysis provided by Campaign Life Coalition.

Ken Epp, Canadian Alliance, Conservative (Edmonton-Sherwood Park)

C-484	2007	An Act to amend the Criminal Code (injuring or causing death of an unborn child while committing an offense) - Unborn Victims of Crime Act	Bill passed second reading with a 147–132 vote and was referred to committee for further study. It died on the order paper with the dissolution of Parliament in September 2008
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Jim Pankiw, Reform (Saskatoon - Humboldt)

C-515	1999	An Act to provide for a referendum to determine whether Canadians wish medically unnecessary abortions to be insured services under the Canada Health Act and to amend the Referendum Act.	First reading
C-452	2002	Reintroduction of Bill C-515	



John Nunziata, Liberal (York South Weston)

C-261	1989	An Act to amend Section 287 of Criminal Code to ban abortion in all cases, while permitting medical treatment necessary to prevent the death of the mother.
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Leon Benoit, Reform, Canadian Alliance, Conservative (Vegreville-Wainwright)

C-291	2006	An act to amend the Criminal Code so that anyone who injures or causes the death of a child before or during it's birth which committing an offense against the mother should be guilty of a separate offense	Following the one hour debate, the parliamentary committee declared the bill unvotable
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Ralph Ferguson, Liberal (Lambton Middlesex)

C-266	1989	Bill to define a fetus as a person, prohibiting abortion. Exception including when the abortion was medically authorized to save the life of the pregnant woman
C-302	1991	Reintroduction of bill C-266 (1989) to define a fetus as a person



Tom Wappel, Liberal (Scarborough West)

C-275	1989	Bill to redefine human being to include an embryo and a fetus, thereby extending the prohibition against killing a human being to include the killing of fetuses and embryos
C-214	1991	Reintroduction of C-275 (1989) to redefine human being to include an embryo and a fetus
C-208	1996	Reintroduction of C-275 (1989) to redefine human being to include an embryo and a fetus





Don Boudria, Liberal (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell)

C-268	1989	Bill to amend Canada Health Act to allow the federal government to penalize any province which paid for abortions that were not deemed necessary for preserving the life of the mother
C-277	1989	An Act to amend Section 293 of the Criminal Code and repeal Sections 223, 238, and 287 to ban abortion in all cases except where that is necessary to save the mother's life
C-222	1991	Reintroduction of C-268 (1989) Act to amend Canada Health Act
C-221	1991	Reintroduction of C-277 to amend Section 293 of the Criminal Code and repeal Sections 223, 238, and 287
C-220	1991	Bill to protect the conscience rights of health care workers being pressured into taking part in abortion procedures
C-253	1994	An Act to amend the Criminal Code by adding the following after section 288: Every person who directly or indirectly requires a physician, nurse, staff member or employee of a hospital or other health care facility to perform or participate directly or indirectly in an abortion procedure is guilty of an indictable offence and is liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years.



Maurice Vellacott, Reform, Canadian Alliance, Conservative (Wanuskewin)

C-461	1998	Bill to ensure that health care providers working in medical facilities will not be forced to participate against their will in procedures such as abortions or acts of euthanasia	C-461 passed first reading in the House of Commons and secured the 100 signatures necessary for second reading
C-207	1999	Reintroduction of Bill C-461	On November 18, 1999, bill was declared non-votable by a parliamentary sub-committee
C-422	1999	Reintroduction of Bill C-207	Bill died on the order paper when Parliament was dissolved in 2000
C-246	2001	Reintroduction of Bill C-422	



Gus Mitges, Progressive Conservative (Grey-Simcoe)

M-37	1987	Motion to amend Section 7 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms to include unborn persons	On June 2nd 1987, was defeated 89-62. (approximately 60% of MP's were present for the vote)
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Senator Stanley Haidasz, Liberal (Ontario)

S-16	1988	An Act to amend the Criminal Code (Protection of the unborn child)	Bill passed first reading but died at the end of the Parliamentary session
S-7	1989	Reintroduction of S-16 (1989) to amend the Criminal Code	In 1991, Order for second reading was discharged and the Bill withdrawn
S-7	1997	An Act to amend the Criminal Code for the purpose of preventing coercion in medical procedures that offend against conscience	Referred to Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs; not reported back before prorogation on Sept. 18 1999
M-?	1998	Motion to set up a Special Joint Committee on the Unborn to examine and report upon the feasibility of legislation in the area of fetal rights in order to provide some protection to the unborn child	The initiative ended when Haidasz retired on March 4, 1998 at the mandatory senatorial retirement age of 75



Senator Raymond Perrault, Liberal - (B.C)

S-11	1999	Reintroduction of Haidasz's conscience clause Bill (S-7, 1997).	Bill received debate at 2nd reading stage, but did not proceed any further
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Paul Steckle, Liberal (Huron-Bruce)

C-338	2006	Act to amend the Criminal Code to create the offence of procuring the miscarriage of a female person after her twentieth week of gestation subject to certain limited exceptions	
C-338	2007	Reintroduction of C-338	The bill did not receive second reading and died on the order paper with the dissolution of Parliament in September 2008



Garry Breitkreuz, Reform, Canadian Alliance, Conservative (Yorkton - Melville)

M-91	1996	Motion calling for national referendum on government funding for abortions	Motion declared non-votable by the Committee on Procedural and House Affairs and was debated for one hour on May 27, 1996. The motion was opposed by the government stating that procedures for funding under the Canada Health Act are up to the provinces
M-268	1997	Reintroduction of M-91 calling for national referendum on government funding for abortions	
M-360	1999	Motion urging the government to bring in legislation defining a human being as a human fetus or embryo, from the moment of conception, whether in the womb of the mother or not and whether conceived naturally or otherwise and making any and all consequential amendments required.	
M-228	2001	Reintroduction of M-360 on redefining a human being	The motion was declared non-votable.
M-392	2001	Motion that the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights review the current definition of human being in section 223(1) of the Criminal Code of Canada and report (a) whether the law needs to be amended to comply with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child so as to provide appropriate legal protection for a child before as well as after birth; and (b) whether the law should be amended so that an unborn child is considered a human being at the point of conception.	
M-83	2002	Motion that the Standing Committee on Health should fully examine, study and report to Parliament on: (a) whether or not abortions are medically necessary for the purpose of maintaining health, preventing disease or diagnosing or treating an injury, illness or disability; and (b) the health risks for women undergoing abortions compared to women carrying their babies to full term.	Defeated 139-66
M-523	2002	Reintroduction of M-83, (2002) on the medical necessity of abortion	
M-70	2004	Introduction of Motion asking Parliament for a Woman's Right to Know Act, that would guarantee that all women considering an abortion would be given complete information by their physician about all the risks of the procedure, and provide penalties for physicians who perform an abortion without the informed consent of the mother or perform an abortion that is not medically necessary	
M-560	2004	Motion asking Parliament to introduce an amendment to the Criminal Code creating a new offence to ensure that any person who murders a woman knowing that she is pregnant, shall be charged with the murder of the unborn child	