

Date 2022-08-02

From [REDACTED]

To <chrystia.freeland@canada.ca> **s.19(1)**
<Chrystia.Freeland@parl.gc.ca>
<Justin.Trudeau@parl.gc.ca>

CC [REDACTED]
<maaz.yasin@fin.gc.ca>

Subject <<< NO REPLY >>> - Reply by mail - Urgent movement needed on issue of charity status for anti-abortion groups - 22

E Mail Body

Dear Justin Trudeau and Chrystia Freeland, **s.20(1)(a)**

Thank you for your recent funding announcements to support sexual and reproductive healthcare in Canada, including abortion. [REDACTED]

Sadly, we have had very little interaction with the government since then. An advisor to Ms. Freeland, Mary-Rose Brown, spoke with us a couple times most recently in March 2022, but she is now gone. **s.20(1)(d)**

[REDACTED] Since then, we've tried to reach Senior Advisor Maaz Yasin numerous times but he has never responded. Who is responsible? Will you not consult? Do you intend to honour your promise, and if so when?

Your lack of response and consultation has put us into the uncomfortable position of publicly criticizing the Liberal gov't for its lack of clarity and progress on this issue. See today's stories in OpenDemocracy<<https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/5050/canada-abortion-charity-status-crisis-pregnancy-centre-roe-v-wade-election/>> and The Tyee<<https://thetyee.ca/News/2022/08/02/Liberals-On-Anti-Abortion-Groups/>>. While it was encouraging to learn that the government had extensive discussions on this issue at one point, the lack of recent movement is concerning. **s.20(1)(b)**

To fulfill your promise, we suggest there is no need to amend the Income Tax Act. The CRA could interpret existing charitable guidelines in a modernized way that recognizes Charter rights and requires charities to respect them. The CRA could adopt similar criteria as for the Canada Summer Jobs program, which disqualifies applicants whose activities "actively work to undermine or restrict a woman's access to sexual and reproductive health services" or that advocate discrimination. Also, charities should not be disseminating biased misinformation, as many antichoice groups do.

On the above grounds, we ask the government to please consider revoking charitable tax status from many anti-choice groups that currently have it, as well as other groups that may not fit the modernized criteria. An anomaly that pertains to anti-abortion groups in particular, is that over two dozen obtained charity status prior to the 1988 Supreme Court Morgentaler decision. With the decriminalization of abortion and its current status as a protected fundamental right, such anti-abortion groups no longer serve any public benefit. Indeed, many activities by anti-abortion groups conflict with government obligations to uphold rights and ensure accessible healthcare, and undermine your government's current laudable efforts to promote and support sexual and reproductive healthcare. This is highly inappropriate for charities, which are supposed to serve the public good.

Here are three resources that may be helpful:

- * Our lists of anti-choice groups:
<https://www.arcc-cdac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Anti-choice-pro-choice-groups-charities.pdf>
- * Why anti-choice groups should not have charitable tax status: <http://www.arcc-cdac.ca/postionpapers/80-Charitable-Tax-Status.pdf>

s.20(1)(b)

Would it be possible to please arrange a meeting with someone responsible from your staff to discuss how we can move forward? Please reply [REDACTED] as soon as possible.

Thank you very much,

[REDACTED] **s.19(1)**
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