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2 Whereas, In the fifty years since abortion was legalized in Canada in
3 1969; and 31 years since abortion was decriminalized
4 through the Morgentaler decision in 1988 in Canada,
5 studies have been conducted on the effects of abortion on
6 a woman's mental health and

7 Whereas, these studies reveal that choosing to abort her child puts a
8 woman up to a 67.5% higher risk of depression, suicide,
9 and drug abuse; therefore, be it

10 Resolved, that the London Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's
11 League of Canada in its 99th annual convention assembled
12 request the Provincial government to require all referring
13 and/or attending physician to disclose the possible mental
14 health risks that may follow an abortion procedure to each
15 patient before the abortion procedure is performed and be
16 it further

17 Resolved, That this resolution be forwarded to the Ontario Provincial
18 Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada for
19 consideration at its 72nd annual convention.

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21

1 Brief:

2 Abortion, the premature ending of a pregnancy, was legalized in Canada in
3 1969. To give women greater and freer access to abortion, the Morgentaler
4 decision of 1988 removed the barriers that were deemed to be unfair at the
5 time to women who desired to terminate a pregnancy. (Long, L)

6
7 It's been fifty years since abortion was legalized in Canada, and 31 years
8 since it was decriminalized. The evidence is in and we now know that
9 women often have severe mental health issues related to their abortion
10 experience.

11
12 Numerous studies assess the mental health damages to post abortive
13 women. Women suffering grief after an abortion are often unable to publicly
14 express their sadness and are therefore at greater risk of experiencing
15 complicated grief, a state in which sorrow, numbness, guilt and anger
16 following a loss are long-lasting and interfere with the life of the grieving
17 person. (De Veber) The mental health of women affects all of society!

18
19 Women who experience abortion have up to a 67.5% higher risk of mental
20 health issues such as depression, suicide, and drug abuse than women that
21 carry their babies to term (Coleman, PK). The facts can no longer be
22 ignored!

23
24 In the decades since abortion was legalized, much of the stigma attached to
25 it was reduced; but numerous studies have been conducted in Canada
26 (Mota, N.P.), that reveal the negative effects of abortion on women's mental
27 health.

28
29 In light of all the evidence that has accumulated since abortion was made
30 more accessible, the Health Ministry of Ontario needs to require medical
31 professionals to disclose the possible mental health dangers that often follow
32 an abortion procedure. Each patient has a right to this information before
33 an abortion is performed (College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario).
34 Abortion complications are seriously under reported; women are often
35 unaware of the risks they face (Lanfranchi, A).

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- 4

1 Action Plan

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3 1. Contact M.P. and share contents of this resolution and brief. Ask
4 your M.P. to support action and reform that requires full disclosure of
5 possible mental health dangers to those seeking abortion

6

7 2. Write letters to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Health
8 requesting them to require medical professionals to disclose the
9 possible mental health dangers that often follow an abortion.

10

11 3. Invite a guest speaker from your local right to life group to educate
12 members on this issue.

13

14 4. Share the information learned through letters to the editor in local
15 newspapers to bring more awareness.

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