



Canadian Association of Perinatal and  
Women's Health Nurses  
Association canadienne des infirmières et infirmiers  
en périnatalité et en santé des femmes

## **CAPWHN Statement on Women's Rights**

May, 2022

CAPWHN, the Canadian Association of Perinatal and Women's Health Nurses, supports the reproductive rights of all women and people capable of pregnancy in Canada. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms<sup>1</sup> states that "everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of the person and the right not to be deprived thereof". As such, CAPWHN recognizes women and people capable of pregnancy to have the right to make autonomous decisions regarding their reproductive health<sup>2</sup>. Consistent with the CNA Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses (2017)<sup>3</sup>, nurses recognize, respect and promote a patient's right to be informed and make decisions within a therapeutic relationship that is safe, person-centred, trauma-informed, culturally safe and free from personal or racial bias.

### **References**

1. Constitution Act, 1982 part 1, Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms: Legal Rights: section 7 pg 64. Current to January 2021  
<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/const/page-12.html>
2. Supreme Court Judgement R v Morgentaler 1988  
<https://scc-csc.lexum.com/scc-csc/scc-csc/en/item/288/index.do>
3. [Canadian Nurses Association Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses \(2017\)](https://www.cna-aiic.ca/en/nursing/regulated-nursing-in-canada/nursing-ethics)  
<https://www.cna-aiic.ca/en/nursing/regulated-nursing-in-canada/nursing-ethics>