



The Honourable Minister of Health Leo Glavine  
Department of Health and Wellness  
Barrington Tower, 1894 Barrington Street  
P.O. Box 488  
Halifax, NS B3J 2R8

Via E-mail: Health.Minister@novascotia.ca

May 9, 2017

Dear Honourable Minister of Health Leo Glavine,

**Re: Provincial Coverage of Medical Abortion**

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I write to you today, on behalf of the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund branch in Halifax (LEAF Halifax), to urge you make mifepristone-misoprostol (the medications that together may be referred to as "medical abortion") available to all women in Nova Scotia without personal cost.

Last month, the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health's Common Drug Review recommended that all provinces and territories should cover the cost of these important medications.<sup>1</sup>

LEAF Halifax is encouraged that Ontario, Alberta, and New Brunswick have already promised to make mifepristone-misoprostol available without charge to all women covered by provincial health care. We hope that the government of Nova Scotia will similarly work to ensure that Nova Scotians have the same standard of care.

Mifepristone-misoprostol gives women a safe and effective alternative to surgery in the termination of early pregnancies. The availability of medical abortion can increase access to abortion for women in rural communities, since it can be prescribed by family physicians. Currently, only five of Nova Scotia's 43 hospitals provide surgical abortions. Provincial funding of medical abortion could save Nova Scotian women the excessive financial and temporal burdens of travelling hundreds of kilometres to access an abortion at a hospital.

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<sup>1</sup> The Common Drug Review for mifepristone-misoprostol, which includes its rationales for recommending public coverage, is available online: <[https://www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/cdr/complete/SR0502\\_complete\\_Mifegymiso-Apr-20-17-e.pdf](https://www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/cdr/complete/SR0502_complete_Mifegymiso-Apr-20-17-e.pdf)>

Further, the CDR's independent analysis suggests that provincial funding of medical abortion is the most economical use of public funding in providing health services, since it is significantly less expensive for the province than funding surgical abortions in a hospital.

Thank you in advance for your attention to, and consideration of, this important matter. We look forward to receiving your response at your earliest convenience,

Yours respectfully,



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