



CANADIAN FERTILITY AND ANDROLOGY SOCIETY
SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DE FERTILITÉ ET D'ANDROLOGIE

CFAS Position Statement - Right to Family

October 2017

Right to Family

Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society promotes the development and delivery of reproductive technologies that help Canadians build their families. Provision of these services should be blind to gender, race, family status and sexual orientation. As health professionals and experts in the field of reproductive medicine our members have a duty to foster healthy pregnancies and offspring, and to advocate for the availability of safe and effective fertility services for all Canadians.

Although the phrasing reflects the societal values of the time, the United Nations General Assembly Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) outlines basic human right to a family:

“Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family.”

“The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.”

The Constitution of Canada and section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (1986) guarantees that every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination. Equal rights irrespective of sexual orientation were finally established through Civil Marriage Act (2005) and Human Reproduction Act (2004).

Most Canadians have physical access to facilities providing a high level of fertility care; however, public funding for these services is not uniform across Canada. Unlike most developed countries, we restrict access to care through inadequate funding. Patients in need of gamete donation and gestational surrogacy are also limited by a lack of individuals willing to provide



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these services on an altruistic basis, as required by the Assisted Human Reproduction Act (2004). We strongly believe that an adequate level of funding for fertility treatments and an appropriate system for compensation of individuals willing to provide third party reproduction services, will provide Canadians suffering from infertility the opportunity to start a family.