

NEW Vigil Location on the sidewalk on the North side of 5th Avenue NW Just west of 23rd Street NW.

Since 2002, there has been an injunction in place restricting “picketing, demonstrating...or otherwise gathering” in certain locations surrounding the Kensington abortion facility. This injunction remains in place today. In addition, the provincial NDP government passed legislation prohibiting free speech and any kind of pro-life presence within a 50-metre zone (Access Zone) surrounding the parcel of land on which the Kensington abortion facility is located (2431 – 5th Avenue NW). This legislation is erroneously named the “Protecting Choice for Women Accessing Health Care Act” and was proclaimed in effect on June 11, 2018. It makes violation of the Act a criminal offence and provides that a police officer may arrest a person for violating the Act. Penalties for a violation are harsh and may be a fine of up to \$5000 or a term of imprisonment of not more than 6 months, or both a fine and imprisonment.

It is very important that all persons participating in the 40 Days for Life (Calgary) campaign comply with both the injunction and the Act, to not place themselves in legal jeopardy. Our location for the campaign has moved east from the location of past campaigns to comply with both the Act and the injunction. We will be standing on the sidewalk in front of the chain link fence on the North side of 5th Avenue between a black post with the sign “Grand Trunk Park” hanging on it and 23 Street NW. This is across the street and east of the Kensington abortion facility and is east of our previous location. Due to the injunction, only up to 4 persons may stand on the sidewalk at anytime. Come to the sight by walking in a westward direction from 23 Street. Do not come from the west to avoid entering the Access Zone.

Why are we still running the campaign when this new legislation has made it so difficult?

The NDP government, to justify this legislation, falsely claimed that women accessing the abortion facilities were being harassed and bullied by pro-life protestors. This is not true, and the government could not provide a single example of such harassment or bullying. In fact, we are often the target of harassment when we peacefully stand outside the abortion facility. 40 Days for Life is a peaceful, prayerful campaign designed to end abortion by bringing awareness to the truth that every abortion is the wrongful killing of an innocent life. This killing most often occurs because the innocent life of the child is deemed to be inconvenient. 40 Days for Life seeks to be a voice for the voiceless in a world that increasingly rejects the rights of citizens to speak out against actions that they believe to be wrong. This new law is about the NDP government proclaiming that our pro-life opinions cannot be expressed peacefully in a public space just because some people are or might be offended by our moral beliefs. This is a violation of our constitution right to freedom of expression. 40 Days for Life in Calgary refuses to be silenced while over 5000 babies are killed every year at the Kensington abortion facility. Abortion kills innocent human beings, hurts the women who have them, and harms all of society because it devalues human life for all of us.