

## CONTRACEPTION LEGALIZED

### OVERVIEW

In the 1930s, A. R. Kaufman created a birth control program for low-income women in Kitchener under his Parents' Information Bureau<sup>1</sup>. Then, in 1932, Dr. Elizabeth Bagshaw opened the first illegal birth control clinic in Hamilton<sup>1</sup>. Finally, in 1963, the International Planned Parenthood Federation was formed, with membership from activists across Canada<sup>1</sup>.

### WHAT WAS THE NATURE OF THE FIGHT FOR THIS ACHIEVEMENT?

Many individuals, such as Dr. Bagshaw, went against the law to distribute contraceptives and information to individuals in Canada.

When these activists were penalized, they went to court and defended their work. These convictions and the work being done inspired the creation of the first Planned Parenthood Federation<sup>2</sup>. Ultimately, many well-respected organizations, such as the Canadian Medical Association, supported the campaign and pressured the government to de-criminalize contraceptives in Canada<sup>2</sup>.

### WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS ACHIEVEMENT?

Contraceptives are a part of comprehensive health care, and their legalization provided women with control over family planning, sexual health, and bodily autonomy<sup>2</sup>. Overall, this achievement was significant to everyone who now has control over their sexual and reproductive health.

### WHAT DOES THIS ACHIEVEMENT LOOK LIKE TODAY?

Today, people have access to a variety of contraceptive methods such as the condom, intrauterine device, or birth control pill, to name a few. They can access these contraceptives from their doctor or over the counter. However, health care plans differ in each province, so the cost coverage of different contraceptive methods range across the country.

1. Butler, K. (2019). It's a long story: History of birth control in Canada. City News. <https://toronto.citynews.ca/2019/06/10/its-a-long-story-the-history-of-birth-control-in-canada/>  
2. Canadian Public Health Association. (n.d.) History of family planning in Canada. <https://www.cpha.ca/history-family-planning-canada>

### AUTHORS

- Brianna Wilson
- Community Engaged Scholarship Institute

### ABOUT THIS PROJECT

This project aims to present significant achievements for women over the last 100 years. It was developed specifically as a poster series to be displayed at International Women's Day events in Guelph, ON.