

Nov 1, 2020

Re: Item 4.2 Proposed Amendment to the Sign By-law

Dear CPSC Colleagues,

The Dilemma

We have received emails protesting the delivery of graphic images to residences by the Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform (CCBR), and we have also gotten emails adjuring us not to interfere with their constitutional freedom to do so. This places us in a dilemma, but I believe that the Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada (ARCC) website already contains a remedy.

The Remedy

The trespass to property act grants all groups, including CCBR assumed permission to access a residential property to deliver a flyer. However, this permission can be revoked with a simple communication to the offending party. ARCC has a sample document on their website that can be filled out and sent to CCBR who is legally obligated to honour the request or else they can be charged under the Trespass Act.

The Immediate Actions

As a city, we can take immediate action to inform our residents that this remedy exists by directing staff to:

1. Create a web page, London.ca/no-flyers, which describes the process of revoking permission to trespass, and
2. Advertise the web page on our site and digital billboards

Don't want to get flyers
from a specific group?

Visit London.ca/no-flyers

The Many Upsides

The advantages of this approach are that it is:

- immediate,
- effective,
- already enforced at the provincial level,
- not subject to legal challenge,
- targeted,
- free of obvious unintended consequences,
- inexpensive,
- non-controversial,
- applicable to all groups and delivery agents,
- encourages citizens to exercise their own rights.

Sincerely,

Michael van Holst

The Resources:

Trespass to Property Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. T.21:

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90t21>

Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada website: <https://www.arcc-cdac.ca/trespass-remedy/>

Sample notification to CCBR: <http://www.arcc-cdac.ca/action/Ontario.docx>