

NEWS RELEASE

Henry Morgentaler honoured for his contribution to women's health in Atlantic Canada

Halifax, January XX, 2006—Dr. Henry Morgentaler has been honoured with a Leadership Award for Women's Health from the Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health. The acclaimed physician and pro-choice advocate is being recognized for his contribution to improving women's health in the region, and beyond.

"Dr. Morgentaler has made a vital difference in the lives of women throughout Atlantic Canada. He has not only helped individual women by serving on the frontlines of health care, he has helped to improve the health system for all women – and for generations of women to follow," says Barbara Clow, Executive Director of the Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health.

The Canadian founding father of the Humanist movement, Dr. Morgentaler opened his first abortion clinic on the East Coast in Nova Scotia in 1989 after the provincial government banned abortions outside hospitals. He then went on to open clinics in New Brunswick and Newfoundland and Labrador. Clinics in St. John's and Fredericton are still open today.

"Dr. Morgentaler has provided critical medical services and has worked to train physicians in hospitals and clinics throughout Atlantic Canada and across the country. He has published in scholarly journals and extended the provision of timely medical services to communities throughout the region under circumstances and in locations where they might not otherwise have been available or where the available services were not adequate to meet women's needs," says Dr. Katherine Side, a member of the Healthy Balance Research Project exploring unpaid caregiving and the connections between women's health and well-being, family life and earning a livelihood.

"I am honoured to receive this award on behalf of women throughout Atlantic Canada," says Dr. Morgentaler. "It is important that we continue as a society to safeguard the rights and access of women to safe medical abortion. Not many people realize the enormous benefits to women's health resulting from such good access."

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