

AAC supports rights of Donor-Conceived Individuals

Last fall Olivia Pratten filed a class action suit on behalf of all donor-conceived individuals in British Columbia. No state or province currently recognizes that donor-conceived individuals have any rights to information about their parents (donors.)

Currently, fertility doctors may dispose of all records pertaining to gamete donation after seven years. This means that as donor-conceived individuals become adults, they not only have no legal recognition of their right to truthful information about themselves but also little hope of ever finding out the truth.

If Pratten is successful, donor-conceived adults will have the same rights to information as those enjoyed by adopted adults in BC: access to identifying information subject to a veto.

This case will have far-reaching implications and it is vital that Pratten be successful. If she wins the case, it will provide a precedent for this type of legislation and will help donor-conceived adults all over the US, Canada, and the world. The Canadian Donor Conception Coalition (CDCC), formed to lobby for the rights of the donor conceived, anticipates that this case will go all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada. Although the legal firm of Arvay Finley has volunteered their services, there are still many costs associated with this type of legal battle.

The ACC recognizes the importance of this case and has donated \$500.00 to help with the fight.

To learn more about the case or to make a donation, please go to <http://www.canadiandonoroffspring.ca/>. Checks should be made payable *Arvay Finlay in Trust Re Pratten* and mailed to Arvay Finlay, 1350-355 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC V6C 2G8 Canada. In the fight for their rights, they need all the help they can get!

Wendy Rowney
AAC Canadian Liaison