

CAM's new abortion care resources for midwives

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CAM ACSF

Midwives for everyone, everywhere
Des sages-femmes pour tous, partout

Land acknowledgement

CAM's head office is situated on the unceded traditional territory of the Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) Nation, part of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. We recognize the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation as the custodians of the lands and waters of Tiohtiá:ke (Montreal), which has long been a gathering place for diverse First Nations, including Algonquin-Anishinaabe, Atikamekw, and Huron-Wendat.

We recognize the historical and continued violence of settler colonialism and are committed to learning and working toward reconciliation through collaborative, bilateral and reciprocally beneficial relationships with Indigenous peoples and communities .



Webinar overview

- CART project background
- Project aims
- Development process for resources
- Evidence-informed advocacy
- Reproductive justice & reproductive oppression
- CAM's resources:
 - *National Strategy for Midwife-led Abortion Care in Canada*
 - Briefing notes
 - Advocacy roadmap and stakeholder mapping tool
 - Landing page on CAM's website



CART Project

Financial contribution:

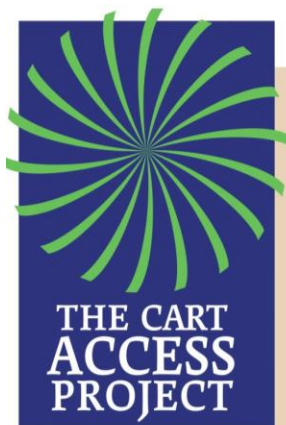


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- Project overview
 - Public engagement campaign
 - National Strategy
 - Supporting work of partner associations (RSFQ + QTM)





*Advancing Equitable
Access to Abortion Care*

*Providing Resources for
Abortion Seekers and
Health Care Providers*

Knowledge Generation

It's My Choice:
Patient Decision Aid

Virtual Community
of Practice

Wellness Within
Youth Wellness Lab

Supporting Partners

Canadian Midwifery
Regulators Council

Centre for Health
Evaluation and
Outcome Sciences

Elizabeth Fry Societies

National Abortion
Federation Canada

The College of Family
Physicians of Canada

Women's Health
Research Institute

Knowledge Dissemination

Action Canada for
Sexual Health & Rights

Canadian Association
of Midwives

Canadian Association
of Schools of Nursing

Canadian Pharmacists
Association

Society of Obstetricians and
Gynaecologists of Canada

UBC Continuing Professional
Development with
Canadian Association
for Midwifery Education

Clinician Mentorship Hubs

Halifax NS

Montreal QC

Toronto ON

Winnipeg MB

Vancouver BC

*The CAP-MoRE Summit, 2024 Feb 22-23, Ottawa,
Mobilizing Results for Equity*

WITH SUPPORT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE



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OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

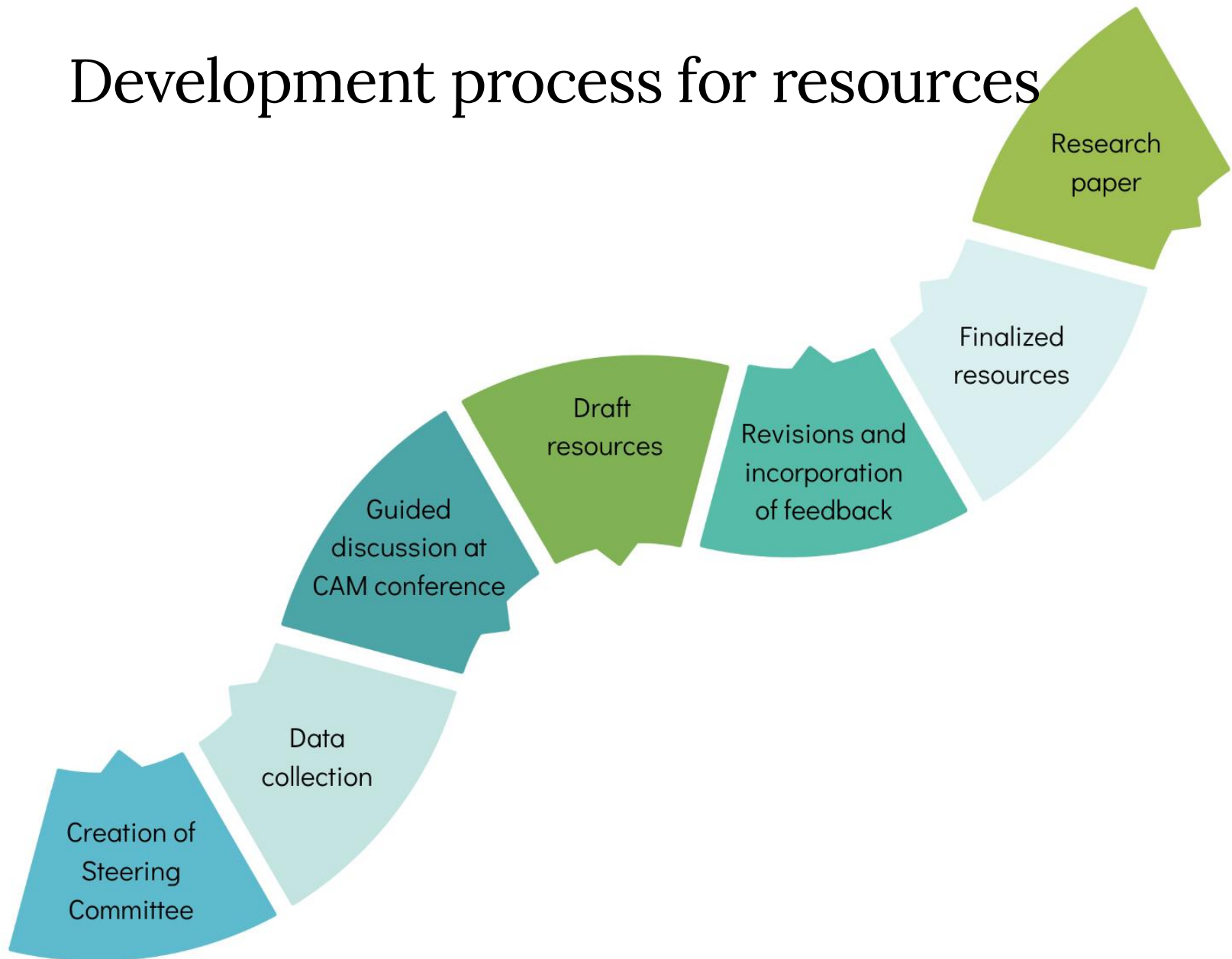
THE CART ACCESS PROJECT

MOBILIZING RESULTS for EQUITY

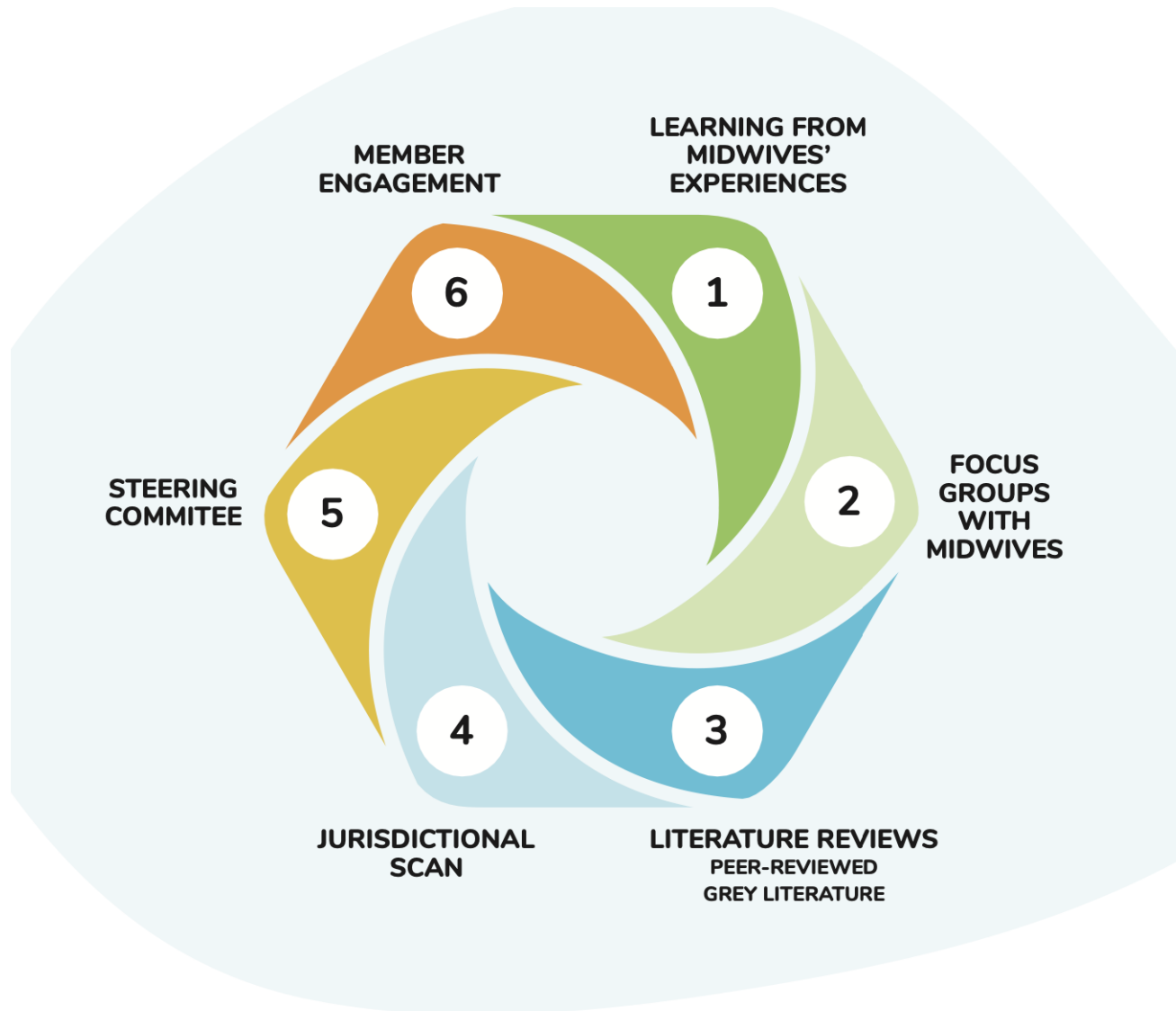
PARTNER LED PROJECTS



Development process for resources



Evidence-informed advocacy



Reproductive Justice



**Women of Color Reproductive
Justice Collective**

"SisterSong defines Reproductive Justice as the human right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities."

**Statement from SisterSong:
Visioning New Futures for Reproductive Justice Declaration 2023**

Source: <https://www.sistersong.net/visioningnewfuturesforrj>

Reproductive oppression

- To move towards reproductive justice, we must first recognize the past and current abuses of women, trans, and nonbinary peoples' reproductive bodies.
 - The historical and ongoing impacts of racism and colonization
 - Forced and coerced sterilization, contraception, and abortion
 - Child and newborn apprehensions
 - Lack of access to safe, healthy, and sustainable communities
 - The many barriers to accessing comprehensive reproductive care that people with disabilities face
 - The systemic discrimination and barriers to inclusive reproductive care, specifically safe abortion services for 2SLGBTQI+ people
 - Lack of coverage for uninsured people





A NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR MIDWIFE-LED ABORTION CARE IN CANADA



An evidence-informed advocacy tool for midwifery associations, midwives, regulators, midwifery education programs, and collaborating health professionals to champion change with relevant systems' decision-makers.

The Midwifery Model of Abortion Care



ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

- › Recognizes the leadership of IBPOC and 2SLGBTQI+ midwives in reproductive justice movements and abortion care
- › Honours and centres multiple ways of knowing
- › Proactive midwifery associations
- › Strong midwifery leaders
- › Integration of midwives across all levels of health systems
- › Supportive regulatory structures and midwife-prescribing legislative authority
- › Pay equity for midwives and flexible funding models
- › Aligned governmental agendas and political will
- › Accessible learning and education pathways for abortion care
- › Continued public engagement to normalize abortion as part of healthcare

Building an enabling environment for midwife-led abortion care



WHO

- › Midwives respond to community needs and priorities in an informed choice and client-centred model of care
- › Intra-professional peer support and collaboration among midwives
- › Inter-professional collaboration and consultation of midwives with physicians and allied health professionals as needed

WHAT

- › Pre-abortion* - information, clinical assessment, options counselling, and shared decision-making
- › Abortion* - medication, vacuum aspiration, and expectant management
- › Post-abortion* - follow-up care, assessing and managing complications, and family planning

WHERE

- › Home, telemedicine and other remote care, midwifery clinics, birth centres, early pregnancy clinics, community outreach facilities, primary care clinics, and hospitals

HOW

- › Equity-driven, culturally safe, and community-based abortion environments
- › Universal contraception and abortion coverage
- › Inclusion of abortion care training across midwifery education pathways
- › Midwifery associations provide abortion-related learning
- › Midwives have access to the necessary diagnostic tools and medications
- › Payment mechanisms for appropriate remuneration of midwives
- › Midwives are well integrated into health and social service systems

WHY

- › Abortion is an integral part of healthcare and includes planned and unplanned pregnancies
- › Health systems in Canada are not meeting abortion care needs
- › Midwives are ideal abortion care providers and have the expertise to address current barriers

Collective action: Invest in midwives

1

PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE CARE

Prioritize and invest in comprehensive sexual and reproductive care through midwife-delivered holistic client-centred services beyond abortion care. This includes family planning, contraception counselling, and post-abortion care.

2

SUPPORT MIDWIVES' ASSOCIATIONS

Invest in building strong midwifery associations in Canada to lead in continued abortion care learning and advocate for sexual and reproductive care that is localized, coordinated, responsive, equitable, and sustainable.

3

OPTIMIZE SCOPE OF PRACTICE

Recognize and leverage midwives' expertise and unique skills and support midwives to provide comprehensive abortion care services independently.

4

STRENGTHEN PRESCRIBING AUTHORITY

Remove current provincial and territorial restrictions to allow midwives to independently prescribe medications necessary for abortion care, including contraceptives, aligning with evidence-based practices and global guidance.

5

ESTABLISH PAYMENT MECHANISMS

Establish accessible and appropriate payment structures and flexible funding models that allow midwives to provide abortion care and respond to changing community needs.

Policy Resources: Briefing notes

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INVEST IN MIDWIFE-LED ABORTION CARE

ABORTION CARE IS HEALTHCARE

WHY INVEST IN MIDWIVES?

Abortion is a routine and essential part of healthcare and includes planned and unplanned pregnancies.

Health systems in Canada are not meeting the sexual and reproductive care needs of women, trans, and nonbinary people.

Many continue to face significant barriers to culturally safe, appropriate, and timely access to abortion care.

Midwives are ideal abortion care providers and key to addressing current barriers.

We recognize midwives are a crucial component of a broader movement committed to achieving reproductive justice. We advocate for the integration of midwives as abortion care providers throughout provinces and territories and believe this will bring us one step closer to realizing reproductive justice in Canada.



The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of Health Canada.

A ROADMAP FOR BUILDING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR MIDWIFE-LED ABORTION CARE



WHO

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*Abortion care includes planned and unplanned pregnancies (i.e., early pregnancy loss, miscarriage, or spontaneous abortion)

MIDWIFE-LED ABORTION ADVOCACY ROAD MAP

1 CURRENT CONTEXT

Understand the current abortion care context in your province or territory. This includes understanding how abortion services are delivered (care settings and by which health professionals) and who does (or doesn't) have access. Identify the challenges to midwife-led abortion care with a focus on regulatory and administrative barriers.

2 STAKEHOLDER MAPPING

Power mapping to assess the power and influence of each stakeholder. Those who hold the power most often have decision-making authority, are a respected voice or have a large reach, holders of information and resources, have connections to authority, and may be known for eliciting fear or intimidation.

3 COALITION BUILDING

Bring together stakeholders to mobilize on a common goal. Abortion advocacy coalitions can include groups representing women, trans, and nonbinary folks, specialize in priority areas (midwifery, Indigenous midwifery, health, law, human rights, etc.), and have access to funding to cover advocacy-related costs.

4 OPPOSITION MONITORING

Knowing the opposition is important to identify the groups or individuals that are most likely to oppose your advocacy efforts. Understand the opposition's beliefs, strategies, resources, and reach so that you can anticipate their tactics and neutralize their effectiveness.

5 COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

Develop a communications plan that clarifies your coalition's goals and objectives. For example:

Advocacy goal: Improve sexual and reproductive care in Canada through midwife-led abortion care.

Communications goal: Build support for midwife-led abortion care through communications targeted at key audiences.

Communications objective: 1) Bring the debate into public dialogue, and 2) build the support of government officials.

6 DEVELOP A WORKPLAN

Identify activities that need to happen in the next 3 months (member engagement, consultations, and capacity building), 6 months (work backwards from where you want to be in 6 months to develop activities), and 12 months (aligning with political developments and election cycles).

Policy Resources: An advocacy roadmap for midwifery associations

Adapted from: Ipas. 2018. Roots of change: A step-by-step advocacy guide for expanding access to safe abortion. Chapel Hill: Ipas.

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Policy Resources: Stakeholder mapping

STAKEHOLDER MAPPING : UNDERSTANDING POWER AND INFLUENCE

CATEGORIES OF STAKEHOLDERS TO CONSIDER FOR THE MAPPING EXERCISE

Groups involved in the reproductive justice movement and groups representing women and 2SLGBTQI+ people <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › To lobby for change › To document and report cases of reproductive rights violations › To offer reproductive justice education 	Polymakers in ministries of health, education, women, gender equality, youth affairs, families, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › To promote and support legislation that eliminates barriers to universal abortion and contraception care and promotes reproductive justice 	Journalists and other members of the media <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › To share evidence-based information on abortion from a different perspective and influence public opinion
Community opinion leaders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › To draw attention to the issue and influence public opinion 	Academics and researchers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › To generate research on midwife-led abortion in Canada 	Celebrities and influencers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Can share personal stories and experiences to attract attention to the issue
Elders and knowledge keepers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › To share teachings and knowledge regarding sexual and reproductive health 	Members of Parliament and provincial and territorial Members of the Legislative Assembly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › To enhance legislation or policy that facilitates the integration of midwife-led abortion care 	Funders – individual and organizational <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › To provide financial support for the association's advocacy work
Collaborating health professionals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › To be spokespeople to the media on the need for the integration of midwife-led abortion care 	Religious leaders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › To share the range of religious beliefs that exist about reproductive health within a religion › To clarify religious positions regarding sexual and reproductive health 	

Adapted from: Ipas. 2018. Roots of change: A step-by-step advocacy guide for expanding access to safe abortion. Chapel Hill: Ipas.

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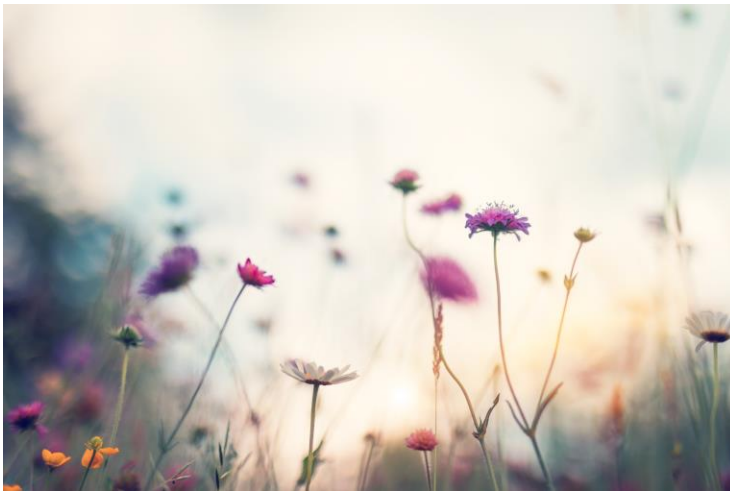


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Abortion care landing page on CAM's website



Thanks!



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Feedback



