

POLICIES ADOPTED 1968

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RESOLUTIONS FOR THE ATTENTION OF PROVINCIAL COUNCILS OF WOMEN

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- 68.1 Institution of Ombudsman**

Whereas, There is in Canada no formal procedure for an individual to raise his grievances when he feels he has been unjustly treated by an official who has discretionary powers, or where he complains of mal-administration or official misconduct; and,

Whereas, Members of Parliament are not always able to raise these grievances effectively, or obtain a remedy expeditiously; and,

Whereas, The institution of the ombudsman has proved effective not only in the Scandinavian countries, but also in New Zealand which has a constitutional tradition similar to ours; and the office has been established in the United Kingdom in November 1966; therefore:

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Federal Government to adopt the institution of the ombudsman to meet our specific needs and pass legislation to provide for such an official; and,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada recommend to Provincial Councils that they request their Provincial Governments to institute an ombudsman where this office does not already exist.

68.2 Family Unit Taxation

Whereas, The Royal Commission on Taxation, in its monumental effort to achieve a more equitable and rational tax structure in Canada, chose the family unit as one of the bases of its personal income tax recommendations; and,

Whereas, The family unit has undergone such rapid and fundamental changes during the last few decades that its role as an economic unit in modern society has been drastically altered; and,

Whereas, It appears that further studies should be conducted into the effect of taxation on the employment of married women, particularly with regard to their incentive to enter or remain in the labour force:

1. To determine whether or not current taxation policies are militating against a rational allocation of Canada's womanpower resources;
2. To determine whether or not Canada may be violating the ILO Convention No. 111 on Discrimination in Employment through applying taxation disincentives on married women; and
3. To determine whether or not the family unit tax system as proposed would further accentuate any disincentives to the employment of married women; therefore:

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada inform the Federal Minister of Finance that it is strongly of the opinion that the position of the married woman in the tax system should be carefully re-examined before a family unit for taxation purposes becomes an integral part of Canada's taxation structure.

68.3 Estate Tax Exemption

Whereas, Under Section 7(1) of the Estate Tax Act, being Chapter 29 of the Statutes of Canada 1958, the amount of tax exemption allowed on any estate in which there is a widow without children is \$60,000; and,

Whereas, The exemption allowed on an estate where there is a widower is only \$40,000, except where the widower is totally incapacitated and also has a dependent child; and,

Whereas, There has been a significant decrease in the purchasing power of the dollar since 1958; therefore:

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada request the Government of Canada to so amend the Estate Tax Act as to increase the tax exemption, where there is a surviving spouse, to a minimum of \$100,000.

68.4 Position of the Sole-Parent Under the Adult Occupational Training Act

Whereas, The Adult Occupational Training Act and its Regulations are designed to provide training for adults regardless of sex to equip them to enter the labour market or to improve their present economic position by providing maintenance for the family of the adult enrollee while providing technical training for the enrollee; and,

Whereas, The Act and Regulations do not give any consideration to the particular problems of the sole-parent family with dependent children when the parent may wish to register under the Act, and as a result leaves such adults at a distinct disadvantage both in maintenance schedules and in the training courses; therefore:

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to expand regulations under the Adult Occupational Training Act to make special provision for the sole-parent by:

1. Allowing for part-time or flexible study schedules to accommodate the exigencies for sole responsibility of young children,
2. Making further assistance available for the necessary childcare, such as additional allowance or by child care centers attached to the adult training centers.

68.5 World Peace Keeping Operations

Whereas, The need for a permanent Peace Keeping Force has been recognized by the United Nations; and,

Whereas, One permanent Peace Keeping Force would prevent overlapping of forces and weapons and greatly reduce the cost, as well as the fear that exists between nations, and would be so organized that they could quickly move to the troubled zone; and,

Whereas, The Terms of Reference of the existing special Committee of the United Nations to study Peace Keeping are short of the broader goal suggested by the Secretary General; therefore:

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada commend the Government of Canada for its support of the Peace Keeping Forces of the United Nations and urge the Government to continue to press for a more comprehensive program of Peace Keeping Operations in the United Nations.

68.6 Prevention of Air Pollution

Whereas, The deleterious effects on the health of citizens caused by pollution of the atmosphere should be the concern of all Canadians; and,

Whereas, Many problems arise as a result of smog and air pollution caused by emissions from industry and internal combustion engine exhaust products which affect the health of the residents of metropolitan areas and urban centers, and to a lesser degree the rural areas; and,

Whereas, In the majority of provinces of Canada there are no laws covering air pollution for health reasons, and no really coordinated program relating to this vital problem; therefore:

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada:

1. Urge the Government of Canada to enact legislation making it mandatory that all oil and gas burning vehicles imported into, or made, or assembled in Canada be equipped with an exhaust control device, to a specified standard;
2. Urge the Government of Canada to establish a broad program of research to find solutions to the problems of air pollution, both indoors and outdoors, via the National Research Council, the Canadian Council of Resource Ministers, and others, and to provide grants to assist in effectuating an air pollution prevention program,
3. Suggest to all Provincial Councils of Women that they promote air pollution prevention legislation in their own provinces.

68.7 Income Tax Exemption For 65-Year-Olds and Over

Whereas, The spiraling cost of living during the past ten years has caused much distress to many of the older group of citizens of Canada; and,

Whereas, The tax burden is falling heavily on those no longer earning; and,

Whereas, Their already depreciated incomes are being still further devaluated by constantly increasing taxation; therefore,
RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada that for all citizens of Canada of 65 years, and over, the income tax exemption shall be increased to \$2500, retroactive to January 1st, 1968.

RESOLUTIONS FOR THE ATTENTION OF PROVINCIAL COUNCILS OF WOMEN

68.A Safety Regarding Ski Lifts

Whereas, There is no uniform law in Canada requiring the regular inspection of ski lifts; and,
Whereas, An alarming number of accidents are occurring and are of great concern; and,
Whereas, Mechanical devices to serve the public (such as elevators) generally are regulated by municipal bylaw; and,
Whereas, Ski lifts generally are in rural municipalities which do not have either the necessary bylaws or inspection facilities; therefore:
RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada ask all Provincial Councils of Women to request their respective Provincial Legislatures to pass and adopt a uniform code of safety standards of all ski lifts and to enforce regular inspection.

68.B Safety Regarding Motorized Snow Vehicles

Whereas, Motorized snow vehicles are motorized vehicles; and as there is no uniform law in Canada governing the areas where motorized snow vehicles may be operated; and,
Whereas, There is no law in Canada regulating the age of the operator of a motorized snow vehicle; and,
Whereas, There is no law in Canada limiting the number of persons who may ride on a motorized snow vehicle at any one time; and,
Whereas, There has been an ever increasing number of accidents involving motorized snow vehicles; and,
Whereas, The wildlife of our country is being killed through the indiscriminate use of such vehicles; therefore,
RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada urge all Provincial Councils of Women to request their respective Provincial Legislatures to enact legislation governing the operation of motorized snow vehicles with special reference to:

1. The areas of operation, and in particular banning them from ski trails, toboggan hills and public roads;
2. The age limit of the operator; and,
3. The number of persons that may ride on a motorized snow vehicle at any one time.

68.C Consumer Education

Whereas, One of the objects of our educational system is to equip students to become wage earners; and,
Whereas, The competent management of income, including a knowledge of such matters as budgeting, credit buying, contracts, and mortgages is known to be important to the welfare of the individual and to the stability of family life; therefore,
RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada ask all Provincial Councils of Women to urge their respective Provincial Ministers of Education to incorporate the facts concerning the handling of money into regular courses for both girls and boys at the elementary school level, and to include courses in simple economics including the management of income, marketing or budgeting in its curriculum for secondary schools, and in adult education programs.

*Note – Chairman of Economics, NCWC, in her Fall 1968 directive will make specific recommendations concerning the implementation of the action requested in this resolution.