

## **POLICIES ADOPTED 1975**

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### **75.1 Satellite Transmissions and Copyright Problems**

**Whereas,** The increasing availability of material transmitted by satellite is imminent; and,

**Whereas,** The authors of works carried by such signals should be protected by copyright laws, subject to minor exceptions in the fields of teaching and of scientific research and the use of short extracts for reporting current events; therefore,

**RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada request the Government of Canada to ensure that the rights of authors, which are protected under the International Copyright laws, should not be prejudiced in any way by the use of satellites for the transmission of programs; and further,

**RESOLVED,** That any new convention or amendment to any existing convention should not reduce in any way the rights at present enjoyed by authors.

### **75.2 High-Rise Buildings**

**Whereas,** We have been made aware of the risks of fire of tragic scale which exists in ALL Canadian cities with high-rise buildings, whether residential or commercial;

**Whereas,** Contrary to the claims of promoters, high-rise buildings are not adding to the economy of any community and since tax-payers must absorb the high cost of providing adequate fire protection;

**Whereas,** The usual characteristics of high-rise buildings are:

- a. They are beyond the reach of fire department aerial trucks;
- b. They are a potential for significant stack effect; and,
- c. They require unreasonable evacuation methods;

- Whereas,** It is generally conceded by international fire authorities that a complete automatic fire sprinkler system is the accepted overall solution in limiting fire spread and minimizing smoke movement in high-rise buildings;
- Whereas,** The high cost of the installation of sprinkling systems would be offset in part by the saving in construction materials not needed to make the building fire-resistant and by the saving to the taxpayer through the reduction in fire equipment and men necessary to provide adequate fire protection; and,
- Whereas,** There is a wide variance in Building Codes from province to province across Canada, therefore be it,
- RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada request the Provincial and other Councils to urge their governments to adopt and to enforce the implementation of the National Building Code of Canada.

### **75.3 Integrated Family Court System**

#### **A.**

- Whereas,** The Federal Law Reform Commission has brought forth recommendations for an integrated Family Court system with jurisdiction in all areas of family law; and,
- Whereas,** The proposed integrated Family Court System would:
- a. Have the functions of reconciliation; conciliation and arbitration;
  - b. Take a total approach to familial problems, with all issues consolidated and heard by the same judge at one time; and,
  - c. Maximize the use and effectiveness of support services and would have available and include administrative, counselling, conciliatory, investigate, legal and enforcement services; therefore be it,
- RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada supports the concept of the integrated Family Court System.

#### **B.**

- Whereas,** The Manitoba Law Reform Commission has developed a concept of the integrated Family Court System which could be used as a pilot project in Canada; therefore be it,
- RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada supports the establishment of pilot projects for an integrated Family Court as recommended by the Law Reform Commission of Canada; where applicable and be it further,
- RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada request provincial and other Councils to investigate the feasibility of establishing an integrated Family Court System in their provinces.

### **75.4 Bureaus of Child Development**

- Whereas,** There is a wide diffusion of culture in Canada;
- Whereas,** Education in the broadest sense, encompassing health and nutrition, welfare, research and housing, is indispensable to the dignity and development of the child; and,
- Whereas,** For societal change in the status of "today's woman" in the home, in the economic work force and in the social milieu, quality care must be made available for children; therefore,
- RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to establish bureaus of child development at the national level:

1. To promote throughout Canada models for child development programs of high quality, through assistance, innovation, research and leadership;
2. To act as a public resource and information exchange centre on all matters pertaining to the child and the family;
3. To press for co-ordination of federal and provincial services for the child and the family;
4. To provide leadership in the co-ordination of services, and responsibility at other levels of authority;
5. To advise the government on matters relevant to the child and the family; and,
6. To regularly report on the Canada-wide position reached in relations to Canada's commitment to children.

### **75.5 United Nations World Population and Food Conferences**

#### **A.**

- Whereas,** The United Nations World Population Conference, the first global meeting on population issues to be held at the

government level, concluded in Bucharest on August 30th with the approval of a World Plan of Action;

**Whereas,** The Plan was weakened in its final form by the elimination of a definite target date of 1985, to which all participating countries should work; and,

**Whereas,** Population control is a necessary part of any global plan for a just distribution of the world's food supply and the prevention of overwhelming famine; therefore,

**RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to support the Plan of Action of the United Nations World Population Conference, Bucharest, August 1974, and work toward its implementation in Canada by the target date 1975; and,

**RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada request the Government of Canada to urge all participating countries to work toward the 1985 target date.

## **B.**

**Whereas,** The world is in the midst of a food crisis due to global socio-economic conditions in which many millions are suffering from chronic hunger and malnutrition;

**Whereas,** In addition, there are constantly recurring crisis due to natural disasters in which millions more are deprived of even the marginal amount of food needed for survival; and,

**Whereas,** At the United Nations Food Conference in Rome, November 5 to 16, 1974, decisions were reached:

1. To create an agricultural development fund to assist countries to become more self-sufficient that are now too heavily dependent on food imports; and,
2. To found a ministerial-level world food council to coordinate and distribute world stockpiles of grain and other food-oriented commodities in order to quickly ward off famine wherever it is threatened; therefore,

**RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to support the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Food in Rome, November 5 to 16, 1974, and actively work toward the implementation of their purpose, both within Canada and throughout the world.

## **75.6 Alcohol – Food and Drug Act**

**Whereas,** The consumption of alcohol is reaching alarming proportions;

**Whereas,** The LeDain Commission Report on the Non Medical Use of Drugs referred to alcohol as a drug;

**Whereas,** Alcoholism is a disease affecting the health and social well being of persons in all age groups; and,

**Whereas,** Treatment and rehabilitation is preferable to punitive measures; therefore,

**RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada request the Government of Canada to place the question of alcohol and its consumption under the Food and Drug Act.

## **75.7 Advertising the Dangers of Drugs, Tobacco and Alcohol**

**Whereas,** The abuse of drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, is dangerous to health;

**Whereas,** The abuse of alcohol is the number one drug problem in Canada; and,

**Whereas,** The Government advertising regarding the dangers of addiction are inadequate; therefore,

**RESOLVED,** That The National Council of Women of Canada request the Government of Canada to produce advertising to discourage the abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, stressing the danger of such abuse; and,

**RESOLVED,** That The National Council of Women of Canada request the Government of Canada to discourage the consumption of alcohol by:

1. A program of preventive education; and,
2. Banning advertisements encouraging the consumption of alcohol.

## **75.8 Moral Education**

**Whereas,** Learning begins at an early age;

**Whereas,** A child in handling ideas can apply them in his or her own life; and,

**Whereas,** In an ordered society young people must be taught ethics and moral reasoning; therefore be it,

**RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada request Provincial Councils and/or other Councils to ask their respective departments of education to institute new and innovative courses in the elementary school system, which would develop moral reasoning, values and ethics.

#### **75.9 The Aged**

**Whereas,** In 1974 there were two million Canadians 65 years of age or older;

**Whereas,** Within 15 years there will be three million, and by the end of the century eleven to twelve per cent of Canadians, 65 years of age or more, indicating an increase of three per cent above the world average of nine per cent; and,

**Whereas,** New Governmental and social programs will be necessary in the field of transportation, health, education, housing and social participation programs to meet the needs of these people; therefore,

**RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada request the Government of Canada to establish under the Department of National Health and Welfare a Federal Bureau of Gerontology, whose membership would be comprised of both women and men, with senior citizen participation.

#### **75.10 Hazardous Cargo: A Threat to Passenger Safety**

**Whereas,** Airlines are permitted by law to ship hazardous materials such as acids and other corrosives, flammable liquids, explosives, live germ cultures and radioactive materials;

**Whereas,** Intensive studies undertaken principally in the United States during the past four years have uncovered serious incidents of loss of life, permanent injury, maiming and high radiation dosages to crews and passengers; and,

**Whereas,** The travelling public seemingly does not have the right to know if the plane he or she is on is carrying any type of hazardous material and what safeguards or precautions are required; therefore,

**RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to enact and enforce legislation governing proper packaging, handling and adequate examination of hazardous cargo.

#### **75.11 The Control of the Use of Firearms**

**Whereas,** High-powered Rifles and Shotguns are easily available;

**Whereas,** The wrongful use of such guns has increased the hazard to the public;

**Whereas,** The federal statute regulates only the sale and possession of handguns; and,

**Whereas,** Ways and means of insuring protection of the public with regard to firearms, such as justification for ownership, registration and compulsory training in the handling of firearms, are at present inadequate; therefore,

**RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada request the Government of Canada to enact and enforce laws and regulations regarding the possession, sale and control of all types of firearms and ammunition.

#### **75.12 Alternate Source of Energy**

**Whereas,** Solar energy is a safe, non-polluting, perpetually renewable and unlimited source of energy;

**Whereas,** All other forms of fuel are open to some or all of the following objections:

- a. Hazardous to health;
- b. Polluting;
- c. Unrenewable;
- d. In limited supply;
- e. Expensive;
- f. Unreliable; and,

**Whereas,** It is morally wrong for us to be consuming so much of the earth's unrenewable resources; therefore,

**RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to give top priority to research into the development of some, or all, of the various methods by which solar energy may be brought into wide-spread use at the earliest possible date.

#### **75.13 Income Tax Exemption for Interest on Private Home Mortgages**

**Whereas,** The Federal Minister of Finance recently announced that about 225,000 persons will be dropped from the tax rolls and all other taxpayers will receive higher personal income tax exemptions; therefore it is considered advisable that this exemption be extended to include the interest on private home mortgages;

**Whereas,** Many people would prefer to own the house they live in;

**Whereas,** The high and still increasing cost of houses, together with the excessively high rate of interest on mortgage money prohibits this or at best deters people from trying to buy their own homes; and,

**Whereas,** The interest on mortgage money borrowed for business purposes is deductible as a business expense; therefore be it,

**RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to extend the personal income tax exemptions to include the interest on mortgages on private owner-occupied homes.

#### **75.14A Surviving Spouse's Benefits Under the Public Service Superannuation Act**

**Whereas,** Marriage creates a partnership to which both husband and wife contribute equally, though differently; and

**Whereas,** In contributing to superannuation, both husband and wife make a mutual current sacrifice in the interests of a future security of which neither should be deprived; therefore,

**RESOLVED,** That The National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to introduce equity between spouses into the Public Service Superannuation Act, by:

1. Establishing a rate of benefit to be paid after the death of either spouse; and,
2. Applying the same rate of benefit regardless of which spouse survives.

#### **75.14B Surviving Spouse's Benefits Under the Canada Pension Plan**

**Whereas,** Marriage creates a partnership to which both husband and wife contribute equally, though differently; and,

**Whereas,** In contributing to a pension plan, both husband and wife make a mutual current sacrifice in the interests of a future security, of which neither should be deprived; therefore,

**RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to introduce equity between husband and wife into the Canada Pension Plan, by:

1. Protecting the pension rights of the surviving spouse, regardless of their future marital status; and,
2. Providing that the surviving spouse's benefits be not less than the amount the spouse would have received at the same age had he or she lived.

#### **75.15 Extension of Registered Retirement Savings Plan**

**Whereas,** There is growing awareness of the need for each person to build up savings for retirement independent of marital status;

**Whereas,** The Registered Retirement Savings Plans provide an incentive for retirement savings through the postponing of tax, up to limits, in the savings accumulated for retirement, and have become a major vehicle for voluntary savings for retirement; therefore,

**RESOLVED,** That The National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to permit, within the provisions of the Income Tax Act;

1. The taxpayer to be allowed to contribute to a Registered Retirement Savings Plan for the benefit of his or her spouse.

\*Note: The Year Book does not continue with this resolution beyond this first point.

#### **75.16 Control of Advertising Directed at Children**

**Whereas,** Television advertisers, by the use of sophisticated audio-visual techniques, create anticipation of possession of an advertised item among children of all socio-economic circumstances; and,

**Whereas,** Revenue sources, such as advertising, are essential for the operation of television networks and private stations; therefore,

**RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada ask the Government of Canada to promote policies that would encourage broadcasters of children's programs to seek alternative sources of revenue to underwrite the cost of production, such as foundations, trust funds and corporations; and,

**RESOLVED,** That a tax incentive be provided to Canadian companies, or Canadian subsidiaries of foreign companies, that would encourage these companies to provide "good quality" public service, commodity and institutional advertising on children's programs.

## EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

### 75.17EM      **Emergency Resolution: Children's Rights**

- Whereas,** It has been found that children's rights in the Courts often are not taken into full consideration in regard to their physical and mental health, their happiness, and adequate food, care and shelter, while adults are protected by own counsellors as to their rights; and,
- Whereas,** The child's rights can be best protected by an advocate who has only the child's best interests at heart, and who has experience and training in the psychology of children and their needs; be it therefore,
- RESOLVED,** That the Vancouver Council of Women urges the National Council of Women to urge the Federal Law Commission to approve the appointment of Child Advocates to the Courts. The Child Advocate should be accorded the same immunity from civil and criminal liability as is accorded a judge.

### 75.18EM      **Emergency Resolution: Abortion** (Reiteration of 1972 Resolution)

- Whereas,** Abortion is a matter of personal rather than public morality; and,
- Whereas,** Abortion should be considered a medical, not a legal procedure; therefore,
- RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada request the Government of Canada to remove the sections pertaining to abortion from the Criminal Code of Canada.

### 75.19EM      **Emergency Resolution: Women and Health: Circumcision and Infibulation of Females**

- Whereas,** Information from the U.N. Status of Women Committee shows that The World Health Organization has been asked specifically to undertake studies on the subject of circumcision and infibulation of females;
- Whereas,** To date, no such study has been made, nor has any action been taken to put an end to these practices, particularly in Africa;
- Whereas,** Although it has been extremely difficult to obtain definite facts, the vast amount of misinformation about women's bodies and their sexuality has been recently documented by women in the USA and "developed" countries; and,
- Whereas,** The best hope to tackle this problem from an International and regional basis is to co-ordinate information, actions and groups; therefore be it,
- RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada press through Canadian Commission on UNESCO, and other appropriate official bodies, for an Africa-wide study and education campaign: with the participation of women; and,
- RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada request International Council of Women to utilize their official status within the United Nations to press this question seriously as a research topic as one of the activities of International Women's Year, through the aegis of World Health Organization; and be it further,
- RESOLVED,** That the seriousness of the problem be fully represented at the Mexico Conference, June 16, in workshops which will be attended by WHO officials.