

POLICIES ADOPTED 1980

- 80.1 Medicare
- 80.2 Child Abuse
- 80.3 Conservation of Water Resources
- 80.4 Apprentice Training in Canada
- 80.5 Appointment of Women in Proportionate Numbers
- 80.6 Restriction on the Use of Social Insurance Numbers
- 80.7 Participation of Women in Private Pension Plans (Portability and Vesting Provisions)
- 80.8 Canadian Core Curriculum
- 80.9 Nuclear Power
- 80.10 Renewable Energy Sources

80.1 Medicare

Whereas, The healthcare of Canadians is a priority concern for all citizens;

Whereas, Inflation has adversely affected the costs of the delivery of health care services; and,

Whereas, The universality of the Medicare system is being eroded through the diversion of federal funds destined for health care by "opting out" by physicians; therefore,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to ensure that the universality and excellence of the Medicare system in Canada be maintained; and be it further,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada urge Local and Provincial Councils to urge their Provincial Governments to ensure that the universality and excellence of the Medicare system be maintained.

80.2 Child Abuse

Whereas, Every year thousands of Canadian women witness cases of physical abuse by their husbands on children of the marriage;

Whereas, There is a provision in the Criminal Code of Canada, providing for assault charges to be laid in cases of child abuse;

Whereas, The law now states that a married woman is neither a competent nor compellable witness against her husband; and,

Whereas, A great many cases of child abuse never reach the courtrooms because wives are reluctant to testify against their husbands; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to introduce a section in the Criminal Code of Canada relating specifically to child abuse; and be it further,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to amend the Criminal Code of Canada to make women both competent and compellable witnesses against their husbands in cases of child abuse.

80.3 Conservation of Water Resources

Whereas, Water is a vital Canadian resource;

Whereas, Demands for clean water continues to increase because of industrialization and growth of urban centres;

Whereas, The disposal of industrial, domestic and agricultural waste is responsible for a marked deterioration in the quality of available water; and,

Whereas, There is an urgent need to prevent further deterioration of this important resource; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to extend the conservation of clean water by research into:

1. (a) Improved methods of disposal of domestic, agricultural and industrial wastes;
(b) The long-term effects on human health of pollutants in potable and recreational waters;
and,
(c) The development of effective and economical means of recycling.
2. Improved public education on the proper use and conservation of water resources.

80.4 Apprentice Training in Canada

- Whereas,** Apprenticeship has been described as ‘an under-used solution’ to the problem of the skilled labour scarcity in industry;
- Whereas,** Funds are provided from the budget of Employment and Immigration Canada in support of apprentice training programmes governed by provincial legislation in each of the ten provinces and by territorial legislation in each of the two territories;
- Whereas,** There are only approximately 130 different trades and occupations in Canada for which apprentice training may be made available, mainly in manual-type trades; and,
- Whereas,** Participation of women in apprentice training is only 3%; therefore be it,
- RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada support further initiatives which the federal government takes to encourage provincial and territorial governments:
1. To broaden areas or categories of work where apprentice training could be provided;
 2. To develop programmes to attract a larger number of female applicants; and,
 3. To publicize availability of existing and proposed apprentice training programmes.

80.5 Appointment of Women in Proportionate Numbers

- Whereas,** It is the policy of the National Council of Women of Canada to support the appointment of qualified women to decision-making bodies;
- Whereas,** This policy has been communicated to Government in many Council Briefs and other representations;
- Whereas,** Relatively few women have been appointed to the Senate, the Bench and federal Boards and Commissions; and,
- Whereas,** The Federal Plan of Action for the Decade for Women ‘Towards Equality for Women’, released in March 1979, does not include intent to take action in this regard; therefore be it,
- RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to appoint women in proportionate numbers to federal decision-making bodies.

80.6 Restriction on the Use of Social Insurance Numbers

- Whereas,** The Social Insurance Number was introduced by the Canadian government to facilitate administration of Income Tax, Pension and Unemployment records;
- Whereas,** There is a growing trend by other government departments, businesses and private organizations to require a person to divulge his/her Social Insurance Number for identification; and,
- Whereas,** Such a requirement is in violation of a person’s right; therefore be it,
- RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada request the Government of Canada to enact legislation to make it an offence to require divulgence of a person’s Social Insurance Number, except where there is a requirement by law for disclosure.

80.7 Participation of Women in Private Pension Plans (Portability and Vesting Provisions)

- Whereas,** Present portability and vesting provisions of private pension plans mitigate against the development of adequate pension benefits for most women; therefore be it,
- RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to ensure that portability and vesting provisions of those private pension plans under its jurisdiction be reviewed to take into account the work patterns of women employees; and be it further,
- RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada request the Local and Provincial Councils to urge their provincial governments to ensure that portability and vesting provisions of those pension plans under their jurisdictions be reviewed to take into account the work patterns of women employees.

80.8 Canadian Core Curriculum

Whereas, There is not a program of Common Studies at the Primary and Secondary levels of education throughout Canada;

Whereas, Students moving from province to province are not educationally prepared for examinations in any province of Canada and Grade placement is a problem; and,

Whereas, There is a need for a Canadian Core Curriculum; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Council of Education Ministers to standardize the education core curriculum at the Primary and Secondary levels of education.

80.9 Nuclear Power

Whereas, There is danger of radiation emission from many sources, e.g. uranium mining, transportation of ore; nuclear reactors and the disposal of nuclear waste;

Whereas, The nuclear industry is largely supported by tax monies; and,

Whereas, There is a continuing concern amongst Canadian citizens for the safety of nuclear power; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to call a moratorium on uranium mining and that no further licences be issued; and be it further,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to call a moratorium on the development of nuclear power and that no licences be granted for new nuclear reactors.

80.10 Renewable Energy Sources

Whereas, Nuclear Power and all hard energy consumes non-renewable resources; and,

Whereas, Conservation and correct end use of soft renewable energy is of vital importance; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada:

1. To make conservation of natural resources and the development of renewable energy sources a priority;
2. To increase funding for development of renewable energy technology equal to the amount provided for nuclear energy.