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### **92.1 Cuts in Shared Cost Housing Renovation Programs**

**Whereas,** The Government of Canada has eliminated the rental housing section of CMHC's Housing Renovated Assistance Program and the Housing Co-Operative Program; and,

**Whereas,** Subsidized residential restoration projects under the Housing Renovation Assistance Program provide low-income families, handicapped individuals, and post-psychiatric patients in Canadian cities with a supply of safe, decent, affordable housing units; and

**Whereas,** No substitute program has been put in place to encourage private enterprise to undertake these renovations; and

**Whereas,** Decent, safe, affordable housing is a necessity in Canada's climate; therefore be it,

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

1. To restore the rental housing section of the Housing Renovation Assistance Program and the Co-Operative Housing Program to the 1987/88 levels; or,
2. Replace these programs with supervised incentives to private industry so that existing housing stocks will be maintained and be available for low-income citizens.

### **92.2 Plea Bargaining**

**Whereas,** Women and children who have experienced abuse often receive unsympathetic treatment in the courts and as victims, do not have a formalized role in the plea bargaining process; and,

**Whereas,** Women and children who have been abused by their partners or families have special safety concerns; therefore, be it,

**RESOLVED,** That The National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to adopt legislation and policy

directives which require:

1. That prosecutors, unless circumstances make impractical to do so; solicit and weigh carefully the views of victims prior to concluding plea agreements; and,
2. That victims be told the substance of and reasons for plea agreements unless disclosing those agreements would cause serious harm to another person; and be it further,

**RESOLVED,** That The National Council of Women of Canada urge its provincial and local Councils of Women to request that their respective provincial governments take similar action.

### **92.3 Sentencing**

**Whereas,** Many women who have been victims of domestic violence are not adequately protected by the criminal courts during the time leading up to a final disposition of the charge or as a result of the sentencing process; therefore, be it,

**RESOLVED,** That The National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to work with the provincial and territorial governments to establish uniform policies which requires:

1. That Prosecutors protect victims by opposing the release of men accused of crimes relating to domestic violence who have violated the terms of their release; and,
2. That priority in court time be given to charges involving domestic assaults and any breach of conditions arising out of those charges; and,
3. That victim impact statements be used wherever possible to assist in sentencing submissions; and,
4. That resources be made available for the use of expert evidence to advise the court of the psychological damage done by the crimes of domestic assault and child abuse to victims; and be it further,

**RESOLVED,** That The National Council of Women of Canada urge its provincial and local Councils of Women to request their respective provincial governments to take similar action.

### **92.4 Contempt Proceedings**

**Whereas,** Financial circumstance, lack of practical and psychological support, as well as the dynamics of the abuse often make abused women reluctant witnesses in prosecutions against their abusers; and,

**Whereas,** This reluctance has caused some women to be cited for contempt of court; therefore, be it,

**RESOLVED,** That The National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to work with provincial governments to adopt a common policy of recognizing the factors which make women reluctant to testify and that contempt of court proceedings be used only in exceptional cases.

### **92.5 Shield Laws**

**Whereas,** There is a need to encourage victims to report sexual assaults and to preserve their privacy during the criminal prosecution process; and,

**Whereas,** Legislation defining consent and limiting judicial discretion as to questioning the victim about past sexual history has been introduced in the House of Commons; therefore, be it,

**RESOLVED,** That The National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to give priority to the passage of this legislation.

### **92.6 Appointment of Judges**

**Whereas,** The whole area of judicial appointments, how they are made, the selection criteria, who makes the selection, required study and debate; and,

**Whereas,** Judicial appointments in Canada have not reflected the diversity of the population although recent provincial appointments have included women in rising numbers; therefore, be it,

**RESOLVED,** That The National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to set in a place a review of the judicial appointment procedure and that a system be placed in motion to ensure that 50% of all newly appointed judges be women.

### **92.7 Gender Unfairness**

**Whereas,** Gender inequality presently exists in the courts and in the treatment of women as professionals, as witnesses, as accused persons, and as victims; therefore, be it,

**RESOLVED,** That The National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada in cooperation with the Canadian Bar Association to establish a national task force on gender equality in the courts; and be it further,

**RESOLVED,** That The National Council of Women of Canada urge its provincial and local Councils of Women to request their respective provincial governments to take similar action.

#### **92.8 The Use of Observers at Refugee Board Hearings**

**Whereas,** The refugee determination process prior to January 1, 1989, allowed claimants to be accompanied at their hearings by clergy, friends, or whomever, in addition to their lawyers; and,

**Whereas,** The revised Immigration Act states that hearings will take place in private in order to protect the safety of claimants and their families; and,

**Whereas,** Claimants entering Canada after January 1, 1989 rarely have been permitted to have observers attend, thus negating the right of concerned citizens to assess the conduct of a hearing and of the Refugee Board members; therefore, be it,

**RESOLVED,** That The National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to revise immediately the Immigration Act to allow refugee claimants to be accompanied by at least one person of their choice to any hearing under the Act.

#### **92.9 Access to Resources to Reduce Elder Abuse**

**Whereas,** As many as one in ten elderly persons suffer abuse; and,

**Whereas,** Most abuse occurs in the home and the spouse, or someone else with who the elderly person is living is most commonly the abuser; and,

**Whereas,** Most abuse is unreported (as few as one in fourteen cases), even though such abuse is against the law; therefore, be it,

**RESOLVED,** That The National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to continue to fund research, programs, and initiatives on elder abuse through Health and Welfare Canada, the Department of Justice, and through the Department of the Secretary of State of Canada; and be it further,

**RESOLVED,** That The National Council of Women of Canada urge its provincial and local Councils of Women to urge their respective provincial governments to provide funding for:

1. the establishment of Elder Abuse Resource Centres with programming which will meet the needs of the victims of elder abuse and their families; and,
2. appropriate emergency accommodation for abused elderly; and,
3. respite programs for the caregivers of the elderly; and,
4. an emergency twenty-four hour 1-800" telephone number for victims of elder abuse.

#### **92.10 Ban Production and Export of Tetraethyl Lead**

**Whereas,** Tetraethyl lead was removed from gasoline for sale in Canada in December of 1990; and,

**Whereas,** In Canada, tetraethyl lead use is restricted, but its manufacture is not banned; and,

**Whereas,** Even at very low levels tetraethyl lead can slow the normal development and functioning of children's mental and nervous system; and,

**Whereas,** Tetraethyl lead is still manufactured in Canada and exported to third world countries where it can damage their children; therefore, be it,

**RESOLVED,** That The National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to ban the production of tetraethyl lead under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act so that its export would be prevented.

#### **92.11 Removal of Chlorofluorocarbons (CFC's) from Used Equipment and the Training of Those Handling CFC's**

**Whereas,** The release of CFC's damages the ozone layer and is partly responsible for the global warming trend; and,

**Whereas,** Large amounts of CFC's at present exist in refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, and in cans of certain types of cleaning fluids, and will remain a potential threat to the atmosphere long after production of CFC's ends in 1997; and,

**Whereas,** Few provinces require the recovery and recycling of CFC's; and,

**Whereas,** There is little training available for those persons repairing units using CFC's or their alternatives; therefore, be it,

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

1. CFC's are removed from all refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, and cans before disposal; and,
2. All personnel handling CFC's or their alternative have proper training; and,
3. Training manuals be sent to all businesses in which CFC's are handled.

## **92.12 Protection of Canada's Ecosystems and National Parks**

**Whereas,** Only 3.4% of Canada's land and water is now protected from development and resource extraction; and,

**Whereas,** Section 3 of Canada's Green Plan mentions a goal "to set aside as protected space 12% of Canada"; and,

**Whereas,** The Minister of the Environment announced in January 1991 an action plan for each of 18 unprotected natural ecosystems, but this plan has not been made public; and,

**Whereas,** Motion M-330 was passed by the House of Commons on June 17, 1991, concerning the advisability of preserving and protection in its natural state at least 12% of Canada; therefore, be it,

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

1. Proceed without delay to produce targets, timetables, and maps of areas to be protected in the "12% by 2000" campaign; and,
2. Integrate the ecological impact of development and use into all parks systems; and be it further,

**RESOLVED,** That The National Council of Women of Canada urge provincial and local Councils of Women to petition their provincial governments to follow a similar course of actions.

## **92.13 Endangering Wildlife Through Poaching and Trafficking for Profit**

**Whereas,** Poaching for profit has led to the extinction of bear and other species in many countries and is now threatening to do likewise here; and,

**Whereas,** The nature of poaching of wildlife is changing and becoming more organized; and,

**Whereas,** This poaching is linked to a lucrative trade in trophies as collectors' items and in organ and body parts for medicinal and aphrodisiacal purposes, particularly in the Orient and Sub-Sahara Africa; therefore, be it,

**RESOLVED,** That The National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to do everything in its power to safeguard Canadian wildlife; particularly those species most at risk, such as:

1. Ensure that penalties for poaching are more severe and strictly enforced; and,
2. Increase public awareness regarding poaching and encourage such measures as the Turn in Poachers program in Saskatchewan; and,
3. Pass legislation regulating the sale of animal organs and body parts to ensure that organs and body parts be available for research and medicinal purposes, but not for profit; and be it further,

**RESOLVED,** That The National Council of Women of Canada urge the provincial and local Councils of Women to request their respective provincial governments to take similar action.

## **92.14 Halt the Promotion of Nuclear Technology as Safe Energy in Canada and Abroad**

**Whereas,** There is as yet no proven safe method of production or using nuclear power as an energy source; and,

**Whereas,** There is currently a promotion of Canadian nuclear technology, at home and abroad, as a safe energy source that could reduce the global warming trend; and,

**Whereas,** In third world countries; the use of nuclear energy can be more dangerous due to less stringent safety standards and enforcement; and,

**Whereas,** To effect even minimal reductions in carbon dioxide production through the use of nuclear power, would require a proliferation of nuclear plants in Canada; therefore, be it,

**RESOLVED,** That The National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to establish an independent commission to investigate the safety of nuclear power as an energy source.

**92.15           Nato and Norad Low-Level Military Training Flights in Canada**

**Whereas,** Low-Level military training flights are hazardous and harmful to people, the environment, and wildlife as a result of pollutants, noise, and accidents; and,

**Whereas,** The low-level military training flights disrupt traditional native economics and life styles and the economics and life styles of rural-based Canadians; and,

**Whereas,** The purpose of low-level military training flights is to practise avoiding enemy radar and to deliver pre-emptive nuclear weapons; and,

**Whereas,** The low-level flights use bombs as 'wingless missiles' practice/procedure negates the spirit of the INF Treaty, thus making Canada a contributor to global instability; and,

**Whereas,** The Canadian military and the Canada people have supported the principles of peace-keeping, non-threatening defence, and national self-determination rather than international aggression; therefore, be it,

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

1.       to discontinue all Canadian low-level training flights; and,
2.       not to enter into any future international agreements for low-level flight training.

**92.16EM       Emergency Resolution: Improved Treatment for Women with AIDS**

**Whereas,** HIV+ symptoms in women often go unrecognized; and,

**Whereas,** Women generally earn less money than men and have difficulty affording treatment which is expensive; and,

**Whereas,** Governments and the medical professional are slow to respond with research that will produce appropriate treatment specifically for women with AIDS; therefore, be it,

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

1.       Increase research, particularly into the symptoms of HIV infection and AIDS in women; and,
2.       Allow women access to clinical trials; and,
3.       Ensure that women have equal access to treatment for HIV infection and for AIDS; and be it further,

**RESOLVED,** That The National Council of Women of Canada urge its provincial and local Councils of Women to urge their respective provincial governments to take similar action.

**92.17EM       Emergency Resolution: Idling of Internal Combustion Engines**

**Whereas,** Emissions from motor vehicles and construction machinery are a major gaseous contributor to smog which affects human health (respiratory problems) and plant life; and,

**Whereas,** Aircraft engines emit the same harmful gases as motor vehicles; and,

**Whereas,** These emissions contribute also to global warming; therefore, be it,

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

1.       to develop and publish regulations prohibiting the idling of motor vehicles beyond a specified period; and,
2.       to develop and publish regulations prohibiting construction site machinery from idling unnecessarily; and,
3.       to investigate the effects and cause of aircraft idling before take-off.

**92.18EM       Emergency Resolution: Female Sexual Mutilation**

**Whereas,** The Criminal Code of Canada does not permit a child to consent to mutilation nor does it permit a parent to consent for a child to be mutilated; and,

**Whereas,** In Ontario, female circumcision is considered to be a mutilation and doctors are not allowed to perform such surgery; and,

**Whereas,** Some doctors are being asked to follow a female circumcision procedure by people now living in Canada whose

culture regards this as a part of their routine practice; therefore, be it,

**RESOLVED,** That The National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to pass legislation making female circumcision illegal in Canada.

**92.19PU Policy Update: Child Care**

**Whereas,** A Position Paper on Child Care was accepted at the Annual General Meeting of the National Council of Women of Canada in 1987; therefore, be it,

**RESOLVED,** That The National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to establish a national comprehensive child care policy designed to facilitate the development of child care services and resources which would:

1. be of high quality; and,
2. be available and financially accessible to all Canadian children who need them; and,
3. offer a range of services to allow for parental choice and the needs of individual families; and,
4. be sensitive to the particular cultural requirements of aboriginal and immigrant families; and,
5. meet the needs of children in their own homes as well as children in child care facilities.

**92.20PU Policy Update: Housing**

**Whereas,** The National Council of Women of Canada established a policy in 1944 with regard to housing for Canadians; and,

**Whereas,** That policy was expanded in 1947, 1948, 1949, 1972, 1982 and 1988 as follows:

1. Develop a National Housing Policy; and,
2. Amend the National Housing Act to make available low interest loans to local authorities for low rental housing; and,
3. Amend the National Housing Act to permit loans for construction, purchase, and renovation of buildings used for child care; and,
4. Permit inclusion of space for day care/child care centres in housing developments, including university buildings; and,
5. Renew the government's strong commitment to support and stimulate the housing market by the production of modest family housing, increasing the support for existing social housing programs, initiating and/or improving shelter allowance programs and basing them on total family income and actual shelter costs, with either national Revenue Income Tax legislation or federal/provincial agreements as the vehicle; and,

**Whereas,** The 1992 Federal Budget terminated the Co-Op Housing Program, and restrained spending on social housing programs to an average growth of 3% per year; therefore, be it,

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

1. Maintain a strong housing policy that will ensure an adequate supply of affordable housing across Canada, taking into consideration children whose parents are forced to spend more than half their income on housing, disabled persons who have special needs in housing, single, low-income persons who seek privacy and independence in shelter, and rental accommodation for those individuals who could never obtain home ownership; and,
2. Reinstatement of the Co-Op Housing Program; and,
3. Re-evaluate, on an annual basis, the fiscal restraints placed on Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation so that non-profit housing growth would reflect the number of Canadians seeking this support; and,
4. Continue to support the needs of low-income families through the Canada Assistance Plan; and,
5. Designate a portion of the selling price from surplus government lands to provide infrastructure for affordable housing development; i.e. sewers, transportation services, water lines, waste disposal; and,
6. Urge provincial governments to approve smaller house lots (25 to 30 feet), and to speed up the approvals process for zoning changes.