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95.1 Measures to Prevent and Reduce Non-Compliance in Child Support Obligations

- Whereas,** According to the Criminal Code of Canada RSC (1985) Article 362, sections 1 (a) and 352 (4), the writing of cheques with non-sufficient funds is a criminal act; and,
- Whereas,** The consequences of the non-validity of child support payments result in the loss of financial stability and autonomy to the parents who cannot meet their monthly financial obligations without these payments; and,
- Whereas,** It is in the interest of public order that the payment of child support by cheques, post dated or otherwise, be made in full, on time and with valid cheques; therefore be it,
- RESOLVED,** that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to:
1. **Enforce the Criminal Code when Not Sufficient Funds (NSF) cheques are issued for child support payments more than once in one year.**
 2. **Require the courts to prosecute offenders according to the charges that the law permits.**
 3. **Reinstate the contempt of court measures, which have been replaced by the use of various provincial enforcement programs in order to supplement the measures of seizures and garnishments.**

95.2 Support for Programme of Action of International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)

- Whereas,** The 1994 Cairo International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) resulted in a program of action which was agreed to by 180 countries, including Canada; and,
- Whereas,** By agreeing to the document, countries have committed themselves to, among other things, ensuring equal

educational opportunities for girls, paying more attention to the reproductive health needs of adolescents and improving access and availability of health care, including reproductive health care services for all; and,

Whereas, The ICPD recognized that social and economic development is central to achieving a balance between the number of people on earth and their demands on the world's ecosystems and that the key to such development involves the empowerment of women through education, income generation and improved health services; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to:

- a) **Mobilize resources for the guarantee of reproductive rights for women in Canada, and to work with other countries to guarantee the same rights to women everywhere, including access to reliable information, quality health care services and family planning aids; and,**
- b) **Concentrate its Overseas Development aid, where applicable, on programs which involve the participation of women in receiving countries and which are directed at improving women's political, social economic and health status; and,**
- c) **Urge the UN to provide regular reviews of the implementation of ICPD Plan of action; and be it further,**

RESOLVED, that the NCWC urge the International Council of Women (ICW) to urge its member Councils to mobilize resources for the guarantee of reproductive rights for women, and to work with other countries to guarantee the same rights to women everywhere, including access to reliable information, quality health care services and family planning aids.

95.3 Towards More Efficient Use of Federal Funds

Whereas, The accumulated debt of the federal government currently approximates 70% of the GDP and the total including provincial governments approximates 100% of the GDP, making it the second highest ratio of the G-7 countries, next to Italy, and almost twice as high as the U.S., France, Germany and the U.K.; and,

Whereas, Large portions of our public sector debts are being financed by the investment savings of other countries, and the servicing of this mounting debt leaves ever decreasing portions of revenue for application to needed public programmes; and,

Whereas, The OECD estimate that about half of the federal debt is structural, i.e. will not be eliminated by the business cycle and therefore requires either spending cuts or higher taxes, or a combination of both; therefore be it,

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

- a) Focus on developing partnership arrangements with provinces, business, labour and communities to reduce areas of overlap in the provision of services at all levels of government, and,
- b) Improve levels of efficiency in program delivery and eliminate programs that no longer fulfil their original purpose or foster a more productive economy; and,
- c) Require independent audits, possibly enlisting the services of the Auditor General's Department, to prepare timely and unbiased assessments of all major programs.

95.4 Mandatory Testing of Persons Charged With Sexual Assault

Whereas, Victims of sexual assault are at risk of contracting the HIV virus from the alleged perpetrator; and,

Whereas, There is no provision to ensure HIV testing of said alleged perpetrator; and,

Whereas, Early detection, treatment and long term health care are needed for the victims, therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that the National Council of Women of Canada request the Government of Canada to revise the Criminal Code to ensure that individuals charged with sexual assault be required to take mandatory HIV testing as frequently as required, within the medically determined window period, in order to inform the victim of test results as soon as possible.

95.5 Resolution Regarding the Needs of Immigrating Women, Victims of Spousal/Family Violence

(Note: Whereas clauses not dealt with at AGM).

Whereas, Some immigrating women, residing temporarily in Canada while waiting for Canadian Immigrant status, are married to Canadian Citizens or landed immigrants who sponsor them; and,

Whereas, It does happen that some of these women are victims of spousal/family violence that remains unreported because

the immigrating women fear the loss of their sponsorship; and,

Whereas, Immigration officers are not required to provide appropriate services for these women, therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to provide sensitivity training for immigration officers in order to prepare them for more humane processing of cases concerning women who are not landed immigrants and who are victims of spousal/family violence; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to make it mandatory that the files of such victims of reported spousal/family violence be processed separate and apart from those of their spousal/family sponsors.

95.6 Marketing Bioengineered Food, Including Dairy Products

[Whereas,] Rationale:

At the present time there is an absence of proof of the safety to humans, particularly to infants and children, in the short term and long-term effects of the use of bioengineered products. In the United States testing is being done, but it is so recent and in such limited quantity that it can barely be considered credible.

Of most immediate concern is the use of synthetic bovine somatotropin. It is being used in the United States and the milk from cows that have been injected with the synthetic hormone is mixed with other milk. Thus, this synthetic hormone is being ingested unknowingly by millions of Americans. In Canada, it is possible that milk products, such as yogurt, which is imported into Canada and widely sold, may contain rbST.

In Canada, too, the manufacturers of rbST and other bioengineered products are clamouring to be allowed to sell these products. The health of Canadians is too important to allow the manufacturers of these new products to stampede the government into hasty action.

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

- a) To ban the sale of synthetic bovine somatotropin (rbST) in Canada and the sale of domestic and imported milk and milk products containing rbST until testing has determined that there are no harmful effects to the health of Canadians, especially to infants and children.
- b) To set in place strong and appropriate laws and regulations, as soon as possible, to ensure the safety thereof and to cover all aspects of the use of bioengineered products in drugs and food, before licensing these products for sale and use in Canada.
- c) To require, if and when drugs and food containing bioengineered products are to be sold and used in Canada, that they be clearly labelled to identify their contents and the fact that they are bioengineered.

POLICY UPDATES

95.7PU Basic National Curriculum

Whereas, Education in Canada comes under Provincial jurisdiction; and,

Whereas, The Council of Ministers of Education of Canada is the forum where Canadian education issues are discussed and action decided upon; and,

Whereas, The National Council of Women in a 1980 Resolution urged the Council of Ministers of Education of Canada to standardize the education core curriculum at primary and secondary levels of education; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Council of Women of Canada urge:

1. **The Council of Ministers of Education to develop national standards for education regarding:**
 - i) **the teaching of skill functions at similar grade levels across Canada, to facilitate mobility of children across the country;**
 - ii) **the quality of education, ensuring that it meets the needs of all students in the classroom, regardless of gender, ability levels, ethnic origin or socio-economic status.**
2. **Provincial Councils of Women to approach their respective Ministers of Education to support this policy.**

95.8PU Standards for Feminine Hygiene Products

- Whereas,** In 1979 the National Council of Women of Canada submitted a Resolution to the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and CTV (with copies to the Advertising Standards Council and the Canadian Association of Broadcasters) asking to have the advertising of feminine hygiene products and undergarments removed; and,
- Whereas,** Excessive prime time advertising of feminine menstrual products is still shown at family viewing time; and,
- Whereas,** The advertising has become bolder in both language and visual content, pushing the limits of propriety to cause embarrassment to many women and their male family members; and,
- Whereas,** Women have a right to privacy of their intimate body functions; and,
- Whereas,** The language of the advertising constantly refers to women being clean, subliminally suggesting if the product is not used women will be unclean, which supports old attitudes setting women apart and devaluing them, therefore be it,
- RESOLVED,** that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Canadian Radio-Television and Communications Commission to provide standards for the advertising of feminine hygiene products which respect women's right to privacy, and to ensure that those standards are strictly upheld.

95.9PU Sewage Treatment/Wastewater Facilities

- Whereas,** Sewage contains, in addition to human excrement, a mix of heavy metals and organic compounds as a result of urban run-off, storm water volume, household and industrial discharges; and,
- Whereas,** Many heavy metals and synthetic organic compounds cannot be removed by conventional sewage treatment methods; and,
- Whereas,** Combined sewer outlets carry domestic sewage and run-off in one pipe to a treatment facility but, when the flow is too large, the overflow, without previous treatment is discharged into a receiving body of water; and,
- Whereas,** Numerous proposed plans, solutions and future objectives have been formulated but implementation and enforcement has not been realized; therefore be it,

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

1. **Effectively address the national environmental issue of sewage by allocating funds for the upgrading of wastewater management facilities, to end the discharge of untreated sewage into Canada's rivers, lakes, seas.**
2. **Enforce existing legislation such as the Fisheries Act, the Canada Water Act and the Canadian Environmental Protection Act where these acts relate to sewage disposal.**
3. **Promote provincial and territorial development and enforcement of municipal and industrial sewage abatement plans.**
4. **Continue public education on source control and pollution prevention methods.**

95.10PUQ Policy Update: Social Security Reform Questionnaire

1. **Federal Debt Update:** A 1989 Resolution urged bringing the Federal Debt under control. A 1990 Resolution recommended a cost effective government. The Questionnaire Update urges the government to study the possibility of expanding the Tax base through reduction of tax shelters and the taxation of lottery winnings.
2. **Unemployment Insurance Update:** A 1986 Resolution urged full benefits (including UI) for part time workers. The Questionnaire Update urges the Government to seek means whereby coverage can be extended to other non-standard workers.
3. **Literacy Training Update:** 1989 Emergency Resolution urged ensuring Canada-wide access to literacy programs. The Questionnaire Update recommends that literacy, and numeracy, programs be offered in store front courses, through television, etc.
4. **Training Update:** A 1980 Resolution (updated 1991) urged more apprenticeship training, and integrated work and study periods. A 1993 Resolution urged giving industry a greater role in training decisions and the funding of industry-run programs which allow trainees to acquire skills that are chronically in short supply because they are necessarily learned on the job. The Questionnaire Update recommends apprenticeship programs be integrated with schools; encouragement of employer-run short term upgrading, adapting retraining courses for high skills to meet changing needs, preferably through on job training; that training programs be considered for other than unemployed people.
5. **Funding Standards Update:** A 1983 Emergency Resolution urged the protection of the health care system to ensure that it be comprehensive, portable, accessible and accountable. The Questionnaire Update recommends that there be national

standards attached to block funding to ensure a measure of uniformity across the country.

6. Child Care Update: A 1992 Update urged establishment of a comprehensive child care policy, designed to facilitate the development of child care services. The Questionnaire Update urges that this be a priority.

7. Child Support Payments: A 1984 Emergency Resolution urged the setting up of a method of interlocking collection and payment systems to facilitate child support. The Questionnaire Update urges stricter methods for calculating child support payments and the garnishee of payrolls for child support payments.

95.11PU Tax Benefits for Child Care

Whereas, Canada is committed to combat child poverty; and,

Whereas, It is recognized by Canadians that families rearing children are adding to national resources and should be given favourable tax treatment; and,

Whereas, Because of high cost of raising children there is an increasing need for two incomes, with the result that two parents are working outside the home in approximately 70% of Canadian families; in some of these cases one parent would prefer to stay at home to provide child care full time, if it were economically feasible; and,

Whereas, Those in greatest need (statistically, most likely to be single parents with very young children) should be given the most help; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada ensure:

1. That priority be given in the tax system to the combating of child poverty.
2. That the tax system give equitable treatment to all families with young children, in order to facilitate one parent to provide child care in the home.
3. That child tax benefits be progressive, with special provisions directed to those families most in need.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

95.12EM Emergency Resolution: The Family and The Immigration and Citizenship Plan 1995-2000

Whereas, The placement of parents and grandparents in a category separate from the immediate family (spouse, unmarried children under 19) classification in the proposed Plan could facilitate the elimination of this new category in the future as has happened with the category of retirees (A Broader Vision, P.C. & I. News Release); and,

Whereas, Parents and grandparents in many countries are an integral part of the immediate family, functioning actively in child care and nurture (a necessity for working immigrant parents in the absence of a universal day care system), they are also available to assist in efforts to establish small family businesses; and,

Whereas, Increased numbers in one category will not necessarily compensate for the shortfall in another (A Broader Vision, P.5.); and,

Whereas, The 1992 regulations have defined dependent children as those under the age of 19 and unmarried, the possibility of parents and grandparents applying for immigration of other adult children is eliminated (A Broader Vision, p.8.); and,

Whereas, The proposed improved sponsorship contract would enforce sponsorship obligations, thereby reducing the resettlement costs to Canada as a whole; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to redefine the traditional immediate family in the Immigration and Citizenship Plan 1995-2000 to include parents and grandparents, and to make the total for the immediate family 90,000 (instead of 55,000 and 35,000 for the proposed separate categories).

95.13EM Emergency Resolution: Oath of Allegiance

Whereas, Canada is a constitutional monarchy and the Queen is our Head of State; and,

Whereas, The Crown is an integral part of Canada's identity as a nation; and,

Whereas, We believe it essential that the Citizenship Oath continue to include allegiance to the Queen of Canada; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That The National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada (Department of Citizenship and Immigration) to withdraw their proposal to remove all reference to the Queen from the Oath of Allegiance.

95.14EM Emergency Resolution: Social Assistance Standards

Whereas, The Government of Canada Budget of February 27, 1995, gave one year's notice of fundamental changes in Social Assistance provisions to the provinces; and,

Whereas, Only one of three national standards is to be retained (free movement between the provinces, with no residency requirement) and the other two will be eliminated (provision of social assistance to all in need and an appeal system); and,

Whereas, The economic recovery has left a very high rate of unemployment and need for social assistance; and,

Whereas, Failure to meet these needs may lead many to destitution, a weakening of the social fabric, and a variety of social needs resulting in an exchange of a fiscal deficit for a social deficit; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That The National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to retain national standards for social assistance, including provision for all in need and an appeal process, in the new legislation replacing the Canada Assistance Plan and creating the Canada Social Transfer.

95.15EM Emergency Resolution: Dying with Dignity

Whereas, Technological developments now allow physicians to maintain and extend life in previously unimagined ways, creating dilemmas and unrealistic expectations for the dying; and,

Whereas, At the present time only an estimated 5% of the dying in Canada have access to palliative care; and,

Whereas, The presentations to the Senate Committee on Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia have emphasized that if quality palliative care were available to the dying across Canada, the issue of assisted suicide and euthanasia would abate; and,

Whereas, The legality of certain procedures that are considered a part of palliative care lie in a gray area of interpretation under the Criminal Code, including the withdrawing of life support systems and the prescribing of analgesics in doses that may shorten the life of a patient; and,

Whereas, Even with the best palliative care, there would still remain a core of dying patients in Canada who would experience extreme suffering that could not be relieved; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That The National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to give full and effective consideration to the contribution of palliative care in the implementation of the new Canada Health and Social Transfer payments given to the provinces; and be it further,

RESOLVED, That The National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to enact legislation to protect physicians from criminal charges who, upon request of a terminally ill patient or the patient's family, if the patient is unable to respond, carries out palliative care that may shorten the life of ; including the use of futile and/or aggressive treatment, the withdrawing of life support systems, and the prescribing of analgesics in large doses for pain; and be it further,

RESOLVED, That The National Council of Women of Canada encourage the Provincial and Local Councils to urge their respective provincial governments to give legal consideration to living wills.

95.16EM Emergency Resolution: OAS Based on Family Income

Whereas, The 1995 federal Budget papers announced that from 1997 on, the Old Age Security Benefits will be based on family income; and,

Whereas, Those who will be most affected by this change will be those women who remained at home to care for children; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That The National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to ensure that the lower income spouse not be affected by the clawback provision until after the higher income spouse has paid back the total OAS benefit.

95.17EM Emergency Resolution: Bill C-62, The Regulatory Efficiency Act

Whereas, Bill C-62 in its original format would allow individual businesses to be exempted from federal regulations by negotiating private agreements with Ministers; and,

- Whereas,** The Secretariat to the Joint Committee of the House of Commons and Senate has spoken against Bill C-62, indicating that it violates fundamental principles of the Constitution; and,
- Whereas,** This piecemeal approach to health and the environment can only lead to reduced standards, unevenly applied; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That The National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to rescind Bill C-62, the Regulatory Efficiency Act.