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## . IMPLEMENTING THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD IN CANADA

- Whereas, Canada is a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the child; and
- Whereas, Canada has been slow to implement the terms of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and
- Whereas, The number of children in Canada living below the poverty line, as determined by Statistics Canada, is increasing; and
- Whereas, The Government of Canada is not providing enough resources to help children who are victims of abuse; and
- Whereas, The Government of Canada is not providing enough resources to enable the provincial and territorial governments to provide adequate shelter, health services, and education opportunities for Canadian children; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) urge the Government of Canada, in cooperation with the governments of the Provinces and Territories, to undertake to implement the articles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child by:
- ) Acting to raise living standards of the poorest Canadian children (Article 27);
  - ) Providing adequate funding for the courts and social agencies to ensure that children are protected from abuse and neglect (Articles 18 & 19);
  - ) Ensuring that health services for children are of highest standard and equally available to all children (Article 24); and
  - ) Enabling all children to have equal access to education, including post-secondary (Articles 31 & 32).

## . AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR HUMANITARIAN AID

- Whereas, The needs of civilians for food and medicine in war-torn countries or in countries under economic sanctions are not being met by the international community; and
- Whereas, Neither ignoring the situation nor applying across-the-board sanctions is a viable or humane solution; and

Whereas, The United Nations High Commission of Refugees is limited in what it is able to do to bring relief to such people; and

Whereas, It is difficult to enforce a UN convention, but such conventions all to the weight of statements made to the Security Council; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) urge the Government of Canada to support the establishment of an International Convention for Humanitarian Aid that:

- ) Ensures that food, medicine and aid will be exempt from economic sanctions; and
- ) Ensures fair distribution of food, medicine and aid through international distribution to states and to all warring factions; and
- ) Ensures that states, organizations and individuals which arm the offending parties be themselves subject to the International Criminal Court; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the NCWC urge the International Council of Women (ICW) to:

- ) Support the establishment of an International Convention for Humanitarian Aid; and
- ) Request the ICW permanent representatives to the United Nations to work toward a global movement for the establishment of an International Convention of Humanitarian Aid; and
- ) Request its member National Councils to call upon their governments to support the establishment of an International Convention for Humanitarian Aid.

#### . DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE POOR

Whereas, In June, 1998, the Senate of Canada passed Bill S-11, an Act to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act, in order to add "social condition" as a prohibited ground for discrimination; and

Whereas, Canada embraces the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that states that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well being of oneself and one's family, including food, clothing, shelter, medical care, telephone, social services, security, education, culture and justice; and

Whereas, Since the replacement of the Canada Assistance Plan with the Canada Health and Social transfer Plan, there are no national standards guaranteeing such rights as:

- ) A right to social assistance in cases of need; and
- ) A right to appeal actions taken by the bodies who administer social assistance payments; and
- ) A right to have health and safety standards in the workplace; and

Whereas, Pronounced income disparity has a profound and adverse impact on the health and well-being of the population at large; and

Whereas, Structural Adjustments programs, "free market" economic policy reforms imposed on developing countries by the Bretton Woods institutions (the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund) as a condition for receipt of loans, have an unduly harsh impact on women and their families; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) urge the Government of Canada to amend its human rights legislation to:

- ) Eliminate discrimination on the basis of low income; and
- ) Establish minimum standards for adequacy of income, based on realistic costs for basic needs such as, shelter, telephone, food, clothing, transportation etc.; and
- ) Establish minimum standards for adequate public programs such as, health, education, recreation etc.; and be it further

RESOLVED, that NCWC urge the International Council of Women (ICW) to:

- ) Instruct its permanent and accredited representatives to the United Nations to work strongly to eliminate any Structural Adjustment programs that result in the impoverishment of large segments of the population (especially women) as imposed by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund; and
- ) Urge its National Councils to urge their respective governments to ensure that human rights legislation includes provisions that would achieve the results outlined in the first Resolved clause.

#### . HOMELESSNESS

Whereas, Homelessness is approaching disaster proportions; and

Whereas, The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights commits each signatory country to work toward an "adequate standard of living" for all its citizens: and

- Whereas, Even though Canada ranks # 1 in the Human Development Index, Canada's rank dropped to # 10 in 1998 with regard to the gap between the rich and the poor; and
- Whereas, Homelessness is an indication of underlying poverty, which affects people's nutrition, mental and physical health, susceptibility to violence, and risk of a whole range of communicable diseases; and
- Whereas, Women and children tend to suffer disproportionately from homelessness and its poverty related concerns that affect not only women and children's health but also women's and children's ability to seek, find and hold jobs; and
- Whereas, The Government of Canada continues to eliminate or reduce a wide range of public support to the provincial and territorial governments, and these governments in turn continue to cut support for housing and social programs; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) urge the Government of Canada to recognize that homelessness is reaching disaster proportions in Canada and to fulfill its responsibilities to provide affordable housing; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That NCWC urge its Provincial Councils of Women to urge their respective provincial governments to recognize that homelessness is reaching disastrous proportions on Canada and seek ways to address the problem; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That NCWC urge its Local Councils of Women to urge their respective municipal governments to cooperate with the federal and provincial governments to facilitate the conversion of suitable buildings into hostels and shelters and provide medical support services and counseling.

## . BUILDING AN ECONOMY THAT SERVES PEOPLE

### PART A – COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Whereas, Statistics Canada figures show that 98% of all businesses have fewer than 50 employees and 80% have fewer than five, and in addition, over 80% of the growth in employment came from small business over the past 15 years, accounting for 35% of the Gross National Product; and
- Whereas, Analysis of Canadian Bankers Association Business Credit statistics show that lending to small business decreased from 7.17% to 6.47% of the total bank lending between 1995 and 1997, while lending to large corporations increased as a proportion of total bank lending during the same period; and therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada, in its economic policy, to put a priority on its facilitation of community-based economic development of small and medium sized businesses through increasing accessibility to fairly priced loans.

### PART B – ECONOMIC SOVEREIGNTY AND FAIR LABOUR PRACTICES

- Whereas, Under trade treaties, such as the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Canada has relinquished sovereignty in exchange for rules enforced by the World Trade Organization (WTO), which does not consider the social or environmental consequences of business practices, does no gender analysis, and has not been effective in preserving cultural sovereignty; and
- Whereas, The income of Canadians dropped during the 1990's; and
- Whereas, Canadian business is forced to compete with corporations that abuse human rights (for example, the use of child labour and sweat shops); and
- Whereas, Cooperation between non governmental organizations (NGO's) and sovereign states can bring pressure for corporate responsibility and enforceable international codes of business practices; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, that the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) urge the Government of Canada to:
- ) Preserve economic sovereignty, especially with respect to social, environmental, and cultural programs; and
  - ) Work internationally for fair labour practices, and labour codes that strengthen the role of labour to fight against unfair and unethical labour practices; and be it further
- RESOLVED, that the NCWC urge the International Council of Women (ICW) to urge its federated national councils to urge their respective governments to work to:
- ) Develop and maintain their capability for implementing social, environmental, and cultural programs; and
  - ) Strengthen the role of labour internationally; and
  - ) Fight against labour practices which abuse human rights; and be it further

RESOLVED, that NCWC urge ICW to request its permanent and accredited representatives to the United Nations to support the work of the United Nations in implementing agreements, conventions, and declarations which:

- ) Develop and maintain the capability of implementing social, environmental, and cultural programs; and
- ) Strengthen the role of labour internationally; and
- ) Fight against labour practices, which abuse human rights.

#### . AN INDEPENDENT HEALTH PROTECTION BRANCH/VITAL TO PUBLIC HEALTH

Whereas, Health Canada is currently re-evaluating the role of its Health Protection Branch; and

Whereas, Staffing cuts resulting from fiscal restraints have had a significant negative impact on the ability of the Health Protection Branch to effectively carry out its responsibility to protect the health of Canadians; and

Whereas, There is increasing evidence that the Health Protection Branch has failed to address adequately human safety requirements when determining whether food and drugs should be certified for public use under the Food and Drug Act; and

Whereas, There is concern that the private sector is taking an increasingly significant role in health product testing and this practice could lead to biased test reporting; and

Whereas, The practice of requiring private companies to pay for the testing of their products may lead to undue pressure on the Health Protection Branch to approve food and drugs before adequate testing has been done; therefore, be it

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

- ) Rebuild and further develop a strong, effective and an adequately funded Health Protection Branch that puts the public's interest's first; and
- ) Ensure that an independent Health Protection Branch tests all health and food products; and
- ) Restore and strengthen the independence of the Health Protection Branch by separating the function of fee collection from pharmaceutical companies and the product assessment by the Health Protection Branch in order to ensure that the possibility of undue pressure for drug approval is removed.

#### . ALTERNATIVE MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT ON INVESTMENT

Whereas, The International business community continues to seek an agreement on international investment which would greatly enlarge the scope of corporate power at the expense of national governments and local communities, with no consideration being given to human rights, the environment, or social and cultural rights, including gender equality, and which would disproportionately affect women and children who are more dependent than men on government supported programs; and

Whereas, The negotiating processes employed to date have been undemocratic and secretive, and have excluded developing countries and non-governmental organizations (NGO's), and have not been accountable to citizens; and

Whereas, Corporations should be able to expect a basic framework of rules within which to conduct their international business and investments, but governments also should be able to act to enhance the well-being of their citizens; and

Whereas, The stated purpose of governments according to the 1948 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the later Conventions on Civil and Political Rights, and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), to all of which Canada is a signatory, and which officially support the responsibility of governments to enhance the well-being of their citizens; and

Whereas, To enhance the well-being of citizens, governments must be able to balance economic, environmental, social and human rights factors, including the achievement of gender equality, and must have access to appropriate national powers and mechanisms, and also have access to effective international dispute settlement mechanisms; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to work with like-minded states to obtain:

- ) A framework of internationally endorsed Human Rights Conventions which recognize the right and responsibility of each state to promote the political, civil, economic, social, and cultural rights of all its citizens; and
- ) An increasingly democratic, open, and accountable World Trade Organization; and
- ) A full and effective involvement of developing countries and NGOs in all negotiations, and the promotion of gender equality among negotiators; and

- ) Primacy to human rights, the environment, and people's health in all regional trade agreements; and
- ) A dispute settlement mechanism (an International Court of Compliance) that is representative of a full range of citizens, with gender equity in its membership and that is charged with balancing human rights, environmental, social and economic concerns; and
- ) The right of each state to set its own economic, social and environmental policy frameworks in a democratic manner and within the relevant UN agreements; and
- ) The right of corporations to have clear rules for their investments that would protect them from:
  - i) Arbitrary confiscation of property without adequate compensation; and
  - ) Unfair competition based on the exploitation of workers and the degradation of the environment; and
- ) The responsibility of corporations to operate within each state's policy framework and to respect the basic rights of workers as embodied in the International Labour Organization's core labour standards; and
- ) The responsibility of corporations to comply with a host state's human rights, economic, social and environmental laws, and to pay adequate compensation to local communities should they choose to relocate, or for harm done to human health or to the environment.

#### 99.1 UPDATE THE CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

- Whereas, Over the years, (1976, 82, 87 and 91) the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) has urged the Government of Canada to financially support the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) in order that it may fulfill its mandate as stated in the Broadcast Act; and
- Whereas, While the CBC is responsible to Parliament, the arm's length relationship between the CBC and the government has been an established principle since the founding of Canada's public broadcasting system in 1936; and
- Whereas, The success of the CBC as a public broadcaster rests on the maintenance of this arm's length relationship which now respects its journalistic and artistic independence; and
- Whereas, This principle has been protected by members of the Board of Directors serving "during good behaviour" for a specified term, only to be removed "for cause"; and
- Whereas, Bill C44's proposal to amend Section 36 of the broadcasting Act, violating this principle by proposing that the members of the Board of Directors continue in office "during Pleasure" has now been withdrawn; and
- Whereas, However, the practice of the CBC President and Board members being appointed by the government of the day continues the possibility of political influence and reduces the independence of the corporation; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, that the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) commend the Government of Canada for withdrawing the proposed amendment to Section 36 of the Broadcasting Act that would have threatened the arm's length relationship between the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) and the government of the day; and be it further
- RESOLVED, that the NCWC express to the Government of Canada its continuing endorsement to the role of the CBC in providing balanced national, regional, and local news broadcasts, news analysis and coverage of international affairs; and be it further
- RESOLVED, that NCWC urge the Government of Canada to establish a new process for the appointment of the CBC President and Board of Directors that would further ensure their independence from political pressures; and be it further
- RESOLVED, that NCWC urge the Government of Canada to provide stable funding for the CBC at a level adequate to permit it to fulfill its mandate.

#### 99.2 UPDATE TAKING ACTION ON GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

- Whereas, The National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) has not addressed the issue of global climate change since the emergency resolution of 1990 which asks the Government of Canada to become a signatory of the Hague Declaration, and to further work through the United Nations (UN) international agreements supported by protocols to protect the atmosphere and to reduce quantities of gases that cause the greenhouse effect, especially carbon dioxide, and work toward international cooperation to preserve rain forests and other forests, increase energy efficiency, reduce the use of fossil fuels and to assist less developed countries through scientific aid and the financing of efficient technologies; and
- Whereas, There have been many international and national accords and agreements since 1990 on which NCWC has not

taken a full, comprehensive position; and

- Whereas, The Government of Canada has participated internationally in the area of climate change and in June 1992, at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Canada signed the Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC). The convention became official in March, 1994, when one hundred countries, including Canada, ratified it; and
- Whereas, The parties to the convention met for the third time in Kyoto, Japan, in December 1997, at which time a legally binding Protocol was agreed upon, and Canada consented to reduce its emission of greenhouse gases by 5.2% below 1990 levels by 2008 to 2012; and
- Whereas, The Government of Canada admits in the Second National Report on Climate Change, May 1997, that the projected climate changes will likely harm Canada's agriculture, forestry, and fisheries industries with the Arctic area at greatest risk from global warming; and
- Whereas, Global warming may be the result of both the increased emission of greenhouse gases over the past century which has accelerated with the industrialization of developing nations, and what may be normal global warming trend after a cold spell; and
- Whereas, There is sufficient agreement amongst world scientists that human activity has contributed to an accelerated rate of climate change, and greenhouse gas concentrations are expected to further increase unless there is a drastic change in world consumption patterns; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, that the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) urge the Government of Canada to act more aggressively to honour its commitment to reduce gas emissions by:
- ) Supporting research programs and industrial incentives for the development of, and change to alternate energy sources, such as solar and wind power, for widespread use in industry, transportation, and heating,
  - ) Providing cooperation and positive leadership; and
  - ) Ensuring that a vigorous program of public education, coupled with incentives to encourage real change in public energy consumption patterns, is adopted; and be it further
- RESOLVED, that NCWC request the Provincial Councils of Women and Local Councils of Women, where appropriate to urge their respective provincial governments to undertake programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and be it further
- RESOLVED, that NCWC urge Local Councils of Women to take part in the Federation of Canadian Municipalities 20% Club, and programs similar to Toronto's Atmospheric Fund, which effectively address the climate change challenge at the community level.

### 99.3 UPDATE WOMEN AND HIV / AIDS

- Whereas, In 1992, The National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) urged the Government of Canada to:
- ) Increase research, particularly into symptoms of HIV infection and AIDS in women; and
  - ) Allow women access to clinical trials; and
  - ) Ensure that women have equal access to treatment for HIV infection and for AIDS; and
- Whereas, In 1999, women in Canada account for the largest percentage increase of new cases of HIV; and
- Whereas, Women do not see themselves as being at risk of HIV / AIDS due to the myths and stereotypes surrounding the disease; and
- Whereas, The medical and social needs of HIV positive women and those with AIDS are not properly addressed by healthcare and/or other professional services; and
- Whereas, HIV and AIDS affect men and women differently, physically, mentally, socially, and economically; and
- Whereas, Women are under-diagnosed with HIV and AIDS due to physicians' perceptions and inability to recognize the symptoms in women; and
- Whereas, Women with HIV and AIDS still have unequal access to clinical trials and treatment; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, that the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) urge the Government of Canada to:
- ) Increase funds for, and make a priority, HIV/AIDS programs that address the needs of HIV positive women, women with AIDS, and women at risk of infection; and
  - ) Develop new HIV/AIDS prevention and education programs for the public, designed specifically to address the needs of women; and
  - ) Develop educational programs for physicians, healthcare workers and other professionals in the community to identify and support women with HIV/AIDS and those at risk of infection; and be

it further

- RESOLVED, that NCWC request Provincial Councils of Women and where appropriate, Local Councils of Women to urge their respective provincial governments to:
- . Expand their programs for HIV/AIDS to include the preteen population, new HIV/AIDS prevention, education and training programs specifically designed to meet the needs of women, with a focus on mothers; and
  - . Develop educational programs for physicians, healthcare workers and professionals in the community; and
  - . Support the women with HIV/AIDS and those at risk of infection, which are often their children, through counseling and financial help.

#### 99.4 UPDATE BANKING SERVICES AND RULES FOR DISCLOSURE

Whereas, In the 1998 Resolution on banking services and rules for disclosure, the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) asks the Government of Canada to ensure that all Canadians have access to affordable banking services, affordable priced loans, and means of giving input to banking practices and regulations; and

Whereas, A community reinvestment act would formalize in legislation conditions to facilitate greater access to banking services and community-based lending to small and medium sized businesses; and

Whereas, Such an act is already in existence in the United States and has had beneficial results: therefore, be it

- RESOLVED, that the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) urge the Government of Canada to pass a Community Investment Act which would ensure:
- . Access to affordable banking services; and
  - . Access to credit for sound community-based projects; and
  - . Disclosure of appropriate cost of doing business including granting loans; and
  - . Consumer representation on boards; and
  - . Gender analysis of business decisions; and an independent mechanism to determine how well financial institutions are serving their customers.

#### EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

##### 99.1 EM DISCRIMINATORY CUTS TO EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Whereas, Since the 1996 overhaul of the Employment Insurance Act:

- . Benefit claims under the legislation have declined by 18% and cash benefits have fallen by 2 billion to 10 billion annually; and
- . Claims by women have fallen by 20% while the number of claims by men have fallen by 16% (which is already too high); and
- . Claims by young people under 25 have fallen by 27% compared with middle aged workers which have fallen by 8%; and
- . The rule of awarding reduced benefits for repeat users (Intensity Rule) affects claimants in Newfoundland, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island over twice the average rate across the country; and
- . Women who have children close together may not be eligible for maternity benefits for the succeeding children; and

Whereas, The Employment Insurance Fund (EI) was established to alleviate hardship among unemployed people and unemployment is still at unacceptable levels; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) urge the Government of Canada to reinvest the Employment Insurance Fund (EI) surplus in benefits for the unemployed by:

- . Relaxing the requirement for eligibility for part time workers, for those entering the workforce for the first time or re-entering it after a long absence; and
- . Mitigating the effects of the Intensity Rule in areas of high unemployment; and
- . Restoring benefit levels and reducing the time required to qualify for benefits to be more in line with the pre-1996 levels; and
- . Reducing the time required to qualify for a subsequent maternity benefit; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the National Council of Women of Canada reiterate the 1998 policy to urge the Government of Canada to reinvest the EI surplus in programs to help the unemployed secure employment, rather than cutting premiums.

##### 99.2EM CANCELLATION OF UNSUSTAINABLE DEBT OF LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Whereas, Some of the Less Developed Countries (LDCs) of the world carry an increasingly unsustainable multilateral debt load; and

Whereas, Structural Adjustments Programs (SAPs) tend to serve the interests of creditors, often at the expense of the development of environmentally sound, sustainable economics; and

Whereas, Women in LDCs tend to be further marginalized and impoverished by the macro-economic planning on which SAP's are based; and

Whereas, The remission of the multilateral debt owned by the poorest LDCs is both economically feasible and socially imperative; therefore be it

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

- . Support the cancellation, by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, of the unsustainable debt of the poorest Less Developed Countries; and
- . Urge that conditions for debt remission, set by Structural Adjustments Programs, include increased consideration of the effect of those repayment conditions on people and on the environment; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the International Council of Women (ICW) to:

- . Adopt a policy in support of the cause of debt cancellation of the poorest LDCs in its relationships with the United Nations and its agencies; and
- . Urge the ICW permanent and accredited representatives to the UN to actively support the cause of debt cancellation of the poorest LCDs in their activities within the UN; and
- . Encourage its member National Councils in developed countries to request their respective governments to support the cause of debt cancellation of the poorest LCDs.

#### 99.3EM THE TOBIN TAX

Whereas, Nobel prize-winning economist, James Tobin, proposed a small tax (in the area of .1%) as a means of slowing down short term currency speculation across national borders; and

Whereas, International short term currency speculation has led to massive destabilization of certain national currencies; and

Whereas, International currency speculators have become more powerful than elected governments, creating an erosion of democracy in many parts of the world; and

Whereas, Currency runs can spread form one country to another, endangering the global financial system; and

Whereas, Such a small tax would have no appreciable effect on long term investment, on which real economic growth is usually based; and

Whereas, It has been estimated that such a tax would raise \$176 billion a year, which could be used for such purposes as international development and environmental clean up; and

Whereas, The Parliament of Canada passed by an overwhelming majority, on March 23, 1999, Motion 239, supporting "a tax on financial transactions" to be enacted by the government, "in concert with the International Community", making Canada the first country to endorse the idea of a Tobin Tax; and

Whereas, The Federal Minister of Finance has already expressed concern to the G-7 countries regarding the dangerous volatility of international currency markets; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to continue to press other governments for agreement on a tax on international financial transactions; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the International Council of Women (ICW) to:

- . Adopt, in its relationship with the United Nations, and its agencies, a policy in support of an international initiative to implement, across the international community, a tax on international financial transactions; and
- . Urge the ICW permanent and accredited representatives to the UN to actively support a tax on international financial transactions, implemented across the international community; and
- . Encourage its member National Councils to request their respective governments to implement, in conjunction with the international community, a tax on international financial transactions.

#### 99.4EM ELDER ABUSE

- Whereas, The second National Network Conference, held in Toronto in March, 1999, to honour the United Nations Year of the Older Persons, identified the lack of proper data as a major obstacle to developing policy to deal with the issue of elderabuse; and
- Whereas, Professionals acknowledge that the only official survey was done in 1989 and produced the figure of 4% of elderly abused in Canada; and
- Whereas, Demographically, elderabuse is a women's issue; therefore be it
- RESOLVED, that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to:
- . Undertake a National Survey to determine:
    - . The kinds of elderabuse taking place; and
    - 2. The percentage of seniors who suffer abuse, aggregated by gender; and
  - b. Develop a policy regarding the treatment of the abused and the abusers.

#### 99.5EM WORKING TOWARDS PEACE

- Whereas, There is "ethnic cleansing " (which is forced expulsion) underway in Kosovo, a province of Serbia, which contravenes the provisions and clauses of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Articles III, VII, IX, XV, XVII, XXX); and
- Whereas, The bombing by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) forces (of which Canada is a member) of military targets in Serbia has resulted in "collateral damage" which has put civilian lives at risk; and
- Whereas, This NATO action was undertaken without approval by the United Nations Security Council (where Canada is presently the presiding country) with the stated aim of preventing the forced expulsion of the ethnic Albanians from Kosovo; and
- Whereas, The forced expulsions are continuing in spite of the bombing; and
- Whereas, Women and children are always the chief sufferers in these situations; and
- Whereas, the Government of Canada has endorsed the Beijing Platform for Action (PFA) including engaging the services of those international and national women's NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC (PFA Women and Armed Conflict Strategic Objective E 1): therefore, be it

- RESOLVED, that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to:
- . Continue to work most urgently towards a negotiated solution; and
  - . Be mindful of the commitment made in the Beijing Platform for Action, to increase the real participation of women in conflict resolution at decision-making levels through engaging the services of those international and national women's NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC (PFA women and Armed Conflict Strategic Objective E1); and be it further
- RESOLVED, that the National Council of Women of Canada convey to the Government of Canada that its members deplore all outbreaks of armed conflict and the use of force to control them which have not been sanctioned by the United Nations.

#### 99.6EM SUPPORTING RATIFICATION OF THE ROME STATUTE ESTABLISHING THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

- Whereas, The Rome Statute establishing a permanent International Criminal Court was assented to by a majority of states, including Canada; and
- Whereas, The Rome Statute cannot come into effect until a majority of the states that assented in July 1998, have ratified their assent; and
- Whereas, There is a small number of states continuing their opposition to the establishment of the International Criminal Court; therefore be it
- RESOLVED, that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to ratify immediately the Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court; and be it further
- RESOLVED, that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the International Council of Women to:
- . Press its member National Councils whose governments have not yet assented to the Rome

Statute establishing the International Criminal Court to urge their governments to assent and ratify the document as soon as possible; and

- b. Press its member National Councils whose governments have assented to the Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court to urge their governments to ratify their assent as soon as possible.