

POLICIES – 2001

- 01.1 Quality End-of-Life Care: The Right of Every Canadian
- 01.2 Royalties to Canadian Artists on The Second Sale of Visual Art
- 01.3 Reassert the Powers of the Federal Government
- 01.4 Decriminalization of the Non-Medical Use of Illegal Drugs
- 01.5 Prostitution and Trafficking in Women and Girls
- 01.6 Strengthening and Enforcing Canada's Immigration Policies, including Gender Sensitivity
- 01.7 United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)

POLICY UPDATES

- 01.1PU Federal Government Role in Health Care
- 01.2PU Trucking and Highway Safety Standards
- 01.3PU Water and Multinational Trade Agreements
- 01.4PU Equal Benefits for Part-Time Workers

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

- 01.1EM Stem Cell Research Guidelines
- 01.2EM A Commissioner for Canada's Children

01.1 QUALITY END-OF-LIFE CARE: THE RIGHT OF EVERY CANADIAN

- Whereas the reality is that end-of-life care decisions are currently being made across the country in a legislative vacuum; and
- Whereas the practice of providing treatment in accordance with generally accepted medical practices to alleviate physical pain, even though it may shorten life, is currently legal; and
- Whereas the Canadian Medical Association has advocated clarification of the Criminal Code since 1992, confusion exists among health care providers and the general public as the law is not clear concerning the circumstances wherein the withholding and withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment is legally acceptable; and
- Whereas in June 2000, a subcommittee of the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology submitted a report outlining a national strategy entitled "Quality End-of-Life Care: The Right of Every Canadian"; and
- Whereas the intent of the year 2000 Senate draft bill, Medical Decisions Facilitation Act was to facilitate the making of medical decisions by patients and also for clarifying the law to protect health care providers from criminal liability when they act in accordance with their patient's wishes by:
- a. Withholding or withdrawing life-sustaining treatment;
 - b. Administering pain-relieving medication to alleviate physical pain; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as its policy the right of every Canadian to Quality End-of-Life Care as spelled out in the report of the Senate subcommittee entitled "Quality End-of-Life Care: The Right of Every Canadian", and be it further

RESOLVED that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to recognize the right of every Canadian to Quality End-of-Life Care by passing legislation in the spirit of the Medical Decisions Facilitation Act (Senate Bill S-2, 2000) to:

- a. Establish national guidelines and promote education and training in the control of pain, end-of-life medical treatment and palliative care; and
- b. Clarify the circumstances in which the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment is legally acceptable; and

- c. Protect health care providers from criminal liability when they act in accordance with their patients' wishes; and
- d. Amend the Criminal Code accordingly.

01.2 ROYALTIES TO CANADIAN ARTISTS ON THE SECOND SALE OF VISUAL ART

- Whereas Canadian Visual Artists, those who are Canadian citizens, are among Canada's most important and valuable natural resources and they are supported with pride by other Canadians; ("Visual Arts" refers generally to original paintings, sculpture, and graphics [drawings, engravings and prints] and sometimes original manuscripts, not photography); and
- Whereas other countries have acknowledged that artists have a right to be equitably reimbursed for their work as their art becomes more valuable and the artist more famous, through the payment of royalties on the second sale of art, commonly known as "droit de suite"; and
- Whereas in other countries such as Spain, Germany and France and in the state of California (USA), it has been found that the payment of these royalties on second sale of art is a fair and equitable way to reimburse artists for their work as their fame and reputation grow; and
- Whereas Canadian Visual Artists should have rights with respect to royalties as visual artists do in other countries; and
- Whereas such royalties result in remuneration or the artist or his/her heirs or other beneficiaries, in the form of a royalty that is usually calculated as a percentage of the sale price paid upon the resale of a work; and
- Whereas in order to encourage Canadian Visual Artists to continue living in Canada and in order that they are acknowledged and their work accredited as "Canadian Art" they must be able to make a living and receive equitable remuneration for their works of art; therefore be it
- RESOLVED that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as its policy that royalties be paid to visual artists who are Canadian citizens for the second sale of Canadian art; and be it further
- RESOLVED that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to create and pass legislation which gives Canadian Visual Artists the right to have fair and equitable royalties paid on the second sale of art, pursuant to a formula (to be decided on with due consideration given to the royalties paid in other countries).

01.3 REASSERT THE POWERS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- Whereas the Federal Government of Canada is responsible for the "peace, order and good government" of Canada which implies responsibility for the well-being of all the people of Canada; and
- Whereas during the past decade overall well-being and equity among Canadians has been diminished with the increasing devolution of the balance of responsibility to the provinces and territories for the administration of health, education, social policy, immigration, housing, environment and agriculture; and
- Whereas some of these areas are under shared jurisdiction according to the Canadian Constitution, they are all heavily dependent on the transfer of sufficient funds and on the shared expertise required to make access to these programs and services adequate and equitable; and
- Whereas by having signed the Free Trade Agreement (FTA), the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements the Government of Canada has been forced to capitulate to Transnational Corporations (TNCs) over issues relating to the protection of human health and the environment, evidenced by Canada losing disputes to:
- a. The Ethyl Corporation over not permitting the import of MMT, a nerve toxin, which is added to gasoline; and
 - b. The corporations, such as Monsanto which supplies recombinant Bovine Growth Hormone (BGH); and
 - c. Corporations moving to patent plant forms; and
 - d. Pharmaceutical companies for resisting the extension of patent terms for widely used prescription drugs; and
- Whereas A dispute with Sun Belt of California that Challenges Canada's right to restrict exports of fresh water in ways that

would protect Canada's supply of fresh water is pending; and

Whereas policies and actions of Trans-national Corporations (TNC) are often aimed at weakening the powers of all levels of government; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as its policy the reassertion of the statutory powers of the Federal Government vis a vis the provinces and as provided in the Constitution; and be it further

RESOLVED that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to reassert its power vis a vis the provinces and territories to carry out its mandate and responsibility to protect and promote the well-being of all the people of Canada and their equitable access to services, and to assert, to the greatest extent possible, its ability to keep the Trans-national Corporations (TNCs) from controlling or interfering with the Federal Government's decision-making and obligation to:

- a. Promote and maintain high standards of public healthcare, education, social services and housing; and
- b. Maintain a fair and just immigration policy; and
- c. Enact legislation to protect the environment; and
- d. Maintain control of Canada's Natural Resources; and
- e. Protect and maintain control of Canada's fresh water; and
- f. Maintain a balanced agricultural trade policy that recognizes the needs of rural communities across Canada; and
- g. Ensure all such laws are monitored and enforced through Parliament.

01.4 DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE NON-MEDICAL USE OF ILLEGAL DRUGS

Whereas the failed experience of both alcohol and drug prohibition in the United States provides lessons on what does and does not work in the battle with organized crime; and

Whereas organized crime in Canada gains enormous profits from the illegal drug trade fostered by the prohibition of illegal drugs; and

Whereas terrorist groups around the world use the black market profits generated through the prohibition of drugs to further their terrorist aims; and

Whereas prohibition has not reduced the availability of currently illegal drugs; and

Whereas the number of people in Canada whose lives have been destroyed or damaged under our current Federal drug laws and policies based on prohibition is unacceptable; and

Whereas criminalization has not reduced the health risks and other harms for those who use drugs or have drug dependencies; and

Whereas criminalization has contributed to the violence associated with the trade in currently illegal drugs; and

Whereas criminalization of drugs in Canada has absorbed vast financial resources, time and personnel, and placed a great strain on the criminal justice system; and

Whereas drug use and addiction should be treated as health and social issues like other addictions, such as those to nicotine, alcohol, caffeine, prescription drugs rather than as criminal justice issues; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as its policy:

- a. The decriminalization of the non-medicinal use of illegal drugs; and
- b. The treatment of addiction to drugs as a health and social issue; and be it further

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

- a. Examine decriminalized drug control programs that have been shown to work in other countries; and
- b. Set up a non-criminal regulatory system for dealing with non-medicinal use of drugs as

an alternative to control by criminal law; and

- c. Treat drug use and addiction as health and social issues, rather than as criminal justice issues; and
- d. Provide the necessary funding for education, addiction prevention and treatment, including measures to address the social and economic conditions that lead to harmful forms of drug use

01.5 PROSTITUTION AND TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Whereas adult (over age 18) prostitution is legal in Canada, and child prostitution is not; and

Whereas the Criminal Code of Canada makes soliciting a criminal offence; and

Whereas there has been an increase world-wide in trafficking of women and children for purposes of prostitution carried out inside nation states including Canada and across national and continental boundaries; and

Whereas this trafficking is against the law in most countries and prostitution is dealt with through criminalization of the act of prostitution as well as the act of solicitation; and

Whereas women and children (under age 18) are usually driven into prostitution as a means of livelihood by the multiple effects of violence, child sexual abuse, racism, poverty (i.e. hunger, homelessness, lack of education and employment opportunities), and/or indebtedness; and

Whereas prostitution and trafficking exist because there is a ready market for the sexual services of the women and children; and

Whereas this trafficking is criminal with the perpetrators acting in contravention of:

§ Article 4 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948); and

§ The intent of Article 6 of the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW - 1979); and

§ The intent of Articles 34 and 35 of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child (1989); and

§ The intent of the Optional Protocol on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography adopted by the UN General Assembly 25 May 2000 (A/Res/54/2263); and

§ The intent of Articles 1 (s 1&2), and 2 (s1) of the UN Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (1949); and

§ The intent of Articles 1,2,7,15 and 28 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; and

Whereas court-ordered diversion of other transitional programs which assist women in addressing their issues are either short term or not available in many jurisdictions, with the result that many women charged with selling sexual services are processed through the justice system with insufficient attention given to their long term needs; and

Whereas court ordered diversion programs for men, such as "John School" in spite of its limited eligibility (first time offenders but not with a minor, no criminal record, cost about \$400.) show a low rate of recidivism, are now accessible in major cities across Canada and include education about the role these men play in victimizing women and children; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Council of Women of Canada:

- a. Adopt as its policy on Prostitution and Trafficking in Women and Children, the principles and purposes set out in the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW - 1979), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and the Convention for the Suppression on the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of Prostitution of Others (1949); and
- b. Reiterate NCWC policy (1983) that prostitutes should not be criminalized for soliciting except adults soliciting from minors; and be it further

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

- a. Repeal the pertinent section of the Criminal Code of Canada; and
- b. Strengthen and enforce the provision of the Criminal Code dealing with all those persons trafficking in women and children, and also living off the avails of prostitution; and
- c. Address the multiple effects of sexual abuse, violence, racism and the problems of poverty (e.g.

homelessness and lack of education) that contribute to driving women and children into prostitution, with emphasis on establishing, in cooperation with the provincial governments, comprehensive child care programmes to prevent desperate young persons from seeking to support themselves through prostitution; and

- d. Ensure that there is adequate funding for rehabilitation and education programmes, arranged in cooperation with the provinces, for all women and children seeking to leave prostitution with protection from their exploiters.

01.6 STRENGTHENING AND ENFORCING CANADA'S IMMIGRATION POLICIES, INCLUDING GENDER SENSITIVITY

- Whereas Canada's Immigration Policies, set in consultation with provincial and territorial governments to mesh with their employment and settlement policies, have set targets for the three main categories of immigrant (independent/business, family reunification and refugee); and
- Whereas Canada needs more younger immigrant families of child-bearing age who will contribute to the economy and will ensure a better population ratio between young and old as their families grow; and
- Whereas the targets, particularly for independent in business category immigrants, have generally been set with the economic needs of Canada being given priority over the needs of the aspiring immigrants. Meanwhile, there is a growing need for economic opportunities through emigration from countries which are suffering increasing economic inequities stemming from current inequitable international trade and investment policies; and
- Whereas women and girls experience particular problems when applying to Canada for refugee status because they face threats of persecution, violence or physical abuse which are more likely to occur in the private spheres of their lives rather than in the public spheres, where men's fears of persecution are more often located; and
- Whereas women and children often are the most vulnerable and are increasingly subject to being drawn into sweatshop employment or prostitution; and
- Whereas gender-sensitive guidelines currently exist in Canadian Immigration Policies but lack the authority of legislation or regulation, and the application of these guidelines is not systematically monitored; and
- Whereas Canada is a signatory to the 1995 UN Beijing Platform for Action for the Advancement of Women which includes references to gender-sensitive treatment of women refugees (Para. 147.f which refers to the "need for special treatment of refugee women to ensure equality, prevention of sexual violence the responsibility of the states"; and Para. 226 which states that "factors causing flight of women and men differ"); and
- Whereas the 1990 UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrants and the Members of Their Families: Article 64 calls for the promotion of equitable treatment of migrants and the members of their families; and
- Whereas an Immigration and Refugee Protection Act introduced to Parliament in February 2001, fails to address gender equity as promised by the Minister in the initial press release; therefore be it
- RESOLVED that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as its policy the strengthening and enforcing of Canada's Immigration Policies by the promotion of equal treatment of women and men as in Articles 64 and 64.2 of the 1990 UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrants and Minorities; and be it further
- RESOLVED that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to further strengthen and enforce its Immigration Policy by:
- a. Ensuring targets for all types of immigration are reached; and
 - b. Ensuring, within any target group, that the number of women and children admitted as refugees and immigrants is proportional to their number in that target group; and
 - c. Encouraging adequate funding of the necessary settlement services for immigrants and refugees through the provinces and territories; and
 - d. Raising the gender-sensitive guidelines to the status of legislation and regulation; and
 - e. Giving special treatment to refugee women to ensure equality, their safety and the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation in accordance with Para. 136 and 147 of the UN's 1995 Beijing Platform for Action for Women to which Canada is a signatory; and
 - f. Instituting better training for refugee hearing boards including race and gender sensitivity and awareness of events in other countries around the world.

01. 7 UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)

- Whereas the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) was established as a temporary agency of the UN and is therefore dependent on voluntary contributions for its operations; and
- Whereas the current workload of UNHCR is expanding rather than contracting with 21 million refugees and over 100 million displaced people requiring its services; and
- Whereas UNHCR uses as a guideline that 75% of the world's refugees are women and children, with this figure possibly rising to 90% when the men die or are killed, imprisoned or drafted into an army; and
- Whereas Canada's contribution ranks only # 11 in per capita giving (\$.63) among industrialized states (US - \$1.00, Norway \$1.20 in '99) and is earmarked for more "politically attractive" regions of the world, thereby limiting UNHCR's flexibility and having particularly adverse effects in the neediest areas in Africa; and
- Whereas countries under economic sanctions are frequently host to large numbers of refugees from neighbouring countries (e.g. 31,400 refugees assisted by UNHCR in Iraq and 1.4 million in Iran); and
- Whereas funds for refugees are distributed by UNHCR to those in need rather than through governments or government agencies of the host countries; and
- Whereas it is frequently more productive, particularly in the case of women refugees for the UNHCR to involve women's organizations in the administration and distribution of relief funds; therefore be it
- RESOLVED that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as its policy the principle that Canada should financially support the work of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR); and be it further
- RESOLVED that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as its policy that such contribution should not be limited by being earmarked for particular areas of the world, thereby limiting the flexibility UNHCR needs to allocate assistance efficiently and where the need is greatest; and be it further
- RESOLVED that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to:
- a. Increase substantially its contribution to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) without taking monies from other areas of overseas development; and
 - b. Cease designating such funds for only specific areas of the world thus limiting the flexibility of the UNHCR.

01.1PU FEDERAL GOVERNMENT 'S ROLE IN HEALTH CARE POLICY

- Whereas the federal government has an established role in protecting the health of Canadians through its responsibility for a multiplicity of factors such as safe food standards, environmental controls against poisoning of air and water, licensing of pharmaceuticals and promotion of healthy life styles; and
- Whereas the federal government also has an established role in the delivery of health services through the passage of the Canada Health Act of 1984 and the federal transfer payments to the provinces for the funding of health care; and
- Whereas the five original principles on the Canada Health Act of 1984 (universally available, reasonably accessible to all, medically comprehensive, portable between provinces and publicly administered) are the basis for general standards for the delivery of health care services in all provinces and territories; and
- Whereas the government has the responsibility to ensure that these standards are met across Canada; and
- Whereas the growing number of private, for-profit health services are creating or supporting inequities in access to care across the country; and
- Whereas where these services are accessible through public funding, the combined service and profit costs may place a heavy financial load on the public health system; therefore be it
- RESOLVED that the National Council of Women of Canada confirm as its policy support for the federal role in health care policy and support for the Canada Health Act in providing equitable and adequately funded health care services for all Canadians; and be it further
- RESOLVED that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to:
- a. Retain its responsibility for protecting the health of Canadians, including setting standards of health care delivery as outlined in the Canada Health Act; and

- b. Continue to work with the provinces and territories in the development of an accountable, financially sustainable health care system which meets the needs of all Canadians; and
- c. Evaluate with the provinces how well different methods of health care delivery support the five principles of the Canada Health Act, including a study of systems in other countries, such as France; and be it further

RESOLVED that the National Council of Women of Canada urge its Provincial Councils, and Local Councils in provinces where there is no provincial council, to urge their governments to accept the federal government's role in the health field and work with that government in the development of the Canadian health care system.

01.2PU TRUCKING STANDARDS AND HIGHWAY SAFETY

Whereas National Council of Women of Canada policy 96.8 asks Provincial Councils of Women to urge their respective governments to:

1. Set and enforce a limitation on the size and length of trucks; and
2. Enforce safety standards:
 - a. For trucks by compulsory inspection
 - b. For drivers by including maximum consecutive driving hours; and
3. Ensure that the licensing and taxing of trucks are appropriate to their use of highways and roads and that those monies are used to partially defray the costs of maintenance of roads and highways; and
4. Ensure that trucking companies adhere to safety standards for truck and drivers; and

Whereas rapidly rising fuel costs; the increased demand for trucking companies to use "just in time" delivery service; the deregulation of the trucking industry; and the rapidly increased numbers of trucks on the highways have put pressure on trucking companies to make their drivers work longer hours; and

Whereas one of the most significant factors in highway safety is the ability of the truck drivers to manage their vehicles safely, but when drivers lack sufficient sleep, they put themselves and many others on our highways at considerable risk; and

Whereas the federal government has the primary responsibility for trucks crossing provincial and federal borders, and provincial governments have the responsibility for truck traffic within their borders; and

Whereas Transport Canada (against the advice of its own panel of experts, but with the advice of a sub-committee of the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators, a federal-provincial body with heavy trucking industry participation) has proposed a new policy to regulate the work and rest hours of the truckers that would increase the allowed work hours above those of the USA and Europe, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as its policy that there should be a safe "standard of work and rest hours" regulation and policy for truckers across Canada; and be it further

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

- a. Implement a safer "standard of work and rest hours" regulation and policy for truckers, such as those in Europe and the USA,
- b. Hold public consultations on this issue, and be it further

RESOLVED that the National Council of Women of Canada reiterate its policy 96.8 urging the Provincial Councils of Women and Local Councils where appropriate to urge their respective governments to:

- a. Set and enforce a limitation on the size and length of trucks; and
- b. Enforce safety standards for trucks by compulsory inspection and for drivers by ensuring adherence to strengthened national standards of work and rest hours policy; and
- c. Ensure that licensing and taxing of trucks are appropriate to their use of highways and roads and that those monies are used to partially defray the costs of maintenance of roads and highways; and
- d. Ensure that trucking companies adhere to safety standards for trucks and drivers.

01.3PU WATER AND MULTILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENTS

Whereas the Government of Canada is urged in the National Council of Women of Canada's Policy 93.1, Water, Free Trade and NAFTA to prohibit "all water related commitments" except "the sale of bottled water in containers of 5 litres

or less in size under NAFTA”; and in Policy 85.6 “National River Basin Management “to prohibit the construction of structures which would permit the diversion of inter-basin transfer of water to a foreign country and any agreements between Canada and foreign governments in which Canada would agree to supply water to foreign nations”, the wording does not specifically urge the prohibition of the export of water by pipeline, tanker, bulk carrier: and

Whereas Policy 98.6 Globalization, Negotiating Multilateral Trade Agreements Resolved #2c urges the Government of Canada to only sign agreements which “guarantee Canadian ownership and control over the delivery of vital resources, such as water...” and

Whereas the federal government drafted an Accord for the Prohibition of Bulk Water Removal from Drainage Basins which, as of May 2001, has been signed by all jurisdictions except British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Quebec (see reasons in Background); and

Whereas in 2001, Newfoundland’s new Premier is contemplating exporting bulk water from one of its lakes and there is a call for a federal public debate on the subject causing NCWC President, Elizabeth Hutchinson to send a letter of protest to the Prime Minister; and

Whereas the Federal Government is being sued by Sun Belt Corp. for millions of dollars under chapter 11 of NAFTA because the British Columbia Government banned the export of bulk water to California, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Council of Women of Canada confirm as principle and policy:

- a. That protection of the long-term supply of water as a national/provincial resource is essential to the health and well-being of all Canadians; and
- b. That bulk water is not a commodity; and
- c. That there must be prohibition of the export of bulk water by pipeline, tanker, bulk carrier or pipeline and of surface or groundwater by watercourse diversion; and
- d. That Canada must sign only those agreements that guarantee Canadian ownership and control of vital natural resources - Policy 98.6 Resolved 2c; and
- e. That all provinces should be urged to confirm the above and not to act unilaterally; and be it further

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

- a. Protect the long-term supply of water for domestic, agricultural, commercial, industrial, etc. uses; and
- b. Prohibit the export of bulk water by pipeline, tanker, bulk carrier or by inter-basin transfer; and
- c. Assert sovereignty over Canadian water resources, and ensure that multilateral trade agreements guarantee compliance with Canadian ownership and control over the delivery of vital natural resources such as water; and
- d. Work with the provinces to ensure the prohibition of water exports in order to avoid repercussions under NAFTA or any other trade agreement; and be it further

RESOLVED that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Provincial and Local Councils where appropriate to urge their respective governments to:

- a. Sign and abide by the Accord for the Prohibition of Bulk Water Removal from Drainage Basins; and
- b. Prohibit the export of bulk water, surface or groundwater from any source by any means whatever.

01.4PU REITERATION AND UPDATE OF EXISTING POLICY: EQUAL BENEFITS FOR PART-TIME WORKERS

Whereas the National Council of Women of Canada’s Policy 86.2 stated that there exist in the workforce many employees who will never attain full employment, either by choice or because of barriers to their participation; and now part-time workers are the fastest-growing segment of the labour force receiving considerably fewer benefits than full-time workers; and

Whereas Policy 86.2 adopted the principle of full protection, rights and benefits to all types of part-time workers and urged the Government of Canada to ensure that the regulations of the Canada Labour Code provide part-time workers with the same protection, rights, and benefits (on a pro rated basis) as those guaranteed to full-time workers and also urged the Provincial Councils to urge their respective governments to amend their provincial labour standards

- legislation to offer the same protection; and
- Whereas part-time workers' continuing lack of benefits causes long-term, severe consequences for the individual, the family and Canadian society as a whole; and
- Whereas the majority of part-time workers are women, and Canada and the provinces have agreed to support and implement the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and
- Whereas the Canada Labour Code covers only federal employees, leaving all other workers to be governed by provincial or territorial labour standards legislation; therefore be it
- RESOLVED that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as its policy:
- a. The principle of full protection, rights and benefits to all types of part-time workers; and
 - b. The principle of women's economic equality as set out in the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and be it further
- RESOLVED that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to:
- a. Define and regulate, in legislation and regulation, the various types of work, including, but not necessarily limited to: full-time, part-time, temporary and contract work; and
 - b. Amend the regulations of the Canada Labour Code and all other relevant legislation and regulations so that all types of part-time workers receive the same protection, rights and benefits (on a pro rated basis) as those guaranteed to full-time workers; and
 - c. Honour the 1985 commitment to abide by and implement economic equality for women, renewed at the Conference of First Ministers, 1989 based on the principles of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women, and be it further
- RESOLVED that the National Council of Women of Canada urge Provincial and Local Councils where appropriate to urge their respective governments to:
- a. Define and regulate, in legislation and regulation, the various types of work, including, but not necessarily limited to: full-time, part-time, temporary and contract work; and
 - b. Amend their provincial labour standards legislation and regulations to ensure that all types of part-time workers receive the same protection, rights and benefits (on a pro-rated basis) as those guaranteed to full-time workers.

01-1EM STEM CELL RESEARCH GUIDELINES

- Whereas research has shown that stem cells have a unique capacity to reproduce themselves or to differentiate into a variety of more specialized cells; and
- Whereas research using stem cells holds a great deal of promise for future treatment of a wide range of injuries and degenerative diseases; and
- Whereas research shows that stem cells can be produced from a variety of sources, but to date stem cells from early human embryos or fetal tissue hold the greatest promise because of their versatility and ability to divide; and
- Whereas it will be important to have informed consent from donors for the use in research of early human embryos and fetal tissue; and
- Whereas at present Canada does not have regulations or guidelines for researchers or for research funding in this area; therefore be it
- RESOLVED that the National Council of Women of Canada establish as its policy the need for established guidelines to cover stem cell research, funding for that research, and donor consent; and be it further
- RESOLVED that National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to establish guidelines based on the following principles:
- a) Approval under strict guidelines of stem cell research and funding, when the source of the stem cells is human fetal tissue or existing human embryos left over from the process of in vitro fertilization; and
 - b) Review of the use of this material by local Research Ethics Boards (REBs) and by a national

ethics review agency; and

- c) A requirement for informed consent for the donation of fetal tissue or in vitro embryos, the consent to be obtained under conditions where no pressure is involved; and
- d) No commercialization of the process whereby fetal tissue or human embryos are obtained; and

e) A prohibition of stem cell research which involves the use of stem cells to create human embryos for the purpose of research or combining human stem cells with an animal or any other non-human embryo or animal or any other non-human stem cells with a human embryo.

01 - 2EM A COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA'S CHILDREN

Whereas policy decisions affecting children are made by many departments of government; and

Whereas the federal government has made commitments to work together with provinces and territories to improve the well-being of Canada's children and has adopted an active role in promoting the Children's Agenda; and

Whereas Canada needs an independent body to monitor the implementation of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child, ratified by Canada in 1991; and

Whereas the Children's Bureau which was set up in 1991 within the Department of Health cannot fulfil this role because it lacks independence; and

Whereas Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child states that a child who is capable of forming his own views should have the right to express them in matters affecting the child; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Council of Women of Canada support the appointment of a Commissioner for Canada's Children; and be it further

RESOLVED that National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to appoint an independent and non-partisan Commissioner for Canada's Children, accountable to Canadians through Parliament, with a mandate to:

- a. Promote an effective and coherent approach to children in federal government policies and legislation; and
- b. Ensure that the federal government lives up to the commitments made to children at the national and international level; and
- c. Ensure that children's voices are heard in decisions affecting them made at the federal level.