

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF CANADA
117th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MAY 28 – 30, 2010, COURTYARD MARRIOTT, TORONTO

Thursday May 27

The Opening Reception began at 7:00 with greetings from the NCWC President, Karen Dempsey. She then introduced the new President of the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario, Mary Potter, who welcomed delegates to Ontario.

Ms Dempsey welcomed the Hon. Anita Neville, M.P. and Liberal Status of Women critic, who stopped over in Toronto on her way home to Winnipeg. She spoke of several issues affecting women.

Drinks and snacks rounded out an evening of reunions of members from across Canada.

The President called for Emerging Issue resolutions but there were none.

Friday May 28

A continental breakfast was provided for free each morning beginning at 7:30 a.m.

The first plenary session began at 8:45 a.m. with Karen Dempsey in the chair. VP of the Session was Denise Mattok. A moment of silence was observed.

The Minutes Committee was composed of Mary Potter, Carol Schweitzer and Margaret Jennings with Ms Potter looking after the taping of the meeting.

Motions were to be written on duplicate receipts.

Appointments for the meeting were as follows: Bring and Buy Table – Denise Mattok and Mavis Moore; Parliamentarian – Bill Bienia; Scrutineers – Rosemary Mallory and Mary Scott; Time Keeper – Druse Bryan

The Standing Rules for the meeting were read by the President.

Motion #1 Add to Standing Rules for the AGM the words “except for the mover who will close debate.”

Moved by: Muriel Smith Seconded by: Sheila Pepper Carried

The vote count was taken: LCWs – 11, PCWs - 5, NOSs – 2, Board - 5, Conveners – 6, Life Members – 4, Individual Members – 1 for a total vote count of 222.

Motion #2 To adopt the Standing Rules as amended.

Moved by: Mavis Moore Seconded by: Florence Erwin Carried

Motion #3 To adopt the agenda.

Moved by: Rani Gupta Seconded by: Marilyn St. Onge Carried

Motion #4 That the minutes of the previous AGM be approved with the following amendments: omit the name of the Secretary General of ICW on page 1 and in Motion 85 insert Carol Schweitzer as seconder.
Moved by: Mary Potter Carried

Karen Dempsey brought our attention to the letters from the Prime Minister, Governor General and Mayor of Toronto in the front of the docket.

Reports

Ms Dempsey then gave her report President's Report. There were some objections afterwards about the letter she wrote about restoring funding to the First Nation's University. She pointed out that it was within NCWC policy.

Denise Mattok gave her VP Administration report. There was some discussion on the Celebrating Women project as to whether it was worthwhile printing more scarves to be for sale at the war museum and Legion.

Another LCW was added to the vote count for a total of 232 votes.

Motion #5 That NCWC approach the artist, the National War Museum and Canadian Legions to consider purchasing another printing of the poppy scarf, for sale country-wide, on silk or another fabric and have marketing done by the sellers.
Moved by: Sheila Pepper Seconded by: Monica Feist **Defeated**

Mary Scott said that her VP Justice report was not in the docket but she will circulate it electronically.

Mavis Moore's VP Environment report is in the docket.

Rosemary Mallory, Convener of Global Affairs, represented the President at the General Assembly of the International Council of Women (ICW) in Johannesburg. Her report is in the docket. Thelma McGillivray has been elected to the ICW Board as Convener on Ageing.

After the break, Denise Mattok took the chair.

Elizabeth Hutchinson's Newsletter report is in the docket. The deadline for submitting material for the next issue is September 15.

The report for the Provincial Council of B.C. and the report for Hamilton Council are not in the docket.

The review of the financial statements was chaired by Mary Scott as the Treasurer, Bonnie Siemens, could not be present due to an urgent family matter.

After some discussion and questions, it was decided to call Bonnie and get some answers for later.

Mary Scott announced that there would be a brainstorming session on where NCWC is going, on Friday night.

The session adjourned at 11:50 a.m. for the NCWCDO Luncheon. Marilyn St. Onge, who is retired from the Salvation Army, talked about the earthquake in Haiti, illustrated with pictures. The business meeting followed, chaired by Arlene Draffin Jones.

The second plenary session started at 2:42 p.m. The vote count was:
LCWs – 12, PCWs – 5, NOSs – 3, Directors - 5, Conveners – 6, Life Members – 5,
Individuals – 3 for a total vote count of 246.

Discussion of Financial Statements Continued

Mary Scott called the treasurer and received some answers to questions. The statements are not complete: some information is missing and some is in the wrong place. Ms Siemens has been waiting for the invoice from ICW to pay the fees. The large increase in investments is because of the market fluctuation. She is checking to see that all donations have been acknowledged.

Motion #6 To approve the actions of the Board of Directors over the past year.
Moved by: Mary Scott Seconded by: Gracia Janes Carried
Abstention: Salvation Army

Motion #7 To receive the financial statements as in the docket for information.
Moved by: Mary Scott Seconded by: Marilyn McGonigal Carried

Elizabeth Hutchinson noted that that donations to NCWC from Montreal, Quebec and Ontario Councils as well as from an individual have not been noted and receipts have not been received.

Motion #8 That the members give the Board of Directors permission to investigate accounting services for the coming year.
Moved by: Mary Scott Seconded by: Marilyn McGonigal Carried

Motion #9 That we accept the budget for 2010-2011 as printed in the docket.
Moved by: Mary Scott Seconded by: Monica Feist Carried
Abstentions: Salvation Army, Ottawa Council

Motion #10 That NCWC be able to borrow from our Investment Account up to a limit of \$70,000 if required.
Moved by: Mary Scott Seconded by: Muriel Smith Carried
Abstention: Salvation Army

Motion #11 That we receive the financial reports as presented.
Moved by: Mary Scott Seconded by: Monica Feist Carried

Opposed: Salvation Army

Resolution Discussion

Muriel Smith led the resolution discussion.

Motion #12 That the resolution from 2001 titled "A Commissioner for Canada's Children" be reiterated.

Moved by: Muriel Smith Seconded by: Beverlee McIntosh Carried

The original Resolution 1 was divided into 1a. and 1b. by the Resolutions Committee.

1a. Inclusion of Chrysotile Asbestos in the Rotterdam Convention

Motion #13 In Resolution 1a. remove the following wording in Resolved 1: "and the cessation of the mining, export and use of all forms of asbestos". In Resolved 2 remove "and to ban the mining and export of all forms of asbestos as soon as possible."

Moved by: Carol Schweitzer Seconded by: Elizabeth Hutchinson

Carried

1b. Ban on Mining and Exports of All Forms of Asbestos

Motion #14 In Resolution 1b. Remove in Resolved #1 "the inclusion of all forms of asbestos in the Rotterdam Convention and". In Resolved #2 remove "include all forms of asbestos in the Rotterdam Convention and to"

Moved by: Gracia Janes Seconded by: Carol Schweitzer Carried

Motion #15 In Resolution 1b. Omit Resolved #3.

Moved by: Beverlee McIntosh Seconded by: Sheila Pepper Carried

Motion #16 In Resolution 1b. Add a new Resolved #3:

That the National Council of Women of Canada recommend to Provincial Councils of Women, where applicable, to urge their respective provincial governments

a) to cease their mining and export of all forms of asbestos and

b) to retire or retrain those workers affected by this move and

c) to provide transitional support for affected communities.

Moved by: Elizabeth Hutchinson Seconded by: Carol Schweitzer Carried

Motion #17 That the resolution as a whole be accepted.

Moved by: Muriel Smith Seconded by: Florence Erwin Carried

1a. INCLUSION OF CHRYSOTILE ASBESTOS IN THE ROTTERDAM CONVENTION

Whereas According to the Rotterdam Convention's review committee chrysotile (the dominant form of asbestos found in Canada) is unequivocally a human carcinogen, the World health Organization (WHO) and other international

agencies agree and Canada Acknowledges that all forms of asbestos fibres, including chrysotile, are carcinogenic; and

Whereas Canada is the only western democracy to have consistently opposed international efforts to regulate the global trade in asbestos and for several years Canada has led opposition to listing chrysotile under the Rotterdam Convention; and

Whereas the sale of asbestos is illegal in Canada and data show increasing consumption of Canadian asbestos under the sales activities of Chrysotile Canada Inc.; therefore be it

Resolved that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy the inclusion of chrysotile asbestos as a dangerous substance in the Rotterdam Convention; and be it further

Resolved that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to include chrysotile asbestos as a dangerous substance in the Rotterdam Convention; and be it further

Resolved that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to ratify the Rotterdam Convention without delay.

1b. BAN ON MINING AND EXPORTS OF ALL FORMS OF ASBESTOS

Whereas there is global consensus that exposure to all types of asbestos can kill – a view supported by the International Labour Organization, the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Programme on Chemical Safety, the European Union, the Collegium Ramazzini, the International Social Security Association, the World Trade Organization, the International Commission on Occupational Health, 39 countries, and scores of independent scientists; therefore be it

Resolved that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy the cessation of the mining and export of all forms of asbestos; and be it further

Resolved that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to ban the mining and export of all forms of asbestos; and be it further

Resolved that the National Council of Women of Canada recommend to Provincial Councils of Women, where applicable, to urge their respective provincial governments

a) to cease their mining and export of all forms of asbestos, and

- b) to retire or retrain those workers affected by this move, and
- c) to provide transitional support for affected communities.

2. The Need for a Central Registry of Asbestos

- Motion #18 In Resolution #2 delete in Resolved #1 “the development of a Government plan”.
 Moved by: Muriel Smith Carried
- Motion #19 Delete Resolved 1a and c.
 Moved by: Cynthia Dobrindt Seconded by: Carol Schweitzer Carried
- Motion #20 In Resolved 2 delete “following the Canadian Cancer Society’s five recommendations” and insert to include
 Moved by: Rashmi Bhat Seconded by: Karen Dempsey Carried
- Motion #21 Motion to extend the debate by 10 minutes.
 Moved by: Carol Schweitzer Seconded by: Elizabeth Hutchinson
 Carried
- Motion #22 In Resolved 2 delete a. d. and e.
 Moved by: Cynthia Dobrindt Seconded by: Carol Schweitzer
 Carried
- Motion #23 That the resolution as a whole be accepted.
 Moved by: Muriel Smith Seconded by: Florence Erwin Carried
 Abstention: Salvation Army

2. THE NEED FOR A CENTRAL REGISTRY OF ASBESTOS

- Whereas** in Canada there is no central registry of medical asbestos cases as there is in other countries so no predictions of problems can be made; and
- Whereas** in November 2007 a paper “Exploratory Sampling of Asbestos in Residences near Thetford Mine: The Public Health Threat in Quebec” reported that levels of asbestos in more than half the homes were excessive; and
- Whereas** Canadian Occupational Health agency studies have concluded that exposures to asbestos accounted for approximately 60% of all work related deaths in the country in 2005; and
- Whereas** “bystander” cases of asbestos related disease have been documented; therefore be it
- Resolved** that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy the creation of a Central Registry of people living with medical effects from asbestos, and of buildings containing asbestos; and be it further

- Resolved** that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to develop a plan to include:
- a. a national surveillance system to track health outcomes of people who have been exposed to asbestos; and
 - b. a listing of buildings that contain asbestos

3. Regulation of MSG and Other Excitotoxins in the Food Supply

- Motion #24 That Resolution #3 be given to the Resolutions Committee for rewrite and be tabled until tomorrow afternoon.
Moved by: Carol Schweitzer Seconded by: Cynthia Dobrindt Carried

4. Opposition to Expansion of International NAFTA-Like Free Trade Agreement with Europe

A Policy Update, PU6, was recommended by the Resolutions Committee as a substitution for Resolution 4 that had been submitted.

- Motion #25 In Resolved #1 delete “the need for” and insert that there be.
Moved by: Karen Dempsey Seconded by: Rashmi Bhat Carried

- Motion #26 That the resolution be tabled to be rewritten and brought back.
Moved by: Gracia Janes Seconded by: Thelma McGillivray Carried

- Motion #27 That the meeting be adjourned.
Motion: Thelma McGillivray Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Members were reminded of the brainstorming session at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday May 29

Local Council and Provincial Council Presidents met informally with the NCWC President over breakfast.

The Third Plenary was called to order by the President at 8:55 a.m. VP for the session was Rashmi Bhat.

The vote count was as follows: LCWs – 10, PCWs – 5, NOSs – 2, Directors and Conveners – 12, Life Members – 5, Individual Members – 3 for a total vote count of 219.

The resolutions discussion continued with Muriel Smith in the chair.

3. Further Study Needed of Excitotoxins in the Food Supply

Motion #28 In the rewrite of Resolution #3, Resolved 1, delete “the Government undertake more study of the” and insert at the end needs more research
Moved by: Carol Schweitzer Seconded by: Rashmi Bhat Carried

Motion #29 That the resolution be accepted as amended.
Moved by: Muriel Smith Carried
Abstention: Salvation Army

FURTHER STUDY NEEDED OF EXCITOTOXINS IN THE FOOD SUPPLY

Whereas excitotoxins such as monosodium glutamate (MSG), hydrolyzed vegetable protein and aspartame are used as flavour enhancers and sweeteners in food; and

Whereas in small amounts, these additives are usually harmless to human health; and

Whereas with the proliferation of prepared foods and drinks containing excitotoxins, people are ingesting increasing amounts; and

Whereas there is increasing anecdotal evidence of excitotoxins playing a role in the development of neurological disorders, degenerative diseases by the production of free radicals, and obesity; therefore be it

Resolved that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy that the accumulative effect of excitotoxins in the food supply on human health needs more research; and be it further

Resolved that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to undertake more study of the accumulative effect of excitotoxins in the food supply on human health, publicize the results widely and, if necessary, regulate the food industry accordingly.

PU6 International Trade Agreement Negotiations with the European Union

Motion #30 That PU6 be substituted for Resolution #4.
Moved by: Druse Bryan Seconded by: Beverlee McIntosh Carried

Motion #31 In the title delete “with the European Union”. In the first line of Resolved #1 delete “its”. In the first line of Resolved #2 after “Government of Canada” insert in its negotiation of International Trade Agreements. In Resolved 1a. and 2a. delete “adequate” and insert comprehensive, delete “and citizens” and insert after “full disclosure to” the words the public and .
Insert a comma after “environmental policies”.
Moved by: Muriel Smith Carried

Motion #32 That the resolution as a whole be accepted.

Moved by: Muriel Smith
Abstention: Salvation Army

Carried

Motion #33 That the substitute resolved clauses submitted by Saskatchewan be accepted.
Moved by: Marilyn Boechler Seconded by: Beverlee McIntosh **Defeated**

PU6 INTERNATIONAL TRADE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

Whereas the Canadian government is in negotiations with the government of the European Union for an expansive new free trade agreement; and

Whereas a proposed trade deal with the European Union would also bind provincial and municipal governments to NAFTA-like restrictions; and

Whereas this approach would drain needed stimulus from the Canadian economy, worsen the current crisis in manufacturing and interfere with provincial and municipal governments' authority to provide and regulate local services; and

Whereas it is the right of local and provincial governments to support local or Canadian suppliers, set minimum local rules for materials or services on major projects, adopt ethical and environmental purchasing policies, enforce commitments to hire workers locally or require companies winning public contracts to invest a portion of revenues or profits in Canadian communities; therefore be it

Resolved that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy in negotiation of international trade agreements that there be:

- a. comprehensive public consultation, transparency and full disclosure, and
- b. respect for the rights of provincial, territorial and municipal governments to protect the public interest; and be it further

Resolved that the National council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada in its negotiation of international trade agreements to:

- a. ensure comprehensive public consultation, transparency and full disclosure to the public and to parliament, and
- b. incorporate respect for the rights of provincial, territorial and municipal governments to protect the public interest through local procurement of materials, services and labour, ethical and environmental policies, and the requirement that companies winning public contracts reinvest a portion of their profits in local communities.

5. Decreasing Sodium Consumption by Canadians

Motion #34 That the title of Resolution #5 be changed to Regulation of Sodium Content in Food.

Moved by: Elizabeth Hutchinson Seconded by Beverlee McIntosh
Defeated

It was announced that the vote count had changed to 229.

Motion #35 In Resolved 1 delete “from 2009 levels should”.
Moved by: Cynthia Dobrindt Seconded by: Mary Potter Carried

Motion #36 Delete Resolved 2a. and insert take all necessary measures to reduce the sodium intake of Canadians
Moved by: Gracia Janes **Withdrawn**

Motion #37 To extend debate by 10 minutes.
Moved by: Muriel Smith Carried

The vote count changed again to 239.

Friendly amendment: Delete in Resolved 2a. “when it is” and insert which is to be.

Motion #38 To accept the resolution as amended.
Moved by; Muriel Smith Seconded by: Beverlee McIntosh Carried

5. DECREASING SODIUM CONSUMPTION BY CANADIANS

Whereas it is estimated that Canadians consume on average 3092 mg of sodium a day, more than double the recommended amount of 1200 to 1500mg a day for most adults; and

Whereas our food habits are established from birth and many children consume excess sodium; and

Whereas consumption of too much sodium on a regular basis can contribute to high blood pressure; which is a major risk factor for heart attack, stroke, heart failure and kidney disease; and

Whereas it is estimated that about 80% of sodium in the diet of Canadians comes from processed food; and

Whereas in 2007 the Canadian Government created the Sodium Working Group, chaired by Health Canada, to develop a national sodium reduction strategy; therefore be it

Resolved that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy that the reduction of sodium intake be part of a national strategy to improve the health of Canadians; and be it further

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

- a) take all necessary measures to follow the recommendations of the Sodium Reduction Strategy which is to be published in 2010; and
- b) ensure that the Public Health Agency of Canada:
 - i. provides leadership in educating Canadians of the dangers of excessive intake of sodium; and
 - ii. develops a strategy and regulations for reduction of sodium in processed foods, and
- c) adopt a colour coding system to indicate the level of sodium in products.

6. Food Safety – Microorganisms

Friendly amendment to delete Resolved 2 g)

Motion #39 That the title of Resolution #6 be changed to Food Safety Inspection.
 Moved by: Beverlee McIntosh Seconded by: Carol Schweitzer **Defeated**

Motion #40 In Resolved 2e. Insert after “provide” the words sufficient numbers of.
 Moved by: Cynthia Dobrindt Seconded by: Mary Potter Carried

Motion #41 That the resolution be accepted as amended.
 Moved by: Muriel Smith Seconded by: Mary Potter Carried

6. FOOD SAFETY - MICROORGANISMS

Whereas a very serious listeriosis outbreak in August 2008, like all diseases, increased medicare expenses and caused the Government to initiate an investigation resulting in the “Report of the Independent Investigator into the 2008 Listeriosis Outbreak”; and

Whereas as of September 2009, the Government has said that it will invest \$75 million in Canada’s food safety system and act on all 57 recommendations made in the report; and

Whereas the new investment will bolster only the processed meat inspection program and not slaughter establishments, fish processing facilities, in-store inspections or border inspection points; and

Whereas the government focus is on end-product testing instead of prevention; and

Whereas there is a shift to more food industry self-policing powers with diminishing resources for government inspection; therefore be it

Resolved that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy that:

- a. strict operating procedures be followed in the cleanliness, inspection and end-product testing in all food processing plants, slaughter establishments, storage facilities and retail stores in Canada,
- b. there be a focus on prevention of food contamination, and
- c. food inspection be done by qualified Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) inspectors and/or by provincial or territorial Public Health inspectors; and be it further

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

- a) act on all the recommendations in the “Report of the Independent Investigator into the 2008 Listeriosis Outbreak”;
- b) increase the frequency of inspections in slaughter establishments, meat and fish processing plants, storage facilities and retail stores;
- c) focus on prevention by developing comprehensive food safety systems that prevent organisms from getting into food in the first place, and
- d) enforce regulations for meat imports and prosecute for non-compliance;
- e) provide sufficient numbers of qualified Canadian food Inspection Agency (CFIA) inspectors in all areas of food processing plants;
- f) educate the public as to the importance of appropriate cooking temperatures for raw meat products.

7. Urgent and Critical Need to Provide Safe and Adequate Housing and Infrastructure for Aboriginal Peoples

Friendly Amendment: In Resolution #7, Resolved 2, delete “Aboriginal” and insert First Nations, Inuit

Motion #42 That the resolution be accepted as amended.
 Moved by: Muriel Smith Seconded by: Beverlee McIntosh Carried

7. URGENT AND CRITICAL NEED TO PROVIDE SAFE AND ADEQUATE HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

Whereas the 2003 Report of the *United Nations Expert Committee in the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* urged Canada to provide special housing designed to provide safe housing for vulnerable women; and the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* refers to the rights of indigenous peoples with respect to autonomy and self government and to improvement of their economic and social conditions, including housing, for which states are required to take effective measures to ensure improvement in these conditions; and

Whereas the Assembly of First Nations declares that First Nations' housing and infrastructure is in crisis and have developed a six point plan to renew its housing, involving:

- a. sustainable funding
- b. institutional development
- c. information and research capacity
- d. financing
- e. land management
- f. human resources' and

Whereas neither the long term nor annual funding provided by the Government of Canada has resulted in sufficient, safe and sanitary housing and infrastructure; therefore, be it

Resolved that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy that First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples be provided as a matter of urgency, sufficient, safe, healthy housing and infrastructure such as access to roads, clean drinking water and sanitation; and be it further

Resolved that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to work with First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples to develop and implement plans for funding housing and infrastructure construction without delay, and to provide sufficient funding and support to ensure that the housing:

- a. is supported by the necessary infrastructure
- b. is of sufficiently high quality to ensure healthy living
- c. is sufficiently plentiful to eliminate overcrowding,
- d. takes into account the special needs of vulnerable women and their families on reserves, and
- e. meets the standards of the National Building Code.

The vote count was increased to 241.

8. Addressing Income Inequality by Reducing Executive Salaries and Regulating Bonuses in the Banking Sector

Motion #43 In Resolution #8, delete "Addressing Income Inequality by" in the title and "in order to reduce their impact on income inequality" in Resolved 1.
Moved by: Beverlee McIntosh Seconded by: Sheila Pepper Carried

Motion #44 In Resolved 2a. delete "address the inequality of income in Canada by passing" and insert enact
Moved by: Beverlee McIntosh Seconded by: Sheila Pepper Carried

Motion #45 Delete Resolved 2b.

Moved by Beverlee McIntosh Seconded by: Sheila Pepper Carried

Motion #46 That the resolution be accepted as amended
Moved by: Muriel Smith Seconded by: Beverlee McIntosh **Defeated**

PU1. Protecting the Best Interests of Women and Children in Family Law

Motion #47 That “women” be removed in Resolved 1, 2 and Resolved 3 be deleted.
Moved by: Cynthia Dobrindt Seconded by: Beverlee McIntosh Carried

Motion #48 That discussion on PU1 be extended by 10 minutes.
Moved by: Rashmi Bhat Seconded by: Carol Schweitzer Carried

Motion #49 **That the resolution be sent back for further study.**
Moved by: Beverlee McIntosh Seconded by: Thelma McGillivray Carried

PU 2. Making Midwifery Services Available to all Who Wish to Use Them

Friendly Amendment: In Resolved 2b) delete “Canadian women who choose to use them” and insert women in Canada.

Motion #50 That the update be accepted as amended.
Moved by: Muriel Smith Carried
Abstention: Salvation Army

PU 2. MAKING MIDWIFERY SERVICES AVAILABLE TO ALL WHO WISH TO USE THEM

Whereas in 1986 and 2008, the National Council of Women of Canada passed policies promoting the development of Midwifery Services in Canada, calling for the provision of, and access to, services for all Canadian women who request it, adequate funding, legislation and regulations by relevant governments, more midwifery seats, and the recognition of foreign-trained midwives; and

Whereas the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) 1 in a recent report of a survey of Ob/Gyn Residents, and Heads of Ob/Gyn Departments in Canada's 17 medical schools across Canada has shown that the predicted shortage of maternity care providers is more severe than expected; and

Whereas two provinces and one territory have not adopted legislation for midwives to practice in their jurisdictions with the result that women in Canada do not have equal access to choice of carer and place of birth; and

Whereas in all Canadian jurisdictions that have midwifery legislation and regulations, most midwifery practices have a waiting list of women requesting their service; and

Whereas in some provinces funding restricts the number of clients that a midwife can annually accept into her practice, thus further restricting access to midwifery services; therefore be it

Resolved that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy the provision of, and access to midwifery services for all Canadian women who request it; and be it further

Resolved that the National Council of Women of Canada and the relevant provincial councils urge their respective governments to give priority to:

- a) passing the necessary midwifery legislation and regulations, and
- b) increasing the number of midwifery training seats and funded positions for practising midwives in order to make their services accessible to all women in Canada.

The session adjourned at 11:50 a.m. for the NCWCEF Luncheon

Gracia chaired the program entitled “Women and Water in the Nuclear Age”. After giving a short history of the Education Fund, Gracia introduced the guest speaker, Dorothy Goldin Rosenberg, film consultant and lecturer at Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE). She is also volunteer coordinator of Women’s Health and Environment Network. Ms Goldin Rosenberg spoke of the dangers of uranium and tritium on women’s health.

The Fourth Plenary Session began at 2:38 p.m. with Rashmi Bhat as VP of Session.

The vote count was as follows: LCWs – 11, POSs – 5, NOSs – 3, Directors & Conveners -12, Life members – 6, Individual members – 3 for a total vote count of 241.

Resolutions Continued

PU3. Nuclear Power: Inclusion of Radioactive Emissions and Waste in the National Pollutant Release Inventory

Friendly Amendment: In PU3, Resolved 1, delete “the need for” and insert that; delete “added to” and insert included in

Motion #51 In Resolved 1 after ‘released’ insert into the environment.
Moved by: Beverlee McIntosh Seconded by: Sheila Pepper Carried

Motion #52 In Resolved 2 delete the first “nuclear”.
Moved by: Beverlee McIntosh Seconded by: Sheila Pepper Carried

Motion #53 That the resolution be accepted as amended.
Moved by: Muriel Smith Carried
Abstention: Salvation Army

PU 3. Nuclear Power: Inclusion of Radioactive Emissions and Waste in the National Pollutant Release Inventory

Whereas in 1994, National Council of Women of Canada passed a policy urging the Government of Canada to continue to update the Nuclear Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI) as needed, and in 2008, urged the Government to ensure that all mining companies report their toxic unsafe pollutants to NPRI; and

Whereas the National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI) is Canada's legislated, publicly-accessible inventory of pollutant releases and transfers, but does not include radioactive substances released or generated as waste by nuclear facilities; and

Whereas releases of radioactive substances (radionuclides) from nuclear facilities have been assessed and declared "toxic" under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* (CEPA 1999) as "entering the environment in quantities or concentrations or under conditions that have or may have an immediate or long-term harmful effect on the environment or its biological diversity"; and

Whereas the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission either does not make available to the public or does not have an easily accessible way for the public to determine the amounts of radioactive substances being released or generated as waste by facilities in the entire uranium fuel chain (mining, milling, processing, power generation and waste management); and

Whereas Canadians can more easily ensure their health and safety is protected from nuclear releases and waste, if this information is collected and made publicly available through the National Pollutant Release Inventory; therefore be it

Resolved that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy that radioactive substances released into the environment or generated as waste by nuclear facilities to be included in the National Pollutant Release Inventory; and be it further

Resolved that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to include releases of radioactive substances and waste by nuclear facilities in the National Pollutant Release Inventory.

PU4. Abolition of Prostitution

Motion #54 That PU4 be referred back to the resolutions committee for rewriting.
Moved by: Karen Dempsey Seconded by: Rashmi Bhat Carried

Motion #55 To extend the discussion by 10 minutes.
Moved by Muriel Smith Carried

- Motion #56 To seek permission to withdraw referral motion.
Moved by: Karen Dempsey Seconded by: Rashmi Bhat Carried
- Motion #57 That the discussion be extended by 10 minutes.
Moved by Muriel Smith Carried
- Motion #58 That the resolution be referred to the resolutions committee for rewriting and be brought back tomorrow.
Moved by: Rashmi Bhat Seconded by: Rosemary Mallory Carried
- Motion #59 That the discussion be extended by 5 minutes.
Moved by: Muriel Smith Carried

PU 5. Ensuring the Safety of the Canadian Food Supply

- Motion #60 That PU5 be tabled to next year.
Moved by: Darla Campbell Seconded by: Rashmi Bhat Carried

It was announced that the banquet would be in the Woods Room at 7:00 p.m. Breakfast tomorrow morning will be at 7:30 a.m. and Elizabeth Hutchinson will lead an interfaith service at 8:15 a.m.

Reports Continued

Thelma McGillivray gave her Seniors report and will e-mail it after the meeting.
Mary Scott's report on the web site is in the docket.

Bill Bienia was thanked for his services as parliamentarian.

The session adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

The Banquet was held in the Woods Room beginning at 7:00 p.m. The speaker was Alexandra McKee-Bennett, researcher and advocate for public health. She spoke on "A Case Study: the Health Effects of Tritium" and the potential impacts for women and children whose drinking water source is Lake Ontario. The event was part of the NCWC Education Fund Program.

Sunday May 30

Elizabeth Hutchinson led an interfaith service at 8:15 a.m.

The Fifth Plenary session began at 9:02 a.m. with a moment of silence.
The VP of the session was Darla Campbell.

It was announced that Martha Bielish, the first female senator from Alberta in 1989 had died.

The Bring and Buy and Celebrating Women boutique will be closing at the morning break.

Mary Scott led the In Memorium and the following people were remembered:

Margaret Millmun – Local Council of Windsor

Phyllis Mortimer – Vancouver Council of Women

Emily Davies – Vancouver Council of Women

Loretta Norton – Burnaby and New Westminster Council of Women

Florence Thrupp – White Rock and District Council of Women

Virginia Burns – Toronto and Area Council of Women

Anne Sinclair – Toronto and Area Council of Women

Amy Williams – Montreal Council of Women

Edith Jacobson Low-Beer – Montreal Council of Women

Hazel Gilroy – Portage la Prairie Council of Women

The Vote Count was as follows: LCWs – 11, PCWs – 5, NOSs – 2, Directors & Conveners – 12, Life Members – 6, Individual Members – 3 for a total vote count of 231.

Resolutions Continued

Muriel Smith again chaired the resolution discussion.

PU 4. Elimination of Prostitution

Motion #61 In the rewrite of PU4, Resolved 1, delete “non-consensual sex” and insert sex in exchange for money or other considerations

Moved by: Beverlee McIntosh Seconded by: Sheila Pepper Carried

Motion #62 That the discussion be extended by 10 minutes.

Moved by: Karen Dempsey Seconded by: Mavis Moore Carried

Motion #63 Insert at the end of Resolved 2B. without criminalizing prostitutes.

Moved by: Karen Dempsey Seconded by: Rashmi Bhat Carried

Motion #64 Use eliminate throughout the resolution.

Moved by: Rashmi Bhat Seconded by: Beverlee McIntosh Carried

Motion #65 That the title be changed to Elimination of Violence in Prostitution.

Moved by: Sheila Pepper Seconded by: Rashmi Bhat **Defeated**

Motion #66 That the discussion be extended by 10 minutes.

Moved by: Carol Schweitzer Seconded by: Karen Dempsey Carried

Friendly amendment: delete the definition in Resolved 1 to read: “prostitution involving coercion and/or abuse be eliminated”

Motion #67 That the discussion be extended by 10 minutes.
Moved by Muriel Smith Carried

Motion #68 Change the title to Elimination of Coercive, Violent and Abusive Prostitution
Moved by: Mary Potter Seconded by: Sheila Pepper Carried

Motion #69 That the resolution be accepted as amended.
Moved by: Muriel Smith Seconded by: Rosemary Mallory Carried

PU 4 ELIMINATION OF COERCIVE, VIOLENT AND ABUSIVE PROSTITUTION

Whereas the National Council of Women of Canada adopted as policy in 2001 “Prostitution and Trafficking in Women and Children”, reiterating NCWC policy (1983) that prostitutes should not be criminalized for soliciting except adults soliciting from minors; and

Whereas prostitution is a form of male violence that sexually exploits women and children; and

Whereas prostitution is a product of, and contributes to, gender inequality; and

Whereas eradication of prostitution is necessary to achieving equality for all women; and

Whereas prostitution is the leading cause of the domestic and global human trafficking of women and youth; therefore be it

Resolved that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as further policy that prostitution involving coercion and/or abuse be eliminated; and be it further

Resolved that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Federal, Provincial, Territorial and Municipal governments of Canada:

- a) to provide a full range of social and economic services and support systems, to ensure that prostitutes have realistic options to exit prostitution, and
- b) to eliminate the procurement of prostitution, wherever it may occur, including through the internet or other electronic means, without criminalizing prostitutes.

Arlene Draffin Jones announced that \$1005 had been collected in donations at the NCWCDO AGM.

The vote count after the break was 219.

Constitution Committee

Marjorie Windeler presented the proposed changes to the NCWC By-Laws and Standing Rules

Changes to By-Laws:

Article III – Membership, Section 1: Composition A. Local Councils of Women

- (i) LCWs shall consist of individuals and at least three (3) organizations of women, or of women and men, whose object, policy and principles are in harmony with those of NCWC.

Article III – Membership, Section 1: Composition B. Provincial Councils of Women

- (i) PCWs shall consist of at least three (3) organizations, including existing LCWs and NCWC Study Groups and LOSs, or Provincially Organized Societies (POSs) whose object, policy and principles are in harmony with those of NCWC.

Motion #70 That the changes to the By-Laws be accepted.

Moved by: Marjorie Windeler Carried

Changes to Standing Rules:

Bullets have been removed and replaced with lettering or numbering.

Article III, Section 1- change to read Members and Method of Federating

Article III, Section 1- add K Youth /Student Members

A Youth is defined as being between the ages of 16 and 25 inclusive. A Student is defined as a full-time student at a post-secondary institution. When a person signifies intent in becoming a Youth or Student Member of NCWC, she shall contact the NCWC Membership Convener who shall review with her the process in the Procedures Manual for becoming a Youth or a Student Member of NCWC. Upon completion of the application form and payment of \$25, the President shall acknowledge and welcome the new Individual Member at the AGM.

Article III, Section 2 – add J Youth/Student Members

- (i) Individual Members shall receive:
 - a. regular mailings;
 - b. the Newsletter;
 - c. the Resolutions Package;
 - d. Nomination and Election Packages;
 - e. Notice of the Annual Conference and AGM.
- (ii) They shall have the right to vote.

Article III, Section 2 add K. The Voting Body

The term “the Voting Body” includes all NCWC members entitled to vote

Article III, Section 4 (i) b. add after “concern”. See By-Law Article V Section 3 (iv) and (v)

- Article III, Section 4 (ii) b. After “V” delete “*Policy*”
After “By-Law” add Article and after “Section” add 3
- Article IV, Section 1 (i) after “By-Laws” delete “and” and add a comma
After “Rules” add and Procedures Manual
- Article V, Section 1 A.(i)j after “and” add all
Delete the last sentence
- Article V, Section 3 A.(v) capitalize the word “Parliament”
- Article VI, Section 1 D.(ii) add to “Administration” under “Resolution” Year Book
- Article VII, Section 2 A. (i) after “Resolutions” delete “and” and add a comma
After “Web” add and Year Book
- Article VII, Section 2 A.(ii) delete everything after ‘once’ and add ,with the exception of the term of office for the Archives Convener which is indefinite.
- Article VII, Section 2 C. add (xiii) Year Book Committee
The Year Book Committee Convener is responsible for producing the Year Book from the AGM docket each year, same to be produced and delivered to the National Office by November 1 (see Article XI Section D (i))
- Article VIII, Section 2 B. change d to read Greetings from Governor General
Add h. List of financial donors
Add s. Notice of Motion, Changes to Standing Rules and Procedures
- Article IX, Section 5 in “By March” after “The” add Nominations Convener with the help of
In “On the next working day” delete “*the National Office for*” and *the comma* after “Convener”
- Article XI, Section 1 D.(i) delete “*Message of Loyalty to her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and response*”
Change b. to read greetings from Governor General
- Article XI, Section 1 D.(i)g after “Benefactors” delete “and” and add a comma and after “NCWC” add and all financial donors
- Article XI, Section 1 D.(ii) remove (ii)

Article XI, Section 1 D.(iii) in the first sentence, after “to” delete “*all Federates, NCWC Directors, Conveners, Honorary President, Honorary Vice-Presidents, Honorary Life Members*” and add the Voting Body (iii) becomes (ii)

Article XI, Section 1 D.(iv) after “shall” add be sent a disc and (iv) becomes (iii)

Motion #71 That the changes to the Standing Rules be accepted.
Moved by: Marjorie Windeler Carried

Marjorie thanked Lynda Newson and Carol Schweitzer for their help.

New Business

Elizabeth Hutchinson mentioned that the Dunham Women’s Institute, which is celebrating its centenary, was concerned about the teaching of history in high schools. This Unit was putting forth a resolution on this topic at the AGM of the Quebec WI in May and it is hoping that this resolution will go across Canada to all WIs. Ms Hutchinson urges Provincial Councils of Women to contact their Provincial WIs and encourage them to join as the one in Manitoba has.

Beverlee McIntosh would like the nomination form clarified to indicate who is able to Nominate. Druse replied that the criteria was sent out with the form. Beverlee would like LCWs and PCWs to have a page on the NCWC website. She was informed that there already is a template available.

She would also like to see the Presidents of the Provincial Councils on the NCWC Board.

Sheila Pepper stated that in order for the members to approve the actions of the Board they need a summary of the Board minutes. The President will check the By-Laws and Robert’s Rules. Elizabeth Hutchinson stated that the Board used to send out a summary. Ms Pepper would like to know of the opportunity to go to ICW well in advance.

Brainstorming Session

Darla Campbell informed the members that the Board was planning a Sustainability Task Force to review the current and future financial operation of NCWC and develop a plan of recommendations. The financial reality is that we are borrowing more money than we are taking in as revenue and the Foundation Fund will be depleted in 4 years. Darla handed out post-its asking members to write down ideas as to how to generate more revenue, how to reduce costs and any innovative ideas. Several ideas were submitted. They will need volunteers on the task force.

Fundraising

The fundraising during the conference yielded the following results:

The poppy scarf was won by Pat Leson. Celebrating Women boutique raised \$712, Bring and Buy raised \$174 and donations for the scarf raised \$125 for a total of \$1011.

Courtesies

The President thanked Gracia Janes for her part in planning the program for the conference, and Druse Bryan and Elizabeth Hutchinson for the interfaith service. The NCWC Board planned this AGM. Winnipeg tentatively offered to host the AGM next year. Karen Dempsey announced that the schedule goes out with the directory and is posted on the website. The deadline for submitting items for the newsletter is September 15. Everyone was asked to turn in her voting paddle and name tag.

Motion #72 That the meeting be adjourned.
 Moved by: Karen Dempsey Carried

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.