

2004 RESOLUTIONS

- 04.01 Criminalize the Use of Date Rape Drugs**
- 04.02 Funding in the Non-Profit and Voluntary Sector**
- 04.03 Preventing Abuse of Women and Female Children in Polygamous
Communities**
- 04.04 Implementation of All United Nations Human Rights Conventions
Ratified by Canada**
- 04.05 Public - Private Partnerships**
- 04.06 Restricting Trans Fatty Acids in Food**
- 04.07 Rights To Same Sex Marriage**
- 04.08 Supporting Women Prisoners Through Restorative Justice**
- 04.09 Women Essential to Peace**
- 04.10 World Trade Agreements and the Non-profit Social Service
Sector**

- 04.01 EI Protecting Family Law**

04.01 CRIMINALIZE THE USE OF DATE RAPE DRUGS

Whereas the non-medical and surreptitious use of date rape drugs by rapists is a relatively new phenomenon; and

Whereas date rape drugs negatively affect the central nervous system causing disorientation, loss of memory, unconsciousness and even death; and

Whereas the number of date rape drugs is on the increase, and their non-medical surreptitious use is a serious and growing phenomenon that should be considered a crime, with these drugs recognized as weapons; and

Whereas to date there are inadequate legal penalties directed against this heinous practice, nor any adequate national educational program to alert the public to the dangerous effects of their use; therefore be it

Resolved that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy the inclusion in the Criminal Code of Canada the crime of the surreptitious use of known date rape drugs by any persons as weapons; and be it further

Resolved that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to add to the Criminal Code of Canada the crime of the non-medical and surreptitious use of currently known date rape drugs as weapons, to add other drugs having similar effects as they are developed, and to develop and or enhance national educational programs to educate the public about the dangerous and possible long-term effects of these drugs.

04.02 FUNDING IN THE NON-PROFIT AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR

- Whereas** non-profit organizations play an important role in the well-being of individuals and the community in social, health, cultural, recreational, environmental and other aspects of Canadian life and deliver services which build social capital; and
- Whereas** to function efficiently, these organizations need sufficient assured, long-term funding to maintain infrastructure and retain effective staff; and
- Whereas** in the past non-profit voluntary organizations with a proven record of community service have been able to rely on a combination of public and private funding sources that provided funding stability; and
- Whereas** in recent years government cutbacks and the move to project funding by both government and private funders have left organizations without the core funding needed for their on-going operations; and
- Whereas** in the absence of sufficient assured long-term funding, non-profit organizations divert energies away from fulfilling their important work in the community and towards searching out short-term funding sources with onerous reporting requirements, which sometimes threatens the very survival of the organization: therefore be it
- Resolved** that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy the necessity for support of government funding of the non-profit sector that will provide the stability, continuity, and predictability of funding that enables organizations to fulfill the missions for which they were created, and be it further
- Resolved** that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to:
- a) establish a method of government funding for the non-profit sector with the aim of providing greater stability, continuity and predictability by ensuring core funding to cover realistic administration costs and attract and retain effective staff;
 - b) establish guidelines for advocacy and for the services it wishes to support and fund those non-profit organizations whose mission is in accordance with these guidelines;
 - c) require reasonable and streamlined reporting from non-profit organizations; and be it further

- Resolved** That the National Council of Women of Canada urge Provincial Councils of Women to urge their provincial governments to:
- a) establish a method of government funding for the non-profit sector with the aim of providing greater stability, continuity and predictability by ensuring core funding to cover realistic administration costs and attract and retain effective staff;
 - b) establish guidelines for advocacy and for the services it wishes to support and fund those non-profit organizations whose mission is in accordance with these guidelines;
 - c) require reasonable and streamlined reporting from non-profit organizations

04.03 PREVENTING ABUSE OF WOMEN AND FEMALE CHILDREN IN POLYGAMOUS COMMUNITIES

- Whereas** a) Polygamy is a violation of section 293 of the Criminal Code of Canada;
- b) Sexual assault, having regard to section 273.1, is a violation of section 273 of the Criminal Code of Canada;
- c) Procuring or knowingly aiding in procuring a feigned marriage is a violation of section 292 of the Criminal Code of Canada;
- d) Sexual exploitation of a young person by a person in a position of authority is a violation of section 153 of the Criminal code of Canada; and
- Whereas** one or more older males have controlling authority in polygamous communities and are using such authority to make demands on women and female children for sexual and breeding purposes”; and
- Whereas** reports from women who are ex-members of polygamous communities indicate the immigration and emigration of women and female children is taking place across the Canada-United states of America border under threat to their physical and spiritual harm while proper authorities fail to act; and
- Whereas** sections 15 and 28 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* guarantees females equal protection, and benefit “before and under the law” and that “notwithstanding anything in this Charter, the rights and freedoms referred to in it are guaranteed equally to both male and female persons”, and
- Whereas** the fundamental freedom of conscience and religion as set out in section 2 (a) of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, often cited as a defence or reason not to intervene to help these female children, is subject to section 1 of the said Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms which states: “The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees the rights and freedoms set out in it subject only to such reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society; and
- Whereas** polygamy has already been condemned as a contravention of women’s equality rights by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights under the document entitled the Convention of the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), such document having been ratified by the Government of Canada on October 18, 2002: therefor be it

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

- a) polygamy in Canada;
- b) the immigration and emigration of women and female children for sexual and breeding purposes;
- c) the abuse of women and children in polygamous communities; and be it further

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

- a) improve policies and practises so as to prevent immigration and emigration of female children for sexual and breeding purposes under the pretext of “celestial marriages”;
- b) encourage all provinces to enforce the relevant sections of the Criminal Code of Canada so as to end polygamy in Canada and to immediately prevent the abuse of female children in what are presently polygamous communities;
- c) take all steps necessary to ensure the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) having been ratified, is complied with in Canada, and to encourage other nations to do the same;
- d) ensure the protection, rights and freedoms of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms are available so as to end polygamy in Canada and to immediately prevent the abuse of women and female children in what are presently polygamous communities; and be it further

RESOLVED that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the International Council of Women to vigilantly pursue action against the abuse of women and female children in polygamous communities world-wide; and be it further

RESOLVED that the National Council of Women of Canada urge all Local and Provincial Councils to:

- a) alert authorities (as required by law) to possible cases of abuse in their own communities; and
- b) encourage letter writing campaigns by individual citizens to all levels of government drawing attention to the plight of women and female children subjected to polygamous practises, and urge that the Criminal Code of Canada relevant to polygamy be enforced; and
- c) to offer support to other organizations dealing with this issue consistent with NCWC policy .

04.04 IMPLEMENTATION OF ALL UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTIONS RATIFIED BY CANADA

Whereas Canada has long supported the original 1948 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and

Whereas Canada has signed and later ratified a wide range of United Nations Human Rights Conventions, which spell out specific Human Rights norms applied to a wide range of issues, among which the most relevant to the women and children of Canada are the :

- Convention of Political and Civil Rights, signed 1966, ratified 1976
- Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, signed 1966, ratified 1976
- Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women signed 1980, ratified 1981;
- Convention on the Rights of the Child, signed 1990, ratified 1991; and

Whereas women and children have a particular interest in the evolution and implementation of Human Rights norms, recognizing that until 1993, their Human Rights were ignored by the United Nations Human Rights machinery as falling primarily in the “private” sphere of life and therefore beyond the purview of the United Nations; and

Whereas non-governmental organizations, especially those with consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to which the United Nations Human Rights machinery is accountable, bear a special responsibility to persuade their governments to live up to their United Nations Human Rights commitments; and

Whereas Canadian, provincial and territorial Human Rights Codes currently do not cover all of the recommended grounds for discrimination included in the UN Declaration on Human Rights (race, colour, sex, language, age, sexual orientation, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status) and

Whereas the Councils of Women will be more effective in securing implementation of Human Rights for all Canadians if they work with other equality-seeking organizations; therefore be it

Resolved that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy:
a) support for speedier implementation of all the Human Rights Conventions and Declarations that have been signed and ratified by Canada; (Convention of Political and Civil Rights, Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Convention on the Elimination of

all forms of Discrimination Against Women and Convention on the Rights of the Child); and

- b) inclusion of all the same grounds for discrimination as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights ((race, colour, sex, language, religion, sexual orientation, age, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, without distinction as to political, jurisdictional or international status) in all its legislation and policy, particularly that covering the Canadian Human Rights Commission; and

- Resolved** that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to
- a) give urgency and primacy to legislation and policies that protect and promote all human rights Canada has endorsed through ratification of United Nations Human Rights Declarations and Conventions; (Convention of Political and Civil Rights, Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women and Convention on the Rights of the Child);and
 - b) include in that legislation and in those policies, particularly in that covering the Canadian Human Rights Commission, all of the same grounds for discrimination listed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (race, colour, sex, language, religion, sexual orientation, age, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, without distinction as to political, jurisdictional or international status); and be it further

Resolved that all Provincial, Territorial and Local Councils of women give the same recommendations to their respective governments with regard to their human rights codes; and be it further

Resolved that the National Council of Women of Canada coordinate with other human rights/equality-seeking organizations in their efforts to secure all human rights for all Canadians.

04.05 PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS P3S

- Whereas** some governments in Canada are looking towards public-private partnerships (P3s) to meet the cost of new public infrastructure; and
- Whereas** depending on specific contracts, P3s allow private investors to design, build and own public infrastructure, which they then rent to the public sector, with payments assured from government tenants and profits going to private investors; and
- Whereas** P3s may also allow for the operation of facilities by the private investors; and
- Whereas** private ownership means that there is concern that operational decisions affecting patient care may be controlled by investors' bottom line rather than by professional medical staff; and
- Whereas** experience in the United Kingdom and the United States has shown that services may suffer, as for example the number of beds being cut and staff budgets reduced; and
- Whereas** private financing will cost the taxpayer more in the long run, because of the need for investor profits, and because of the higher cost of borrowing for private investors as compared with the cost of government borrowing as pointed out by Lewis Auerbach, former Director in the office of the Auditor General of Canada, and confirmed by numerous studies arising out of British and United States experience; therefore be it
- Resolved** that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy that public-private partnerships (P3s) for public infrastructure, particularly for Health Care and Educational Institutions, be accepted only after careful and open examination by the Government of Canada; and be it further
- Resolved** that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to examine the impact of public-private partnerships (P3s), especially for Health Care and Educational Institutions, and advise the public of their findings before proceeding with further development of such arrangements and that P3s be rejected unless significant benefit and improvement to service delivery can be demonstrated; and be it further
- Resolved** That the National Council of Women of Canada request its Local and Provincial Councils of Women to adopt as policy that public-private partnerships (P3s) for public infrastructure, particularly for Health Care and Educational Institutions be accepted only after careful examination by all relevant levels of government.

04.06 RESTRICTING TRANS FATTY ACIDS IN FOOD

- Whereas** trans fatty acids are produced when liquid oil is changed into a solid fat such as margarine, a process called partial hydrogenation; and
- Whereas** trans fatty acids cause many health problems such as raising the levels of low density lipoproteins (bad cholesterol), and lowering the levels of high density lipoproteins (good cholesterol) increasing the risk of coronary heart disease; and
- Whereas** Health Canada is proposing to label foods as to trans fatty acid content, but this leaves many foods that should be avoided and some that won't be labeled such as fried fast food, donuts and baked goods; and
- Whereas** in Denmark, trans fatty acids in oils and fats, including oils and fats in processed foods (as of December 2003), are restricted to two (2) percent; therefore be it
- Resolved** that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy restricting trans fatty acids in oils and fats, including oils and fats in processed foods, to less than two (2) percent; and be it further
- Resolved** that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to restrict the amount of trans fatty acids in oils and fats, including oils and fats in processed foods, to less than two (2) percent.

04.07 RIGHTS TO SAME SEX MARRIAGE

- Whereas** the issue of same sex marriage has become a priority political issue, spurred by the court rulings in BC, Quebec and Ontario that denying the right to same sex marriage is discriminatory and unconstitutional; and
- Whereas** the National Council of Women of Canada has a diverse membership whose opinion on this issue is similarly diverse; and
- Whereas** the choice is to ignore the issue or to wrestle with it to find the over-riding principles that can be collectively supported; and
- Whereas** the usual way for differences of opinion among the members to be resolved is through the resolution process whereby, after deliberation, members are free to accept, reject or amend the resolution; and
- Whereas** with growing understanding of the nature of sexuality and the respective roles of nature and nurture, and with the recognition that the role of the state is to recognize the contract two citizens wish to make to live together as a couple, to bear children or not, or to adopt or foster children, or utilize reproduction technology, and when there are children, to raise them in a loving and supportive environment; and
- Whereas** there is a role for spiritual organizations, should the individuals involved so choose, to offer or deny their particular forms of blessing to the spiritual and emotional aspects of the unions; therefore be it
- Resolved** that the National Council of Women of Canada, in recognition of the diversity of belief in Canada, the human rights of all, the constitutional forbidding of all forms of discrimination, and the importance of supporting stable, loving families, adopt a policy in support of civil rights to marriage; and be it further
- Resolved** that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to proceed with legislation to confirm the civil right of all persons to enter into marriage to the exclusion of all others, and continue to affirm the right of individuals to select as well the blessing of the religious community of their choice, and the right of such religious institutions to offer or deny their blessings in accordance with their beliefs and traditions.

04.08 SUPPORTING WOMEN PRISONERS THROUGH RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Whereas in 2000, Canada was successful in introducing a resolution at the United Nations (UN) in New York entitled "*Basic Principles on the Use of Restorative Justice Programmes in Criminal Matters*", and in 2002 achieving consensus support for a Declaration of these principles at the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna; and

Whereas Restorative Justice treats criminal offences as against the state (or in Canada, the Crown), to be dealt with not so much by punishment as by processes that promote healing, reparation and restoration for both the offender and the victim; and

Whereas some progress has been made since the release of the Arbour Report in 1996 – The Commission of Inquiry into certain Events at the Prison for Women in Kingston; and

Whereas these basic principles governed the approach taken by the National Council of Women of Canada in Policy 88.17EM on Sentencing Reform; therefore be it

Resolved that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy full support for the United Nations document entitled "*Basic Principles on the Use of Restorative Justice Programmes in Criminal Matters*"; and be it further

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

- a) reaffirm its support for the "*Basic Principles on the Use of Restorative Justice Programmes in Criminal Matters*" and to provide adequate funds to implement Restorative Justice in the Federal Corrections System; and
- b) urge the Provincial and Territorial Governments to adopt support for the "*Basic principles on the Use of Restorative Justice Programmes in Criminal Matters*" and to provide adequate funding for its implementation in the provincial correctional system; and be it further

Resolved that the National Council of Women of Canada request its Local and Provincial Councils of Women to urge their respective governments to adopt support for the "*Basic Principles on the Use of Restorative Justice Programmes in Criminal matters*" and to provide adequate funding for its implementation.

04.09 WOMEN'S ROLE IN BUILDING PEACE

- Whereas** International Council of Women Resolution 11.04, WOMEN, PEACE and SECURITY adopted in Perth Australia, states ICW support for increased representation of women at all decision-making levels, urges the United Nations Secretary general to implement the strategic plan of action (A/49/587) calling for an increase in the participation of women at decision-making levels in conflict resolution and peace processes, and also urges National Councils to press their respective governments to ensure that gender mainstreaming issues are accounted for in all conflict resolution, peacekeeping, peacemaking and post conflict reconstruction as stated in the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325; and
- Whereas** United Nations Security Council Resolution #1325, passed on October 31, 2000, was the first time the role of women in peace building had been acknowledged by that body; and
- Whereas** women and children represent the largest percentage of civilian casualties of international and inter-state conflict; and
- Whereas** the particular skills and perspectives of women derived from their different cultural and social experiences are desperately needed in creating and implementing peaceful solutions to conflict; and
- Whereas** women in the international sphere as in the cultural and social sphere have been traditionally excluded from public decision making, or relegated to invisible support roles behind the scenes; therefore be it
- Resolved** that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy that women be included in creating and implementing peaceful solutions to conflict; and be it further
- Resolved** That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to:
- a) continue to support Canada's implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, Women, Peace and Security;
 - b) provide sufficient funding to further its work and facilitate regular meetings and consultations, including with Non-Governmental Women's Organizations in Canada towards fully implementing UN Resolution 1325, and to encourage and facilitate implementation in other countries;
 - c) provide opportunities in the conflict resolution processes to incorporate women's voices and representation with a view to:

- i. preventing armed conflicts,
- ii. facilitating an early end to conflicts,
- iii. assisting humanitarian operations and reconstruction processes
- iv. protecting women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse,
- v. working towards ensuring that at least 50% of the participants in the processes are women; and be it further

Resolved That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to provide regular reports to the Canadian public on the number of women's groups consulted and represented in negotiations, official delegations and committees in the government's work on UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

04.10 WORLD TRADE AGREEMENTS AND THE NONPROFIT SOCIAL SERVICES SECTOR

Whereas until it was cancelled in 1994, the Canada Assistance Plan (CAP) covered the cost of at least 25% of provincial social services, delivered exclusively by the government or non-profit sector; and

Whereas large for profit corporations are steadily expanding their social service business in Canada, and while there is considerable variation between provinces, there has been a significant growth in the private sector for-profit delivery of social services since the abolition of CAP, in large part due to the movement away from the core-funding model by governments to competitive contract funding; and

Whereas research shows that non-profit organizations offer a superior, and in the long term cheaper, delivery of social services to Canadians than do for-profit organizations; and

Whereas the Government of Canada in signing the Voluntary Sector Initiative Agreement has, by implication, an obligation to ensure that new international trade and investment agreement obligations are in accordance with the needs of a healthy and vibrant voluntary sector; and

Whereas under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) social services have not been explicitly listed, which has helped protect them from trade challenges to date, but in the light of the mixed delivery and funding arrangements for health and social services, a trade challenge under NAFTA could well be successful, should the Federal Government show a preference for non-profit services in future; therefore be it

Resolved that the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) accept as policy that trade agreements need to protect the non-profit sector delivery of social services from encroachment by the private sector; and be it further

Resolved that National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to ensure that trade agreements protect the non-profit sector delivery of social services from encroachment by the private sector by allowing special tax status, grants and subsidies and preferential contracting regimes that favour non-profits and that trade agreements do so by:

- a) negotiating more explicit reservation for non-profit services under the North American Free Trade Agreements (NAFTA);
- b) continuing a policy of not listing social services under the General Agreement on Trade and Services (GATS); and

- c) negotiating an explicit reservation for non-profit services under General Agreement on Trade and Services (GATS); and
- d) involving the non-profit social service and health sector in present and future negotiations.

UPDATES

- 04.01UP Balancing Protection against International Terrorism and the Protection of Civil Rights**
- 04.02UP Cancellation of the Unsustainable Debt of less Developed Countries**
- 04.03UP Rights to Food: Food Security for all Canadians**
- 04.04UP Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement**
- 04.05UP Nuclear/Energy/Future**

04.01UP BALANCING PROTECTION AGAINST INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND THE PROTECTION OF CIVIL RIGHTS

Whereas in 2002 the National Council of Women of Canada passed Resolution 02.1 called "*Balancing of protection against international terrorism and the protection of civil rights*"; and

Whereas there is currently alleged to be in use by the Government of Canada an administrative practice, not supported by a law of parliament, of issuing Security Certificates signed by the Immigration Minister and Solicitor General whereby a landed immigrant can be picked up and deported without knowing what the charges are or where the charges came from; and

Whereas this practice does not appear to have a balance of protection of an individual's civil rights with the protection against international terrorism called for in NCWC Resolution 02.1; and

Whereas current National Council of Women of Canada policy continues to call for a balance between measures to protect the security of citizens with the need to protect their civil rights; therefore be it

Resolved that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy the recognition of the need for a balance between the administrative use of Security Certificates and other instruments used to protect the Canadian Public against terrorism and the parallel need for the protection of the individual's right to due process and fair treatment under the law that is, the right to know the charges, their origin, knowledge of the process by which a deportation is to be issued, and the right to appeal before any deportation is carried out; and be it further

Resolved that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to ensure that when Security Certificates and other instruments are being used to protect Canada and Canadians from potential acts of terrorism that parallel protection of the individual's right to due process and fair treatment under the law, that is, the right to know the charges, their origin, knowledge of the process by which a deportation is to be issued, and the right to appeal before any deportation is carried out.

04.02UP CANCELLATION OF THE UNSUSTAINABLE DEBT OF LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

- Whereas** in 1999 (99.2EM) the National Council of Women of Canada stated its support for the cancellation by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank of the unsustainable debt of the poorest, less developed countries; urged that conditions for debt remission set by Structural Adjustment programmes include increased consideration of the effect of those repayment conditions on people and on the environment; and
- Whereas** this existing policy has not been deemed strong enough to permit the National Council of Women of Canada to address government with sufficient conviction and force to encourage complete cancellation of debts; and
- Whereas** despite the creation in 1996, by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB,) of the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative, with the objective of reducing the debts of these countries to sustainable levels, the debts have been minimally reduced and have increased spending on education, health and social services by an average of only 12.4%; and
- Whereas** despite the promise in 1999 at the KOLN Summit by the Group of Seven industrial countries (G7) of one billion for debt reduction, conditional on the implementation of Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) and forced privatization of public assets and social programmes, very little of the money has been delivered; and
- Whereas** despite the promise in 2002 at the G8 Summit in Kananaskis of that same \$1 billion, only about one third of the amount promised had actually been delivered by March 2003, and SAPs continue to serve the interests of creditors at the expense of the development of a sustainable local economy and have a profound negative effect on local women; and
- Whereas** the IMF has gold reserves of US\$37.5 billion and the WB has loan loss provisions of US\$4.1 billion and US\$22.2 billion in retained earnings on its books; and
- Whereas** failure to cancel debt has an enormous effect on the lives and health of millions of poor people in less developed countries; therefore be it

- Resolved** that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt in principle:
- a) support for the cancellation of 100% of unsustainable debt of all low income less developed countries with democratically elected governments; and
 - b) an end to the imposition of Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs) and the forced privatization of public assets and social programmes as a condition for receiving debt cancellation; and
 - c) the need for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to use some of its gold reserves and the World Bank (WB) to use some of its loan loss reserves and retained earnings to pay the costs of the cancellation of unsustainable debt; and
 - d) the need for the Government of Canada to support and co-operate with initiatives that will lead to the cancellation of the illegitimate debts of all less developed countries with democratically elected governments; and
 - e) the need for an international body to investigate and recover money from persons previously in positions of authority and restore it to the nation from which it was taken; and be it further

- Resolved** that NCWC urge the Government of Canada to work for the following:
- a) the cancellation of 100% of unsustainable debt of all low income less developed countries with democratically elected governments ; and
 - b) an end to the imposition of Structural Adjustment Programs and the forced privatization of public assets and social programmes, so detrimental to local women, as a condition of receiving debt cancellation; and
 - c) the delivery of promised money, and the use of some of its gold reserves by the IMF and some of its loan loss reserves and retained earnings by the WB to pay the costs of the cancellation of unsustainable debt; and be it further

Resolved NCWC urge the Government of Canada to support initiatives that will lead to the cancellation of the unsustainable debts of all low income less developed countries with democratically elected governments.

04.03UP RIGHT TO FOOD: FOOD SECURITY FOR ALL CANADIANS

Whereas the United Nations *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948), which Canada adopted, refers to basic needs as a human right: "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care ..." (article 25); and

Whereas the National Council of Women of Canada in Resolution 75.5 supported the recommendations of the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization's (UN FOA) Rome Declaration that everyone has a "right to food" and in Resolution 77.10 supported the right of every Canadian to be well nourished, with special action being required for "Nutritionally vulnerable people ... pregnant women, nursing mothers, infants, teenagers, elderly, Indians, Eskimos (now First Nations, Metis and Inuit) and people on low or fixed income"; and

Whereas Canada ratified the UN's Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 1976, which calls for the recognition of the "fundamental right of everyone to be free of hunger" and the Rome Declaration on World Food Security (1996) which set the goal "to ensure food security for all with an immediate aim of reducing the number of undernourished people in the world by half by the year 2015";

Whereas there is increasing dependence on and use of food banks by Canadians; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Council of Women of Canada reiterate and adopt as policy the following:

- a) the World Food Summit definition: *"Food Security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life."*
- b) every Canadian has a "right to food" and to be well nourished,
- c) that the term "nutritionally vulnerable people" be extended to include all Canadians; and be it further

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

- a) to ensure food security for all Canadians and
- b) to work with the provincial and territorial governments on an urgent basis to take immediate steps to achieve universal food security for all Canadians; and be it further

RESOLVED that the National Council of Women of Canada request that Provincial and Local Councils of Women urge their respective governments to work on a fair, equitable and environmentally sustainable food distribution system that meets the needs of the consumer and the producer, supported by social programs and regulatory laws and remedies that guarantee citizens the means to acquire adequate nutritional food; and

RESOLVED that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the International Council of Women to request their member National Councils of Women to urge their respective governments to work on a fair, equitable and environmentally sustainable food distribution system that meets the needs of the consumer and the producer, supported by social programs and regulatory laws and remedies that guarantee citizens the means to acquire adequate nutritional food.

04.04UP GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT-

- Whereas** 1998.2 NCWC Policy urged the Government of Canada, to:
- a) Not open the Great Lakes Water Quality for re-negotiation,
 - b) Ensure that the commitments made in 1978 and the 1987 Protocol to fulfil the vision of the Agreement for a clean and healthy Great Lakes ecosystem are met, and
 - c) Recognise the commitments of Annex 2 of the Agreement on Remedial Action Plans (RAPs) for Areas of Concern (AOC) and for Lake-wide Management Plans (LAMPS); and
- Whereas** funding and monitoring of the Great Lakes Quality Agreement and the 1978 and 1987 Protocols have been unpredictable and limited, and only partial solutions have been implemented over the past thirty years, with some limited success; and
- Whereas** given the new and growing threats to the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence eco systems long term sustainability e.g. a predicted widening and/or deepening of the St. Lawrence Seaway, increased amounts of toxins, the Lake Erie 'dead zone', and invasive species, there is a need for a strengthening of the Agreement and for a comprehensive long term plan for its restoration; and
- Whereas** The International Joint Commission (IJC) has called for swift action to protect the Great Lakes from the onslaught of aquatic invasive species from ballast water; and
- Whereas** Basin government leaders are finally considering a significant investment in Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River restoration, and environmental groups who have worked closely with IJC and United States and Canadian governments to implement the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and Protocols, are developing plans for the comprehensive restoration of the Great Lakes; therefore be it
- Resolved** that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy:
- a) that there be continued protection and restoration of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence ecosystem, through strong government legislation, enforced and well funded implementation of the Commitments in Annex 2 of the Agreement in Remedial Action Plans for Areas of Concern and Lake-wide Management Plans; and, a strengthened Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement through regularly updated Protocols; and

- b) support for International Joint Commission (IJC) recommendations for swift action to protect the Great Lakes St. Lawrence ecosystem from exotic species; and
- c) opposition to the widening and/or deepening of the St. Lawrence Seaway; and,
- d) support for the development of a comprehensive, long term plan to restore and improve the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence ecosystem; and be it further

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

- a) support the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, its 1978 and 1987 Protocol Commitments, and the Annex 2 Commitments on Remedial Action Plans for Areas of Concern, through funding and strong legislation and enforcement and strengthen the Agreement through new Protocols where necessary; and
- b) fund and support with legislation, the development of comprehensive long term plans to fulfill the vision of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement for a clean and healthy Great Lakes ecosystem; and,
- c) act swiftly upon the International Joint Commission's recommendations to protect the Great lakes- St. Lawrence River from invasive species; and
- d) oppose any proposals to widen or deepen the St. Lawrence Seaway.

04.05UP NUCLEAR/ENERGY/FUTURE

- Whereas** 1997 NCWC Policy urged the Government of Canada to :
- a) reject as unsafe the Atomic Energy of Canada (AECL) “concept” for the burial of high-level nuclear wastes in the Precambrian Shield ;
and
 - b) initiate a public policy debate, with broad public consultation , on the energy future of Canada, with a specific focus on the nuclear issue,
and
 - c) expend research monies on a search for safe technology to treat nuclear wastes: upgrading current nuclear site safety; and developing alternative sources of energy; and,
 - d) bring Canadian radiation standards into conformity with those adopted by the International Radiation Protection Association of 1991, while encouraging the association to improve these standards even further to reflect gender and age differences of women and children, and
 - e) do all in its power to prevent an expansion of the nuclear industry.
and,
- Whereas** the Nuclear Fuel Waste Act of 2002, dictates that the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO):
- a) find a solution to the long term disposal of high level radioactive nuclear wastes, and in doing so, to explore. burial in the Precambrian shield, storage at nuclear reactor sites, and centralized storage, either above or below ground as options, as well as other options
 - b) involve the public in discussions about these options
 - c) make its recommendations to the Government of Canada by 2005,
and
- Whereas** the NWMO is an industry controlled organization which strongly supports the burial of nuclear waste, and, this puts in doubt the independence of the NWMO recommendations to government, and
- Whereas** the many technical flaws in the original AECL proposal to bury radioactive waste in the Precambrian shield have yet to be remedied, leaving above ground storage at the safest site/s the best option, until either the burial is proven safe, or new technologies for treatment are developed,
- Whereas** there has still been no broad public consultation regarding the development of a long term energy policy for Canada, which would promote and fund alternatives to nuclear; energy efficient technologies, or energy conservation; the Government of Canada continues to actively promote

nuclear power; and new nuclear plants are being advanced as the solution to Ontario's energy crisis, by nuclear proponents, and

Whereas there has been no further investment in finding treatments for nuclear waste, and, while Canada has adopted the 1991 International Radiation Standards of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) , these are still set for a "standard" young adult male and do not reflect differences in gender, age, and the impacts on those in ill health, the impacts of low level long term exposures on workers , the general public, and the environment, and

Whereas given the importance of this issue to all Canadians, only a full joint federal/provincial environmental assessment hearing , on the full range of nuclear waste management options, with intervener funding; and then a full parliamentary debate, with a free vote on the recommendations of NWMO and the Assessment Panel, will ensure protection of public health and the environment in the very long term, and

Whereas there is still concern amongst Canadians that the federal Government will allow the importation of high level radioactive waste, or further importation of fresh reactor fuel, and Canada will become the world centre for this nuclear activity; therefore be it

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

- a) rejection of the Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) 'concept ' for burial of nuclear waste, and
- b) a broad based public policy debate on the energy future of Canada, with a specific focus on the need for alternative sources of energy, energy efficiency, and energy conservation as opposed to nuclear power, and,
- c) significant government expenditures on the search for safe technology to treat nuclear waste; upgrading current nuclear site and storage safety; and the development of alternative sources of energy, energy efficient technologies and energy conservation, and
- d) improvements in International Radiation Standards to reflect gender, age, health, long term, low- level radiation worker and general public exposure, and environmental impacts eg. air, water and soil, and
- e) a Federal/Provincial/Territorial Environmental Assessment of the NWMO recommendations, with allowance for intervener funding ; and a full parliamentary debate, with a free vote on the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) and Environmental Assessment recommendations, and

- f) a prevention of the expansion of the nuclear industry in Canada; a phase out of nuclear plants at the end of their life cycle, and. a ban on the importation of high level radioactive waste for any purpose; and be it further

Resolved

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

- a) reject the Atomic Energy of Canada limited (AECL) concept for the burial of high level radioactive waste; and
- b) initiate a broad based public policy debate on the energy future of Canada, with a specific focus on alternative sources of energy, energy efficiency, and energy conservation versus nuclear power; and
- c) make significant government expenditures on the search for a safe technology to treat nuclear waste; the upgrading of current nuclear sites and storage safety; and the development of alternative sources of energy, energy efficiency, and energy conservation; and,
- d) promote the adoption by the ICRP of standards that reflect gender, age and health, as well as long term exposures of workers and the public to low level radiation, and of the impacts of both high dose and low dose radiation on the environment. eg. air, soil, water; and
- e) ensure that there will be a full Federal/Provincial/Territorial Environment Assessment of the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) recommendations, with allowance for intervenor funding; and a full parliamentary debate, with a free vote, on the NWMO and the Environmental Assessment final recommendations; and
- f) do all that is in the government's power to prevent the expansion of the nuclear industry in Canada, encourage the Provinces and Territories to phase out the nuclear plants at the end of their life cycle; and
- g) ban the importation of high level radioactive waste and further importation of fresh reactor fuel.

EMERGING ISSUE RESOLUTION

04.01EI PROTECTING FAMILY LAW

04.01EI PROTECTING FAMILY LAW

WHEREAS the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms protects the equality of women before the law, and Canada has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); and

WHEREAS the laws of Canada and the provinces have been duly passed by democratically elected governments and (apart from certain Aboriginal laws which are recognised under duly-negotiated treaty rights predating the existence of Canada itself) must be recognised as the only laws of the land, there being no authority above these laws; and

WHEREAS it has been proposed that “Shariah Law” be adopted in Canada for dealing with family law cases; and

WHEREAS under “Shariah Law”, binding arbitration would rule on such matters as dissolving marriage, ownership of property, spousal maintenance, child custody, child support, such arbitration would undermine the rights of women and children as they presently exist in federal and provincial Law; and

WHEREAS a Muslim woman choosing to opt out of “Shariah Law” may be considered guilty of blasphemy and apostasy, and subjected to coercion and intimidation by her community; and

WHEREAS the Alternative Dispute Resolution was introduced for a variety of reasons, one of which was as a means to save court time and costs: therefore be it

RESOLVED that the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) adopt as policy :

- a) that equality for women, embedded in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, be respected in Family Law;
- b) that binding arbitration be rejected for Family Law disputes; and
- c) that no alternative systems for resolving family law disputes be allowed to compromise the rights of women and children as they presently exist in Federal, provincial and territorial Law; and
- d) the need to find savings in court time and court costs should not compromise the rights of women and children; and be it further

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

- a) respect equality for women embedded in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW);

- b) reject any form of binding arbitration in Family Law;
- c) ensure that no alternative systems for resolving family law disputes be allowed to compromise the rights of women and children as they presently exist in Federal, Provincial and Territorial Law;
- d) investigate and implement ways to save court time and costs without compromising the rights of women and children; and be it further

RESOLVED that National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) urge all Provincial Councils of Women to urge their respective governments to:

- a) respect equality for women embedded in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW);
- b) reject any form of binding arbitration in Family Law;
- c) ensure that no alternative systems for resolving family law disputes be allowed to compromise the rights of women and children as they presently exist in federal, Provincial and territorial Law;
- d) investigate and implement ways to save court time and costs without compromising the rights of women and children.