

POLICIES ADOPTED 1976

- 76.1 Satellite Communications
- 76.2 Nuclear Pollution
- 76.3 Health Problems Related to Environmental Problems
- 76.4 Homemakers and the Canada Pension Plan
- 76.5 The Human Rights Act and Affirmative Action for Employment Opportunity
- 76.6 Women and the Canadian Citizenship Act
- 76.7 No Fault Divorce
- 76.8 Bill C71
- 76.9 Income Tax Deductions for Delegates Attending Conventions of Voluntary Organizations
- 76.10 Common Studies Program
- 76.11 National Waters
- 76.12 Tax Exemption on Incomes below Minimum Poverty Levels
(Reiteration of 1970 Resolution) (Guaranteed Annual Income)
- 76.13 Canadian Human Rights Commission
- 76.14 The Aged
(Reiteration of 1975 Resolution)
- 76.15 Canada's Immigration Policy
- 76.16 Broadcast Imports

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

- 76.17EM Emergency Resolution: Scientific Research

76.1 Satellite Communications

Whereas, The impact of technology is having a profound effect on the development of fundamental human values; therefore,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada request the International Council of Women to initiate a co-ordinated investigation of the effect of international satellite broadcasting on the societal values of foreign nations, and the feasibility of the establishment of an international agency to monitor and regulate international satellite broadcasting.

76.2 Nuclear Pollution

Whereas, There are safety problems with plants and safe storage facilities and possibilities that plutonium generated in these plants could be seized and exploded by terrorists; therefore,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada request the International Council of Women to ensure that the International Atomic Energy agency and other appropriate agencies recognized by them, be empowered to set and enforce international standards for safety and pollution control devices within nuclear plants.

76.3 Health Problems Related to Environmental Problems

Whereas, Severe long term health problems result from environmental pollution caused by industrialization, including mercury poisoning; therefore,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada request the International Council of Women to obtain from the World Health Organization research information and technical advice on health problems resulting from environmental pollution caused by industrialization, including mercury poisoning with respect to:

1. Ameliorative action in industrialized countries;
2. Preventive action in developing countries; and be it further,

RESOLVED, That The International Council of Women make their findings available to National Councils for further study and

action.

76.4 Homemakers and the Canada Pension Plan

Whereas, The National Council of Women has advocated the admission of housewives to the Canada Pension Plan since 1968; and,

Whereas, There is a proposal supported by the Advisory Council on the Status of Women and the Quebec Canada Pension Plan Advisory Committee to admit housewives to the Quebec Canada Pension Plan through the process of splitting pension credits so that 50 per cent of the CPP contribution made by either husband or wife should be credited, at the time it is paid in, towards the pension build-up of the other spouse, whether or not the other spouse is in the paid labour market; and,

Whereas, The proposal for 'splitting' is in keeping with the concept of marriage as a partnership, enables a husband and wife to share jointly both the sacrifices demanded by saving for the future and the advantages of having saved, and does not depart from the earnings-related, compulsory principle of the Quebec Canada Pension Plan; therefore,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada support strongly the admission of homemakers (male or female in role reversal) to the Quebec Canada Pension Plan through the process of splitting pension contributions between spouses.

76.5 The Human Rights Act and Affirmative Action for Employment Opportunity

Whereas, Recent studies on the employment of women in Canada's federal public service have disclosed gross inequalities in opportunity for employment, pay, training, promotions, pensions and insurance; and indicate voluntary efforts to narrow the gap have not been successful;

Whereas, Other recent studies have disclosed equally serious limitations on women's employment opportunities in the private employment sector; and,

Whereas, There is a direct responsibility on government to ensure equal opportunity for women within the economy; therefore,

RESOLVED, That The Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba requests The National Council of Women of Canada to request the Government of Canada to continue to pursue within the Human Rights Act, an affirmative action program to improve the economic opportunities of women in Canada, and that this affirmative action program include the following steps;

1. To establish in each government department, agency and Crown Corporation a goals and guidelines policy, designed to bring about a greater utilization of women within the public sector within a specific time frame;
2. To establish guidelines for the private and corporate business sector to encourage a more effective utilization of women within the private sector.

76.6 Women and the Canadian Citizenship Act

Whereas, Canadian women and their children should be entitled to full equality under the Citizenship Act without qualification or limitation of any kind;

Whereas, The principle of equality for men - women in citizenship is inherent in Bill C-20 (1974) an Act Respecting Citizenship (first reading October 10, 1974); and,

Whereas, Grievous injustice continues to be perpetrated on Canadian mothers and their children born outside Canada; therefore,

RESOLVED, That the Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba urges The National Council of Women of Canada to urge the Government of Canada to give highest priority to the passage of Bill C-20, the Canadian Citizenship Act.

76.7 No Fault Divorce

Whereas, The provisions of the Criminal Code of Canada, the Divorce Act and various provincial statutes providing for the maintenance and support of wives separated from their husbands have proven inadequate;

Whereas, There is a reluctance of a spouse to disclose incidents such as battering; and,

Whereas, The Law Reform Commission of Canada has proposed the revision of the Laws pertaining to divorce; therefore,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada recommend to the Government of Canada that the Divorce Act be revised to provide, under the administration of a Unified Family Court, for divorce without the proof of fault.

76.8 Bill C71

Whereas, Bill C-71 was passed January 27, 1976, being concerned with a revision of the provisions of the Criminal Code of Canada with respect to the offence of rape; and,

Whereas, Present Criminal Code legislation related to rape does not reflect the moral and social values of the Canadian public, but continues to view rape as a sexual crime and not an assault; therefore,

RESOLVED, That The National Council of Women of Canada recommend to the Government of Canada that legislation should be further enacted to describe rape as sexual assault under the general heading of assault.

1. Various forms and degrees of sexual assault should be specified, i.e.:
 - a. Indecent assault;
 - b. Sexual assault under threat of bodily harm;
 - c. Sexual assault with bodily harm;
 - d. Assault with sexual penetration, of an orifice of the victim's body, etc.
2. That sentencing should range from six months to 20 years, depending on the degree of the assault. First offenders should be referred for psychological counselling.
3. (Sexual intercourse with a female under 14) That an offence of assault would be committed where a victim is under the age of 12 years, or where the victim is under 16 years of age and the actor is a member of the same household or a blood relative.

76.9 Income Tax Deductions for Delegates Attending Conventions of Voluntary Organizations

Whereas, The new Electoral Expenses Act entitles delegates attending political conventions to an income tax deduction for travel and accommodation; therefore,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada request the Government of Canada to give consideration to income tax deduction to delegates attending conventions of Provincial and National Voluntary Organizations, such deduction to be transferable between spouses or donor.

76.10 Common Studies Program

Whereas, There is considerable disparity in the nature and quality of the education received by Canadian children; and,

Whereas, There has been manifest in Canada a desperate ignorance of Canadian history and Canadian institutions by students at the secondary school level; therefore,

RESOLVED, That The National Council of Women of Canada request the Provincials Councils of Women to initiate action in their respective provinces for the development of a cooperative inter-provincial program of common studies of a core curriculum for students at the primary and secondary levels of education throughout Canada.

76.11 National Waters

Whereas, The waterways and water bodies of Canada are an important and valuable natural resource; and,

Whereas, Concern for environmental protection is in the national interest; therefore,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada request that the Provincial Councils of Women investigate, in conjunction with federal legislation, the legislative provisions in their respective provinces for the management, preservation and control of waterways and water bodies with a view toward the development of a coordinated federal-provincial policy for the management of national waters, and report their findings to the NCWC at annual meeting, 1977.

76.12 Tax Exemption on Incomes below Minimum Poverty Levels (Reiteration of 1970 Resolution) (Guaranteed Annual Income)

Whereas, The basic exemptions under the Income Tax Act have not been increased to take into account the increased cost of living which has resulted from inflation; and,

Whereas, The income of persons below the poverty level as defined by Statistics Canada are in many cases subject to taxation; therefore,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada request the Government of Canada to amend the Income Tax Act so that the incomes of persons below the minimum poverty levels as defined by Statistics Canada, shall be exempt from taxation.

76.13 Canadian Human Rights Commission

- Whereas,** Canada has ratified the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights;
- Whereas,** The provinces have established Human Rights Commissions; and,
- Whereas,** Many areas of life in Canada come under federal jurisdiction; therefore,
- RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada request the Government of Canada to enact and implement immediately human rights legislation to include a Human Rights Commission.
- 76.14 The Aged** (Reiteration of 1975 Resolution)
- Whereas,** In 1974 there were two million Canadians 65 years of age or older;
- Whereas,** Within 15 years there will be three million and by the end of the century eleven to twelve per cent of Canadians 65 years of age or more, indicating an increase of three per cent above the world average of nine per cent; and,
- Whereas,** New governmental and social programs will be necessary in the field of transportation, health, education, housing and social participation programs to meet the needs of these people; therefore,
- RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada request the Government of Canada to establish under the Department of National Health and Welfare a Federal Bureau of Gerontology, whose membership would be comprised of both women and men, with senior citizen participation.
- 76.15 Canada's Immigration Policy**
- Whereas,** In 1966 Canada supported an 'open-door' immigration policy, based upon economic conditions which still prevail, the strongest argument which the recent Green Paper on Immigration makes against the 1966 policy is seemingly based on social and cultural factors; and,
- Whereas,** In order:
- a. To continue to maintain the present 'open-door' immigration policy, a policy which is compatible with Canada's avowed international stance which respects the individual rights of all people, the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights and the Canadian Bill of Rights, and,
 - b. To ensure that immigration policy be programmed intensively to meet economic and labour market objectives, allowing immigration to be based on skills and the potential contribution of the immigrant to the Canadian society; therefore,
 - c. To ensure that immigration policy be programmed intensively to meet economic and labour market objectives, allowing immigration to be based on skills and the potential contribution of the immigrant to the Canadian society; therefore,
- RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada request the Government of Canada, when determining immigration policy, to give consideration to provincial and territorial priorities of manpower planning objectives and provincial and territorial plans to provide the services which immigrants may require to facilitate their integration into the larger society.
- 76.16 Broadcast Imports**
- Whereas,** (By virtue of the British North America Act) each Canadian citizen is ensured of the freedom of choice in thought, religion, work and leisure time;
- Whereas,** The federal government through Bill C5 and further through Bill C58 dictates and controls the individual's choice of television, radio and all other telecommunications available to the Canadian people;
- Whereas,** Such legislation could provide a vehicle that could be used by vested interests or governments to control and subjugate the people of Canada and deprive them of their inherited freedoms; and,
- Whereas,** The restriction of foreign television or radio programs would have the same effect as the censorship of foreign books and periodicals and limit the right of the individual to freedom of thought and decision, and the removal of competition could weaken the incentive for Canadian talent to produce better programs; therefore be it,
- RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to reconsider and amend legislation already passed and also to withdraw further proposed legislation regarding all broadcast imports, including satellite broadcasting, and to hold further dialogue with the Government of the United States of America and other countries to resolve in a more satisfactory way the exchange of broadcast programs between the countries.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

76.17EM Emergency Resolution: Scientific Research

- Whereas,** Scientific Research funding is inadequate to maintain current projects in medical research, thus causing uncertainty

and hardship to the whole research community;

Whereas, It is essential that personnel capable of interpreting technological and scientific advances developed in any country be provided with facilities to utilize this information, where feasible, for the benefit of Canadians and all mankind;

Whereas, Many of these highly skilled persons have received their education in Canada, at some expense to the taxpayer, it is desirable that such persons be encouraged to remain in Canada by the provision of adequate opportunities in the research field; and

Whereas, Under present funding the development of new research projects cannot be undertaken; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada strongly urge the Government of Canada to increase research funding to an adequate level and to set as a priority the development of long-range policy which would encourage technological, scientific and medical research in Canada.

