

POLICIES ADOPTED 1977

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77.1 Transition from a Consumer Society to a Conserver Society

Whereas, Canadians have a responsibility in the global village; and,

Whereas, It is necessary that Canadians as individuals, their governments, institutions and industries begin the transition from a Consumer Society, preoccupied with resource exploitation, to a Conserver Society; therefore,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to continue to provide information, the leadership necessary and financial resources to work toward better conservation of natural resources.

77.2 Decade for Women

Whereas, The provisional agenda in the World Conference IWY, Mexico City, June 19 to July 2, 1975, underlined the status of women in society, actual, potential and ideal, and the obstacles to be overcome in attaining equal rights, opportunities and responsibilities;

Whereas, The 22 governments and 22 non-governmental agencies participating in the World Conference agreed in principle to the adoption of the World Plan of Action during the proclaimed United Nations Decade for Women, with the Canadian Government as a strong proponent;

Whereas, A Decade for Women program 1976-1986, designed to continue the work done by International Women's Year and to provide guidance and goals to work toward, was adopted by the Twenty-sixth Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women which met in Geneva in September, 1976 and included two Canadian delegates;

Whereas, This United Nations Commission will proceed with the Decade for Women Program in two stages, with the first stage concluding in 1980 with a World Conference review;

Whereas, It is manifest that action at the national level is crucial in developing criteria for achievement of specified goals and targets within the Decade;

Whereas, Recognizing that women, as a major group, are affected by all societal decisions, it is the immediate task of government departments to provide the impact of existing and proposed programs in Canada which will identify a broad assessment of policies as the basis for choice among alternative types of reforms; and,

Whereas, The vital link between research and policy lies within the channels of mass communication, and it is within the power of government to develop a communications strategy to increase and improve participation of women in the economic life of this country; therefore,

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

1. Establish and communicate a target outline, both for the Decade and for the half decade World Conference in 1980;
2. Draw on women as individuals or as groups in the policy formulations; and,
3. Draw on resources and expertise available within non-governmental agencies as a constant monitor of programs under consideration to ensure an efficient medium in meeting established objectives.

77.3 The Right of the Canadian Public in Information Concerning the Public Business

Whereas, The terms of reference for the Canadian Parliamentary Joint Committee on Regulations and Statutory Instruments authorized the study of the question of freedom of information, and Bill C-225, a private Member's Bill, both expired on October 12, 1976, with the close of the first Session of the thirtieth Federal Parliament; and,

Whereas, Government in a parliamentary democracy has a responsibility to inform citizens of public businesses, taking into account protection of the national interest, security of the state and protection against violation of personal privacy (Human Rights Act); therefore,

RESOLVED, That The National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to reach early agreement on the best methods to improve public access to government information and enact legislation to implement these methods.

77.4 Labour Settlement

Whereas, Canada stands second in the world in the number of work days per capita lost due to strikes, many of which are in the public sector;

Whereas, Different techniques for the protection of the worker and the public, beyond the adversarial concept, need to be developed; therefore,

RESOLVED, That The National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to encourage:

1. Settlement of strikes in the public sector by the Final End Selection Method when negotiations have ceased to make progress;
2. Management and labour to work toward the development of co-management principles and techniques; and,
3. The attendance of both management and labour leaders at international economic conferences as observers, so they may become aware of Canada's position as shifts and changes develop in world economics.

77.5 Respect for Humanitarian Provisions of Helsinki's "Final Act" Agreement

Whereas, On August 1, 1975, in Helsinki, Finland, 35 nations concluded the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe which concerned:

- 1) Ratification of Europe's post-war boundaries;
- 2) Guarantees of non-interference in the internal affairs of the Soviet bloc; and,
- 3) Freer trade between the Soviet bloc and the European Common Market;

Whereas, In exchange for the above, the NATO countries, including Canada, negotiated for the acceptance of a proposal known subsequently as the Helsinki "Final Act" Agreement which:

- 1) Recognized rights of minorities;
- 2) Promised freer cultural exchanges;
- 3) Promised a humanitarian way to reunify separated families;
- 4) Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms including freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief; and,
- 5) Equal rights and self-determination of peoples; and,

Whereas, The Helsinki "Final Act" Agreement concurs with the human rights provisions in such documents as the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as well as the 1936 Constitution of the USSR; therefore,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to continue to call on all nations signatory to the Helsinki "Final Act" Agreement to carry out humanitarian provisions contained therein.

77.6 Land – Use Planning for Canada

Whereas, Only about 8 per cent of the land mass in Canada is occupied farmland;

Whereas, We are losing farmland (particularly in the top three classes in the Canadian Land Inventory) at the rate of approximately 89,000 Hectares (220,000 acres) per year; and,

Whereas, This loss of farmland occurs without economic consideration for future food and feed stocks, and decisions are not based on rational, land-use policies; therefore,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada request the Government of Canada through constitutional means of federal and or provincial, territorial and municipal governments to ensure our future production of agricultural products, by creating rational zoning for land with high potential for agricultural production, based on the Canada Land Inventory.

77.7 Shoreline Management Act

Whereas, The shore environment is one of the most productive natural systems known and is a unique and irreplaceable national resource;

Whereas, Human settlements are now imposing insupportable pressures on this fragile and finite resource; and,

Whereas, It is imperative that conflicting demands of commerce, industry, housing, recreation and waste disposal be reconciled in such a way that full use of shoreline resources are realized without destroying the natural processes required to renew them; therefore,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada, in co-operation with the provincial, territorial and municipal governments, to formulate a National Shoreline Management Act to assure for all coastal and inland waters and adjacent uplands, their best use, protection, restoration and preservation for future generations.

77.8 Upgrading the Quality of Television Programming for Youth

Whereas, The youth of today are our most precious heritage and we must accept our share of responsibility for the quality of life in the world they will inherit from us;

Whereas, There is a direct and complex relationship between the portrayal of television violence and the increasingly violent and exploitive nature of our society; and,

Whereas, The pollution of the mind and spirit is at least as destructive as pollution of the physical environment and because of the intrusive nature of television; therefore,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada request the Government of Canada to urge the CRTC to give priority to the development and implementation of high standards of entertainment directed at youth, and concern be expressed regarding the increasing violence and exploitive nature of present television programming.

77.9 Young Offenders Bill

Whereas, The Government of Canada has submitted a new proposed Young Offenders Bill to replace the Juveniles Delinquents Act;

Whereas, Public interest input has been invited by the Government on this vital matter; and,

Whereas, There is some disparity of action and philosophy among the provinces in respect to administration of the Federal Act; therefore,

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

1. Seek co-operation of the provinces to establish a uniform age category from twelve years to the eighteenth birthday; and,
2. Require parents or guardians to be involved at all stages of the child's experience with the law; failing this, a relative or responsible person can be chosen to act in the parents' place.

Note: The National Council of Women of Canada has alerted its Provincial and Local Councils to study the proposed Bill, monitor its first reading, and the Bill's progress through Parliament. Such surveillance is germane to the Bill, because the administration of the services will be the responsibility of each province. Contacts will be initiated by the Provincial Councils with the Provincial Solicitors-General.

77.10 Nutrition Canada

Whereas, 'Nutrition Canada' a national survey undertaken for the federal Department of Health and Welfare, released in November 1973, and the provincial publications released in 1975 have documented several basic findings relating to the state of Canadian health:

1. Continuing lack of public awareness, interest and knowledge concerning nutrition and physical fitness;
2. A widespread lack of communication, co-operation and co-ordination among the various agencies engaged in the study of health; and,

3. The right of every Canadian to be well nourished; therefore,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada request the Government of Canada to place more emphasis on action programs for the more nutritionally vulnerable groups; including pregnant women, nursing mothers, infants, teenagers, the elderly, Indians and Eskimos, and people on low incomes and fixed incomes.

77.11 Natural Methods of Family Planning

Whereas, Many women cannot or do not wish to use or participate in the use of artificial methods of birth control; and,

Whereas, Natural methods for family planning are of great importance to women, but more research and study are needed into ways and means of perfecting the use of these methods; therefore,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to provide funds for the study of means of determining the time of ovulation in fertile women and to make available through any government-funded family planning service, whatever information on natural family planning methods are at present known, as well as information regarding potential Health hazards of all artificial birth controls.

77.12 Heritage

Whereas, It is deemed desirous to encourage recognition of our heritage;

Whereas, The designation of a "Heritage Day" and the issuing of a special postage stamp in recognition of our heritage would be deemed an appropriate manner in which to draw attention to our historical past; and,

Whereas, Canadian stamps are collectors' items throughout the world and the issuing of a special postage stamp commemorating an event from Canada's colourful past would be an effective way in which the public at large could relate to historical events of Canada; therefore,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to proclaim the third or fourth Monday in February of each year to be 'Heritage Day'; and,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to issue a special postage stamp during the month of February each year to commemorate Canada's colourful past; and further,

RESOLVED, That the postage stamp be known as Canada's Heritage Stamp and bear the words heritage stamp.

77.13 Aerosol Containers

Whereas, Many products are classified as hazardous (but regulated) are being marketed in Aerosol containers;

Whereas, It is not possible to control either the amount of the product being expelled, vaporized or shot into the air, or ventilation of the area in which these products will be used;

Whereas, The belief strongly is held among environmental agencies that a grave danger is imminent for survival of human life on earth due to build-up of aerosol propellants in the ozone layer of the atmosphere;

Whereas, Tests are under way at international levels to demonstrate proof of the hazard engendered by the use of these fluorocarbon propellants within the ozone layer; and,

Whereas, The cost incurred in packaging these products in aerosol containers is excessive as compared to conventional packaging; therefore,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada request the Government of Canada to prohibit the marketing of any product in aerosol containers which uses a propellant that is suspected of being harmful to the ozone layer.

77.14 The Safety of Food Packaging Materials

Whereas, Food is the essential ingredient of human life and its purity must be assured to the consumer; and,

Whereas, Contamination of food can occur, not only during its harvesting, processing and transporting to the marketplace, but also from packaging, therefore,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada request the Government of Canada to enforce regulations under the Food and Drug Act, which prohibit the use of those packaging materials which are not fully tested and proven safe for use in the commercial packaging of food.