

POLICIES ADOPTED 1978

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78.1 Income Tax Deductions for Volunteers

Whereas, Voluntary Organizations depend not only upon cash donations but also on the services of volunteers who donate their time;

Whereas, Expenses incurred in providing volunteer services may deter some individuals from providing that service; and,

Whereas, Under the present income tax regulations, “out-of-pocket” expenses incurred in providing volunteer services cannot be deducted for income tax purposes; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada request the Government of Canada to allow substantiated “out-of-pocket” expenses (i.e. day care, transportation, meals) incurred by the taxpayer, or the taxpayer’s dependents, in providing volunteer services to a voluntary organization, but not repaid by that organization, to be an allowable tax credit as a charitable contribution for income tax purposes.

78.2 Acid Rain

Whereas, Slowly increasing atmospheric deposition over several decades of pollutants, the most abundant of which is SO₄, when associated with H₂, together forming sulphuric acid, has been well documented to have caused irreversible ecological damage in waters with low buffering capacity in Precambrian Shield areas of Canada, Scandinavia and the U.S.A.; and,

Whereas, The majority of SO₂ products deposited in Canada appear to originate in the U.S.A. and the present energy crisis is causing a shift away from petroleum as the fossil fuel used for energy generation, to coal, and coal may contain a higher sulphur content than oil, and energy production continues to increase to meet demand; therefore be it,

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

1. Investigate potential human health hazards of acid rain.
2.
 - a. Continue research programs to determine the current state of representative components of the natural environments;
 - b. Continuously monitor environmental effects of acid rain;
 - c. Study the occurrence and effects of long-range transport of SO₂ and its products within

and into Canada, including their origin, their geographical extent and their overall effects on natural aquatic and terrestrial systems, the quantities of SO₂ which are assimilable by geographic regions, without undue harm and likelihood and speed of recovery of systems from over-exposure to acid rain.

3. Pursue through diplomatic channels and through international bilateral agreement a control and abatement policy, which would require the U.S.A. and Canada to reduce SO₂ emissions at the source, which have been shown through research to cause Trans border problems.

78.3 Environmental Impact Assessment

Whereas, Many major construction installations have been initiated in the past without apparent concern for, or full knowledge of the social and environmental impact of those installations;

Whereas, Current environmental protection legislation at the national level tends to be remedial legislation, which comes into operation only after environmental degradation has occurred;

Whereas, The effectiveness of the Environmental Assessment Review Process, created by Cabinet decision for those installations, initiated or funded by the federal government or any of its agencies, rests solely on the discretionary powers of the proponents of the installations, the Cabinet and its component departments;

Whereas, It is essential that the assessment procedure be clarified by legislation and enforced by regulations passed pursuant to the legislation; and,

Whereas, It is crucial that social and environmental assessments be made prior to project development approval; that the public have freedom of access to all reports and documents and that the right of the public participation in the review process be guaranteed; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to enact legislation, instituting mandatory assessment procedures prior to the construction of installations, potentially damaging to be environment for all projects carried out by or on behalf of, or funded in whole or part by the Government of Canada, its Crown Corporations or Agencies; and be it further,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to encourage by every available means, the cooperation of the provincial governments to establish similar mandatory legislation and regulations for environmental impact assessment procedures in those areas within their legislative jurisdiction.

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada urge Provincial and Local Councils of Women and their affiliates to urge their respective Provincial Governments to institute legislation that would ensure for all government and private installations within their legislative jurisdictions, mandatory assessment procedures prior to the construction of those installations potentially damaging to the environment.

78.4 Clean Water for Every Human Settlement

Whereas, Many human settlements, particularly in under-developed countries, lack sewage disposal facilities and frequently the only water available is multi-purpose and contaminated by faecal matter;

Whereas, Such contaminated Water:

1. Provides a breeding ground for flies, fleas, mosquitoes and parasites which transmit typhoid, malaria, trachoma, etc.
2. Is a major source of bacterial, viral and parasitic disease.
3. Contributes to a high mortality rate, particularly amongst women, children and babies at birth through umbilical and puerperal infections.
4. Causes diarrhoea, amoebic and bacillary dysentery and other digestive-tract ailments, which are dehumanizing, degrading and often fatal;

Whereas, Late 20th century water pollution is a deterrent to effective public health and social measures in countless human habitats, in spite of the discovery in the late 19th century (by Semmelweis, Pasteur and Lister) of the importance of antiseptics; and,

Whereas, Lack of financial resources, materials and technical assistance are major obstacles to the acquisition of clean water supplies--a situation requiring urgent solutions; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada to provide leadership for other nations by initiating the establishment and maintenance of a 'Human Settlement Trust Fund' for international development under the auspices of appropriate agencies within the United Nations system, with not less than three billion dollars spent over the next three years for the development of clean water supplies for every human settlement.

78.5 Health and Welfare Services (1)

Whereas, The health and welfare needs of Canadians have shifted and broadened in recent years following the enactment

of the Canada Assistance Plan and Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Act;

Whereas, The need for a broader range of social services in all provinces is recognized, in order to encourage and assist Canadians to a healthier, more satisfying and independent life; and,

Whereas, There is a need to improve the care of the ill, the handicapped and disadvantaged; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to ensure that in the new Federal Social Services legislation:

1. The federal contribution be used by provinces on those services as identified in the new Federal Social Services legislation.
2. The level of federal contribution not only guarantee the retention of the best of existing services, but that it anticipate unmet needs, either due to regional disparities or emerging social problems in our communities.
3. Funding arrangements include the concept of equalization payments which allow the less favoured Provinces to attain the national average in per capital resources for human resources.
4. There is provision for the close integration with the Established Programs Financing Act, that both health and welfare services will be provided as one comprehensive human service program.
5. There is an ongoing exchange of information between Provinces and the federal government.
6. The Federal Government retain a role and a responsibility compatible with its commitment to the wellbeing of all Canadians.

78.6 Health and Welfare Services (2)

Whereas, The Federal Government plans to continue to allocate substantial federal tax revenue in the health and welfare field; and,

Whereas, The Federal Government maintains an interest and a certain degree of direct responsibility for health and welfare services for all Canadians; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to retain specific roles and responsibilities in this field by:

1. Assisting in the development of minimum common standards and guidelines across Canada.
2. Collating and sharing information about the different human service programs offered across the country.
3. Stimulating, encouraging and funding the initiation of new ideas, concepts and models for the delivery of service.
4. Developing and supporting research concepts and innovative strategies.
5. Supporting new demonstration projects, problem-solving workshops and conferences, designed to seek more effective co-ordination and integration of human services and the development of community support systems.
6. Providing financial assistance and consultation to voluntary and professional associations.
7. Supporting demonstration training programs involving professionals and volunteers, responsive to changing roles and new models of delivery of services.

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada urge Provincial and Local Councils to monitor the progress of federal-provincial arrangements in the area of Health and Social services, with their respective provinces.

78.7 Collective Bargaining

Whereas, The many lawful and unlawful strikes, and practices, such as booking off sick, study sessions, etc., which are part of the present collective bargaining system, are responsible for inconvenience, expense, and lack of freedom to the public as individuals and as proprietors and employees of businesses not involved in the strike;

Whereas, These same abuses of the collective bargaining process contribute to defiance of the law, leading to criminal behaviour and to a general lack of respect for the law.

Whereas, Losses to the economy and welfare of the country as a whole through strikes and slow-downs and high awards resulting from them, make Canada non-competitive in world markets – and undesirable as a place for capital

investment; and,

Whereas, The growing resentment by the public of these abuses of the collective bargaining process may lead to a complete breakdown of the system; therefore be it,

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

1. Encourage the parties to a contract to carry on regular negotiations through its term, rather than leave negotiations to the end of the term of the contract, when pressures for settlement would create unhappy compromises;
2. Establish a permanent neutral body acceptable to management and labour, independent of any government department and composed of public members only to (a) determine procedures for resolving industrial disputes and (b) handle disputes when negotiations break down;
3. Urge the parties, before resorting to strikes or lockouts, to make choices among conciliation and mediation, non-binding arbitration, special industrial inquiry, including the functions of fact-finding and making recommendations, postponement of work stoppage, and special bargaining and consultative procedures, such as single-team bargaining, being promoted by McGill's Industrial Relations Centre;
4. Require that a settlement made in good faith at the bargaining table be made to stand; that its, both employee and employer having ratified the settlement, reached by negotiating committees with authority.
5. Ensure, when a strike does occur, that ordinary original law and existing labour laws regarding conduct of the strike by both employees and employer are strictly enforced, with no unlawful mass-picketing, lock-out, criminal violence or threats -- the government enforcing the laws during the strike as it would in ordinary circumstances.

Section II

78.8 Marijuana

Whereas, The administration or voluntary use of marijuana produces altered states of consciousness causing attitudinal and behavioural changes;

Whereas, The metabolites of marijuana are fat soluble and are stored in the fatty tissues of the body to be released at a latter, undetermined date;

Whereas, The biochemical integrity or fragility of the individual is usually unknown and the potential for future breakdown is a risk; and,

Whereas, The use of marijuana may mask or evoke medical problems which, left unattended, would be exaggerated; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada request the Government of Canada to maintain or increase legislation and regulations for control of use, sale or production of marijuana, except under the supervision of a licensed medical authority.

In March 1975, the National Council of Women of Canada submitted to the Senate Committee on Cannabis a Resolution which stated:

“That in light of new evidence we reiterate our Resolution of 1972 that Marijuana (Cannabis) should not be legalized”.

The National Council of Women of Canada views with alarm the penetration of cannabis that is marijuana, in our society.

In February, 1978, Council, being aware of pressure on the Government to decriminalize and legalize the possession and sale of marijuana, circulated to its federated associations across Canada a resolution concerning the use of marijuana.

The above Resolution was approved at the NCWC 1978 Annual Meeting and forwarded for consideration to the Minister of Justice.

In reviewing the present status of law, it is requested that serious consideration be given to this NCWC Resolution, which supports past NCWC Resolutions submitted to the Government of Canada against the decriminalization of marijuana.

(This resolution was referred to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada NCWC letters of July 25 and August 5, 1978).

78.9 Code System for Food

Whereas, There is a marked proliferation of processed foods, food substitutes and chemical food additives in products on the grocer's shelf, many of which are of high risk-to-benefit ratio;

- Whereas,** The information on some food labels is euphemistic and incomplete and many consumers have not sufficient knowledge to evaluate the chemical content appearing on labels of food products;
- Whereas,** A preponderance of processed foods with high additive content are those which appeal to, and are widely consumed by children and young people;
- Whereas,** Some chemicals used in additives do not appear to be excreted by the body and the accumulation of these chemicals in human organs is not presently understood; and,
- Whereas,** An increasing number of nutritionists, biochemists and food allergists are expressing grave concern about the long-range detrimental effects of food additives and food substitutes on our bodies; therefore be it,
- RESOLVED,** That The National Council of Women of Canada request the Government of Canada to study the feasibility of:
1. A code system (similar to that on core labelling of fabrics to indicate the proportion in each food product of:
 - a. Level of nutritional value
 - b. Calorie content
 - c. Substitute food
 - d. Number of chemical additives;
 2. Include staple food products such as bread, milk, ice-cream, under the core labelling system;
 3. Place an immediate moratorium on the acceptance of any new additives in food products until there are more sophisticated and accurate methods of testing the long-range and inter-chemical reactions of these additives in the body.
 4. Re-examine all high risk-to-benefit-ratio additives and substitutes, removing any that are suspect.

(This Resolution was referred to the Minister of National Health and Welfare NCWC letter of July 3, 1978).

78.10 Abduction of Child

- Whereas,** The provisions of the Divorce Act are portable across Canada and around the world;
- Whereas,** The granting of custody of children is in most cases a direct result of the divorce of parents; and,
- Whereas,** Any child born in Canada should have full rights of a Canadian citizen; therefore be it,
- RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to:
1. Make it an offence under the Criminal Code for any parent to take, or entice away, any child or children, 14 years of age or younger, from the person who have been granted legal custody of that child or those children.
 2. Urge inter provincial agreements re (1) prosecution of any parent who does so take a child to another province of Canada and (2) the return of that child to the person who has been awarded legal custody.
 3. Urge continuance at federal-provincial meetings between the Minister of Justice and the Attorneys-General of the provinces, and through correspondence, that any provincial government which has not to date enacted an 'Extra Provincial Custody Orders Enforcement Act' (i.e. reciprocity in custody orders), to enact such legislation forthwith.
 4. Urge, through the Department of External Affairs, international agreements whereby the return of such a kidnapped child could be obtained from a foreign country through diplomatic channels and/or extradition agreements.

78.11 Pornography

- Whereas,** There is rising concern among citizens regarding degrading of human dignity portrayed in contemporary publications; and,
- Whereas,** In June, 1975, the Law Reform Commission of Canada concluded that public obscenity should fall within the scope of Criminal law and that to outlaw obscenity in public places is NOT discriminatory; therefore be it,
- RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to enact legislation, amending Section 159 of the Criminal Code of Canada that will effectively ban the publication and sale in Canada of material which includes the preachment and practice of sadomasochism, the violation of children, gang rape, bestiality, forced submission to oral and anal sexual activity.

78.12 Averting Strikes in Essential Services

Whereas, Provincial Labour Legislation needs to be reconsidered and reconstructed, periodically;

Whereas, As things stand, these matters can hold up a bargaining session for long periods, unfairly causing loss of time to both labour and management, and in the case of essential services, creates suffering and unhappiness to the citizens involved; and,

Whereas, A settlement could be legislated for mediation on break-down of collective bargaining to achieve the same objective as a strike; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That The National Council of Women of Canada urge the Provincial Councils of Women to continue to investigate systems which would settle Labour – Management conflicts, without injury or suffering to the innocent third party.

78.13 Bill C71 – Criminal Code – Rape

Whereas, Bill C71 was passed January 27, 1976, being concerned with a revision 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 moral and social values of the Canadian public, but continues to view rape as a sexual crime and not an assault; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That The National Council of Women of Canada recommends the Government of Canada that legislation should be further enacted to describe Rape as a sexual assault under the general heading of Assault:

1. Various forms and degrees of assault should be specified; e.g.
 - 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 twenty years, depending on the degree of assault. First offenders should be referred for psychological counselling.
3. (Sexual assault with a female under fourteen) That an offence of assault will be committed when a victim is under the age of twelve years, or when the victim is under the age of sixteen and the actor is a member of the same household or a blood relative.

78.14 Fluoridation

Whereas, Research shows that fluoride is a toxic chemical which DOES accumulate in the food chain and in the human body;

Whereas, Library of Congress (USA) lists fluoride as a major pollutant;

Whereas, It is sodium fluoride which is used in water fluoridation, which is a major industrial by-product and which has a toxic solubility that is 2,500 times greater than the natural or calcium fluoride;

Whereas, Scientific and medical research shows that fluoride can cause renal failure, sickle-cell anaemia, allergies, fluorosis, bone problems, kidney disorders, tumour growth and cancer;

Whereas, Kidney insufficiency can result in increased fluoride intake and retention, which will create an added danger for the 2 per cent of children who are born with kidney problems; and,

Whereas, Fluoride is available in many forms, including inexpensive tablets, which can be measured and controlled; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada reverse its position, in light of new evidence brought forward by the National Research Council of Canada, Library of Congress (USA), and other scientific reports, which request is reinforced by the Human Settlements Forum (1976) calling for pure water.

78.15 Plight of Children in the Ukraine

Whereas, 1979 has been declared 'International Year of the Child', with UNICEF designated as the Lead Agency in the United Nations system;

Whereas, The National Council of Women of Canada has been named to the Canadian Committee for International Year of the Child (1979), who will be co-operating with the federal government activities relating to the International Year of the Child; and,

Whereas, Canada was a signatory on November 20, 1975 to the Declaration of the Rights of the Child; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada request the International Council of Women make strong representation through their permanent representative at the United Nations to bring forth the plight of children in the Ukraine, and other nationalities within the Soviet Bloc and those whose parents are incarcerated as prisoners of conscience, and demand that those countries who supported the adoption of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child before the General Assembly fulfil their obligations as stated in the preamble and principle of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

78.16 Freedom of Movement and Ideas (1977)

Whereas, The International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 16, 1966, states (Part III, Art. 12):

1. Everyone lawfully within the territory of a State shall within that territory have the right to liberty of movement and freedom to change his residence;
2. Everyone shall be free to leave any country, including his own;
3. No one shall be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;
4. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family or home or correspondence, nor attack upon his honour or reputation. Everyone has the right to protection of the law against interference or attacks; and,

Whereas, The 'Final Act' Agreement on the Conference and Cooperation in Europe, which took place in Helsinki, Finland, in 1975 recognizes freedom of emigration and assured a humanitarian way to unify separated families; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That the National Council of Women of Canada request the International Council of Women to urge their member Councils to make representation to their national governments to press internationally for the carrying out of the provisions in Articles 5, 12 and 13 of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.