

## **POLICIES ADOPTED 1982**

- 82.1 Control of Inflation
- 82.2 Disabled Persons: Expansion of Canada Pension Amendments to Income Tax Act
- 82.3 Education on Hazards of the Use of Marijuana
- 82.4 Restriction on the use of Certain Chemicals (Pesticides)
- 82.5 Biogas – A Soft Energy Path
- 82.6 Instruction for Immigrant Women
- 82.7 Income Tax Amendments Preservation of Historic Buildings
- 82.8 Canadian Policy for Development Assistance

## **RESOLUTIONS TO PROVINCIAL COUNCILS**

- 82.9P Support of Rape Crisis and Sexual Assault Centres
- 82.10P Abuse of the Elderly

## **EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS**

- 82.11EM Emergency Broadcast Regulations
- 82.12EM Canadian Policy at the 2nd U.N. Special Session on Disarmament (UNSSOD II) June/July 1982
- 82.13EM Canadian Housing Crisis
- 82.14EM Nuclear Proliferation and Sale of Candu and Fuel

### **82.1 Control of Inflation**

**Whereas,** The Government of Canada recognizes inflation as the number one economic problem in Canada today and the membership of the National Council of Women of Canada has singled out inflation as the number one problem requiring government action; and,

**Whereas,** There is a need in Canada for more public disclosure and an explanation of the reasons for current and future economic policies; and,

**Whereas,** Irregular price increases do not correspond with periodic wage increases, resulting in an unstable and difficult pattern of budgeting for many Canadians; and,

**Whereas,** High prices, high interest rates, and other effects of inflation, place a heavy financial burden on Canadians; be it,

**RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to consider the use of a number of methods to deal with inflation:

1. Through reducing the deficit, curbing government expenditures and controlling the money supply;
2. Through direct controls, tax incentives and improved management labour relations to encourage productivity and to spread as widely as possible the effects of any necessary reduction in living standards by:
  - a. Wage and price guidelines;
  - b. Tax concessions for firms maintaining a balance pertaining to wages, prices and profits;
  - c. Tax concessions which encourage the investment and innovation required for increased productivity;
  - d. Ensuring that public service wages follow, not lead, private wage settlements;
  - e. Restricting the use of credit;
3. Through encouragement of citizen participation in the measures, by providing the general public with a clear report of the aims and expectations of the measures introduced by the government; and,
4. Through protection of fixed incomes by continuing universal OAS (Old Age Security) and indexing of OAS (Old Age Security) and CPP (Canada Pension Plan); and,
5. Through protection against inflation of income of supplementary pension plans under federal jurisdiction by the mandatory application of excess interest earnings.

### **82.2 Disabled Persons: Expansion of Canada Pension Amendments to Income Tax Act**

- Whereas,** A disabled person can incur significant extra living costs which result directly from the disability; and,
- Whereas,** The costs of aids and devices are not covered by existing programs; and,
- Whereas,** The most successful disability plans are those which facilitate rapid rehabilitation and re-entry into the workplace; be it,

**RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to expand the Canada Pension Plan as follows:

1. To increase the "flat rate" component of the disability pension to an amount at least equal to that of the Québec Pension Plan; and,
2. To allow a disabled person a measure of earnings, on a sliding scale, while in receipt of disability benefits; and,
3. To broaden the definition of a disabled person so that more persons are eligible to receive the benefits; be it further,

**RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to amend the Income Tax Act as follows:

1. To broaden the definition of a disabled person under the Income Tax Act so that more persons qualify as disabled; and,
2. To replace the flat rate deduction for disabled claimants or dependents with a deduction based on the full cost of goods and services directly attributable to a severe and prolonged disability, including those expenses now permitted in medical deductions.

### **82.3 Education on Hazards of the Use of Marijuana**

- Whereas,** The federal government has stated its intent to move cannabis offences from the Narcotics Control Act to the Food and Drugs Act, and to remove the possibility of imprisonment and a criminal record for simple possession of marijuana; and,
- Whereas,** There is widespread public concern that there will be an increase in the use of marijuana and that the probability of using harder drugs increases with the use of marijuana; and,
- Whereas,** It is necessary that the public be aware of the real intent of government policy, and that young persons and children be well informed of physical and psychological hazards of the use of marijuana; be it,

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

1. An information program on the proposal to transfer marijuana from the Narcotics Control Act to the Food and Drugs Act; and,
2. A national media education program to bring vital information to children and young persons on the hazards of the use of marijuana; be it further,

**RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada request the Provincial Councils of Women to urge their respective provincial governments to establish widespread public education programs through departments of education, health and social affairs, on the hazards of the use of marijuana.

### **82.4 Restriction on the use of Certain Chemicals (Pesticides)**

- Whereas,** There exists a steadily growing minority of individuals, in particular children, who have developed serious sensitivities to chemicals such as pesticides used in homes and gardens and for agricultural purposes and forestry; and,
- Whereas,** Pesticides used in homes and gardens are frequently inadequately labelled regarding their use in a domestic setting; and,
- Whereas,** Pesticides used for agricultural purposes, forestry and in the domestic setting are known to leach into the water table and other sources of community drinking water; and,
- Whereas,** Little is understood by the medical community or the public of the cumulative and synergistic effect of chemicals on human health and development; and,
- Whereas,** There is an urgent need to differentiate between the use of pesticides in an urban setting, and economic necessity of their use for agricultural purposes and forestry; be it,

**RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to exert more control over the

use of pesticides by:

1. The encouragement of the use of known alternatives to pesticides used for agricultural purposes, forestry and in the domestic setting;
2. The development of regulations restricting the use of pesticides for which there are known alternatives;
3. The promotion of maximum child protection with regard to pesticides available for home and garden use, through more closely regulating the labelling of such products by stipulating that manufacturers define the hazards associated with the use of the product and emphasize the need for caution with regard to children and childbearing women;
4. The initiation of a program to alert the public regarding the hazards involved with the indiscriminate use of pesticides in homes and gardens.

## **82.5 Biogas -- A Soft Energy Path**

**Whereas,** Wastes of various kinds, manure from animal feed-lots, residue from agricultural crops, sewage, municipal garbage and other wastes continue to mount daily, increasing Canada's environmental problems; and,

**Whereas,** Such wastes can be utilized and developed for energy production; and,

**Whereas,** The development of soft energy paths, such as Biogas from wastes would diversify Canada's energy sources, eliminate numerous environmental problems and offer benefits to the consumer as well as new opportunities for business and employment; and,

**Whereas,** Systems already devised and in use in Canada, the U.S. and other countries have been shown to be economically feasible, environmentally sound and adaptable to all climates, and recent improvements in design and techniques have resulted in an increased yield of Biogas; be it,

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

1. Encourage and support, through increased financial assistance, research and development of Biogas and its applications; and,
2. Provide increased monetary assistance to farmers for conversion of manure and crop residues to Biogas and its accompanying high quality fertilizer and soil conditioner; and,
3. Inform the public concerning Biogas as an energy source and of government grants available for conversion to Biogas.

## **82.6 Instruction for Immigrant Women**

**Whereas,** Programs of instruction for immigrant women can assist in citizenship and social integration; and,

**Whereas,** The inability to understand Canadian mores or either of Canada's official languages can expose immigrant women to exploitation and intimidation; and,

**Whereas,** A basic knowledge of English or French is necessary to become a Canadian citizen and for social integration; and,

**Whereas,** Government language training programs for immigrants are generally available only to heads of families and for job requirement and many immigrants are not aware of current programs of instruction in language and citizenship and social integration open to immigrant women; be it,

**RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to increase the promotion of and accessibility to programs of instruction for immigrant women, especially in language and citizenship and social integration;

**RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada to urge Local Councils of Women to encourage federates to initiate or renew their contacts with and services for immigrant families, with particular emphasis on women with both language problems and small children.

## **82.7 Income Tax Amendments Preservation of Historic Buildings**

**Whereas,** The need to encourage the preservation of Canada's heritage through the restoration of designated historic sites is a recognized and accepted fact; and,

**Whereas,** Offering incentives through the Income Tax Act could be an important method of making heritage building preservation and restoration a realistic alternative to demolition; and,

**Whereas,** Demolition is treated in the Income Tax Act in a generous manner, providing a write-off of 25% of the depreciated

cost; and,

**Whereas,** Extensive renovation of historic buildings is treated as new constructed; that is, a capital expenditure, which unlike repairs, is not a deductible expense; and,

**Whereas,** The Income Tax Act (Canada) provides no incentives for renovation of designated historic buildings; be it,

**RESOLVED,** That The National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to amend the federal Income Tax Act -

1. To make costs incurred in the rehabilitation of designated historic buildings 100% deductible over a three-year period;
2. To make the purchase costs of a designated historic building 100% deductible over a five-year period, provided the purchaser has rehabilitated the building to a 'substantial' degree;
3. To provide a deduction for the purchaser of a designated historic building if there is a financial loss incurred due to rehabilitation of the site in a given year;
4. To allow the incentive for investment in new residential construction (MURB provisions of the Act) to apply in renovation or conversion of an old building for residential use.
5. To prevent the purchaser of a designated historic building from deducting the remaining capital cost (terminal loss) in the event of demolition.

## **82.8 Canadian Policy for Development Assistance**

**Whereas,** The economic interdependence of the nations of the world is becoming increasingly important; and,

**Whereas,** It is estimated that approximately 800 million people in developing countries live in absolute poverty; and,

**Whereas,** The International Development Strategy for the 1980's of the United Nations contains specific goals relating to the elimination of hunger, provision of primary education, health care and integration of women into all sectors of development; and,

**Whereas,** Government of Canada policy is to gradually increase the percentage of the Gross National Product which is devoted to development assistance; be it,

**RESOLVED,** That The National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada, in the establishment of development aid policy:

1. To give priority to the basic human needs of the world's poorest peoples; and,
2. To give increased support to programs which assist farmers with small land holdings, in order to increase self-reliance in food production, keeping in mind that 40% of agricultural work in some developing countries is done by women; and,
3. To give high priority to basic education and skill training of women; and,
4. To continue to improve the assessment of the impact of development projects on women and families; and,
5. To strengthen the policy of encouraging United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to support the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women and their projects.

## **RESOLUTIONS TO PROVINCIAL COUNCILS**

### **82.9P Support of Rape Crisis and Sexual Assault Centres**

**Whereas,** A number of studies clearly show that existing legal, medical and police systems do not adequately serve the needs of Rape and Sexual Assault victims; and,

**Whereas,** There is a requirement for resource centres to provide immediate advice and follow-up assistance for victims of rape and sexual assault; and,

**Whereas,** Rape Crisis and Sexual Assault Centres require continuous financial assistance which cannot be fully provided by voluntary contributions or municipal funding; be it,

**RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada request the Provincial Councils of Women to urge their respective governments to provide continuous financial support for Rape Crisis and Sexual Assault Centres.

### **82.10P Abuse of the Elderly**

**Whereas,** It has been proven statistically that the elderly population of Canada has a substantially lower per capita income than those under the age of 65, forcing many elderly persons to live with standards below those normally accepted by the average Canadian citizen; and,

**Whereas,** Studies, surveys and mandatory reporting have proven that the elderly are subject to abuse, both physical and emotional, because of their economic situation and/or physical inability to protect themselves; and,

**Whereas,** Several provincial governments have enacted legislation to provide for mandatory reporting of cases of adult abuse and such legislation makes it a crime for a person not to report a known case of abuse of an older person; be it,

**RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada request Provincial Councils of Women to urge their respective governments to enact legislation, or to incorporate provisions within existing legislation to make it mandatory for witnesses of known or suspected case of abuse of the elderly, to report these cases to the Department of Social Services or other governmental agencies for action; and be it,

**RESOLVED,** To request that such legislation contain provision for penalties in the event that such cases are not reported pursuant to legislation.

#### **82.11EM Emergency Resolution: Emergency Broadcast Regulations**

**Whereas,** The Canadian Broadcasting Act requires the programming provided by the Canadian Broadcasting System to present a reasonable, balanced opportunity for the expression of differing views on matters of public concern; and,

**Whereas,** The Canadian Radio-Television-Telecommunications Commission has interpreted this to mean that the public property comprised by the Radio and Television frequency spectrum should not be used for narrow or sectarian interests, but should serve the diversity of the needs, interests and beliefs in the community the station is to serve; and,

**Whereas,** The concept of free-time religious broadcasting is traditional in Canada and is basic in the interpretation of the Canadian Broadcasting Act; and,

**Whereas,** Following a Public Hearing in January 1982 on the issue of religious broadcasting, the Canadian Radio-Television-Telecommunications Commission is considering its policy of granting licenses to religious and special interest groups, and the concept of free-time religious broadcasting is in jeopardy; be it,

**RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada express to the Canadian Radio-Television-Telecommunications Commission their support of the established criteria for the granting of licenses for Radio and Television frequencies; and be it,

**RESOLVED,** That each station, network and cable-outlet be required to air a minimum of public service Canadian-made programmes of a religious nature which together will serve the diversity of religious needs, interests and beliefs represented in the particular communities it is licensed to serve.

#### **82.12EM Emergency Resolution: Canadian Policy at the 2nd U.N. Special Session on Disarmament (UNSSOD II) June/July 1982**

**Whereas,** The world situation has deteriorated since the first United Nations Special Session on Disarmament accepted a comprehensive Final Document and adopted a Programme of Action in 1978; and,

**Whereas,** The second United Nations Special Session on Disarmament will take place in New York during June and July 1982; and,

**Whereas,** At UNSSOD I, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau suggested a 'strategy of suffocation', which was widely accepted; and,

**Whereas,** In a world where millions are living in abject poverty world trade in armaments is escalating; be it,

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

1. To increase efforts to bring about a balanced nuclear and conventional arms limitation through specific and verifiable agreements which would include all states at risk of military confrontations; and,
2. To urge the countries involved to return to the strategic arms limitation talks (SALT); and,
3. To reiterate Prime Minister Trudeau's "strategy of suffocation" policy statement, and to work towards its adoption at the United Nations.

#### **82.13EM Emergency Resolution: Canadian Housing Crisis**

- Whereas,** There is a growing number of households in Canada whose incomes are insufficient to command suitable and adequate housing in the private market; and,
- Whereas,** The rate of production of housing has declined dramatically and any aid to stimulate housing construction and related fields would bolster the nation's economy; and,
- Whereas,** A shelter subsidy would provide immediate assistance for those house-holds with the greatest need; and,
- Whereas,** Shelter allowances provide an immediate, flexible, less costly and more equitable alternative to low rental housing; and,
- Whereas,** Shelter allowances provide a flexible mechanism to provide relief for persons with either short-term or long-term financial concerns, and allow recipients to remain in their own homes; and,
- Whereas,** No one policy will solve the housing crisis in Canada; therefore be it,

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

1. To renew its strong commitment to the support and stimulus of the housing market;
2. To stimulate the production of modest family housing; and,
3. To increase support of existing social housing programs, i.e. Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program, Non Profit and Co-Operative Programs and other federal social housing programs;
4. To initiate and/or improve shelter allowance programs, basing them on total family income and actual shelter costs, with either National Revenue Income Tax legislation or Federal-Provincial agreements as the vehicle; and be it,

**RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada request the Provincial Councils of Women to urge their Provincial Governments to initiate or expand Shelter Allowance programs.

#### **82.14EM Emergency Resolution: Nuclear Proliferation and Sale of Candu and Fuel**

- Whereas,** CANDU reactors and fuel are sold to countries which are non-signatories of the Non Proliferation Treaty (May 16, 1968); and,
- Whereas,** Canada has nuclear scientists and technicians working on CANDU reactors in countries which are non-signatories of the Non Proliferation Treaty; and,
- Whereas,** The enrichment plants under construction could be used to produce high grade plutonium 238 and 239, which have a potential to be used in other types of reactors or to manufacture atomic weapons; and,
- Whereas,** The greatest environmental issue facing us is nuclear annihilation; be it,

**RESOLVED,** That the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to halt the promotion and sale of CANDU reactors, nuclear fuel and nuclear technology to those countries which are non-signatories of the Non Proliferation Treaty (May 16, 1968).