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87.1 Seniors' Bridging Allowance

Whereas, In today's economy, technological change and financial circumstances have combined to create hardships for many Canadians in the 60-64 year age bracket, it has been particularly devastating for single persons; and,

Whereas, The Charter of Rights and Freedoms states clearly the unequivocal "right to equal protection and equal benefits of the law", the present system of support for 60-64 year old single persons does not apply; and,

Whereas, Those left destitute through voluntary or involuntary retirement are often in dire need, and their plight must be addressed. The loss of dignity and independence, coupled with reduced income, is a trauma that should not be imposed on these older citizens of Canada; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That The National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to provide a Senior's Bridging Allowance to single persons equal and similar to benefits that are presently granted to needy widows and widowers between the ages of 60-64 years, under Bill C-26, a bill to amend the Old Age Security Act and Regulations:

1. Candidates must have applied, if eligible, for Canada Pension Plan; that is, that they have an existing credit for their contributions to the CPP, payable at age 60;
2. Senior's Bridging Allowance (SBA) to be provided equal to the supplement in the existing Widowed Spouse's Allowance by eliminating marital status as a criterion and include single persons in the age group of 60-64 years;
3. The supplementary amounts to be paid to eligible applicants will be equal to the amounts presently paid to seniors eligible under the Widowed Spouse's Allowance section of the Act (having the same amount of other income);
4. Candidates must have residence as required by law in Canada to be eligible of Old Age Security upon

reaching age 65.

87.2 Canadian Broadcasting

Whereas, Canada and Canadians need a unifying national system of communication to preserve Canadian autonomy and sovereignty by maintaining and developing Canadian culture; and,

Whereas, The Canadian Broadcasting Company (CBC) has been one of the principle means of exchanging ideas and information in both languages, English and French across the country; and,

Whereas, There have already been substantial reductions in the CBC's budget which have forced the Corporation to cut services, so that further reductions in constant dollars would jeopardize its mandate; and,

Whereas, The CTV network has been obliged to curtail staff and therefore services at the national level due to lack of adequate financial support from individual member stations; and,

Whereas, Local artists and local programming need to be sustained and developed, not only for service to communities but also for the development of skills and talents which will serve national programs; and,

Whereas, The National Council of Women is in agreement with the general direction of the recommendations of the recent report of the Caplan Sauvageau Task Force on Broadcasting; therefore be it,

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

1. to provide financial support for good quality and sufficient quality of service throughout the broadcasting systems of the CBC, including the Northern Service, the International Service, as well as the radio and TV networks serving the more heavily populated centres of Canada;
2. To direct the CRTC that as a condition of licensing, private commercial stations across the country contribute funds on a percentage of earnings basis to ensure opportunity for the development of Canadian creative and artistic talent.

87.3 Armaments Reduction

Whereas, Human and environmental survival is threatened by the increasing risk of nuclear war, originating either accidentally or as a way of settling differences between national political goals; and,

Whereas, There is approximate parity between the NATO and Warsaw Pact countries in both nuclear and conventional military capability; and,

Whereas, At the present time the nuclear and conventional military capabilities of both the NATO and Warsaw Pact countries provide an uneasy equilibrium, based on mutual assured destruction; and,

Whereas, 1986 having been the United Nations Year of Peace, it is desirable to maintain the momentum provided by that declaration; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, Following the United Nations Year of Peace, the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to promote, among all nations, a mutual and verifiable world-wide freeze in the production, testing and deployment of nuclear arms and delivery systems as a first step in the process of large-scale reductions in the stockpiles of nuclear weapons.

87.4 Sexual Abuse of Children

Whereas, The sexual victimization of children constitutes a significant social problem in Canada, and has the potential for inflicting long-term emotional trauma on victims and their families; and,

Whereas, The federal government has recognized the need to attack this problem primarily by changes in the criminal law but also by social and educational means; and,

Whereas, Present treatment resources available to victims and their families, as well as to perpetrators, are already inadequate, and may well be further strained as a result of new legislation and government plans for a public education campaign; and,

Whereas, The agencies primarily responsible for treatment are within provincial jurisdiction; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That The National Council of Women of Canada urge:

1. The Government of Canada to:
 - a) Work with provincial governments to develop the necessary services across the country to meet the needs of sexually abused children, their families and the perpetrators of sexual offences;

- b) Use the provisions of the Canada Assistance Plan to transfer to provincial governments funds sufficient to provide the necessary services; and,
 - c) Strongly urge the provinces to provide education courses advising the criminal justice system of problems faced by child and adult victims of sexual assault.
2. The Provincial Councils of Women to press provincial governments for:
- a) The provision of programs and services for child victims and adult survivors of sexual abuse and their families; and,
 - b) The provision of compulsory treatment for perpetrators of sexual offences against children, without absolving the perpetrators of their criminal responsibility.

87.5 Environment Canada Cutbacks

- Whereas,** Canadians rely upon a safe environment to provide themselves and future generations with a safe and secure future; and
- Whereas,** The environment is a top priority for Canadians; and,
- Whereas,** The problems of a safe environment cross provincial and international borders and require a strong national mandate; and,
- Whereas,** The Ministry of the Environment has an excellent track record as a research, regulatory and advocacy body; and,
- Whereas,** There have been cuts in Environment Canada's budget and as well major cuts in programs, projects and staff over the past two years; and,
- Whereas,** These cuts seriously impede Environment Canada from fulfilling its mandate; therefore be it,
- RESOLVED,** That The National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to immediately:
- 1. Provide the funding necessary for Environment Canada to reintroduce programs vital to a safe Canadian environment; and,
 - 2. Ensure that protection of environment remain a priority of the Government of Canada.

87.6 Irradiation of Foods

- Whereas,** The Health Protection Branch of Health and Welfare Canada has proposed that food irradiation henceforth be regarded as a food process, thus removing the measure of consumer protection provided under the proof-or-safety requirements of existing food additive regulations; and,
- Whereas,** The symbol or logo recommended November 22, 1985, by Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada Communiqué No. 50, be applied as a distinctive identification mark on all pre-packaged or bulk containers of irradiated foods, not only fails to suggest any association with the irradiation process but also may be considered to be deceptively similar to the logo of another well known agency; and,
- Whereas,** The safety and wholesomeness of irradiated foods continues to be a matter of heated debate; therefore be it,
- RESOLVED,** That The National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to retain food irradiation under the present food additive regulatory mechanisms of the Food and Drug Act until definitive information is available on the risks and benefits that food irradiation may have on human health and environmental quality; and be it further,
- RESOLVED,** That The National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada, and in particular the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, to make mandatory clear labelling on all foods that are treated with irradiation by means of the word irradiated and by an original and/or unique logo which symbolizes irradiation;
- RESOLVED,** The National Council of Women of Canada urge the Provincial and Local Councils of Women to study and become informed about the critical issues involved in the irradiation of foods.

87.7 Improving the Tax Treatment of Child Care Expenses

- Whereas,** The present Canadian tax system allows certain tax deductions to be claimed by income-earning parents for monies spent on child care; and,
- Whereas,** The benefit from tax deductions is less for low and middle income persons because of their tax rates, while the benefit increases as income rises; and,

Whereas, Tax credits, which are deductions from tax payable remain constant regardless of income; therefore be it,
RESOLVED, That The National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to convert the present tax deduction for Child Care Expenses to a Tax Credit to ensure that lower and middle income applicants receive more equitable tax treatment.

87.8 Infant Safety

Whereas, The proper use of car seats saves lives;

Whereas, Current statistics from the Ontario Safety League indicate that 47 percent of infants who are seated in child restraints appropriate for their ages are improperly secured; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That The National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada, and particularly the Minister of Transport to promote the education of the public as to the correct usage of infant restraints.

87.9 Legislation to Protect Non-Smokers

Whereas, It is a known and proven fact that cigarette smoke can be injurious to the health on the non-smoker as well as the smoker; and,

Whereas, Cigarettes are at present available to children and cigarettes are known to be addictive; and,

Whereas, The use of drugs usually starts during adolescence when the nature and effects of addiction cannot fully be understood; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That The National Council of Women of Canada, in support of the Canadian Council on Smoking and Health, urge the Government of Canada to:

1. Enact legislation to protect non-smokers in all spaces under federal jurisdiction; and,
2. Enact legislation to control the constituents, promotion and distribution of tobacco products.

It was recommended that the NCWC take immediate action on this, and commend the government for its actions in this matter.

87.10RE Reiteration of Resolution: International Law of the Sea

Whereas, An orderly regime for the use of the sea and its resources, including the deep sea-bed beyond national jurisdiction, would greatly further the cause of international peace and cooperation among all nations; and

Whereas, The stated purpose of the Third Conference on the Law of the Sea was to achieve for the benefit of all mankind, a just and equitable international order governing all issues relating to the sea; and,

Whereas, The Government signed the Convention of the Law of the Sea December, 1982, but has not ratified this Convention; and,

Whereas, The Convention requires ratification by 60 states to pass into law and ratification has been given (1986) by only 26 states; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That The National Council of Women of Canada commends the Government of Canada for signing the Convention on the Law of the Sea on December 10, 1982, and urges the Government of Canada to expedite the ratification of this convention; and be it further resolved that,

RESOLVED, That The National Council of Women of Canada urge the Provincial and Local Councils of Women to study the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and/or material giving explanatory information.

87.11EM Emergency Resolution: Child Care

Whereas, The National Council of Women of Canada has advocated for a National Day Care act since 1972, and,

Whereas, New National Council of Women of Canada policy is required in order that a meaningful response be made to the Report of the Special Committee on Child Care-Sharing the Responsibility; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That The National Council of Women of Canada indicate support of the following policy and that a submission be developed on the new policy as well as existing NCWC policy:

Policy 1 That the National Council of Women of Canada accept in principle the extension of maternity and paternal benefits;

Policy 2 That the Government of Canada through Health and Welfare Canada:

- a) Work with provincial and territorial counterparts to develop mechanisms to evaluate and monitor day care subsidy programs under the Canada Assistance Plan;

- b) Discuss with the provinces and territories ways and means of publicizing the income levels that currently determine eligibility for day care subsidies under the Canada Assistance Plan;
- c) Encourage the provinces and territories to use existing matching funds available under the Canada Assistance Plan for high-quality developmental head-start programs for disadvantaged children;

Policy 3 Funding of programs: to licensed non profit child care centres, family day care homes, family support services, information and referral services, parenting programs for single parents, after school child care programs - be on a 50/50 basis, but in the case of low-income provinces and territories the federal government pay a greater percentage according to a negotiated formula;

Policy 4 That The Federal Government through proposed Family and Child Care Act determine ways and means of addressing other problems related to child care by using information presented in the Child Task Force Report. These include but are not limited to:

- a) Consulting services for potential child care sponsor groups, with particular emphasis on start-up information, incorporation, financial management and other administrative matters;
- b) Specialized funding for head-start programs;
- c) Emergency care services where need is demonstrated; and,
- d) Programs to meet the needs of rural families;

Policy 5 That until such time as the Family and Child Care Act is enacted, the Minister of Health and Welfare request a special appropriation to sponsor special initiatives and programs in child care;

Policy 6 That a new Secretariat be established within Health and Welfare Canada to administer the Family and Child Care Act, to monitor implementation of the government's response to the recommendations of this Committee, to facilitate federal activities, and to work with the public, private and non-profit sectors to encourage initiatives in the field of child care, including but not limited to the following:

- a) Collecting and preparing information for the purposes of providing distribution, promotion and consultation services to parents, employers and employee associations, volunteer organizations, specialized child care service agencies, child care providers and other interested parties; and,
- b) Enhancing the development and quality of services such as:
 - i. Parent education, including guidelines on ways to select quality non-parental care;
 - ii. Work-related child care arrangements with employees, business and labour groups;
 - iii. Preschool multicultural resources and culturally sensitive early childhood programs;
 - iv. Care and supervision of school-age children;
 - v. Family day care homes;
 - vi. Rural child care programs;
 - vii. Educational upgrading of caregivers working with disabled children; and,
 - viii. Development of home support services for the purpose of providing relief to the parents of disabled children;

Policy 7 That the Department of National Defence promote the establishment of family resource programs on armed forces bases where needs warrant;

Policy 8 That the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation accord priority to the preparation, purchase and broadcast of audio and visual programs from the National Film Board and private productions companies dealing with the development of parenting skills and healthy family life;

87.11EM Emergency Resolution: Child Care (continued)

Policy 9 That Treasury Board encourage establishing and equipping child care centres in federal buildings where feasible and where there are sufficient numbers of employees who need and will use the service;

Policy 10 That Indian and Northern Affairs Canada:

- a) In consultation with Indian people's groups and organizations, place priority in its examination of child welfare issues on the role of child care and other family support services in strengthening families and in reducing the need to remove children from their homes;
- b) In consultation with native peoples' groups and organizations, adjust its existing child welfare budget to accord high priority to the funding of family and children's support services;
- c) Be required to report to Parliament within one year of the tabling of this report to outline the progress it has made with respect to its implementation of the government's response to this recommendation;
- d) That Native Women's organizations be included in any consultation;

Policy 11 That Health and Welfare Canada provide additional training for its Community Health Representatives to assist them in identifying family and child care needs and in establishing family support programs designed to prevent

family break-up and promote healthy child development in native families;

Policy 12 That within its existing budget the Secretary of State:

- a) Provide funds enabling Native friendship Centres and native women's organizations to establish off-reserve family support and child care programs; and,
- b) Initiate an information service to provide consultation to native peoples; groups regarding the establishment of family support programs and ensure that existing child care programs demonstrate appropriate sensitivity to native cultures and values;

Policy 13 That Employment and Immigration Canada re-examine its present policy regarding child care services under the Immigrant Settlement and Adaptation Program with a view to determining current effectiveness from the perspective of the new Canadian family, including emphasis on the provision of child care services for at-home parents taking language courses;

87.11EM Emergency Resolution: Child Care (continued)

Policy 14 That The Minister of State for Multiculturalism promote the development and exchange of preschool multicultural programs and materials, as well as greater use of existing child care expertise in cultural communities;

Policy 15 That The Minister of State for Multiculturalism explore with the provinces and territories mechanisms for developing culturally sensitive early childhood programs;

Policy 16 That we encourage provincial governments to co-operate with school boards:

- a) To develop programs, sensitive to local mores, that discourage adolescent pregnancy; and,
- b) To develop assistance programs that enable adolescent mothers to complete their high school education and provide quality care for their children;
- c) That we urge Provincial councils and other Councils to urge their respective governments to co-operate with school boards;

Policy 17 That the Minister of Health and Welfare negotiate with provincial and territorial counterparts to develop appropriate child care and support services for children living in transition homes with their mothers;

Policy 18 That the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation give favourable consideration to applications for loans from groups wishing to establish transition homes with child care facilities.

RESOLUTIONS TO THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

87.12IC Progress Review on the Forward Looking Strategies

Noting that three major United Nations World Conferences in Mexico City (1975), Copenhagen (1980), and Nairobi (1985) have done much to raise the awareness of the problems faced by women in the world;

Recalling that important statements were accepted at the Conferences which include the Mexico Plan of Action, the Copenhagen Program of Action and the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies, as well as the United Nations Convention on all forms of Discrimination Against Women;

Recognizing that in certain parts of the world there has been marked retrogression in the improvement of the status of women;

Aware that major world conferences give strong impetus to improve the understanding of the problems faced by women, to the subsequent improvement in their status, and to the increased good will in the world;

Recommends to the International Council of Women support of a United Nations World Conference to review progress on the Forward Looking Strategies adopted at the 1985 United Nations End of Decade Conference in Nairobi;

Recommends that the International Council of Women urge the National Councils support such a Conference.

87.13IC Women as Users and Producers of Statistics

Recognizing that governments and intergovernmental agencies require statistical data for the development of social policy; and,

Recognizing non-governmental women's organizations require statistical information in their work for the promotion of women;

Aware that there is a deficiency in the number of women skilled in the use of and production of statistics;

Recommends that the International Council of Women:

1. Urge the national councils to promote within their countries:
 - a. The increased participation of women in all levels of data production and use;
 - b. The recruitment and training of female enumerators for all population surveys and censuses;
 - c. The dissemination of statistical information on women to heighten awareness and appreciation of women's situation in society;
 - d. The collection of gender specific data, particularly in such areas as literacy, levels of education, fertility, life expectancy and earnings; and,
2. To co-operate with governmental and intergovernmental agencies in the organization of seminars on the use of statistical data in the work of promotion of women.

87.14IC Women and Reproductive Technologies

Noting that reproduction has become the object of major technological advances, among which are techniques for genetic screening, in vitro fertilization, pre-natal diagnosis and the extraordinary treatment of fertility;

Aware that there is very little legislation dealing with these techniques despite their profound social and ethical implications;

Concerned that more and more women are seeing this technology, not as a source of freedom and power but of potential economic and social exploitation;

Recommends that the International Council of Women:

1. Organize seminars and information programs on the subject of women and reproductive technology;
2. Urge National Councils to ensure that legislation is developed in their respective countries to protect women from social and economic exploitation in the area of advanced reproductive technology.

87.15IC Reproductive Health Protection in Employment

Recognizing that there is a need to encourage the occupational safety and reproductive health of both men and women workers in public and private sectors of society;

Believing that there is evidence that some employers are using occupational safety legislation to exclude women in child-bearing capacity from certain jobs;

Concerned that practices or plans to protect employees from reproductive hazards must not exclude on the basis of sex;

Realizing that progress toward equal employment for women is thus being jeopardized as well as reproductive health of all workers;

Convinced that there is a need for the workplace to be designed to protect the fertility and reproductive health of both men and women workers and for strong legislation, research and co-operation amongst interested parties to ensure a safe work environment;

Recommends that the International Council of Women urge the National Councils:

1. To work in their respective countries to ensure that both men and women are protected in their place of employment from hazards to their reproductive health;
2. To participate in programs of information on the subject of reproductive health of both men and women.

87.16IC Participation and Representation of Women in the Work of the United Nations

Noting that Paragraph 358 of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies Document for the Advancement of Women clearly states that it is essential that women should participate actively in the planning and formulation of policies and programs and in decision-making and appraisal processes in the United Nations.

Aware that Article 8 of the Charter of the United Nations reads, "The United Nations shall place no restriction on the eligibility of men and women to participate in any capacity and under conditions of equality in its principal and subsidiary organs";

Concerned that the United Nations has not honoured resolution 2175 on opportunities for women, passed by the United Nations in 1970, nor honoured the 25% target in representation of women in the work of the United Nations established in 1978, to be met by 1982;

Recognizing that the Government of Canada has honoured the 25% target of representation of women in Canada's delegation to the United Nations;

Realizing that the International Council of Women has actively supported all the major international Conventions for the improvement of the status of women and has pressed for the presence of women throughout the United Nations system;

Believing that the purpose of the United Nations would be strengthened if more women participated in governmental and non-governmental delegations and in the Secretariat of the United Nations at policy-making levels;

Recommends that the International Council of Women:

1. Exercise its influence through the ICW Permanent Representative to the United Nations:
 - a. To effect action on all Resolutions and targets set by the United Nations to bring about equality in the work of the United Nations and to fully implement paragraph 358 of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies Document on the Advancement of Women;
 - b. To urge Member States to advance women candidates for all positions within the United Nations, especially senior positions;
2. Urge its National Councils in federation to exercise influence on their respective governments to honour the 1982 25% target of representation of women in their nation's delegation to the United Nations.

87.17IC United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners
(Amendment to 1985 Resolution presented to ICW)

Recognizing the long-standing concern of the International Council of Women and its National Councils with the humanization of criminal justice and the protection of human rights;

Recalling that thirty years have passed since the First United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders adopted the Standard Minimum rules for the Treatment of Prisoners;

Aware that changes have taken place in correctional policy and practice since the Rules were first adopted;

Believing that full implementation of the Rules is being impeded by a lack of expression of certain basic principles, the absence of which weakens the underlying rationale of the Rules and gives rise to divergence of interpretation;

Noting that, since the Rules were adopted in 1955, other United Nations Instruments for the protection of Human Rights have been given expression in concepts not fully reflected in the Rules;

Desiring to express the principles that have been missing from the Rules;

Desiring also to emphasize the balance that should be maintained, in the administration of prisons, between the protecting of society and the equally fundamental aim of providing for the well-being and development of the individual prisoner as a human person;

Recommends to the International Council of Women support of an amendment to Part 1 of the Rules of General Application of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, through the addition of the following Basic principle:

- 6(3) Every person shall be regarded as having an intrinsic dignity and value in himself/herself, regardless of his/her condition and entirely apart from any institutional or social objectives he/she may serve;
- 6(4) Penal institutions shall have, as one of their essential purposes, at least equal in importance to any other purpose, the development of the individual human purpose.

87.18IC Irradiation of Foods

Concerned that there is no compelling evidence to show that foods treated with ionizing energy (or ionizing radiation) are wholesome and completely safe for human consumption;

Realizing that the international logo designed to be a distinctive identification mark on all pre-packaged or bulk containers of irradiated foods, fails to suggest or imply any association with the irradiation process;

Desirous that the means to distinguish and the freedom to choose between irradiated and non-irradiated foods should be available to consumers of all nations;

Recommends that the International Council of Women urge the National Councils within its Member Nations:

1. To urge their respective governments to restrict the irradiation of foods until definitive information is available on the risks and benefits that food irradiation may have on human health and environmental quality;
2. To urge their respective governments to make mandatory the clear labelling of all foods treated with radiation, either produced in the country or imported into the country, by use of the word 'irradiation' and by an original and/or unique logo which symbolizes irradiation;
3. To study and become informed about the critical issues involved in the irradiation of foods.

RESOLUTION RE-ITERATED TO THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

87.19RE Acid Rain

The International Council of Women

Recalling the decision made at Vienna in 1973 to study problems of the human environment;

Recognizing increasing and indisputable evidence of the adverse effect of Acid Rain on the human environment;

Convinced that comprehensive action is required to combat the problem of Acid Rain;

Aware that transboundary transmission of sulphur compounds can be reduced at the source by the enforcement of abatement and control policies;

Encouraged by studies and recommendations of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), as outlined in "OECD and the Environment" released in 1979, concerning transfrontier pollution;

Welcoming the attention given in the 1979 UN Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution to the emission of sulphur compounds; and,

Seriously concerned that few countries have ratified the 1979 UN Convention, and that member countries of OECD have not strenuously pursued the implementation of OECD recommendations concerning the long-range transport of air pollution;

Urges National Councils to request their Governments:

1. To pursue control and abatement policies which would require reduction of sulphur compound emissions at the source;
2. To implement OECD recommendations concerning long-range transport of air pollution if a member nation of the Organization;
3. To ratify the 1979 UN Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution.