

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF CANADA

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#1 APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES TO SUPREME COURT OF CANADA

Whereas #1 the power to appoint judges to the Supreme Court of Canada is held by the Governor General, although in practice appointments are made in consultation with, and upon the recommendation of, the Prime Minister, who has been advised by the current cabinet, and independent Advisory Committees; and

Whereas #2 in order to preserve public confidence in the Supreme Court of Canada, it is of the utmost importance that the principle of judicial independence be maintained and the appointment of judges be based on merit; and

Whereas # the composition and role of independent advisory committees is an important part of the process in the selection of Supreme Court judges; and

Whereas #4 the changes implemented in 2006 by the Government of Canada are widely assessed as having decreased the independence of the Advisory Committees, thus opening the door to appointments based on ideology rather than merit; and

Whereas #5 if the Parliament of Canada has a role in meeting prospective appointees to the Bench of the Supreme Court before their candidature is confirmed, the public perception will be that such judges report to Parliament at the expense of their independence; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy that:

- a) the Supreme Court of Canada function on the principle of judicial independence;
- b) appointments to the Supreme Court be made on the basis of merit; and
- c) nominees not be required to meet with Parliamentary committees as part of the selection process; and be it further

Resolved #2 that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to ensure that:

- a) judicial independence be recognized as essential to the functioning of the Supreme Court of Canada;
- b) independent advisory committees be set up to ensure that appointments are made on the basis of merit;
- c) the advisory committee be composed of representatives from each party in the House Standing Committee on Justice, Human Rights, Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness; the Canadian Bar; and the Federal Minister of Justice.
- d) the advisory committees be asked to differentiate between

- qualified and highly qualified nominees; and
- e) nominees not be required to meet with Parliamentary committees as part of the selection process.

#2 INADEQUACIES IN INCOME TRANSFER PROGRAMS FOR LOW INCOME SENIORS

Whereas #1 as the number of people in the workforce covered by pension plans decreases, an increasing number of senior households depend on federal government transfers for a larger proportion of their income; and

Whereas #2 Statistics Canada reports that single unattached older persons over 80, particularly single unattached older women, are most likely to fall into poverty, as measured by Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-Off (LICO), which has led, since the 1990s, to an increased gap between seniors' incomes and those of other Canadians; and

Whereas #3 since the Government of Canada pays retroactive payments for only 11 months for federal income transfer programs (Old Age Security [OAS] and Canada Pension Plan [CPP]), seniors, who failed to apply at the time of entitlement for these benefits, lose thousands of dollars in income; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy that federal income transfer programs be increased to ensure an adequate level of income for low-income seniors with income at or above Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-Off (LICO); and be it further

Resolved #2 that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to:

- a) raise the rates of income transfer programs including the Old Age Security (OAS) and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS);
- b) extend retroactive payments of OAS and CPP, including interest, owed to seniors, in order to cover the entire time for which the senior in question is eligible for federal income transfer programs.
- c) Develop a user-friendly system whereby all persons reaching retirement age are automatically informed, in advance, of their rights and the steps they should follow, such information not being limited to print.

#3 CALL FOR A NATIONAL ENERGY STRATEGY FOR CANADA

- Whereas #1** Canada currently lacks a comprehensive energy strategy which would provide clear direction in balancing both resource development and environmental initiatives; and
- Whereas #2** Canada's energy sector is widely recognized as being key to Canada's future economic health and security; and
- Whereas #3** Canada recognized, in recent legislation, the need to lower CO2 emissions yet continues to depend heavily on high CO2 emitting fossil fuel sources; therefore be it
- Resolved #1** that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy that Canada's energy strategy ensures resource development occurs within a sustainable development framework; and be it further
- Resolved #2** that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to develop a national energy strategy for Canada that ensures resource development occurs within a sustainable development framework; and be it further
- Resolved #3** that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to develop a national energy strategy which provides economic incentives to research and develop clean energy sources for Canada's energy needs.

#4 THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL DENTICARE PROGRAM

Whereas #1 Dental care stands outside Canada's publicly funded universal health-care delivery system; and

Whereas #2 many Canadians, particularly low income people are not covered by company or group insurance plans, and therefore go without dental care; and

Whereas #3 Dental health is an integral part of overall health for Canadians, and lack of access to preventive and remedial dental health care causes further deterioration of oral health, which, in turn, leads to greater pain and suffering and also results in long term health problems, difficult social interaction and decreased employability; and

Whereas #4 for the most part provincial dental services are extremely limited and, even for children, provided only on a discretionary basis; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy, the establishment of a publicly funded National Denticare Program; and be it further

Resolved #2 that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to take leadership with the provinces and territories to develop a publicly funded National Denticare Program.

#5 MINING WASTE POLLUTION REPORTING

- Whereas #1** industrial mining facilities dispose of hundreds of millions of kilograms of toxic pollutants into their tailings ponds and waste rock piles, and this pollution heavily impacts human and wildlife health and welfare and has the potential to spoil ecosystems for generations; and
- Whereas #2** until 2006 mining facilities had an exemption from reporting the waste from mining to the National Pollutant Release Inventory; and
- Whereas #3** in 2006, the Minister of the Environment removed permanently, the exemption so that mining companies have been required to report the quantities of toxic chemicals they are depositing into their mining wastes, to be made publically available through the National Pollutant Release Inventory and mining facilities have so far failed to report same; and
- Whereas #4** despite the exemption removal, Environment Canada officials have subsequently advised mining facilities that they would not be required to report disposals of substances of concern to tailing areas and waste rock areas for 2006; therefore be it
- Resolved #1** that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy that the mining industry be required to report toxic waste deposits from their total mining operations to the National Pollutant Release Inventory; and be it further
- Resolved #2** that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to ensure that all mining companies accurately report toxic waste pollution from their total mining operations to the National Pollutant Release Inventory, so that remedial and preventative action plans may be put in place to protect human health and welfare and the environment; and be it further
- Resolved #3** that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to include public scrutiny of the reports and penalties for failure to comply with standards; and be it further
- Resolved #4** that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Provincial Councils of Women to pressure their respective provincial governments to ensure that all mining companies report toxic waste pollution from their total mining operations to the National Pollutant Release Inventory.

#6 NEED FOR REFORM OF THE EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROGRAM

- Whereas #1** restrictive changes to Employment Insurance (EI) Program entitlements in the mid 1990s resulted in a decrease in the percentage of unemployed workers able to qualify for Employment Insurance from 82.9% in 1989 to 43.5% in 2004; and
- Whereas #2** non-standard work accounts for one third of employment in the Canadian workplace, and these workers have difficulty qualifying for EI, and others, such as the self-employed, are excluded; and
- Whereas #3** despite some subsequent EI enhancements, unemployed workers have increasingly had to rely on provincial and municipal social support programs, which are less than adequate, and in many cases require a disposal of significant assets; and
- Whereas #4** money collected for the employment insurance fund consists specifically of employee and employer contributions; and
- Whereas #5** the Federal Government has had significant surpluses in the EI account for many years, which have been accounted for and spent within the general federal budget, rather than used to enhance the Employment Insurance program; therefore be it
- Resolved #1** that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy that contributions to the Employment Insurance program be used only for employment insurance and that all workers, including non-standard workers and the self-employed, be allowed to participate in the program; and be it further
- Resolved #2** that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to:
- a) dedicate all insurance premiums paid into the Employment Insurance program for employment insurance only
 - b) ensure that all workers, including non-standard workers and the self-employed, be entitled to participate in the Employment Insurance program
 - c) reduce the number of hours required to qualify for employment insurance
 - d) remove inequities in entitlements of and benefits from one region of Canada to another
 - e) deem employment insurance funding as non-transferable for any other purpose.

#7 POINT OF SALE SECURITY

Whereas #1 Point of Sale (POS) systems provide the initial interface for credit card and debit card transactions and the devices themselves provide virtually no security; and

Whereas #2 the information potentially at risk is name, card number, expiration date; possibly the CVV2 (number on the back of card and the PIN code); and

Whereas #3 these devices provide varying amounts and types of storage accessible to any knowledgeable person; and

Whereas #4 there have been incidents where large numbers of cards have been compromised by these vulnerabilities; and

Whereas #5 training is inconsistent and at times does not follow the available security features; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy that there be security standards for Point of Sale devices; and be it further

Resolved #2 that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to legislate improved security standards for Point of Sale devices.

#8 CALL FOR CANADIAN SUPPORT FOR UN DECLARATION ON RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Whereas #1 Canada has been a vocal supporter of Human Rights Declarations and Conventions at the UN; and

Whereas #2 the National Council of Women of Canada has always accorded high priority to the rights regimes articulated at the UN, and has been particularly concerned about the rights of aboriginal peoples in Canada, in particular the rights of aboriginal women; and

Whereas #3 Canada was deeply involved in the decade long development of the UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and

Whereas #4 this Declaration concerns the rights of citizens who are among the most vulnerable in Canada; and

Whereas #5 Canada voted against the Declaration at the General Assembly on September 13, 2007 even though it is non-binding; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy support for the UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and be it further

Resolved #2 that National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to sign and ratify the UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

UPDATE #1: CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGIES

- Whereas #1** in 1991, the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) urged the Government of Canada to reduce the number of families in poverty by providing more adequate income support and by improving opportunities for self-support; and
- Whereas #2** in a 1997 *Update Eliminating Child Poverty in Canada*, NCWC urged the Government of Canada to raise the Child Tax Credit for low and modest income families and fully index it to inflation; and further in 1999, the National Council of Women of Canada urged the Government of Canada to undertake the Articles of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child (Article 27-acting to raise living standards of the poorest Canadian children); and
- Whereas #3** in a 2000 *Update Child Poverty and Benefits*, NCWC urged the Government of Canada to substantially increase the amount of the Child Tax Benefit and to set terms for payment which benefit all children equally, and to request the Provincial Councils and Local Councils (where appropriate) to urge their respective provincial governments to cease the clawback of the federal Child Tax Benefit from those families receiving social assistance; and
- Whereas #4** in 2006, child poverty (12.8%) was still higher than in 1989 (11.7%), the year that the House of Commons unanimously resolved “to seek to achieve the goal of eliminating child poverty among children in Canada by the year 2000”, despite continued economic growth during most of the intervening years; and
- Whereas #5** there is increasing evidence that in addition to strong labour markets, a government commitment to implement a coordinated, long term poverty reduction strategy, with targets, timelines, a dedicated budget and ongoing evaluation, is required to achieve sustained results; and
- Whereas #6** poverty reduction strategies have been effective in a number of countries and implemented in two Canadian provinces; and
- Whereas #7** parents/guardians not able to be in the workforce require adequate income in order to raise healthy children who will be able to acquire the necessary education to prepare them for employment; therefore be it
- Resolved #1** that the National Council of Women (NCWC) adopt as policy the need for:

- a) the development and implementation of a national strategy for the urgent reduction in child and family poverty;
- b) cooperation among federal, provincial, territorial and local governments to further this aim; and be it further

Resolved #2 that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to develop and implement a national strategy for the urgent reduction of child and family poverty, with the following goals:

- a) that full time, full year employment provide a level of income above the poverty line;
- b) that parent/ guardians who are not able to be in the workforce, be assured of a basic income and child benefits above the poverty line; and be it further

Resolved #3 that the NCWC urge the Government of Canada to develop and implement its national strategy for the urgent reduction of child poverty by ensuring that the plan has the following components:

- a) measurable targets and timelines,
- b) a plan of action and budget that coordinates initiatives within and across government and other partners,
- c) a government accountability structure for ensuring results and for consulting with Canadians, particularly low-income people, in the design, implementation and evaluation of the actions that will affect them,
- d) a set of agreed poverty indicators that will be used to plan, monitor change and assess progress.

UPDATE #2: MIDWIFERY SERVICES IN CANADA

Whereas #1 in 1986 the National Council of Women of Canada urged the Government of Canada to approve the legalization of midwifery; and

Whereas #2 midwifery services have been shown to be a safe and cost-effective means of providing services for women and infants during pregnancy and birth; and

Whereas #3 not all of Canada's provinces and territories have yet undertaken or completed the legalization process; and

Whereas #4 in provinces with regulated midwifery, up to 50% of the requests for midwifery services cannot be filled due to the shortage of midwives; and

Whereas #5 only 400 midwives are registered to practice in Canada and there are few spaces in midwifery education programs; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy that publicly funded regulated midwifery services be established in all Canadian provinces and territories; and be it further

Resolved #2 that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to:

- 1) regulate and publicly fund midwifery services where they are not yet regulated;
- 2) facilitate the examination and accreditation of foreign-trained midwives;
- 3) promote and encourage universal access to publicly-funded midwifery care in Canada; and be it further

Resolved #3 that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Provincial Councils of Women and, where appropriate, the Local Councils of Women, to urge their provincial governments to:

- 1) include midwifery in human resource planning strategies for health care;
- 2) facilitate the examination and accreditation of foreign-trained midwives;
- 3) develop and expand midwifery education programs.

UPDATE #3: NUCLEAR POWER PHASE-OUT

- WHEREAS #1** in 2004, NCWC adopted as policy:
- a) the rejection of Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd.'s concept for burial of nuclear waste
 - b) the need for a broad-based public debate on the energy future of Canada, with a specific focus on the need for alternative sources of energy, energy efficiency and energy conservation
 - c) the need for significant expenditures on the search for safe technology to treat nuclear waste, upgrading of nuclear site storage and safety; development of alternative sources of energy, energy efficiencies and energy conservation; improvements for international radiation standards, to reflect gender, age, health, long term low level radiation exposure by workers and the public and environmental impacts e.g. air, water and soil
 - d) the need for a Federal/Territorial/Provincial Environmental Assessment of the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) recommendations
 - e) opposition to the expansion of the nuclear industry in Canada, and the need for a phase-out of nuclear plants at the end of their life cycle and
 - f) the need for a ban on the importation of high-level radioactive waste for any purpose; and
- WHEREAS #2** NCWC's 2004 policy did not include the health and environmental impacts of the mining of uranium, the key component of the nuclear industry; and
- WHEREAS #3** Uranium mining and milling operations release radionuclides, volatile organic compounds, smog, acid rain precursors and greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and causes pollution of surface and groundwater; and
- WHEREAS #4** Environment Canada and Health Canada have determined that the effluent from uranium mines and mills is a toxic substance as defined by the Environmental Protection Act and fish, wildlife and plants in the vicinity of uranium mines have been contaminated by radioactive materials posing a risk to consumers of food grown nearby; and
- WHEREAS #5** large quantities of radioactive and "conventionally" hazardous waste rock and tailings from mines and milling operations will require care virtually forever; and
- WHEREAS #6** mining impacts will increase with the use of lower grade ores as supplies of high grade uranium are depleted; therefore be it

- RESOLVED #1** that the National Council of Women of Canada add to its current policy, that
- a) the mining of high grade uranium be phased out, in tandem with the phase-out of nuclear plants at the end of their life-cycle;
 - b) the mining of low grade uranium not be allowed as a replacement for high grade uranium;
 - c) in the interim, active mines and mills be made safe, and abandoned mines be cleaned up and secured; and be it further

- RESOLVED #2** that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to legislate that
- a) the mining of high grade uranium be phased out, in tandem with the phase-out of nuclear plants at the end of their life-cycle;
 - b) the mining of low-grade uranium not be allowed as a replacement for high-grade uranium;
 - c) in the interim, active mines and mills be made safe, and abandoned mines be cleaned up and secured.

UPDATE #4 THE NEED FOR A NATIONAL FIRE ADVISOR

- WHEREAS #1** in 1984 the National Council of Women of Canada urged the Government of Canada to undertake a program to educate the public about the hazards involved in the use of polyurethane and other synthetic materials when exposed to fire; and
- WHEREAS #2** Canada, unlike most developed countries, currently has no mechanism for compiling and distributing information on training, prevention or education regarding fires or for coordinating provincial/territorial fire-prevention strategies or for responding to domestic or international emergencies; and
- WHEREAS #3** the interests and expertise of the Canadian fire services have no official input regarding the National Fire Code or the National Building Code; and
- WHEREAS #4** the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs (CAFC) adopted in 2004 a resolution supporting the creation of the Office of National Fire Advisor (ONFA) to address these vital issues, and on several occasions has presented their policy on the creation of the ONFA to Parliamentary committees and to individual Members of Parliament; and
- WHEREAS #5** the creation of the ONFA is seen by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities as being the single most important action the Federal Government could take to improve the protection of Canadians; therefore be it
- RESOLVED #1** that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy of support for the creation of the Office of National Fire Advisor; and be it further
- RESOLVED #2** that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to establish the Office of National Fire Advisor as part of Public Safety Canada and to make it responsible for:
- a. recommending national standards for fire training and education, and for fire prevention;
 - b. educating the public about the hazards involved in the use of polyurethane and other synthetic materials when exposed to fire;
 - c. coordinating provincial and territorial fire prevention activities;
 - d. developing strategies at a national level for Fire Prevention in Canada;

- e. coordinating a national fire service response to both domestic and international emergencies;
- f. serving as the national link for provincial and territorial Fire Marshals and Commissioners;
- g. ensuring that fire-related information and statistics are compiled and distributed in a timely and standardized manner; and
- h. ensuring that the interests and expertise of the Canadian Fire Services are represented on the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes and in the National Building Code and National Fire Code.

UPDATE #5 CHANGING THE NATIONAL BUILDING CODE TO IMPROVE SAFETY FROM FIRE

- WHEREAS #1** in 1974 the National Council of Women of Canada urged the Government of Canada to incorporate several fire safety items into the National Building Code, and in 1975 urged the Government of Canada to enforce the National Building Code, and in 1984 urged the Government of Canada to find a replacement for synthetic materials in home furnishings that pose a fire hazard and educate the public about same; and
- WHEREAS #2** the current National Building Code and associated standards have not responded positively to submitted material related to clear guidelines for safe buildings and fire behaviour associated with spatial separation between buildings and eaves and other projections from buildings; and
- WHEREAS #3** there is significant ambiguity in interpretation and usage of Building Code definitions related to building height, particularly in consideration of sprinkler requirements and determination of combustible and non-combustible construction; and
- WHEREAS #4** there are performance differences between floors constructed of solid lumber and floors supported by engineered wood systems in a fire situation; therefore be it
- RESOLVED #1** that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy support for changes in the National Building Code to improve the fire safety of Canadians; and be it further
- RESOLVED #2** that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to ensure that the National Research Council and the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes (CCBFC) amend the National Building Code (NBCC) to address fire safety issues, including but not limited to the following:
- a. spatial separation between buildings as it relates to construction materials and building design;
 - b. determination of height limitations and fire safety system requirements for combustible multi-family buildings based on occupied levels and physical height; and
 - c. safety concerns related to engineered wood floor systems and other current building materials, when exposed to fire.

Emerging Issue #1

GUIDELINES ON THE USE OF STUN WEAPONS

- WHEREAS #1** 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) "...No one shall be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment..."; and
- WHEREAS #2** stun weapons, also known as stun guns or tasers™ or conductive energy weapons, inflict severe distress ranging from severe pain to complete incapacitation of the person stunned; and
- WHEREAS #3** over 260 people in North America have died within a few minutes of having been stunned with stun weapons, and a number of these fatalities have occurred in situations where no one had been in serious danger from the person who was stunned, including situations in which people have been awakened from sleep by repeated use of the devices; and
- WHEREAS #4** the presence of factors such as (but not limited to) age, gender, heart condition, drug exposure or deprivation, fear, exhaustion and pregnancy are known to exacerbate the effects of an electrical discharge, and exposure to even small amounts of electrical charge can interrupt the rhythm of the heart and cause ventricular fibrillation and death; and
- WHEREAS #5** Canada, although allowing the use of stun weapons by law enforcement officers, has done little research or review of their use and effects; therefore be it
- RESOLVED #1** that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy that stun devices be used only in situations involving immediate threat of death or serious injury which could not be contained by lesser means and where a police officer would otherwise resort to firearms to protect life; and be it further
- RESOLVED #2** that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the federal, provincial and territorial governments to ban the use of stun weapons, except in the case of immediate threat of death or serious injury which could not be contained by lesser means and where a police officer would otherwise resort to firearms to protect life; and be it further

RESOLVED #3

that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the federal, provincial and territorial governments to implement the following practices:

- a) a complete and independent review, investigating the short-term and long-term effects of stun weapons employed in a wide variety of circumstances, physical conditions and combinations thereof;
- b) that every instance of death or serious injury occurring within 72 hours of being stunned be treated and investigated in the same way as death or serious injury by firearm; and
- c) that any police officer who uses a stun weapon in a situation contrary to this policy be subject to a disciplinary process.

Emerging Issue #2 CLUSTER MUNITIONS

- WHEREAS #1** in 1996 the National Council of Women of Canada approved policy 96.7 banning the production, use, and export of anti-personnel Land Mines world wide, which did not include Cluster Munitions (bombs); and
- WHEREAS #2** Cluster Munitions kill and injure civilians as they scatter explosives over wide areas and many of the bomblets or submunitions fail to explode on impact killing and injuring civilians long after conflict, similar to land mines; and
- WHEREAS #3** Cluster Munitions kill indiscriminately and are stockpiled in the billions by 75 countries; and
- WHEREAS #4** the Lebanon conflict of 2006 demonstrated that non-State armed groups now have access to Cluster Munitions and that the problem can rapidly become far worse if urgent steps are not taken; and
- WHEREAS #5** an international process is occurring in 2008 to conclude a new treaty (the Oslo process) that will prohibit Cluster Munitions weapons; therefore be it
- RESOLVED #1** that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy that the production, stockpiling, use and transfer of Cluster Munitions be ended and relief be provided for affected communities; and be it further
- RESOLVED #2** that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada
- a. to participate actively in the current process to ban the production, stockpiling, use and transfer of cluster bombs; and
 - b. to support an instrument that is strong, clear, and easily implemented; and
 - c. to conclude and sign on to a treaty that will prohibit Cluster Munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians; and be it further
- RESOLVED #3** that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to provide financial, medical and rehabilitation relief for those civilians and communities affected by Cluster Munitions.

Emerging Issue #3
**GOVERNMENT DISCRETION IN AWARDING TAX CREDITS TO FILM
AND VIDEO PRODUCTIONS**

- WHEREAS #1** to establish eligibility for receiving tax credits, a producer of films and videos requires a certificate under the Income Tax Act, and The Income Tax Amendments Act (Bill C – 10) now gives the Minister of Canadian Heritage the authority to establish guidelines for the granting of these certificates to ensure that “public financial support of the production would not be contrary to public policy” [Subsection 125.4(1) (b)]; and
- WHEREAS #2** many commentators conclude that this authority will be unaccountable and will allow the Minister and staff to grant certificates on the basis of subjective judgements, personal values and ideological beliefs; and
- WHEREAS #3** the regulations for issuing tax credits already preclude funding productions that depict pornography, as defined by the Criminal Code; and
- WHEREAS #4** Bill C10 has already passed the House of Commons, but there may be further opportunities to influence the outcome; and
- WHEREAS #5** before work on a film is commenced, tax credits need to be negotiated in order to pay for the filming work, but under the new legislation, the tax credit can be disallowed retroactively once the money is spent; therefore be it
- RESOLVED #1** that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy that
- a) the artistic freedom of artists and producers of films and videos be respected at all times
 - b) the film and movie industry continue to be supported through the award of tax credits to individual film and video productions,
 - c) tax credits be denied only to those productions which violate the Criminal Code of Canada
 - d) provisions for retroactively disallowing tax credits allocated for the production of films and videos be abolished; and be it further
- RESOLVED #2** that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to:
- a) continue to support the Canadian film and video industry by awarding tax credits to individual film and video productions

- b) deny tax credits only to those productions which violate the Criminal Code of Canada
- c) bring in legislation to strengthen the Criminal Code, if it finds that the present Code does not cover the depiction of extreme violence, pornography or hate messages in films and videos
- d) abolish the provisions for retroactively disallowing tax credits allocated for the production of films and videos once the money is spent.

Emerging Issue #4
THE CANADIAN BOOK EXCHANGE CENTRE

- WHEREAS #1** Library and Archives Canada has announced its intention to close the Canadian Book Exchange Centre as of June 30, 2008; and
- WHEREAS #2** for 35 years federal libraries, university libraries, public libraries and specialized libraries have been donating books and periodicals they no longer need to the Exchange Centre for distribution to libraries that request them; and
- WHEREAS #3** books are also distributed through this program to developing countries; and
- WHEREAS #4** while there has been some decline in use in recent years as library collections have shifted to digital, and staffing of the Exchange has become less stable, there were still 143,000 items distributed through the Centre in 2006-07; and
- WHEREAS #5** the biggest users of the Exchange are academic libraries, which for research purposes, require past as well as current issues of periodicals and reports; therefore be it
- RESOLVED #1** that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy support for the activities of the Canadian Book Exchange Centre; and be it further
- RESOLVED #2** that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to
- a) reverse the decision to close the Canadian Book Exchange Centre in 2008
 - b) continue to provide the service as long as there is a significant need for it, and
 - c) consult with participating libraries about the future of the Exchange.