

2011 PCWO RESOLUTIONS

With Summaries of Intent

2011:01 HEALTH-RELATED FOOD COSTS FOR SOCIAL ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS

2011:02 ACCESS TO HOSPITAL CARE IN RURAL AND NORTHERN ONTARIO

2011:03 ADEQUATE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

2011:04 COMBATTING HUMAN SEXUAL TRAFFICKING

Policy Update

2011:01PU REGULATION OF RETIREMENT HOMES IN ONTARIO

2011:01 HEALTH-RELATED FOOD COSTS FOR SOCIAL ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS

RESOLVED #1 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario adopt as policy that all social assistance recipients with health-related dietary needs receive adequate Special Diet Allowances; and be it further

RESOLVED #2 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario urge the Government of Ontario to:

- a. Ensure that through the Special Diet Program, social assistance recipients who have extra costs due to health conditions receive the additional monetary support they need for dietary purposes, particularly those living in remote and northern communities
- b. Ensure that the Special Diet Program is not discriminatory according to the Ontario Human Rights Code.

2011:02 ACCESS TO HOSPITAL CARE IN RURAL AND NORTHERN ONTARIO

RESOLVED #1 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario adopt as policy that rural and northern hospitals are an essential service in the delivery of health care in Ontario and be funded accordingly; and be it further

RESOLVED #2 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario urge the Government of Ontario to:

- a. Create a policy to ensure appropriate services are available in every hospital, including in rural and northern hospitals, and
- b. Set a baseline level of expected hospital services for communities, and
- c. Create a provincial standard to provide at least baseline hospital services at a reasonable travelling time from residents' homes, and
- d. Support hospitals in developing partnerships with medical and nursing schools to bring interns, residents and nurses to Northern and rural hospitals, and

- e. Place a moratorium on closures of emergency departments until the Government of Ontario can ensure that all residents can reach emergency departments of hospitals in a reasonable travel time from their homes.

2011:03 ADEQUATE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

RESOLVED #1 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario adopt as policy that all children with special needs in publicly-funded schools have access to effective programs which meet their needs and that there be a Provincial Ombudsman to advocate for children whose educational needs are not being met; and be it further

RESOLVED #2 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario urge the Government of Ontario to provide for:

- a. Emergency funds to ensure that all school systems are able to provide children with special needs with programs that meet their immediate needs, and
- b. An annual funding increase to ensure programs can be maintained, and
- c. The appointment of a Provincial Ombudsman to advocate for children whose educational needs are not being met.

2011:04 COMBATTING HUMAN SEXUAL TRAFFICKING

RESOLVED #1 that the Provincial Council of women of Ontario adopt as policy opposition to human sexual trafficking; and be it further

RESOLVED #2 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario urge the Government of Ontario to:

- a. Acknowledge the reality that human sexual trafficking by organized crime networks is present in Ontario

- b. Provide funding for NGOs for programming and support to the victims of sexual trafficking
- c. Direct the judicial system to make human sexual trafficking charges a priority and victim-focused
- d. Bring together relevant parties to share best practices and to develop a provincial protocol to assist victims of human sexual trafficking
- e. Appoint a Minister to address all issues involved with human sexual trafficking
- f. convene an Advisory Committee to:
 - a. Identify training needs, develop a curriculum and launch a training program on human sexual trafficking for front line workers
 - b. Provide educational material and training for local police forces in how to identify and to serve victims of sexual trafficking and how to bring offenders to justice.

RESOLVED #3 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario urge the Government of Ontario to work with the Government of Canada and other Provinces and Territories to address human sexual trafficking.

2011:01PU REGULATION OF RETIREMENT HOMES IN ONTARIO

RESOLVED #1 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario adopt a policy the need for adequate legislation and regulations to ensure the care, safety, comfort, independence and well-being of seniors living in Retirement Homes; and be it further

RESOLVED #2 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario urge the Government of Ontario to ensure that where the Retirement Homes provide professional health care services, the regulations ensure that:

- a. the care provided by Retirement Homes is commensurate with the individual need of each senior

- b. for each new resident permanently residing in the Retirement Home, a plan of care of drawn up in close consultation with the senior and her/his substitute decision-maker, if any, within 14 days of arrival
- c. this plan is reviewed and renewed after any major medical change in condition; and be it further

RESOLVED #3 that residents have full access to all services provided by the Community Care Access Centre of their Local Health Integration Network and are able to use these services at no additional cost, so that residents do not have to pay privately for health services that are publicly provided by the Ontario Health Insurance Plan; and be it further

RESOLVED #4 that, where Retirement Homes provide professional health care services, for example, for residents suffering from dementia:

- a. Physical and drug restraints be allowed in Homes only that are licensed to have a full time R.N. or physician on premises or on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and that these qualified staff are on premises at any time these restraints are in use
- b. Retirement Homes that do not have such professional contracted services available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year not be licensed to use these restraints; and be it further

RESOLVED #5 that

- a. The complaint process for residents be simple, quick and straightforward to obtain remedial action
- b. That investigation take place immediately
- c. That residents be protected from retaliation by staff and /or by owners of the home, upon presentation and follow-up of the complaints.