

2014 PCWO RESOLUTIONS
With Summaries of Intent

- 2014.01 BANNING THE USE OF NEONICOTINOID PESTICIDES TO PROTECT FOOD**
- 2014.02 LEGISLATION TO PREVENT STRATEGIC LAWSUITS AGAINST PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
- 2014.03 MEDICALLY ASSISTED DEATH**
- 2014.04 PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE PALLIATIVE CARE OPTION**
- 2014.05 IMPROVING ACCESS TO WELL-WOMAN CARE, INCLUDING MEDICAL
TERMINATION, BY EXPANDING MIDWIFERY SCOPE OF PRACTICE**
- 2014.06 EQUAL PAY FOR WOMEN: CLOSING THE GENDER GAP**
- 2014.07 IMPROVING FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN FOR 4 AND 5 YEAR OLD CHILDREN**

2014.01 BANNING THE USE OF NEONICOTINOID PESTICIDES TO PROTECT FOOD

Whereas #1 fully a third of our food relies on pollinators, particularly bees, and without these our food supply could be in serious trouble; and

Whereas #2 numerous peer-reviewed scientific studies have concluded that neonicotinoid pesticides pose a significant threat to bees and other wildlife, and Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency has documented that last year's extensive losses of honey bees and other pollinators can be attributed to neonicotinoid use on farm crops; and

Whereas #3 neonicotinoid pesticides leach into soils, groundwater and waterways, can accumulate on clay soils and can persist for years, killing bees, and other pollinators such as aquatic insects, amphibians and birds; and

Whereas #4 while farmers believe neonicotinoids bolster crop yields, there are no studies to prove that this is true over the long term and some scientific studies have proven otherwise; and

Whereas #5 Health Canada has placed some restrictions on farm practices for farmers using neonicotinoid pesticides, but has not rescinded licences for their sale; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that Provincial Council of Women of Ontario adopt as policy that neonicotinoid pesticides not be used on farm crops; and be it further

Resolved #2 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario urge the Government of Ontario to introduce a ban on the use of neonicotinoid pesticides on farm crops.

2014.02 LEGISLATION TO PREVENT STRATEGIC LAWSUITS AGAINST PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Whereas #1 Strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPP) seek to prevent the public from speaking out or taking a position on an issue of public interest; and

Whereas # 2 several jurisdictions have passed anti-SLAPP legislation, Quebec amending its Code of Civil Procedure to dismiss an action if it is found to be a SLAPP, and Ontario on the advice of a previous Anti-SLAPP Advisory Panel, bringing legislation forward in September 2013, to better protect freedom of speech by discouraging SLAPP lawsuits; and

Whereas #3 Ontario's proposed Anti-SLAPP legislation will speed up the process and allows those who have been threatened with a court action to bring a motion of dismissal of the case before the courts, but the process is still onerous, the outcome uncertain and potentially, should it fail, there is no public funding for legal assistance; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario adopt as policy support for legislation to prevent strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs) and that public funding be available to individuals and groups as plaintiffs, in presenting these cases to the courts; and be it further

Resolved #2 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario urge the Government of Ontario to provide legal funding and guidance to groups or individuals who are threatened by a strategic lawsuit against public participation (SLAPPs), in order to help them bring motions of dismissal and argue these cases in the Courts.

2014.03 MEDICALLY ASSISTED DEATH

Whereas #1 voluntary euthanasia and assisted suicide are illegal in Canada; and

Whereas #2 80% of Canadians support doctor-assisted suicide; and

Whereas #3 palliative care is sometimes not enough to reduce pain and maintain dignity, and

Whereas #4 jurisdictions where assisted suicide is legal, with safeguards, include the Netherlands, Switzerland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Montana, Oregon, Vermont and Washington; and **Whereas #5** since assisted suicide takes place in all jurisdictions even if illegal, it is better to have it legal with safeguards; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario adopt as policy that voluntary euthanasia and doctor-assisted suicide, with safeguards, be legal; and be it further

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

- a. Allow voluntary euthanasia and doctor-assisted suicide with safeguards, in Ontario through medical legislation and,

- b. Urge the federal government to remove doctor-assisted suicide from the Criminal Code of Canada

2014.04 PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE PALLIATIVE CARE OPTION

Whereas #1 NCWC resolution 86.5 calls for Palliative Care across Canada, though it is still not readily available across all of Ontario; and

Whereas #2 communication tools explaining palliative care options are not always easily available to the general public; and

Whereas #3 individuals approaching the end of life need to think about the care they want, both for their peace of mind and to remove the burden of that decision from family; and

Whereas #4 an increase in the education about palliative care would be cost-effective to the health care system by promoting a kinder, more dignified option to the individual and comfort to the family; and

Whereas #5 quality palliative care should be available at home, in hospices, in Long Term Care facilities, and in hospitals throughout Ontario; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario (PCWO) adopt as policy that the option of quality palliative care at the end of life be well explained to the general public; and that high quality palliative care be available throughout Ontario; and be it further

Resolved #2 that PCWO urge the Government of Ontario to expand public awareness of quality palliative care as an option at the end of life by:

- a. producing and implementing a comprehensive communications strategy explaining high quality palliative care to the public, including written material, publicity and a dedicated web site
- b. encouraging physicians to discuss the option with their patients c)ensuring that high quality palliative care be available throughout Ontario.

2014.05 IMPROVING ACCESS TO WELL-WOMAN CARE, INCLUDING MEDICAL TERMINATION, BY EXPANDING MIDWIFERY SCOPE OF PRACTICE

- Whereas #1** Well-woman care is routine reproductive health care that goes beyond pregnancy, childbirth and Postpartum, to include reproductive services such as general health assessments, treatment of minor gynaecological problems, prescribing contraception, fitting Inter-Uterine Devices (IUDs) sexual counselling, sexually transmitted infections (STI) testing and treatment, issues of normal menopause and medical termination of pregnancy: and
- Whereas #2** many communities in Ontario face severe shortages of health care providers, and access to well-woman care, including pregnancy termination, is still not readily accessible to marginalized women and those who live in rural and remote areas due to this scarcity; and
- Whereas #3** midwives have the competency to provide well-woman reproductive health care services, yet current legislation prohibits midwifery involvement in primary care outside of pregnancy, labour and the postpartum period, thus excluding midwives from well-woman care including pregnancy termination, and in providing full reproductive care in underserved areas, and
- Whereas #4** the provision of well-woman care including medical termination of pregnancy would increase continuity of care for midwifery clients—proven to result in better maternal outcomes while costing the health care system less; and
- Whereas #5** an expanded scope of practice for midwives would alleviate some of the existing gaps in service to women, and relieve the pressure on strained local health service delivery systems; therefore be it
- Resolved #1** that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario adopt as policy that the scope of practice of midwives include all aspects of well-woman care, including medical termination of pregnancy and further be it
- Resolved #2** that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario urge the Government of Ontario to:
- a. Expand the scope of practice of midwives to include all aspects of well-woman care, including medical termination of pregnancy
 - b. Expand the Designated Drugs Regulation of midwives to reflect this expanded scope by including categories for hormonal therapies and medical termination of pregnancy

- c. Provide additional and equitable compensation to midwives for these services.

2014.06 EQUAL PAY FOR WOMEN: CLOSING THE GENDER GAP

Whereas #1 in Ontario women's wages for full time, full year work are 74% of men's; and

Whereas # 2 the latest Statistics Canada Report shows the gender wage gap has widened since 2009, and will continue to widen without government intervention; and

Whereas #3 the Ontario Pay Equity Act was enacted in 1988 and there have been no significant changes since then to better enable economic gender parity; and

Whereas #4 the Quebec Pay Equity Act was enacted in 1996 and there have been significant changes since then, to better enable economic gender parity; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario adopt as policy that there be economic gender parity; and be it further

Resolved #2 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario (PCWO) urge the Government of Ontario, to review the Ontario Pay Equity Act of 1988 and revise as needed, in particular to include:

- a. Regular reviews of the act with implementation of review recommendations,
- b. Pay transparency through regular disclosure of incomes,
- c. Sectoral approaches where appropriate; and be it further [..... con't]

Resolved #3 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario (PCWO) urge the Government of Ontario, to set goals for closing the gender wage gap in Ontario, in particular that this issue be considered at all levels of the government in every committee and as related to all endeavours and legislation; and be it further

Resolved #4 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario (PCWO) urge the Government of Ontario, to establish a method of reporting for all Ontario employers to facilitate compliance and transparency of employee compensation.

2014.07 IMPROVING FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN FOR 4 AND 5 YEAR OLD CHILDREN

Whereas 1 in 2002 the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario (PCWO) adopted as policy the recommendations of the Early Years Study and urged the Government of Ontario to:

- a. adopt its recommendations,
- b. commit resources to carry out all recommendations in co-operation with other sectors,
- c. take an ongoing leadership role in carrying out the recommendations,
- d. review and revise government policies, legislation and regulations to be consistent with the findings of the study; and

Whereas 2 in 2012.3U the PCWO adopted further policy to maximize a child's potential to complete high school successfully and become a contributing member of adult society by supporting the 2009 Pascal report, With our Best Future in Mind – Implementing Early Learning in Ontario to introduce full day kindergarten for 4 & 5 year old children; and

Whereas 3 although the Government of Ontario began implementation of full day kindergarten for 4 and 5 year old children in 2010, with an Extended Day Program, a lack of funding and facilities did not permit universality in publicly-funded schools until the 2014-15 school year; and

Whereas 4 the Ministry of Education engaged Queen's and McMaster Universities to evaluate the first 2 years of implementation, and it issued a report October 2013 indicating that outcomes were positive, continuing improvements are needed; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario (PCWO) adopt as policy continued support for Extended- Day Kindergarten Program for 4 & 5 year old children, and the associated day-care program; and

Resolved #2 that the PCWO urge the Government of Ontario to respond to the conclusions in the 2013 report with adequate funding and collaboration with local school boards and Colleges of Teachers and Early Childhood Educators; and

Resolved #3 that the PCWO request that subsidies for the 'Extended-Day Program allow all eligible low income parents to enroll their children and that such subsidies not be taken from existing municipal child care funding.