

# **1981 PCWO RESOLUTIONS**

## **With Summaries of Intent**

- 1. HIGH TEMPERATURE INCINERATOR FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE**
- 2. TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL OF HAZARDOUS WASTE**
- 3. THE DISPOSAL OF WASTE AT CAYUGA**
- 4. INCENTIVE GRANTS FOR MUNICIPALITIES ENGAGED IN RECYCLING**
- 5. GUARANTEEING THE AVAILABILITY OF THE SUN'S RAYS TO SOLAR INSTALLATIONS**
- 6. CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION TRAINING (CPR)**
- 7. PRE-HOSPITAL ADVANCE LIFE SUPPORT SERVICES (PARAMEDICS)**
- 8. DRUG COVERAGE FOR THOSE ON PREMIUM ASSISTANCE**
- 9. PROVISION OF HEARING AIDS TO CHILDREN**
- 10. PODIATRIC ACT**
- 11. THE IMPROVEMENT OF FIRE SAFETY IN ONTARIO NURSING HOMES**
- 12. A CONTINUUM OF CARE FOR VULNERABLE ONTARIANS**
- 13. A COORDINATED AFTER-CARE PROGRAM FOR PERSONS DISCHARGED FROM PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTIONS**
- 14. PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR YOUNG MOTHERS**
- 15. AID FOR RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD**
- 16. HUMAN RIGHTS**
- 17. CHECKING THE RAPID GROWTH OF GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING**

## 1981 RESOLUTIONS

### 1. HIGH TEMPERATURE INCINERATOR FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE

**Whereas #1** the volume and number of chemical wastes being stored at present, because of a lack of a safe disposal method, continue to grow; and

**Whereas #2** there are in Ontario no high temperature incinerators to dispose of these wastes; and

**Whereas #3** such high-risk wastes as PCBs lie in unproven storage areas near highly populated areas; therefore, be it

**Resolved** that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario urge the Government of Ontario to give top priority to the funding and development of high temperature incinerators to dispose of such chemical wastes as are environmentally suitable for destruction in this manner.

### 2. TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL OF HAZARDOUS WASTE

**Whereas #1** large quantities of hazardous wastes are generated as by-products of industrial processes; and

**Whereas #2** the commonly used past practice of disposing of such hazardous wastes without pretreatment, in un-engineered, insecure landfill facilities, has been shown to be unacceptable because of the resultant contamination of groundwater, and because of the dangers of co-disposal of incompatible wastes, such as explosion and burning; and

**Whereas #3** long distance hauling of such wastes by rail, truck or boat constitutes an undue hazard to the public because of increased risk of accidents and spills; and

**Whereas #4** private industry has, as a rule, shown itself to be incapable of responding adequately to the need for safe waste management and disposal, either through reduced generation or installation of onsite treatment facilities; and

**Whereas #5** research and development of safe waste treatment techniques has not received high priority at either provincial or private levels, despite a knowledge of the dangers of current disposal practices;

and

**Whereas #6** export to the United States or overseas is no longer a viable alternative because of the closure of the American border to certain wastes such as PCBs and the threatened closure to others; and

**Whereas #7** the public is concerned about the siting criteria used in current proposed waste treatment facilities under- going assessment in Ontario; therefore, be it

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

1. Bring pressure on the generators of hazardous industrial wastes through incentives and/or regulation to reduce their output by recovery and re-use, and by the development of alternative processes which do not rely so heavily on hazardous materials; and
2. Encourage, promote and sponsor the Federal Ministry of Environment Waste Materials Exchange Program as a means of re-using hazardous wastes; and
3. Make available increased provincial funding for public and private research, development and evaluation of safe and environmentally appropriate waste treatment and disposal technologies; and
4. To ensure that the development of safe and environmentally appropriate treatment and disposal facilities proceed apace only after proper assessment (under the Ontario Environment Assessment Act, 1975) of the appropriate technology and site considerations.

### 3. THE DISPOSAL OF WASTE AT CAYUGA

**Whereas #1** a 740-acre site, amidst a much larger 13,000 acres of prime farmland, has been chosen by the Provincial Government as a storage and disposal site for the province's wastes, including hazardous wastes, such as PCBs, dioxins, heavy metals and other toxic and hazardous wastes; and

**Whereas #2** the site has been declared by Orders in Council to be exempt from the appropriate sections of the very excellent Environmental Assessment Act, 1975, the Environmental Protection Act, the Ontario Water Resources Act, and the Expropriation Act; therefore, be it

**Resolved** that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario urge the

Government of Ontario to:

1. Cancel its plans to store and dispose of wastes at this site in South Cayuga; and
2. Apply the full Environmental Assessment Act to the site study if the intention is to continue to study the site for waste disposal.

#### **4. INCENTIVE GRANTS FOR MUNICIPALITIES ENGAGED IN RECYCLING**

**Whereas #1** safe landfill space for solid waste in Ontario is becoming scarcer, and the volume of waste per person continues to grow; and

**Whereas #2** many of these materials could be recycled to save energy and resources and to create jobs; and

**Whereas #3** the monetary return to municipalities for the materials does not meet the cost of their collection and shipment, and discourages municipal recycling; therefore, be it

**Resolved** that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario urge the Government of Ontario to give an incentive grant to a municipality, based on the tonnage recycled, with a limit of \$10,000 per annum.

#### **5. GUARANTEEING THE AVAILABILITY OF THE SUN'S RAYS TO SOLAR INSTALLATIONS**

**Whereas #1** the use of solar rays as a source of energy is being widely recommended; and

**Whereas #2** the present law, by which a person is entitled only to those rays of sunlight which fall upon him/her in a direct vertical line, is not adequate to ensure that sunlight will continue to be available to solar installations; and

**Whereas #3** it is a subject of such complexity that few municipal governments will be competent to deal with it satisfactorily; therefore, be it

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

1. Initiate a study which will end in the drafting of legislation to assist municipal governments in dealing with the matter of

- guaranteeing that solar installations will have continuing access to the sun's rays in areas under their jurisdiction; and
2. Enact an enabling law which will give municipalities the power to establish by-laws to protect a person's access to the sun's rays.

## **6. CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION TRAINING (CPR)**

**Whereas #1** cardiac arrest may occur in any place, to anyone, in response to several causes, of which heart attack is the most common; and

**Whereas #2** appropriate emergency treatment applied immediately may prevent sudden death or severe disability; and

**Whereas #3** with an aging population the incidence of such cardiac arrest will increase; and

**Whereas #4** economic considerations increasingly require that the population retains health and productivity for the maximum number of years, a situation that would be fostered by widely spread CPR skill; therefore, be it

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

1. Encourage CPR training at the Heartsaver level for students in Grades 12 and 13; and
2. Require appropriate levels of CPR training for specific government employees such as O.P.P., first aiders and fire wardens in government offices, physical education teachers and ambulance staff not presently so qualified; and
3. Encourage municipal governments and the private sector to follow the provincial lead; and
4. By means of training materials, standards, awards, etc., encourage the voluntary sector to continue and expand CPR teaching for the public and to continue emphasis on safety awareness.

## **7. PRE-HOSPITAL ADVANCE LIFE SUPPORT SERVICES (PARAMEDICS)**

**Whereas #1** during an ambulance trip to hospital some victims die or suffer permanent disability because particular life support services are not available until the hospital is reached; and

**Whereas #2** the population is aging and in the past 5 years, general ambulance services in Ontario have increased 25% while the population has increased 6%; and

**Whereas #3** it now is possible in certain locations in the province and with specially trained staff, telecommunication centres and systems such as telemetry, to deliver advance life support services to the victim; therefore, be it

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

1. Develop the capacity for delivery of pre-hospital advance life support services by ambulances in areas with the required population density; and
2. Accelerate the development of communication links between hospital emergency departments and ambulance services, as well as the Ministry Emergency Health Services Group, in order to maximize use of various resources in communities in the development of unique "paramedical" services; and
3. Improve access to ambulance service by encouraging all sectors of society to integrate ambulance phone numbers with police and fire numbers in promotion to the general public.

## **8. DRUG COVERAGE FOR THOSE ON PREMIUM ASSISTANCE**

**Whereas #1** people on Premium Assistance, whose lack of income qualifies them for free OHIP coverage, do not have financial means to stockpile groceries and therefore, when illness strikes, a choice may have to be made between the purchase of medication; and

**Whereas #2** on-going chronic conditions can be very costly; therefore, be it

**Resolved** that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario urge the Government of Ontario to provide coverage for prescription and non-prescription drugs as prescribed by a physician for those on OHIP Premium Assistance.

## **9. PROVISION OF HEARING AIDS TO CHILDREN**

**Whereas #1** 1981 has been designated as International Year of Disabled Persons; and

- Whereas #2** in the province of Quebec free hearing aids and service are provided to hearing-disabled persons to age 35, and in the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Newfoundland prescribed aids are provided to age 18; and
- Whereas #3** the cost in Ontario of the most commonly prescribed aid is \$1200 more costly than a non-electric wheelchair, and this cost, as well as costs of service, cords, batteries and ear molds must be borne entirely by parents of hearing-disabled children unless they are on welfare; and
- Whereas #4** early diagnosis accompanied by the earliest possible intervention with prescribed aids is the key to integration of these children into the mainstream of life and education; therefore, be it
- Resolved** that the Provincial Council of Women urge the Government of Ontario to provide free hearing aids as prescribed by an ear, nose and throat specialist to residents up to age 18 or as long as that person is a student registered with a learning institution in Ontario.

## 10. PODIATRIC ACT

- Whereas #1** the Chiropractic Act, Ontario, under which Podiatrists practice in the Province of Ontario, is an outmoded, almost archaic piece of legislation passed in 1944; and
- Whereas #2** Ontario residents are, by the terms of this Act, deprived of the full extent of professional care which Podiatrists are qualified to administer; and
- Whereas #3** the population is aging and both economic and human resource considerations necessitate a society which makes it possible for people to maintain health and independence as long as possible; therefore, be it
- Resolved** that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario urge the Government of Ontario to:
1. Pass a "PODIATRIC ACT" which would enable podiatrists who are at present practicing in Ontario to function according to their professional qualifications; and
  2. Consider the establishment of Podiatric training courses which are equal in quality to those being offered in Ohio, U.S.A., in order to:

- i. Ensure that residents of Ontario will continue to be provided with this specialized care;
- ii. Create job opportunities for Canadians.

## **11. THE IMPROVEMENT OF FIRE SAFETY IN ONTARIO NURSING HOMES**

**Whereas #1** the recent tragic nursing home fire in Mississauga, resulting in the death of 25 residents, would appear to demonstrate clearly the pressing need for improved fire safety in Ontario nursing homes; and

**Whereas #2** it has been recommended by a coroner's jury that the various conditions responsible for such a fire could be alleviated and possibly eliminated by undertaking certain changes in the Ontario Nursing Home Act, as well as through other actions; therefore, be it

**Resolved** that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario urge the Government of Ontario to make certain that all recommendations of the coroner's jury (referred to above) be embedded in provincial legislation.

## **12. A CONTINUUM OF CARE FOR VULNERABLE ONTARIANS**

**Whereas #1** continuity of specific care programs has not been devised for the increasing numbers of confused, ambulatory elderly persons; and

**Whereas #2** persons who are disabled mentally and/or physically, and are between the ages of 19 and 65 years, also suffer because of discontinuity between services offered by the Ministry of Health (Chronic and Nursing Homes) and the Ministry of Community and Social Services (Residential and Mental Retardation); therefore, be it

**Resolved** that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario urge the Government of Ontario to develop joint programs and deliver them to the public as one service, so that, between them, the Ministries of Health and Community and Social Services will provide a continuum of care for vulnerable Ontario citizens.



### **13. A COORDINATED AFTER-CARE PROGRAM FOR PERSONS DISCHARGED FROM PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTIONS**

**Whereas #1** the number of psychiatric treatment beds in Ontario has been substantially increasing, yet after-care facilities have shown little, if any, growth; and

**Whereas #2** model programs have demonstrated the feasibility and usefulness of Halfway Houses and supervised homes, yet there is no enabling legislation available either to authorize government funding of operational deficits, or to expand the availability of such programs; and

**Whereas #3** psychiatric patients require unique programs for rehabilitation and initial employment aids and cannot be serviced adequately as part of a larger hard-to-employ group; and

**Whereas #4** the Ministry of Community and Social Services recognizes that some groups of disabled persons may require a consolidation of services for income, housing, social recreation, prevocational, vocational and employment services, but has not yet developed such programs for psychiatric discharges, although such persons would appear the most inconvenienced by lack of such consolidation; therefore, be it

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

1. Recognize the need for a coordinated program to serve the needs of persons discharged from psychiatric hospitals; and
2. Enact the enabling legislation to permit a voluntary organization, with the aid of trained personnel, to set up the community services and to receive the requisite funding for ongoing services.

### **14. PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR YOUNG MOTHERS**

**Whereas #1** it is estimated that 80% of young girls who give birth are keeping their babies, while the trend for more mature adults in Canada is to delay parenting; and

**Whereas #2** by the time the teenager finds welfare inadequate, the demands of motherhood more than she can handle, and the future bleak, the scars on both mother and baby have frequently become irreparable; and

- Whereas #3** when a young girl starts living on public funds at an early age, this dependency tends to remain with her throughout life; and
- Whereas #4** if these girls were in Residential Homes, they could continue their schooling, be trained in parenting, be assisted with the care of their children and counselled for future rehabilitation; therefore, be it
- Resolved** that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario urge the Ministry of Community and Social Services to place high emphasis on development of residential homes for teenaged mothers.

## 15. AID FOR RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD

- Whereas #1** the family is still a vital, essential social institution in Ontario; and
- Whereas #2** today's family faces overwhelming internal and external stresses and strains, often resulting in child abuse, delinquency, family break-up and expensive alternate care; and
- Whereas #3** the availability of parenting skill courses would strengthen family life and eliminate many future problems; and
- Whereas #4** the Government of Ontario, by means of its regional conferences on the family, has indicated its support of the family as a social institution and the corner-stone of society; and
- Whereas #5** one of the common needs expressed by the Ontario citizens who attended these regional conferences has been accessible 'parenting skill courses'; therefore, be it
- Resolved** that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario urge the Government of Ontario to increase its aid to community-based organizations qualified to educate in the area of responsible parenthood.

## 16. HUMAN RIGHTS

- Whereas #1** the physically disabled of the Province of Ontario are discriminated against in the areas of housing, employment, accessibility, transportation, insurance, access to services, etc.; and

**Whereas #2** the Ontario Human Rights Commission in their 1977 report, "Life Together", recommended inclusion of the physically disabled in the Human Rights Code as a ground in which discrimination is prohibited; and

**Whereas #3** the Human Rights Code is often in conflict with other Provincial Legislation; and

**Whereas #4** the Human Rights Commission is currently inadequately staffed and funded to carry out its mandate efficiently; therefore, be it

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

1. Include physical disability as a ground on which discrimination is prohibited; and
2. Provide the Code with Primacy; and
3. Increase funding to the Human Rights Commission sufficiently to enable it to carry out its mandate efficiently.

## **17. CHECKING THE RAPID GROWTH OF GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING**

**Whereas #1** there has been a rapid growth in the use of advertising by governments for purposes of promotion and persuasion; and

**Whereas #2** this is a potential threat to free speech and to the principles of parliament and parliamentary democracy; therefore, be it

**Resolved** that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario urge the Government of Ontario to make use of media advertising only as a means of disseminating information to the public, not for purposes of propaganda and promotions.