

2017 PCWO RESOLUTIONS

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2017 RESOLUTIONS

1. SAFETY AND SECURITY ON CAMPUS

Whereas #1 the National Council of Women of Canada adopted policy 98.01 calling for zero tolerance of violence against women and for action towards gender equality, and Canada has signed the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1995; and

Whereas #2 these problems still exist, and every year students and staff are exposed to unaccustomed situations of physical and emotional danger, in Ontario's post secondary educational institutions; and

Whereas #3 Ontario's 2011 Sexual violence Action Plan features a resource guide for colleges and universities to help them work with students and staff to develop policies and protocols, and its 2016 Bill 132 requires post secondary institutions to report their progress regarding sexual violence incidents and complaints, the support services offered, and the implementation and effectiveness of their policies yearly to the Minister of Colleges and Universities and their Board of Governors, but at present there is no obligation for this information to be made public; and

Whereas #4 Bill 132 also amended the Health and Safety Act to require colleges and universities to have updated workplace and sexual harassment policies and training in place by September 2016; therefore be it

Resolved#1 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario (PCWO) adopt as policy that the safety and security of students and employees on post secondary educational institutions' campuses in Ontario be protected through proactive policies, protocols and yearly available reporting; and be it further

Resolved #2 that PCWO urge the Government of Ontario to closely track and enforce Bill 132 and ensure the yearly outcomes of the reported sexual harassment incidents and complaints are available to families, students and the general public; and be it further

Resolved #3 that PCWO urge the Government of Ontario to require college and university presidents/CEOs to be proactive and take action to protect the safety and security of students and employees through preventive measures.

2. ONTARIO PLAN FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Whereas #1 The Government of Ontario is developing plans to meet the goals of the United Nations Sustainability Development Agenda 2030 regarding ending poverty, fighting inequality and injustice, and protecting the planet; and

Whereas #2 it was appreciated by Millennium Goal experts that future improvements need to be sustainable, and that involving more women in the consultation, planning and decision-making stages, as well as implementation and monitoring, would lead to greater success; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario (PCWO) adopt as policy support for the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Goals, and that women be involved at all stages; and be it further

Resolved #2 that PCWO urge the Government of Ontario to develop plans for the implementation of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with some urgency; and be it further

Resolved #3 that PCWO urge the Government of Ontario to include women at all stages of planning, decision-making, implementation, monitoring and semi-annual evaluation of progress of Ontario's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and be it further

Resolved #4 that PCWO urge the Government of Ontario to set a timeline for Ontario's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3. ONTARIO MINISTER OF LABOUR'S GENDER WAGE GAP STEERING COMMITTEE'S FINAL REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

Whereas #1 the Premier gave a mandate to the Minister of Labour to Close the Gender Wage Gap in Ontario in the Context of the 21st Century Economy; and

Whereas #2 the Minister of Labour appointed by Order in Council a Steering Committee to review, consult and make recommendations to Close the Gender Wage Gap in Ontario in the Context of the 21st Century Economy; and

Whereas #3 the Steering Committee conducted research and consultations from April 2015, to February 2016, and submitted 20 Recommendations in their Final Report to the Minister of Labour in May 2016; and

Whereas #4 the Recommendations address Families, Employers, Governments and Workplaces that, if adopted, will create an environment to Close the Gender Wage Gap in Ontario; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario (PCWO) adopt as policy all 20 Recommendations put forward by the Steering Committee appointed by the Minister of Labour to close the gender wage gap in Ontario; and be it further

Resolved #2 that PCWO urge the Government of Ontario to adopt as policy all 20 Recommendations put forward by the Steering Committee appointed by the Minister of Labour to close the gender wage gap in Ontario, and require the Government of Ontario to give annual updates on their progress to the Ontario public.

4. USE AND HEALTH COVERAGE FOR HIV PREVENTION PILL

Whereas #1 the pre-exposure prophylaxis pill (PrEP) has been used in the treatment of HIV for over a decade and recent clinical trials show that it can reduce the risk of contracting HIV by over 90%; and

Whereas #2 PrEP is extremely expensive for individuals and although its use has been recently approved by Health Canada, Quebec is the only province to fund PrEP, which it delivers at specialized clinics; and

Whereas #3 the cost of HIV treatment far exceeds the cost of the use of PrEP and health professionals are promoting the need for a full range of tools to more dramatically reduce the numbers of person contracting it; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that Provincial Council of Women of Ontario adopt as policy that the cost of pre-exposure prophylaxis pill (PrEP) be covered by the Province of Ontario and that specialized clinics make it available for those at risk of acquiring the HIV virus; and be it further

Resolved #2 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario urge the Government of Ontario to cover the cost of PrEP and ensure there are specialized clinics to make it available free of charge to persons at risk of contracting the HIV virus.

5. COORDINATION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Whereas #1 several provincial ministries fund services that impact families including social services, education, children's services and health care; and

Whereas #2 trying to navigate all the services one may need, is time consuming, involves a lot of paperwork and is frustrating; and

Whereas #3 by sharing information among agencies and ministries by setting up a single electronic file, families will be cared for more holistically and successfully; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario (PCWO) adopt as policy that the provincial ministries funding social services, develop with community organizations, a voluntary one client, one file, one client service worker approach having addressed any resulting privacy issues; and be it further

Resolved #2 that PCWO urge the Government of Ontario to have the provincial ministries funding social services, develop with community organizations, a voluntary one client, one file, one client service worker approach, having addressed any resulting privacy issues.

6. HUMANE HOLDING CONDITIONS FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS

Whereas #1 Ontario has abrogated the purposes of Canada's Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, 2001 and international human rights law by detaining asylum seekers (also called migrant detainees), including families and children, in jails and inadequate detention centres where sometimes children are separated from their parents; and

Whereas #2 many of the detainees have no criminal record and are held mainly for administrative purposes; and

Whereas #3 conditions in jails and detention facilities are often inhumane (e.g. arbitrary, indefinite detention without meeting generally acceptable living conditions) and can lead to irreparable psychological harm to children and worsen the mental health of others; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that Provincial Council of Women of Ontario adopt as policy that asylum seekers detained in Ontario awaiting either approval to enter Canada or before being sent back to their country of origin, be held under humane conditions, and that children not be separated from families; and be it further

Resolved #2 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario urge the Government of Ontario to uphold the purposes of the Canada Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, 2001 to respect human rights by:

- a) immediately halting the practice of holding asylum seekers in jails while they wait government approval to enter Canada legally, and
- b) immediately planning to work with the Federal government to provide suitable asylum seeker and family centres in all its medium to large cities
- c) ensuring that humane conditions in these facilities be required and monitored regularly, and that monthly reports be made public.

Resolved #3 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario urge the Government of Ontario to adhere to the UN Conventions on the Rights of the Child by having the detained children attend classes.

7. ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF LONG TERM CARE PLACES IN ONTARIO

Whereas #1 the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario (PCWO) has, since 1976 had policy concerning Long Term Care Homes (LTC), including: 76.10 - Inspection of Nursing Homes; 83.6 - Homes For the Aged; 93.4 - Beds For Long Term Care (LTC); 03.03 - Staffing Levels for LTC Homes; 01.04U - Regulation of LTC Homes; 08.2U - Standards of Care in LTC Homes; and

Whereas#2 the need for LTC licensed places in Ontario far exceeds the supply, such that there is no incentive for privately owned LTC homes to invest in capital improvements to update facilities and tear down buildings that barely meet the minimum standard for quality of life; and

Whereas #3 The Government of Ontario is exacerbating this situation by limiting the numbers of licenses to the existing stock so that not-for-profit groups cannot obtain licenses for LTC beds to increase the availability and choice for those who need this level of care; and

Whereas #4 The Government of Ontario has rationalized that by 2034 there will be a decreased need for LTC beds due to changes in demographics and are reluctant to add more licenses in the system at this time despite the overwhelming need for more LTC beds; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario (PCWO) adopt as policy that the number of licensed long term care (LTC) places available in Ontario meet the national standard; and be it further

Resolved #2 that PCWO urge the Government of Ontario to increase the number of licensed LTC places in Ontario to meet the national standard of 1 bed per 1000 of population over the age of 75; and be it further

Resolved #3 that PCWO urge the Government of Ontario to develop a system of time limited licenses for LTC beds which can be revoked in 2-3 decades when the population needs have changed; and be it further

Resolved #4 that PCWO urge the Government of Ontario to give priority to applications for more licensed LTC beds to not-for-profit and municipal LTC homes.