

2013 PCWO RESOLUTIONS

With Summaries of Intent

- 2013.01 EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR REGULATED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS**

- 2013.02 SHELTERS TO PROTECT WOMEN AND GIRLS FROM “HONOUR KILLINGS”**

- 2013.03 MEDICAL EXPENSES – REFUNDABLE TAX CREDIT**

- 2013.04 DANGERS OF HYDRAULIC “FRACKING” FOR NATURAL GAS**

- 2013.05 AMENDING AND MODERNIZING THE HEALING ARTS RADIATION PROTECTION ACT**

2013.01 EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR REGULATED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

Whereas #1 the valuable publicly funded and not-for-profit Ontario health care system is under stress from increasing demands and decreasing capacity; and

Whereas #2 there are changes that could improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the system; and

Whereas #3 expanding the ability of regulated health care professionals to monitor and treat chronic illnesses would allow many more seniors to remain at home, and reduce the demands on acute care hospitals; and

Whereas #4 professional associations, including the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA), the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario (RNAO), and the Nurse Practitioners Association of Ontario (NPAO), have expressed the need for an expansion of the scope of practice, i.e. the range of authorized activities, of their members to more closely reflect their knowledge, skill and competencies; therefore be it,

Resolved #1 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario (PCWO) adopt as policy the implementation of an expanded scope of practice for regulated health care professionals, including Registered Nurses (RNs) and Registered Practical Nurses (RPNs), to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the publicly funded and not-for-profit health care system in Ontario; and

Resolved #2 that PCWO urge the Government of Ontario, in collaboration with the professional associations of regulated health care team members, to review the scope of practice of those providing health care services based on current qualifications, training and competencies; and

Resolved #3 that PCWO urge the Government of Ontario to implement an expanded scope of practice for members of the regulated health care team that provides primary care in home care, community health centres, Community Care Access Centres (CCACs), family health teams, long term care institutions, retirement homes, and community hospitals.

2013.02 SHELTERS TO PROTECT WOMEN AND GIRLS FROM “HONOUR KILLINGS”

Whereas #1 “honour” killing is a killing where one or more members of a family, for example a father and /or a brother, kills another member of that family to protect what they understand to be the family’s honour; and

Whereas #2 in some cultures a woman is expected to be subservient and obedient to male authority figures within the family and her value is based on her purity and virginity at marriage; and

Whereas #3 some girls and women reject the rules of their culture when they come to Canada and adopt western cultural norms; and

Whereas #4 there have been as many as fifteen honour killings in Canada since 2002 and likely will be more with increased immigration; and

Whereas #5 a women must be abused by her “spouse” in order to find shelter in most agencies; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario adopt as policy that access to existing shelters be allowed for women and girls abused or threatened by any family members; and be it further

Resolved #2 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario urge the Government of Ontario to ensure that women and girls abused or threatened by any family members have access to all existing shelters.

2013.03 MEDICAL EXPENSES – REFUNDABLE TAX CREDIT

Whereas # 1 National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) has policy 1997.2 (B) supporting a refundable tax credit for medical expenses for individuals and their caregivers, and urging provincial councils to take a lead in ensuring that this policy is used to advocate for refundable caregiver tax credits at the provincial level; and

Whereas # 2 unpaid caregivers provide more than 80% of care needed by individuals with ‘long term conditions’ thus contributing countless hours of unpaid labour annually and saving billions of dollars for Ontario’s health care system; and

Whereas # 3 the current system of tax deductions for medical expenses benefits those who have a taxable income, but penalizes low income earners who may be required

to spend a large percentage of their income on costs for medical and professional care but do not have sufficient income to benefit from tax deductions for these medical costs; and

Whereas # 4 in providing care to family members, 44% of family caregivers, most of whom are women, incur extra expense which cannot be claimed as a tax deduction in Ontario; and

Whereas # 5 some provinces have recognized the contribution of free labour and the needs of caregivers by providing refundable tax credit for them or their caregivers and Nova Scotia provides a tax credit and a caregiver allowance; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario (PCWO) adopt as policy that eligible medical expenses which are not covered by the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) or extended health benefits be refunded to all individuals; and

Resolved #2 that PCWO urge the Government of Ontario to follow the lead of other provinces and institute a system of tax refund for medical expenses to individuals or caregivers who are incurring medical expenses not covered by OHIP or extended health benefits; and further be it

Resolved #3 that the tax refund system be structured to benefit taxpayers across all income bands so that the refund for receipted caregiving expenses decreases the individual's or the caregiver's total taxable income, or provides a refund to those without a taxable income.

2013.04 DANGERS OF HYDRAULIC "FRACKING" FOR NATURAL GAS

Whereas #1 natural gas companies have targeted the Great Lakes and the surrounding lands as prime locations for the fracturing of shale rock formations by high pressure hydraulic drilling to release natural gas ("fracking"); and

Whereas #2 the natural gas industry is not required to disclose the composition of the hundreds of chemicals used in "fracking", many of them potentially harmful to human health and the environment; and

Whereas #3 the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, scientists and respected environmentalists have raised many concerns with "fracking", such as threats to wildlife and aquatic ecosystems, air quality, ground water, aquifer depletion and

pollution, the Great Lakes, polluted wastes and the resurfacing of liquids after “fracking” that contain radioactive materials; and

Whereas # 4 for the past several years, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ontario Geological Survey have been studying and mapping the potential areas of Ontario for the “fracking” of natural gas from shale formations, including underneath the Great Lakes, and although the regulatory regime for the control of “fracking” is weak, the Ministry of Natural Resources can issue licences for “fracking”; therefore, be it

Resolved #1 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario adopt as policy that “fracking” for natural gas in shale formations not take place in Ontario; and

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

- a. Refrain from licensing “fracking” for natural gas in shale formations
- b. Require the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Environment to review and publicly report on the sufficiency of the current regulatory framework to protect water resources, the natural environment and human health and safety.

2013.05 AMENDING AND MODERNIZING THE HEALING ARTS RADIATION PROTECTION ACT

Whereas #1 the Healing Arts Radiation Protection (HARP) Act and its regulations were introduced in 1980 to protect patients from excess x-ray radiation and are outdated and do not reflect current technology and practices; and

Whereas #2 opening, reviewing and modernizing the HARP Act and its regulations will fulfill the HARP Act’s mandate to protect Ontarians from excess radiation; and

Whereas #3 dental hygienists within their scope of practice expose and utilize x-rays as part of their treatment and care but currently require a prescription from a dentist prior to taking an x-ray and are not permitted to serve as Radiation Protection Officers (a position designated in the HARP Act to ensure that radiography equipment is functioning appropriately); and

Whereas #4 dental hygienists who practice independently are limited in their ability to provide complete dental hygiene care because of these restrictions; and

- Whereas #5** dental hygienists are highly skilled in radiographic interpretation and have the education to prescribe dental x-rays for dental hygiene purposes and be Radiation Protection Officers; and
- Whereas #6** practice standards for dental hygiene eliminate the need for duplicates by requiring that copies of x-rays taken by independent dental hygienists be forwarded to other oral health specialists in situations where there is a referral; and
- Whereas #7** in 2003, the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario adopted an emergency resolution to urge the Government of Ontario to: a) amend the Dental Hygiene Act by removing the requirement for an order from a dentist in order for a dental hygienist to scale teeth and b) to refrain from passing any regulations that would further restrict public access to dental hygiene services;
- Resolved #1** that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario adopt as policy that registered dental hygienists be named as Radiation Protection Officers in the Healing Arts Radiation Protection Act and be permitted to prescribe x- rays for dental hygiene purposes;
- Resolved #2** that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario urge the Government of Ontario to open and amend the Healing Arts Radiation Protection Act to:
- a. Permit registered dental hygienists to prescribe the exposure of dental x-rays within their scope of practice, and
 - b. Permit registered dental hygienists to be named as radiation protection officers thus allowing independent registered dental hygienists to own and operate x-ray equipment.