

2016 PCWO RESOLUTIONS

With Summaries of Intent

- 1. CO-PAYMENT A BARRIER TO RECEIVING HOME SUPPORT SERVICES IN ONTARIO**
- 2. INTEGRATED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURTS**
- 3. DECRIMINALIZING PANHANDLING AND SQUEEGEEING**
- 4. SUPPORT FOR A BASIC INCOME GUARANTEE PROGRAM**

2016 RESOLUTIONS

1. CO-PAYMENT A BARRIER TO RECEIVING HOME SUPPORT SERVICES IN ONTARIO

Whereas #1 the Community Care Access Centres (CCACs) across Ontario have been able to decrease length of stay in acute care hospitals by providing OHIP funded health care services in the home to patients whose condition can be managed on an out-patient basis; and

Whereas #2 the CCAC is the gatekeeper of community support services, typically provided by a not-for-profit agency in a local community, such as companion sitters, meals-on-wheels, homemaking and transportation programs; and

Whereas #3 these programs require client/caregiver co-payment and many people who require home support services cannot afford the co-payment and therefore decline participation in programs which would keep them out of hospital; and

Whereas #4 not-for-profit agencies are loathe to refuse needed help to clients and sometimes absorb the co-payments into their own budgets; and

Whereas #5 there is not consistent means testing across the province nor amongst different support agencies to determine which clients are truly needy and require having the co-payment waived; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario (PCWO) adopt as policy that Ontarians, with a medical condition manageable on an out-patient basis, be able to remain in their homes with necessary care and assistance for them and their families; and be it further

Resolved #2 that PCWO urge the Government of Ontario to develop a standardized means-test, which is equitable across the province, to ensure that a co-payment or an accumulation of co-payments for community support services is not a barrier to receiving health care services in the home.

2. INTEGRATED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURTS

Whereas #1 an Integrated Domestic Violence (IDV) Court is a pilot project started in Toronto in 2011; and

Whereas #2 the IDV court provides a single judge to hear both criminal and family law cases related to one family, where the underlying issue is domestic violence; and

Whereas #3 IDV courts focus on the safety of victims and accountability of the offender; and

Whereas #4 between 2011 and 2015 the IDV court has heard only 44 cases; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario (PCWO) establish as policy that Integrated Domestic Violence (IDV) courts be established across Ontario and that cases of domestic violence be referred to these IDV courts; and be it further

Resolved #2 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario urge the Government of Ontario to establish Integrated Domestic Violence (IDV) courts across Ontario and that cases of domestic violence be referred to these IDV courts.

3. DECRIMINALIZING PANHANDLING AND SQUEEGEEING

Whereas #1 the 'Ontario Safe Streets Act 1999', addressing aggressive panhandling, squeegeeing and protecting motorists from obstructing behaviour, has proven to be costly and ineffective; and

Whereas #2 panhandling and squeegeeing are not a significant problem in Ontario and there are already adequate laws in place to deal with these infractions; and

Whereas #3 the enforcement of this legislation targets those who are homeless, severely disadvantaged and struggling with addictions or mental illness; and

Whereas #4 this legislation contributes to the criminalization of homelessness, and creates barriers for people trying to escape homelessness; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario adopt as policy that panhandling and squeegeeing not be considered criminal acts; and be it further

Resolved #2 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario urge the Government of Ontario to amend the 'Ontario Safe Streets Act 1999' so that it does not classify panhandling and squeegeeing as criminal acts.

4. SUPPORT FOR A BASIC INCOME GUARANTEE PROGRAM

Whereas #1 income insecurity and poverty in Ontario continue to grow as social assistance rates are well below adequacy, good stable jobs are in short supply, with automation and artificial intelligence playing a steadily increasing role, and working full time no longer provides assurance of living above the poverty line; and

Whereas #2 an early guaranteed annual income program in Manitoba showed improved health, educational and societal results, and the Federal Old Age Security program (OAS) dramatically reduced senior poverty, particularly for women; and

Whereas #3 investments in a basic income guarantee program would help alleviate poverty, support people in their efforts to participate in the economy, decrease societal costs, improve educational outcomes and improve the quality of life and sense of dignity for individuals, families and children; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario adopt as policy support for a basic income guarantee program and there be no negative impact on social service programs; and be it further

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

1. Move quickly to develop its promised pilot program on a Basic Income Guarantee Program; and
2. Use the provincial pilot project study's research and outcomes to work with the federal government and other provinces and territories to develop a national basic income supplement program and that there be no negative impact on social service programs