

PCWO RESOLUTIONS 2022

PCWO RESOLUTION 2022-01

TEACHING CLIMATE CHANGE IN SCHOOLS

- Whereas #1** Canada's commitment as a signatory to the Paris Climate Change Agreement includes a call 'to enhance climate change education'; and
- Whereas #2** barriers for teachers to integrate climate change education into classrooms are lack of classroom resources and lack of professional knowledge; and
- Whereas #3** discussion of climate change can lead to feelings of fear and anxiety in students; and
- Whereas #4** curricula fail to emphasize that there is scientific consensus on the mechanisms and role of humans in causing climate change; therefore be it
- Resolved #1** that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario (PCWO) adopt as policy that climate change education in schools be increased and included in all grades and subjects, and teachers be given professional development and resources for teaching climate change; and be it further
- Resolved #2** that PCWO urge the Government of Ontario to:
- a) provide teachers with professional development opportunities to improve their knowledge and strategies related to teaching climate change as well as providing resources
 - b) lessen students' fear response by emphasizing solutions and actions to address climate change
 - c) ensure that curricula emphasize that there is scientific consensus on the mechanisms and role of humans in causing climate change
 - d) ensure that scientific facts and political debates are clearly separated in the curriculum
 - e) ensure that cutting-edge science and ideas are incorporated into curricula by the collaboration of the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks and the Ministry of Education

PCWO RESOLUTION 2022-02

UPDATE: HEALTH CARE STAFFING

- Whereas #1** in 2001, the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario urged the Government of Ontario to:
- a) investigate realistic levels of qualified staff needed for a functional health care system; and
 - b) ask for input from health care workers to define working conditions; and
 - c) apply any savings achieved by efficiencies in the health care system to improve health care and increase the hiring of health care workers rather than to provide profit for agencies; and
 - d) offer full-time employment to sufficient numbers of qualified health care workers to meet the needs of the system and to encourage those who have left the health care field to return.
- Whereas #2** Ontario has had a growing shortage of nurses and personal support workers (PSWs) for several years but faces significant depletion following the pandemic; and
- Whereas #3** with cancelled surgeries and procedures during the pandemic there is now a backlog with too few nurses available to help with surgeries and procedures; and
- Whereas #4** in long-term care homes PSW shortages threaten the proper care and safety of residents; and
- Whereas #5** opportunities for full-time work and advancement for PSWs are inadequate, leading to staff working two part-time jobs; and
- Whereas #6** Bill 124 caps public-sector wage increases to one percent; and
- Whereas #7** the pandemic has meant hours of overtime, back-to-back 12-hour shifts, and cancelled time off for nurses and PSWs; therefore be it
- Resolved #1** that the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario (PCWO) adopt as policy that there be adequate staffing of nurses, personal support workers and other health care workers to meet clearly defined safety standards and guidelines, fair wages and benefits on par with other health care sectors, and options for full-time work assignments especially for those in long-term care; and be it further
- Resolved #2** that PCWO urge the Government of Ontario to:

- a) exempt nurses and PSWs from Bill 124 so that they can negotiate fair wages either individually or collectively
- b) instruct health care institutions to end mandatory overtime and cancelled time off
- c) commit to supporting, mandating and funding adequate human resources in all health care sectors to ensure safe, quality staffing models
- d) adequately fund health care institutions and organizations to implement fair benefits
- e) commit to fund health care organizations to provide full-time work for all available staff with that work assignment being within a single workplace or setting, especially for those in long-term care.