

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF CANADA

STRENGTHENING THE SOCIAL UNION

THE SOCIAL UNION FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT THIRD YEAR REVIEW

SUBMITTED TO THE FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL

MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON SOCIAL POLICY RENEWAL

OCTOBER 2002

The National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) is a federation of five Provincial Councils of Women, in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec; eighteen Local Councils of Women in cities from Victoria to Halifax; twenty-eight independent affiliated national organizations. In its history of more than one hundred years of advocacy on behalf of women and their families, health issues, education, and social issues have always been of great concern to NCWC federates. NCWC develops policies through resolutions originated at the grass roots, and these are debated and voted on by the membership at annual meetings.

This submission is based on policy developed through this process, and therefore, represents the views of a large network of women across the country. We will address the issues identified by this three -year review inasmuch as they relate to our adopted resolutions. The policies, cited, are listed below, identified by the year in which they were implemented, and grouped according to issue. They may be further identified as an Emergency Policy or as Policy Up-date.

We will address each of the seven headings suggested by the Ministerial Council on Social Policy Renewal, through the perspective of our established policies. The Ministerial Council wishes to hear feed-back about the following:

- 1) Principles- Set of Canadian Values,
- 2) Mobility of Canadians;
- 3) Informing Canadians -Public Accountability and Transparency;
- 4) Working in Partnerships for Canadians
- 5)The federal spending power - Improving social programs for Canadians;
- 6) Dispute Avoidance and Resolution;
- 7) Review of SUFA.

The Social Union Framework Agreement:

We appreciate the opportunity to share some of our thoughts about the strengths, weaknesses and potential of the Social Union Framework Agreement. To read the document, it appears quite comprehensive and inclusive. However, as will be discussed in this paper, these laudable principles have not been implemented as consistently as they could have been. Admittedly, SUFA is a good effort, still quite new. Perhaps the partners are not yet in the habit of considering whether their policies and decisions are consistent with SUFA's principles. In fact, many of the laws and policies that affect us on a daily basis have been in place for some time already. The federal government, the provinces and territories need to commit to review all of Canada's laws and programs for compliance with the SUFA principles.

National Council of Women of Canada is concerned about the fact that Quebec is not a signatory to SUFA. We appreciate that, fortunately, Quebec has a history of commitment to a comprehensive social program, in particular, a provincial childcare program that is the envy of the rest of Canada. We would hope that negotiations be undertaken to extend a new invitation for Quebec to reconsider its membership in SUFA. Since inclusion is a value affirmed in the SUFA, we would hope that all Canadians could benefit from the rich and varied experience that each region brings to the table.

In fact, although the SUFA is meant to be dealing primarily with the ministries of Health, Education and Social Services, we need to be cognizant of the interconnectedness between these and several other departments, including Public Health, Justice, Status of Women, Immigration, Human Resources, Canada Customs and Revenue Agency, Environment, Culture and Heritage, Foreign Affairs and International Trade, etc. NCWC believes that, as Canadians, we need to develop a comprehensive, congruent vision for Canada as an inclusive, safe, respectful place for all of its citizens, irregardless of age or where they live.

Principles and Values:

We begin by confirming that NCWC supports the principles upon which the Social Union Framework Agreement is founded. These are values which most Canadians embrace. We appreciate that these are ideals, primarily. As the NCWC Vision Statement * expresses, we support that these values and principles be promoted as much as possible in the implementation of all programs, services and initiatives *“to empower all women to improve the quality of life for women, families and society... to work to improve conditions of life for women, families and communities.”* *

Children and Families:

National Council of Women of Canada has a long history of concern for young families, advocating for resources to support them in nurturing and parenting their young and to afford them a standard of living which allows its members to be full participants in their communities. (*Pol. 75.4, 91.1,97.12*) National Council of Women of Canada urges the SUFA members to be mindful of the commitments undertaken by being a signatory to the UN Convention to the Rights of the Child. We encourage them to collaborate to develop a comprehensive National Action Plan for the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In fact, we urge them to begin by eradicating Section 43 of the Criminal Code of Canada (*Pol. 00.2*) and to supplant it with a range of accessible supports for parents and families, thereby affirming the intrinsic value of children and the importance in investing in nurturing them to maturity.

We, at National Council of Women of Canada, are very concerned with the continued levels of child poverty, and this, amidst a recovering economy. We have been hopeful about initiatives in the National Child Benefit Program and the Early Childhood Development Agreement, but we are conscious that the limited resources allocated, compared to the amounts required for these programs to have a real and profound positive impact on our families and communities, mitigate expected outcomes. We have been advocating for a nationally-subsidized child care program for many decades, as well as for recognition of the important contribution of family care-givers looking after children and older or ill relatives. We advocate for supports and financial recognition, which could include, minimally, tax credits and/or deductions. (*Pol. 97.2*)

Informing Canadians - Public Accountability and Transparency:

Re: Informing Canadians - Since accurate and timely information is the cornerstone of democracy, NCWC advocates for adequate funding and political independence for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to fulfill its mandate to inform the Canadian public. (*pol.99.1 UP*) There has been a serious erosion to its journalistic independence through government appointments to the administration bodies as well as through the increasing pressures to compete with the private commercial sector. NCWC also holds dear, the opportunity for regional programming, which has seen dramatic cuts, in the past decade.

NCWC believes that the CBC, this public information corporation, has the duty and responsibility to keep Canadians informed on issues at home and internationally. It is important for the CBC to have access to the resources to ensure balanced reporting and comprehensive analysis, free from corporate and /or political interests. Canadians need the opportunity to have a deeper understanding of the issues and of how these affect them and their neighbors around the world. It is only then, that they can be expected to contribute meaningfully in the governance of their local, regional and national affairs and to vote intelligently.

Re: Public Accountability and Transparency - We are very concerned about the lack of clarity and accountability that has allowed the provinces to claw-back the Canada Child Tax Benefit for families receiving social assistance allowances in a majority of provinces. (Pol. 00.03 PU) No doubt there have been several interesting initiatives funded through this claw-back. We are denouncing that these have been instituted at the expense of some of the most vulnerable citizens. This is counter to the fundamental Canadian values espoused by the Social Union Framework Agreement - values of “ fairness, equity, equality of opportunity for all Canadians, respect for the rights and dignity of all Canadian women and men and their diverse needs...” It is noteworthy that the provinces which resisted the claw-back are among the most financially challenged provinces, highlighting the fact that what is involved here is a matter of political will for the most part.

This illustrates that the present terms of SUFA have weaknesses which render it to be less than effective.

Since SUFA clauses do not enunciate clear, measurable goals, expectations of outcomes, time frames, etc., there are no standards by which to measure the effectiveness of various initiatives or existing programs. Although the federal government advocates values of equality and respect for different needs of Canadians at the federal level, it appears that the provincial and territorial governments are not held to ensure that those values are upheld in the devolution of certain programs and services to their jurisdiction. We urge the federal government to redress this serious shortfall. If the provinces are subscribing to a particular federal source of funding, they should be aware that they need to embrace and prioritize the values quoted above, enunciated in the SUFA document, values that Canadians have come to expect from their government. (pol.01.3)

International Instruments:

This is most important in light of the fact that Canada is signatory to many international instruments negotiated through the United Nations. (Pol.98.1) Canada commits itself, as a nation, to ensure access, to respect and implement the terms of such international instruments when it ratifies them. The Government of Canada needs to inform its federate members about the obligations that are assumed by the respective governments under these Declarations and Conventions.** NCWC urges the Government of Canada to demonstrate leadership and to insist on respect for our international commitments and for the principles of SUFA.

We are aware of the fact that Canada's partnership in international Free Trade agreements has raised many disturbing issues. (Pol.98.6) We are most worried that Canada's sovereignty is being seriously undermined in favour of market interests which are protected by investor-protection clauses, as were proposed in the MAI, and as they exist in Chapter 11 of NAFTA. (This is the most concerning

issue of the FTAA as well.) Many citizens from all of the Americas are worried that the democratically-elected governments are being subjugated to investment interests and court challenges. Governments are foregoing legitimate taxes and are at risk of paying out large fines to foreign or business interests who allege that they are being discriminated against by Nation State policies and/or legislation. The fines are paid out of tax-payers' monies, monies ear-marked to provide services and programs to the citizenry. In the spirit of free trade, a number of provincial and territorial governments, not to mention municipal governments, embrace the free trade ideology and are quite willing to waive legitimate business, personal and property taxes. This, in order to attract investors to establish themselves within their jurisdictions in the hopes of creating employment and economic growth.

This forgone revenue is meant to be ensuring a basic level of service for Canadian residents. The ideologically motivated governments tend to make up the shortfall by cutting back on the services and programs to the citizens. (*Pol.98.6*) The most vulnerable citizens bear the brunt of these ideological choices - especially people with little or no voice - namely, women, youth, seniors, Aboriginal Peoples, new-comers to Canada, the differently-abled, and other minority groups, including the financially challenged.

The terms of some of these international economic treaties also put at risk Canada's autonomy to institute any new national social programs, such as child care or home care. (*Pol.93.1 & 98.6*) The terms of SUFA should provide a mechanism for the provincial, territorial and even municipal governments to become aware of the implications and consequences of any unilateral action (bulk sale of water, for example) that they may be tempted to undertake, now that we are all bound by the terms of these international agreements. (*Pol.93.1*)

It is our understanding that there were a number of areas that were protected from the Investor Protection clause, such as Medicare, for example. However, the caveat is that the terms protect only the status quo as of the date of signature. If there is any further privatization of health services than existed at the time of signing, the original protection afforded to the Medicare program, is dissolved and foreign interests are then free to compete to establish themselves on their terms on Canadian soil. Furthermore, they can invoke the Chapter 11 Investor Protection clause and allege discriminatory treatment and challenge the targeted Nation State for real or projected "losses". Canada could find itself having to pay foreign private entrepreneurs for health services under the threat of a Chapter 11 lawsuit. We are concerned that the FTAA draft further entrenches investor protection. (*Pol.93.1 & 98.6*)

National Standards/Equality of Access:

The SUFA should ensure that standards be comparable from one jurisdiction to another- whether these are standards in the areas of education, health services and health protection, such as water quality and inspection services. Presently, it is difficult to ensure that citizens living in remote or rural areas have access to comparable programs and services. We can appreciate the role that technology can play in increasing access to these and other areas, but the infrastructure has to be put in place and respect of cultural diversity has to be ensured.

There have been laudable tri-lateral partnership initiatives in a number of jurisdictions to encourage Canadians to get connected to the Internet and to access on-line services. There has been an effort made to encourage the establishment of computer terminals and internet service in community spaces to facilitate access to ICT -Information /Communication/ Technology. Care and attention is required to remove barriers while respecting cultural values to increase access. Technology can be helpful in overcoming some Canadian challenges, such as distance and access to information. It can potentially be a boon in providing remote access to medical assessments and procedures, in the near future.

In terms of national standards, regarding potable water, more specifically, NCWC has two policies regarding the fluoridation of water.(*Pol.78.14 & 79.9*) NCWC wishes to stress the importance of establishing, implementing and enforcing stringent standards. We are very concerned about the delegation of this responsibility to provinces who, then, have been at liberty to delegate further to municipal levels and/or to the private sector without instituting adequate accountability measures. Under the best conditions, it is very difficult to maintain a stable level of concentration of fluorine (and chlorine) in the water. NCWC is very aware of the fact that these elements are very unstable and that they interact with other elements and chemicals in unanticipated situations. Even a slight increase in their concentrations can have exponential impact on many aspects of the environment, but of greatest concern, on the human body and especially on the young. We are warned about “a cumulative effect (to be found)in the food chain and in the human body “.There are many health risks related to fluoridation including sickle cell anemia, allergies, and organ damage and cancer. Water treatment has serious implications for the development, health, well-being, quality of life and productivity of our citizens, present and future. A recent report about levels of contamination of our waters by a variety of pharmaceuticals confirms our concerns about the safety of our waters.

We urge the Federal Government to implement a “Precautionary Principle” (*Pol. 02.13*) in all matters of health and hence, to do a thorough evaluation of the quality of our drinking water. We urge the Federal government to review the most recent ***independent studies*** on the impact of fluorine (sodium fluoride, specifically) on the population and on the environment. Until such an evaluation is complete, we would urge the Federal Government to advise the managers at

water treatment facilities to avoid the temptation to increase fluoride/chlorine levels as a “safety” measure, in the aftermath of e-coli contamination. Too many Canadians do not have the means to purchase their drinking water, even if they were aware of the worrisome levels of toxic substances in the water.

Dispute Avoidance and Problem-Solving:

SUFA has had the effect of mobilizing the provinces and territories to meet on a regular basis to discuss areas of concern and to develop coordinated unified strategies by which to lobby the federal government. SUFA needs to ensure an equitable problem-solving mechanism between the levels of government. We can appreciate that the provincial governments may have special appreciation of regional perspectives that bring an important contribution to the discussion. We believe that the federal government, however, must ensure that the rights of all Canadians be respected as well as the values of equality, respect and access. We have a special concern for our Aboriginal brothers and sisters, and we urge that they be involved meaningfully in developing programs and strategies to meet the needs of their peoples. (*Pol.93.4 and 97.6*)

In June 1998, the Federal Government discussed adding "social conditions" as a prohibited ground for discrimination. NCWC urges the different levels of government to work together so that the best interests of **people** -Canadian citizens and newcomers- have first priority, above corporate and business interests. We advocate for equality of access to safe and quality housing, health services, employment and training as well as in the range of social programs.

We believe there needs to be national standards established and maintained in order to deal with Mobility that Canadians have come to expect. National values are eroded when responsibilities are devolved. As some provincial governments pursue ideological market principles, they lose perspective of the impact on the most vulnerable. We are painfully aware that, as the economic situation in our country is improving,(however slowly, improving nonetheless) that the most vulnerable citizens have not experienced significant improvement in their life conditions. Some groups, such as single adults (and seniors) living alone, the differently-abled, (*Pol.00.4*) etc, are marginalized further than ever. We urge that these programs and services be delivered in a manner mindful of the clients' dignity and human rights. We heartily support the injection of funds to re-dress inequalities. (*Pol.98.6*)

NCWC further recommends collaboration between the levels of government to address systemic poverty and develop a comprehensive strategy to include even the most vulnerable sectors of our society to participate in Canada's socio-economic life. We advocate for a fair, gender-based analysis of the minimum wage so that women's contributions be recognized and remunerated appropriately.

We also denounce the systemic discriminating effect of federal-provincial labour legislation regarding part-time employment.(*pol.86.2; 01.4 PU*). Most part-time workers receive low wages, with no benefits, little job-security. This has immediate and long-term impact on women's financial security and that of their families (women are by far the group who is most affected) because it affects their expendable income in the immediate,(after trying to cover housing and food costs), and the amount they can(not) afford to invest in their pensions. (There has been a dramatic increase in the number of **working** individuals and families accessing food banks over the past decade.) Since low-wage and part-time workers are likely to be people who have few options, limited education, responsibilities for supporting family members, legislation on minimum wage and part-time work are the first-line of defense to unlock the jaws of the trap that keep this sector of the population caught desperately in the cycle of poverty.

Because current legislation allows employers **not** to pay benefits for employees who work less than twenty hours, Canada has seen a dramatic 400% increase in part-time and casual work in the past decade. At the same time, we have seen a worrisome decline in the number of full-time jobs. This has created an employment deficit, despite what unemployment rates may suggest. In fact, we find misleading that unemployment rates do not reflect issues of under-employment, be it in terms of hours or skill.

There may have been a time where governments believed that allowing employers to forego benefits for part-timers, would help businesses cope with the recession. However, now that the economy has recovered considerably, it is time to redress this very unfair legislation. This would certainly be one of the most effective means of reducing child poverty and, simultaneously, increasing local economic activity **without the disbursement of any public funds**. Child care and Social Housing are two other areas of challenge which exacerbate the difference in living conditions between the rich and the poor. We urge the provinces and territories to work with Ottawa to find creative, inclusive, sustainable strategies of economic development to level the playing field.

We wish to applaud the Prime Minister for his recent ratification of the Optional Protocol of CEDAW - the UN Convention of the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women. In fact, many of NCWC policies relate to gender equality.(*Pol.98.1 Em, 98.6, 97.3, 01.6*) We urge all levels of government to be sensitive to the impact of their programs and services on women and to take precautions to ensure that the latter do not suffer any negative impacts, as a result of existing or proposed programs, services, policies or legislation. We commend the Government of Canada for the work of Status of Women Canada in its advocacy and promotion of Gender-based Analysis to colleagues in the federal departments, and to their counterparts in the provinces and territories. (*Pol.98.1 Em*) We further urge that all levels of government commit to remove obstacles inhibiting the participation of women to accede to positions of leadership in their respective jurisdictions. A coordinated strategy needs to be developed and implemented with the partnership of citizen organizations.

Partnerships:

On this matter of partnership, we wish to impress upon the various levels of government that a great deal of the work of caring, supporting, protecting and healing is provided by Civil Society, non-governmental organizations, bridging the many gaps in services that exist. We are very concerned that as the level of government funding of NGO's (Non-Governmental Organizations) decreased dramatically in the past decade, due to an economic downturn, that more realistic funding appropriations are not being reinstated despite the fact that the economic situation has improved substantially. Women's organizations form to meet the needs of society's most vulnerable citizens. We contribute an extra-ordinary amount of volunteer time, energy, materials, financial resources, free or subsidized professional skills and expertise. Women's organizations, specifically, are severely hampered in their effectiveness by governments decisions a) to refuse to fund core coordinating services, and b) by limiting their funding to short-term outcomes-based projects. (*Pol.91.2*)

It is very difficult to attract skilled staff to fill short-term contract positions, and for those who do agree to such terms, they are unfairly subsidizing the programs due to their conviction and commitment to the value and urgency of the programs. A great deal is lost when organizations lose continuity as a consequence of these arbitrary policies. We believe that we can be full partners in this Canadian Social Project. However, if value were to be ascribed on the basis of the amount of monies bestowed, we do not feel that this partnership is recognized and appreciated for its real contribution to the well-being of Canada's families and communities. Consider the level of deductions allowed for business "hosting " expenses, compared to the unclaimable costs incurred in transportation/travel expenses, time-off from remunerated work, accommodations, and child care in the service of Volunteers' commitment to tasks and challenges undertaken, expenses which cannot be deducted in Canada's current taxation structure. (*Pol. 88.8, 74.9,73.12*) NCWC urges the Government of Canada review the fairness of Canadian tax laws and re-dress these inequities.

Communities and citizens would be better served if municipal, provincial, territorial and federal governments invited and collaborated with NGO's to help them identify community needs on a regular basis. If they could be assured of stable and sustainable supports, NGO's could prove even more productive and further invaluable in their contributions to programs, research and services than they have been to date. (*Pol.91.2*)

New-comers to Canada - A comprehensive strategy for Integration:

NCWC has several policies regarding immigration. (*Pol.82.6 , 95.5, 98.1, 01.6*) We wish to congratulate Canada for its commitment to allow refugees to seek refuge in Canada. Again, many NGO's have stepped in to welcome and support these

families in our midst. We wish to remind the different government partners that there are implications from the considerable stress faced by both the newcomers and the communities which accept them. The stressors need to be identified and addressed in a comprehensive strategy. Often, they are issues covered or shared, between different levels of government. New-comers to Canada are seen to be a practical solution to the projected deficit in human resources capital due to the ageing population. There needs to be cooperation and political will to ensure appropriate investments in health services, language courses and employment training, as well as childcare supports and social supports until such time as these families can become fully integrated in our communities. In order to nurture effective partnerships with Civil Society through NGO's and /or the Voluntary Sector, governments need to acknowledge and respect the invaluable role that Civil Society plays, not only in this area of concern but in the general well-being of all of our communities. (*Pol. 01.6,97.3, 82.6, 95.5, 95.12*)

Citizen Participation

It is critical that governments engage with all of their citizens To this end, it is critical that information be shared in a timely fashion and that citizens be invited to contribute their ideas to current issues as well to a national long-term vision for Canada. Canadians' informed views need to be solicited and considered in setting the agenda for the governments' deliberations of areas of concern. Many Canadians residents would welcome the opportunity to contribute more than by simply casting a vote every four or five years. Informed Canadians can play a key role in ensuring that Canada be great place to live and grow. (*pol.98.6*)

Evaluation of SUFA:

We appreciate the opportunity to share some of our thoughts about the strengths, weaknesses and potential of the Social Union Framework Agreement. As stated above, National Council of Women of Canada recognizes that SUFA is presently limited to the ministries of Health, Education and Social Services. We believe that we have demonstrated the inter-connectedness between these and several other departments. We recommend that in order for Canada to have a coherent Canadian Social Project, that SUFA principles be extended to include Justice, Status of Women Canada, Immigration, Human Resources Canada, Canada Customs and Revenue Agency, Environment, Culture and Heritage, Foreign Affairs and International Trade, etc Inclusion of a number of other Ministries may be considered, as well, such as Secretary of State, Science and Technology, Industry.

For the next round of evaluation of the SUFA, we recommend that more time be allowed to respond to encourage study of the impact of SUFA, enough time to provide feed-back of substance. Organizations, specifically, are bound by a democratic process to study, formulate a response that is, then, ratified by the membership in a timely process. This process requires adequate notice and

time-frame for response. We recommend that periodic reports/newsletters be posted and circulated so Canadians and NGO's can track progress, set-backs and possible directions being explored.

We recommend that future reviews be publicized in a variety of ways, i.e. in local and national newspapers, radio, television news and public announcements, utility bill mail-outs, through e-listserves media releases, web-site links as well as regular mailing lists of known organizations. It would be useful to send periodic reminders in the media. The provinces and territories should be encouraged to seek and /or facilitate local, regional feed-back from a broad range of citizens and community groups.

In closing, we invite readers to peruse all of NCWC's policies including the ones cited herein, policies which can be found posted at the NCWC web-site: www.ncwc.ca

APPENDIX

POLICIES:

Aboriginal Issues:

- 93.4 Towards a New Relationship between Aboriginal Peoples and Other Canadians
- 97.6 New programs for Native Peoples

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation:

- 99.1 PU

Child Abuse:

- 00.2 Protecting Children from Physical Violence ... (Repeal of) Section 43 of the Criminal Code of Canada

Child Care:

83.14 Child Care Assistance; 86.17 Child Care; 87.7 Improving Tax Treatment of Child Care Expenses; 87.11 Child Care; 89.5 National Objectives for Child Care; 92.19 PU Child Care Policy Update; 94.4 Incentives for Workplace Child Care; 95.10 Tax Benefit for Child Care; 96.9 Farm Safety/Adequate Child Care; 96.12 PU Child Care Deductions for People in UI Training Programs; 00.01 Child Care

Child Poverty:

- 75.4 Bureaus of Child Development
- 91.1 Eliminating Child Poverty
- 97.12 PU Eliminating Child Poverty in Canada
- 00.03 PU Child Poverty and Benefits

Child Rights:

- 75.17 EM Children's Rights
- 96.19 EM Eliminating Abusive Exploitation of Child Labourers
- 99.1 Implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Canada
- 01.2 A Commissioner for Canada's Children

Employment (Part-time)

- 86.2 Equal Benefits for Part-time Work
- 01.4 Equal Benefits for Part-time Workers

Family Caregiver:

- 97.2 Supplement for Family Care-giver
- 75.4 Bureaus of Child Development

Fluoridation:

- 78.14 Fluoridation
- 79.9 Fluoridation of Water

Gender-sensitivity:

- 98.1 EM Economic gender-based Indicators and Gender Analysis
- 98.6 Globalization: Negotiating Multinational Trade Agreements.

Globalization and International Agreements:

- 88.17 EM Free Trade Agreement
- 90.0 EM Integrating Agricultural and Environmental Costs in Pricing ...
- 91.15 EM Free Trade and Mexico;
- 93.1 Water, Free Trade and NAFTA
- 98.6 Globalization: Negotiating Multi-national Trade Agreements

Government of Canada:

- 01.3 Reassert the Powers of the Federal Government

Immigration:

- 76.14 Canadian Immigration: Policy
- 82.6 Instruction for Immigrated women
- 95.5 The Needs of Immigrant Women, Victims of Spousal and Family Violence;
- 95.12 EM Family and Immigration and Citizenship Plan 1995-2000 Immigration Policy
- 97.3 Strengthening and Enforcing Canadian Immigration Policy:
- 01.6 Gender-sensitivity

Minimum Wage:

- 88.4 Minimum Wage and Unemployment

People with Disabilities:

- 00.4 Meeting the Needs of Canadians with Disabilities

Volunteer Organizations:

- 74.9 Economic Value of Home and Volunteer Work
- 8.88 Economic Recognition of Volunteer Work
- 73.12 Financial Assistance to Local, Provincial and National Council Volunteer Organizations

UN Declarations and Conventions ratified by Canada:

- **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**
- **Universal Declaration of the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**
- **Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women**
- **Optional Protocol for Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women**
- **Convention on the Rights of the Child**
- **Platform for Action Beijing 1995**
- **Beijing plus 5 2000**
- **Convention concerning Indigenous and Tribal People in Independent Countries, etc.**

See: www.unhrc.ch/html/intlisnt.htm

Members of the National Council of Woman of Canada

Provincial Councils of Women

British Columbia
Manitoba
Ontario
Quebec
Saskatchewan

Local Councils of Women

Edmonton, AB
Halifax, NS
Hamilton and District, ON
London and Area, ON
Montreal, QC
New Westminster, BC
Ottawa, ON
Prince Albert, SK
Regina, SK
St. Catharines & District, ON
Saskatoon, SK
Toronto and Area, ON
Vancouver, BC
Victoria, BC
White Rock and District, BC
Windsor, ON
Winnipeg, MB

Study Groups

New Burnaby, BC
Sunshine Coast, BC

National Organizations Affiliated with NCWC

Anglican Church of Canada

Association of Public Service Alliance Retirees
Canadian Abortion Rights Action League
Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies
Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada
Canadian Congress for Learning Opportunities
Canadian Council of Muslim Woman
Canadian Federation of Business and Professional Woman's Clubs
Canadian Home Economics Association
DES Action Canada
Federation of Junior Leagues
Federation of Medical Woman
Girl Guides of Canada
Hadassah-Wizo
League of Ukrainian Woman
Mothers are Woman
Na'amat Canada Inc
National Association of Woman and Law
National Consultation of United Church Woman
National Woman's Liberal Commission
Planned Parenthood Federation of Canada
Polish Alliance of Canadian Ladies Circle Group 1-7
Polish Canadian Woman's Federation
The Salvation Army
Ukrainian Woman's Association of Canada
Ukrainian Woman's Organization of Canada
YWCA
Woman's Missionary Society, WD., of the Presbyterian Church