

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF CANADA
MINUTES OF 122ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE
MAY 21-24, 2015
LA CITADELLE, MONTREAL, QC**

Thursday, May 21

Opening Ceremonies took place at Montreal City Hall from 5 to 7 p.m. VP of the Session was Rosemary Mallory. We greeted each other over a glass of wine and official welcomes were given by Mme Manon Gauthier of Montreal City Council, member of the Executive Committee Responsible for Culture, Heritage, Design, Space for Life and Status of Women; Elizabeth Hutchinson, President of the Provincial Council of Women of Quebec; and Chitra Chopra, President of Montreal Council of Women. Denise Mattok gave greetings as President of the National Council of Women of Canada. We were then treated to hors d'oeuvres and a large cheese tray as we socialized for the rest of the time.

Friday, May 22

The President of NCWC met with the Presidents of the Local and Provincial Councils over breakfast from 7:30 to 8:30 where they shared their successes and challenges.

The First Plenary Session began at 9:20 a.m. in the 26th floor lounge of La Citadelle with President Denise Mattok in the Chair. The VP of the session was Carol Schweitzer. The meeting began with a moment of silence.

Announcements included the following:

1. The assembly was asked to review the financial statements and submit questions in writing by the end of the day. The Treasurer will answer them the next day by conference call.
2. Submit names for In Memoriam to Gracia Janes by the end of the day.

The President introduced herself explaining that her term ends at the close of the meeting. There were no guests but there were two observers – Jeannette Logan from Ottawa Council and Alexandra Shkandrij from Manitoba Council.

Appointments included the following:

Parliamentarian – Marianne Wilkinson

Time Keeper – Ruth Robinson

Scrutineers – Rosemary Mallory, Jeannette Logan and Alexandra Shkandrij

Minutes Recorder – Mary Potter

New Members are Individuals Trish Masniak, Jen Marsh and Kate McInturff, and a new Nationally Organized Society - the Institute for International Women's Rights, University of Winnipeg Global Village.

The Standing Rules for the AGM were read the President.

Motion #1 That the Standing Rules for the AGM be adopted.

Moved by: Edeltraud Neal Seconded by: Barbara Hall Carried

The Credentials Count was taken: NOS – 1, PCW – 5, LCW – 9, Directors, Conveners and Study Groups – 12, Life Members – 8, Individual and Student Members – 3 for a total of 205 votes.

Motion #2 That we use Roberts Rules of Order.

Moved by: Denise Mattok Seconded by: Patricia Leson Carried

Motion #3 To adopt the agenda.
Moved by: Karen Dempsey Seconded by: Elizabeth Hutchinson Carried

Motion #4 To adopt the Minutes of the 2014 AGM.
Moved by: Mary Potter Carried

President, Vice-President and Convener Reports

Ms. Mattok read her President's report which is in the docket.

The VPs of Administration, Economics, Environment, Justice, Public Relations and Social Development had nothing new to add to their reports.

Gisèle Saurette-Roch, Convener of Economic and Employment Issues, reminded us that this is the 4th year of the World March of Women and encouraged people to speak out on women's issues from March 8 to October 17. The theme is "Protecting Our Bodies, Our Communities and Mother Earth". The site for the next World Social Forum is Montreal in the spring of 2016.

The Conveners of Environment, Health and Social & Seniors Issues had nothing to add to their reports.

Under the Constitution Committee report, Kelly Ann Stevenson noted that the constitution change from Winnipeg Council was not on the agenda; so it will be added to New Business.

Karen Dempsey asked that the vote on the Common Program be added to the agenda for Sunday under Unfinished Business.

The Minutes Committee and Resolutions Committee had nothing to add to the reports.
The President read the Nominations Committee report.
Muriel Smith, Representative for Federally Sentenced Women, had nothing new to report.

Local and Provincial Council Reports

Halifax, Montreal, New Westminster, and Winnipeg Councils had nothing to add to their reports.

St. Catharines Council President, Susan Pruyn, reported that they are continuing to meet with Niagara Regional Council about the transfer of highly enriched uranium from Chalk River to South Carolina. The issue was reported in a local newspaper, *Niagara This Week*.

Provincial Councils of British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec had nothing new to add.

Manitoba Council of Women President, Alberta Johnson, reported that they had received several new members lately and she was open to chatting to others about getting new members.

The other Local and Provincial Councils had nothing to add to their reports.

Nationally Organized Society Reports

Druse Bryan from the Women's Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church was concerned that her NOS was the only one attending the AGM.

Announcements

Members were invited to look at the auction items and Celebrating Women items for sale and the NCWC history book during the break. Barbara Hall looked after the Celebrating Women table.

The President said that she was trying to get a government grant to distribute articles from Celebrating Women to high schools across Canada. Occasionally high school girls do a project on NCWC and Ms. Mattok read a letter she had received recently from some students in Etobicoke and her reply to them which was a capsule of NCWC history. It was suggested that the history capsule be put on the website. Our history book is on line now and it was suggested that we could put a link to it on our website. We also have the microfiche from Archives Canada of all our materials in the archives and we could eventually put it on our website. Elizabeth Hutchinson reminded us that in 1907 we asked the government for equal pay for telephone girls and during her presidency she let Bell know that they had not done anything about it yet.

There was another Credentials Count: NOS – 1, PCW – 5, LCW – 9, Directors, Conveners and Study Groups – 12, Life Members – 8, Individual and Student Members – 3 for a total count of 205.

Policy Development

Karen Dempsey volunteered to make changes in the computer to the resolutions which were projected onto the screen.

Mary Potter, Resolutions Committee Chair, reminded members of the Standing Rules related to resolutions. She also stated that both the traditional form and plain language form of the resolutions are included for both this year and next year and then at the next AGM it will be discussed and voted on as to which form is preferred. Both forms will be included on the website and yearbook for this year and next year. The Resolutions Committee included the amendments in each resolution that they thought improved the resolution, but all amendments were open for discussion.

1. Terrorism and Women's Peace and Security – Responsibility to Protect (R2P)

Motion #5: In Resolved #1 and #2 amend the amendment by deleting the word "enforce" and inserting ensure.

Moved by: Gracia Janes Seconded by: Sheila Pepper Carried

Motion #6: That Resolution #1 be accepted as amended.

Moved by: Mary Potter **Defeated**

2. Maximize Removal of Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals from Wastewater before Releasing Wastewater into the Environment

Motion #7: In Resolved #2 put current wording into part a) and add part b) have the cost borne by the pharmaceutical industry

Moved by: Edeltraud Neal Seconded by: Marianne Wilkinson

Motion #8: Amend the amendment by deleting "pharmaceutical" and inserting at the end responsible for the toxin

Moved by: Edeltraud Neal Seconded by: Elizabeth Hutchinson Carried
The amended Resolved #2 was Carried.

Motion #9: That Resolution #2 be accepted as amended.

Moved by: Mary Potter Carried

2. MAXIMIZE REMOVAL OF CHEMICALS & PHARMACEUTICALS FROM WASTEWATER BEFORE RELEASING WASTEWATER INTO THE ENVIRONMENT

- Whereas 1** technology has evolved to such a point that it now allows scientists to note extremely small amounts of substances in the water; and
- Whereas 2** there are increasing risks around the potability of water because of ingestion and elimination by an increasing number of people who rely on medication to deal with health issues; and
- Whereas 3** Environment Canada informed the Senate in February 2014 of the fact that 164 chemicals have been identified in trace amounts in the water of Canadian lakes and waterways for the first time in North America; and
- Whereas 4** a report on a river in Southern Ontario showed the feminization of fish due to trace amounts of hormones from birth control medications found in the water; and
- Whereas 5** the possible toxic cocktail caused by the infinite number of potential interactions between many compounds exacerbates the risks of toxicity; therefore be it
- Resolved 1** that the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) adopt as policy that wastewater be treated to maximize the removal of toxic chemicals and pharmaceuticals before releasing wastewater into the environment; and be it further
- Resolved 2** that NCWC urge the Government of Canada to:
- a. require all communities to treat wastewater to maximize the removal of toxic chemicals and pharmaceuticals before releasing wastewater into the environment;
 - b. have the cost borne by the industry responsible for the toxin; and be it further
- Resolved 3** that NCWC urge the Local and Provincial Councils of Women to lobby their respective levels of government to prioritize effective treatment of their community's wastewater to maximize the removal of toxic chemicals and pharmaceuticals before releasing wastewater into the environment; and be it further
- Resolved 4** that NCWC raise the issue with the International Council of Women so that the ICW/CIF can address the issue with its federates.

PLAIN LANGUAGE FORMAT

Policy Statement

The National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) adopts as policy that wastewater be treated to maximize the removal of toxic chemicals and pharmaceuticals before releasing wastewater into the environment.

Request of Government

NCWC urges the Government of Canada to:

- a. require all communities to treat wastewater to maximize the removal of toxic chemicals and pharmaceuticals before releasing wastewater into the environment, and
- b. have the cost borne by the industry responsible for the toxin.

Request of Other Councils

NCWC urges the Local and Provincial Councils of Women to lobby their respective levels of government to prioritize effective treatment of their communities' wastewater to maximize the removal of toxic chemicals and pharmaceuticals before releasing wastewater into the environment.

NCWC will raise the issue with the International Council of Women so that the ICW/CIF can address the issue with its federates.

Rationale

Technology has evolved to such a point that it now allows scientists to note extremely small amounts of substances in the water. There are increasing risks around the potability of water because of ingestion and elimination by an increasing number of people who rely on medication to deal with health issues. Environment Canada informed the Senate in February 2014 of the fact that 164 chemicals have been identified in trace amounts in the water of Canadian lakes and waterways for the first time in North America; and a report on a river in Southern Ontario showed the feminization of fish due to trace amounts of hormones from birth control medications found in the water. The possible toxic cocktail caused by the infinite number of potential interactions between many compounds exacerbates the risks of toxicity.

3. Meat and Climate Change

Motion #10 That Resolution #3 be accepted as presented.
 Moved by: Mary Potter Carried

3. MEAT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Whereas 1 global populations are rising and tastes are shifting toward meat-heavy diets; and

Whereas 2 raising more meat makes it necessary to bring more land into cultivation resulting in more deforestation and increased fertilizer use; and

Whereas 3 increased methane emissions from livestock combined with the increased deforestation and fertilizer use will likely cause greenhouse gas emissions from food production to increase by almost 80% by 2050; and

Whereas 4 reducing meat consumption, particularly beef, in favour of plant-based eating would help reduce environmental damage; therefore be it

Resolved 1 that the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) adopt as policy that Canadians be encouraged to eat less meat, particularly beef, as a means of reducing climate change; and be it further

Resolved 2 that the NCWC urge the Government of Canada to encourage Canadians to eat less meat, particularly beef, by educating people on the beneficial effects of reducing meat consumption and of increasing the use of sustainable agriculture practices, i.e., less deforestation, fertilizer use and methane production and thereby reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

PLAIN LANGUAGE FORMAT

Policy Statement

The National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) adopts as policy that Canadians be encouraged to eat less meat, particularly beef, as a means of reducing climate change.

Request of Government

NCWC urges the Government of Canada to encourage Canadians to eat less meat, particularly beef, by educating people on the beneficial effects of reducing meat consumption and of increasing the use of sustainable agriculture practices, i.e., less deforestation, fertilizer use and methane production and thereby reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Rationale

Global populations are rising and tastes are shifting toward meat-heavy diets. Raising more meat makes it necessary to bring more land into cultivation resulting in more deforestation and increased fertilizer use.

Increased methane emissions from livestock combined with the increased deforestation and fertilizer use will likely cause greenhouse gas emissions from food production to increase by almost 80% by 2050. Reducing meat consumption, particularly beef, in favour of plant-based eating would help reduce environmental damage.

4. Medically Assisted Death

- Motion #11: In Resolved #1 insert the person must be a consenting adult having reached the age of majority
Moved by: Alberta Johnson Seconded by: Randi Gage Carried
- Motion #12: In Resolved #2b. vii change “15 days” to 3 days
Moved by: Ruth Robinson Seconded by: Patricia Leson **Defeated**
- Motion #13: In Resolved #2b. delete the rest of the clause after “medically assisted death”
Moved by: Edeltraud Neal Seconded by: Carol Schweitzer **Defeated**
- Motion #14: To extend the time for debate by 10 minutes.
Moved by: Susan Pruyne Seconded by: Sheila Pepper Carried
- Motion #15: That the resolution be divided by voting on Resolved 2b. vii separately
Moved by: Kelly Ann Stevenson Seconded by: Barbara Hall Carried
- Motion #16: that Resolution #4 be accepted without Resolved 2b.vii
Moved by: Mary Potter Carried
- Motion #17: That Resolved 2b.vii in Resolution #4 be accepted
Moved by: Mary Potter Carried

4. MEDICALLY ASSISTED DEATH

Whereas 1 voluntary euthanasia and physician assistance to end one’s life are illegal in Canada; and

Whereas 2 84% of Canadians support medically assisted death; and

Whereas 3 palliative care is sometimes not enough to reduce pain and maintain dignity, and

- Whereas 4** jurisdictions where assisted death is legal, with safeguards, include the Netherlands, Switzerland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Montana, Oregon, Vermont Washington and Quebec; and
- Whereas 5** since assisted death takes place in all jurisdictions even if illegal, it is better to have it legal with safeguards; therefore be it
- Resolved 1** that the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) adopt as policy that medically assisted dying comprised of voluntary euthanasia and doctor-assisted death, with safeguards, be legal and the person must be a consenting adult having reached the age of majority; and be it further
- Resolved 2** that NCWC urge the Government of Canada to:
- a. remove doctor-assisted death and voluntary euthanasia from the Criminal Code of Canada, and
 - b. set up safeguards through an Act permitting medically assisted death including the following criteria:
 - i. the person must be terminally ill or have a life-limiting illness/condition
 - ii. no person shall qualify solely because of age or disability
 - iii the person must make two oral requests and one written request for assistance in dying, or by using alternate communication methods for those with verbal or physical challenges
 - iv. two physicians or two senior health care professionals in cases where a person has no regular doctor must verify that the patient is capable, is acting voluntarily and has made an informed decision
 - v. the person must not be suffering from a psychiatric or psychological disorder or depression causing impaired judgement or be developmentally disabled
 - vi. the person must be informed of the feasible alternatives such as comfort care, hospice care and pain control
 - vii. the person is given 15 days to rescind the request
 - viii. ensure there are provisions for health care professionals to withdraw participation on personal, religious or ethical grounds.

PLAIN LANGUAGE FORMAT

Policy Statement

The National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) adopts as policy that medically assisted dying comprised of voluntary euthanasia and doctor-assisted death, with safeguards, be legal and the person must be a consenting adult having reached the age of majority.

Request of Government

NCWC urges the Government of Canada to:

- a. remove doctor-assisted death and voluntary euthanasia from the Criminal Code of Canada, and
- b. set up safeguards through an Act permitting medically assisted death including the following criteria:
 - i. the person must be terminally ill or have a life-limiting illness/condition
 - ii. no person shall qualify solely because of age or disability

- iii. the person must make two oral requests and one written request for assistance in dying, or by using alternate communication methods for those with verbal or physical challenges
- iv. two physicians or 2 senior health care professionals in cases where a person has no regular doctor must verify that the patient is capable, is acting voluntarily and has made an informed decision
- v. the person must not be suffering from a psychiatric or psychological disorder or depression causing impaired judgement or be developmentally disabled
- vi. the person must be informed of the feasible alternatives such as comfort care, hospice care and pain control
- vii. the person is given 15 days to rescind the request
- viii. ensure there are provisions for health care professionals to withdraw participation on personal, religious or ethical grounds

Rationale

Voluntary euthanasia and physician assistance to end one's life are illegal in Canada, but 84% of Canadians support medically assisted death.

Palliative care is sometimes not enough to reduce pain and maintain dignity.

Jurisdictions where assisted death is legal, with safeguards, include the Netherlands, Switzerland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Montana, Oregon, Vermont, Washington and Quebec.

Since assisted death takes place in all jurisdictions even if illegal, it is better to have it legal with safeguards.

NCWC Development Organization

The NCWC Development Organization Luncheon and Annual General Meeting took place at La Plaza Garden Inn from 12:30 to 2:15 p.m. It was chaired by the outgoing Chairperson Bonnie Destounis.

Second Plenary Session

VP for the session was Kelly Ann Stevenson.

Credentials Report: NOS – 1, PCW – 5, LCW – 9, Directors, Conveners, and Study Groups – 13, Life Members – 8, Individual and Student Members– 4 for a total vote count of 209.

5. Regulation of Toxins and Banning of Antibacterials in Personal Care Products

Motion #18: That Resolution #5 be accepted as presented.

Moved by: Mary Potter Carried

5. REGULATION OF TOXINS AND BANNING OF ANTIBACTERIALS IN PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS

Whereas 1 the ingredients in personal care products are mostly untested and largely unregulated; and

Whereas 2 some of the toxic chemicals found in cosmetics are carcinogens, reproductive and developmental toxins, allergens, and endocrine disruptors, and antibacterial cosmetics may contribute to antibiotic resistance in bacteria; and

- Whereas 3** there is a lack of data on the long-term or combined health effects of the majority of cosmetic ingredients; and
- Whereas 4** contaminants and residues do not have to be listed on a label even if they are known to be harmful, and manufacturers are not required to disclose specific fragrance ingredients; and
- Whereas 5** manufacturers are required to send Health Canada a list of ingredients but not until 10 days after a product goes on the market; therefore be it
- Resolved 1** that the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) adopt as policy the regulation of toxins in personal care products and the banning of antibacterial cosmetics and soaps; and be it further
- Resolved 2** that the NCWC urge the Government of Canada to:
- a. test personal care products for their potential health effects before they are put on the market;
 - b. ban antibacterial cosmetics and soaps;
 - c. enact strict regulation that can be legally enforced for cosmetic ingredients, including contaminants and residues;
 - d. require manufacturers to disclose specific fragrance ingredients and list all product ingredients on the label;
 - e. require that labels warn of risk hazard with long term exposure.

PLAIN LANGUAGE FORMAT

Policy Statement

The National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) adopts as policy the regulation of toxins in personal care products and the banning of antibacterial cosmetics and soaps.

Request of Government

NCWC urges the Government of Canada to:

- a. test personal care products for their potential health effects before they are put on the market;
- b. ban antibacterial cosmetics and soaps;
- c. enact strict regulation that can be legally enforced for cosmetic ingredients, including contaminants and residues;
- d. require manufacturers to disclose specific fragrance ingredients and list all product ingredients on the label;
- e. require that labels warn of risk hazard with long term exposure.

Rationale

The ingredients in personal care products are mostly untested and largely unregulated. Some of the toxic chemicals found in cosmetics are carcinogens, reproductive and developmental toxins, allergens, and endocrine disruptors, and antibacterial cosmetics may contribute to antibiotic resistance in bacteria.

There is a lack of data on the long-term or combined health effects of the majority of cosmetic ingredients. Contaminants and residues do not have to be listed on a label even if they are known to be harmful, and manufacturers are not required to disclose specific fragrance ingredients. Manufacturers are required to send Health Canada a list of ingredients but not until 10 days after a product goes on the market.

6. The Regulation of Electronic Cigarettes

Motion #19: that Resolution #6 be accepted as presented.

Moved by: Mary Potter Carried

6. THE REGULATION OF ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

Whereas 1 introduction of electronic-cigarettes has proliferated despite the fact that the sale of these products is currently not compliant with the Food and Drugs Act; and

Whereas 2 no electronic smoking products have been granted market authorization in Canada; and

Whereas 3 Health Canada is advising Canadians against the purchase or use of electronic smoking products, as these may pose health risks and have not been fully evaluated for safety, quality and efficacy by Health Canada; therefore be it

Resolved 1 that the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) adopt as a policy that

- a. the sale of e-cigarettes be banned until long-term research has been conducted and informed regulations are established;
- b. ban the sale of electronic cigarettes to minors permanently; and be it further

Resolved 2 that NCWC urge the Government of Canada to:

- a. ban the sale of e-cigarettes until long-term research has been conducted and informed regulations are established;
- b. enforce the Food and Drugs Act related to the non-compliance of retailers of e-cigarettes;
- c. fund research on the long-term effects of e-cigarettes;
- d. ban the sale of electronic cigarettes to minors permanently; and be it further

Resolved 3 that NCWC urge its federates to lobby their respective governments to establish informed regulations to reduce the health risks related to inhaling nicotine vapours and other noxious substances via electronic cigarettes as well as establish regulations for the distribution of electronic cigarettes; and be it further

Resolved 4 that NCWC urge the International Council of Women to urge its federates to research the risks related to the distribution and use of electronic cigarettes in their jurisdictions in order to inform their respective governments about the importance of establishing regulations.

PLAIN LANGUAGE FORMAT

Policy Statement

The National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) adopts as a policy that

- a. the sale of e-cigarettes be banned until long-term research has been conducted and informed regulations are established;
- b. the sale of electronic cigarettes to minors be banned permanently.

Request of Government

NCWC urges the Government of Canada to:

- a. ban the sale of e-cigarettes until long-term research has been conducted and informed regulations are established;
- b. enforce the Food and Drugs Act related to the non-compliance of retailers of e-cigarettes;
- c. fund research on the long-term effects of e-cigarettes;
- d. ban the sale of electronic cigarettes to minors permanently.

Request of Councils

NCWC urges its federates to lobby their respective governments to establish informed regulations to reduce the health risks related to inhaling nicotine vapours and other noxious substances via electronic cigarettes as well as establish regulations for the distribution of electronic cigarettes.

NCWC urges the International Council of Women to urge its federates to research the risks related to the distribution and use of electronic cigarettes in their jurisdictions in order to inform their respective governments about the importance of establishing regulations.

Rationale

The introduction of electronic-cigarettes has proliferated despite the fact that the sale of these products is currently not compliant with the Food and Drugs Act. No electronic smoking products have been granted market authorization in Canada.

Health Canada is advising Canadians against the purchase or use of electronic smoking products, as these may pose health risks and have not been fully evaluated for safety, quality and efficacy by Health Canada.

7. Reduction in Sugar Content in Processed Food, Fruit Drinks and Soda Pop

Motion #20: that Resolution #7 be accepted as presented.

Moved by: Mary Potter Carried

7. REDUCTION IN SUGAR CONTENT IN PROCESSED FOOD, FRUIT DRINKS AND SODA POP

- Whereas 1** foods containing excessive amounts of sugar, fructose and other caloric sweeteners contribute to the consumption by Canadians of unhealthy food causing a high incidence of unhealthy weight, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and dental problems; and
- Whereas 2** the cost of health care for Canadians suffering from these health problems continues to soar; and
- Whereas 3** Canada's food, fruit drink and soda industries continue to aggressively advertise their heavily sugar-sweetened products; and
- Whereas 4** a medium sized bottle of soda pop (571 ml) contains about one-quarter cup of sugar (or 57 grams) and a 250 ml fruit drink contains 30 grams of sugar; and
- Whereas 5** the amount of sugar in most heavily sweetened foods, fruit drinks and soda pop can be reduced by a minimum of one-third without a noticeable difference in taste; therefore be it

Resolved 1 that the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) adopt as policy that the amount of sugar, fructose and sweeteners in all heavily sweetened processed food, fruit/energy drinks and soda pop be reduced by a minimum of one-third; and be it further

Resolved 2 that NCWC urge the Government of Canada to pass legislation to reduce, by a minimum of one-third, the amount of sugar, fructose and other sweeteners in all heavily sweetened processed food, fruit/energy drinks and soda pop.

PLAIN LANGUAGE FORMAT

Policy Statement

The National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) adopts as policy that the amount of sugar, fructose and sweeteners in all heavily sweetened processed food, fruit/energy drinks and soda pop be reduced by a minimum of one-third.

Request of Government

NCWC urges the Government of Canada to pass legislation to reduce by a minimum of one-third, the amount of sugar, fructose and other sweeteners in all heavily sweetened processed food, fruit/energy drinks and soda pop.

Rationale

Foods containing excessive amounts of sugar, fructose and other caloric sweeteners contribute to the consumption by Canadians of unhealthy food causing a high incidence of unhealthy weight, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and dental problems. The cost of health care for Canadians suffering from these health problems continues to soar.

Canada's food, fruit drink and soda industries continue to aggressively advertise their heavily sugar-sweetened products.

A medium sized bottle of soda pop (571 ml) contains about one-quarter cup of sugar (or 57 grams) and a 250 ml fruit drink contains 30 grams of sugar. The amount of sugar in most heavily sweetened foods, fruit drinks and soda pop can be reduced by a minimum of one-third without a noticeable difference in taste.

Update #1 Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women

Editorial correction – In Resolved #2 change “First Nations” to Aboriginal governments.

Motion #21: In Resolved #1 that “addressed” be deleted and eliminated be inserted.
Moved by: Kelly Ann Stevenson Seconded by: Randi Gage Carried

Motion #22: That Update #1 be accepted as amended.
Moved by: Mary Potter Carried

PU 1. MISSING AND MURDERED ABORIGINAL WOMEN

Whereas 1 in 2012 the National Council of Women of Canada urged the Government of Canada to investigate and resolve unsolved cases of missing and murdered Aboriginal women, bring perpetrators to justice and address systemic violence that affects aboriginal communities; and

- Whereas 2** Aboriginal women and girls continue to be disproportionately victims of violence according to Statistics Canada in relationship to their non-Aboriginal counterparts; and
- Whereas 3** Human Rights Watch Canada reports higher numbers than Statistics Canada because there is no current comprehensive data collection process and no precedent exists for the standardized collection of ethnicity data by police forces in Canada; and
- Whereas 4** homelessness and inadequate shelter are widespread problems facing Aboriginal families; and
- Whereas 5** the majority of Aboriginal people face dramatically lower incomes and a shortage of, and inadequately funded, culturally appropriate support services; and
- Whereas 6** the most frequent motive in homicides of Aboriginal women was “argument or quarrel” followed by “frustration, anger or despair”; and
- Whereas 7** the link between racial discrimination and violence against Aboriginal women has not yet been adequately acknowledged or addressed; therefore be it
- Resolved 1** that the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) adopt as policy that all cases of missing and murdered Aboriginal women be investigated effectively and immediately, and that the systemic violence against Aboriginal women be eliminated; and be it further
- Resolved 2** that NCWC urge the Government of Canada to immediately address the issue of missing and murdered Aboriginal women, including a national enquiry, and to work with the provinces, territories and with Aboriginal governments to fund and to implement programs that do the following:
- a. enhance efforts on unresolved cases
 - b. increase public awareness, including programs that address racism
 - c. strengthen and improve data collection including DNA analysis of unidentified bodies
 - d. include gender based analysis of all legislation and programs related to missing and murdered Aboriginal women
 - e. focus on prevention efforts, specifically addressing the following:
 - i. providing safe, secure, affordable housing
 - ii. eliminating poverty
 - iii. increasing access to services for Aboriginal women
 - iv. restoring funding to Aboriginal women’s groups
 - v. providing basic quality education within Aboriginal communities
 - vi. supporting community capacity building
 - vii providing antiviolence programs

PLAIN LANGUAGE FORMAT

Policy Statement

The National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) will adopt as policy that all cases of missing and murdered Aboriginal women be investigated effectively and immediately, and that the systemic violence against Aboriginal women be eliminated.

Request of Government

NCWC urges the Government of Canada to immediately address the issue of missing and murdered Aboriginal women including a national enquiry and to work with the provinces and territories, and with Aboriginal governments to fund and implement programs that do the following:

- a. enhance efforts on unresolved cases
- b. increase public awareness, including programs that address racism
- c. strengthen and improve data collection including DNA analysis of unidentified bodies
- d. include gender based analysis of all legislation and programs related to missing and murdered Aboriginal women
- e. focus on prevention efforts, specifically addressing the following:
 - i. providing safe, secure, affordable housing
 - ii. eliminating poverty
 - iii. increasing access to services for Aboriginal women
 - iv. restoring funding to Aboriginal women's groups
 - v. providing basic quality education within Aboriginal communities
 - vi. supporting community capacity building
 - vii. providing antiviolence programs

Rationale

In 2012 the National Council of Women of Canada urged the Government of Canada to investigate and resolve unsolved cases of missing and murdered Aboriginal women, bring perpetrators to justice and address systemic violence that affects aboriginal communities.

Aboriginal women and girls continue to be disproportionately victims of violence according to the Statistics Canada in relationship to their non-Aboriginal counterparts. Human Rights Watch Canada reports higher numbers of missing and murdered Aboriginal women than Statistics Canada because there is no current comprehensive data collection process and no precedent exists for the standardized collection of ethnicity data by police forces in Canada.

Homelessness and inadequate shelter are widespread problems facing Aboriginal families. The majority of indigenous people face dramatically lower incomes and a shortage of, and inadequately funded, culturally appropriate support services.

The most frequent motive in homicides of Aboriginal women was "argument or quarrel" followed by "frustration, anger or despair." The link between racial discrimination and violence against Aboriginal women has not yet been adequately acknowledged or addressed.

Update #2 Asbestos Exposure a Health Hazard

Motion #23: that Update #2 be accepted as presented.
Moved by: Mary Potter Carried

PU 2. ASBESTOS EXPOSURE A HEALTH HAZARD

Whereas 1 in 2010 the National Council of Women of Canada adopted as policy

- a. the inclusion of Chrysotile Asbestos in the Rotterdam Convention
- b. a Ban on Mining and Exports of All Forms of Asbestos
- c. the need for a Central Registry of Asbestos; and

- Whereas 2** Canada's last asbestos mine closed in 2011 and Canada no longer exports asbestos, but the importation of products containing asbestos is permitted; and
- Whereas 3** although some provinces have brought in stricter standards for exposure to asbestos, many thousands of Canadians have suffered and died from the effects of direct or secondary contact with asbestos, or asbestos residue, and asbestos is the top cause of workplace death; and
- Whereas 4** the World Health Organization has declared that no level of exposure to asbestos is acceptable; and
- Whereas 5** there is still no Central Registry of Asbestos, Canada has failed to support the inclusion of Chrysotile asbestos in the Rotterdam Convention, and Health Canada still fails to warn the public of the health risks for Canadians who are exposed to asbestos; therefore be it
- Resolved 1** that the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) adopt as policy that the importation and use of products containing asbestos not be allowed and that the public be made aware of the dangers of primary and secondary exposure to asbestos; and be it further
- Resolved 2** that the NCWC urge the Government of Canada to:
- a. establish a Central Registry of Asbestos
 - b. support the inclusion of Chrysotile asbestos in the Rotterdam Convention
 - c. ban the importation and use of products containing asbestos
 - d. alert the public to the dangerous nature of primary and secondary exposure to asbestos that spans several generations.

PLAIN LANGUAGE FORMAT

Policy Statement

The National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) adopts as policy that the importation and use of products containing asbestos not be allowed and that the public be made aware of the dangers of primary and secondary exposure to asbestos.

Request of Government

NCWC urges the Government of Canada to:

- a. establish a Central Registry of Asbestos
- b. support the inclusion of Chrysotile asbestos in the Rotterdam Convention
- c. ban the importation and use of products containing asbestos
- d. alert the public to the dangerous nature of primary and secondary exposure to asbestos that spans several generations.

Rationale

In 2010 the National Council of Women of Canada adopted as policy:

- a. the inclusion of Chrysotile Asbestos in the Rotterdam Convention
- b. a Ban on Mining and Exports of All Forms of Asbestos
- c. the need for a Central Registry of Asbestos.

Canada's last asbestos mine closed in 2011 and Canada no longer exports asbestos, but the importation of products containing asbestos is permitted. Although some provinces have

brought in stricter standards for exposure to asbestos, many thousands of Canadians have suffered and died from the effects of direct or secondary contact with asbestos, or asbestos residue, and asbestos is the top cause of workplace death. The World Health Organization has declared that no level of exposure to asbestos is acceptable.

There is still no Central Registry of Asbestos, Canada has failed to support the inclusion of Chrysotile asbestos in the Rotterdam Convention, and Health Canada still fails to warn the public of the health risks for Canadians who are exposed to asbestos.

Update #3 Cessation of the Use of Segregation in Federal Prisons

Motion #24: that Update #3 be sent back to clarify terminology - isolation or segregation.
Moved by: Edeltraud Neal Seconded by: Barbara Hall Carried

Motion #25: That the Board of Directors consider changing the deadline for updates of policies to be the same as the deadline for resolutions.
Moved by: Gracia Janes Seconded by: Barbara Hall Carried

Helen Saravanamuttoo was remembered as writing several resolutions about releasing Omar Kadar over the years.

All were reminded to meet at the Carrefours Sherbrooke at 5:45 p.m. for transport to Ginger Petty's.

Motion #26: That the meeting be adjourned.
Moved by: Rosemary Mallory Carried

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Saturday, May 23

The Third Plenary began at 9:15 a.m. and VP of the session was Barbara Hall.

The session began with a credentials count: NOS -1, PCW – 5, LCW – 9, Directors, Conveners and Study Groups – 13, Life Members – 8, Individual and Student Members – 4 for a total vote count of 209.

Announcements

Sheila Pepper announced that there is a Select Committee in Ontario on Sexual Violence and Harassment listening to people's experiences and recommendations and wondered if other provinces were doing it. The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) is a good publication for social action. The CCPA held a meeting with MPs and Sheila met with a committee on health and housing and can share information on it.

Gisèle Saurette-Roch announced that VOW Manitoba, Voices of Women for Peace, have designed a tool kit which is accessible on line with various sessions. There is an "harassmap" which shows the dangerous spots in a city for violence against women – see <http://harassmap.org/en/>

Marianne Wilkinson said that Ottawa unveiled a witness blanket at City Hall for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Constitution

Virginia Schweitzer, Constitution Convener, went through the Notice of Motion for changes to the By-Laws. (see attached)

Susan Pruyn asked for a division of the By-Laws separating out Article VIII Meetings, Section 1 (ii) 6th bullet.

Motion #27: That the changes to the By-Laws except Article VIII Meetings Section 1 (ii) 6th bullet be approved.

Moved by: Virginia Schweitzer Carried

Motion #28: That Article VIII Meetings Section 1 (ii) 6th bullet be approved.

Moved by: Virginia Schweitzer Carried

The Constitution Convener then addressed the Standing Rules explaining that most of the changes related to current practices. The updated version of the governing documents will be on the website.

Motion #29: That the changes to the Standing Rules be approved.

Moved by: Virginia Schweitzer Carried

Treasurer's Report

Stephanie Courneyea joined the meeting by telephone. She summarized the financial highlights from her report in the docket. Her report, the financial statements and the budget were shown on the screen. She then answered questions on the budget that had been submitted previously and from the floor. Virginia Schweitzer relayed all comments through the microphone.

Revenue and expenses for the Education Fund are not shown separately and should be. A review engagement is more than a review and is close to an audit.

Motion #30: That the treasurer's report be accepted.

Moved by: Virginia Schweitzer Seconded by: Barbara Hall Carried

Motion #31: That the financial statements be accepted.

Moved by: Virginia Schweitzer Seconded by: Barbara Hall Carried

Motion #32: To accept the financial reviewer, Robert Montgomery, for 2015/16

Moved by Virginia Schweitzer Seconded by: Barbara Hall Carried

Motion #33: To accept the budget for 2015-2016.

Moved by: Virginia Schweitzer Seconded by: Barbara Hall Carried

Motion #34: To accept the borrowing of \$18,275 for 2015/16

Moved by: Virginia Schweitzer Seconded by: Karen Dempsey Carried

Denise Mattok announced that when she became President, NCWC had a future of 4 years. We can now continue for 6 years thanks to the hard work of the Board.

After the break we had an auction of the some of the donated items with Kelly Ann Stevenson as auctioneer and Alberta Johnson as the model.

NCWC Education Fund Luncheon and Program

Gracia Janes, Chair of the Education Fund gave an introduction to the organization and introduced the Board.

The program title was “Shining a Light on the Challenges of Mental Health and Homelessness.” The keynote speaker was Dr. Laurence Roy, an Assistant Professor at McGill University who does research on social integration, occupational engagement and recovery of adults who live with mental illness. She was followed by a panel of three people: Matthew Pearce who is President and CEO of the Old Brewery Mission in Montreal which helps get homeless people off the streets; Ruth Bresnan who is with a women’s shelter called Logifem Inc. Montreal; and Diana Pizzuti, Director of Programmes at YWCA Montreal.

NCWC Banquet

The banquet was held Saturday evening with a cash bar at 6:00 and dinner at 7:00 p.m. After dinner the Board of Directors and Conveners of Standing Study Committees were inducted by Elizabeth Hutchinson. Life memberships were presented to Rosemary Mallory who has represented NCWC at ICW for several years at her own expense, and Gracia Janes who has served as Environment VP for several years. Bronze Level Certificates were presented to the following donors – Gracia Janes, and PCW British Columbia. Absent were Laudie Anne Collins, Mary Scott and Anna Sudom. A Gold Level Certificate was presented to Carol Schweitzer. Entertainment was provided by a jazz trio under the direction of Bryan Hibloom.

Sunday, May 24

An Ecumenical Service was held in La Citadelle Study Room at 9:00 a.m.

The Fourth Plenary Session convened at 10:15 a.m. VP of Session was Karen Dempsey. The President began with a moment of silence.

In Memoriam

Gracia Janes presented in memoriam remarks for the following people who passed away during the last year: Bea Leinbach, Ann Greerson, Freda Hogg – Vancouver; Stella Ohan – Ottawa; Betty Secord – Saskatoon; Marjorie Vanier – Montreal; Mary Lemyre – Toronto; Hannah Spencer – London; Mavis Moore – Saskatoon

Gracia read a poem she composed as a tribute to these women:

“They’re gone but never forgotten;
And as our lives unfold ahead,
We’re left with fondest memories
Of what they’ve accomplished and said,
To make the world a better place
Through all the battles they’ve won;
We’ll remember these friends with fondness
For all the good that they have done.”

Unfinished Business

Motion #35: To accept the actions of the Board of Directors over the past year.
Moved by: Chitra Chopra Seconded by: Elizabeth Hutchinson Carried

The theme for the common program for the next two years is “Safety and Security of Persons”. This covers a lot of topics and Carol Schweitzer will send out all the suggestions that this title encompasses. Gisèle Saurette-Roch commented that the theme dovetails with the objective of the upcoming March *Mondiale des Femmes*, and that tools and actions on that topic are available from the movement website: mmfqc.org
There was a request to distinguish between safety and security.

Closing Business

The President thanked the hosting Councils of Montreal and Quebec for the hospitality, the venues and the wonderful food. Some of the Montreal members looking after the refreshments were thanked directly. She also thanked the retiring Board members and wished success to the new and returning Board members and Conveners.

Rosemary Mallory commended the President and outgoing Board on its work especially Carol Schweitzer.

The President then thanked Rosemary Mallory for representing us in Turkey at the upcoming ICW meeting.

New Business

Kelly Ann Stevenson, President of the Local Council of Winnipeg, extended an invitation to NCWC to hold its 2019 AGM in Winnipeg. It marks the 100th anniversary of the 1919 strike. They are also planning to ask to have a commemorative stamp struck in honour of the 125th anniversary of NCWC. Trish Masniak has offered to chair the committee for it.

Gisèle Saurette-Roch announced that the World Social Forum will be held in Montreal in August 2016. It will be the first time that the forum will be held in a northern country.

Karen Dempsey explained the historic significance of the elements of the NCWC President's official brooch and chain of office. An explanation of the history of these items is to be included in the next NCWC Newsletter.

Sheila Pepper suggested that Ottawa host the 2017 AGM since it is the 150th Canada Day and also host the 2018 AGM since it is the 125th anniversary of NCWC.

The auction continued and the remaining items were sold. The auction of donated items brought in \$805 which was raised to \$1000 by a generous member. \$233 was raised by the Celebrating Women items.

Kelly Ann Stevenson informed the assembly that after consultations with the Constitution Convener, Local Council of Winnipeg will not need the approval of the AGM after all in order to revise the particular aspect in question of its constitution.

Gisèle Saurette-Roch requested that NCWC send a letter of congratulations to former Governor General Michaele Jean on the occasion of her appointment as president of La Francophonie.

Closing Remarks

Outgoing President Denise Mattok expressed her appreciation of working with her Board and the transformative work done by all during her term. She wished everyone a safe travel home.

Motion #36: That the meeting be adjourned.
Moved by: Carol Schweitzer Carried

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Affix as the last page to May 21-24, 2015 NCWC AGM and Conference Minutes

**with reference on page 16 of the Minutes to
Constitution**

Virginia Schweitzer, Constitution Convener, went through the Notice of Motion for changes to the By-Laws. (see attached)

Motions to change By-Laws

In ARTICLE VI – DIRECTORS, Section 2: (iv) b. – delete *Foundation Fund* and insert **Reserve Fund**

Moved by: Virginia Schweitzer Carried

ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES, Section 3 (ii) – after *Conveners* add **or Representatives**

Moved by: Virginia Schweitzer Carried

ARTICLE VIII – MEETINGS, Section 1, (ii) 6th bullet – delete *approval* and insert **acceptance**

Moved by: Virginia Schweitzer Carried

ARTICLE VIII – MEETINGS, Section 1, (v) – delete *Bourinot's* and insert **Robert's**

Moved by: Virginia Schweitzer Carried

ARTICLE VIII – MEETINGS, Section 3 – delete *two (2) weeks* and insert **one (1) week**

Moved by: Virginia Schweitzer Carried

ARTICLE VIII – MEETINGS, Section 5, (i) – delete *elected by the NCWC membership* and insert **who represent NCWC**

Moved by: Virginia Schweitzer Carried

ARTICLE X – FINANCE, Section 4 (i) – after “Operating Fund” insert **accounts for the Council's primary activities and it** and delete *for the Foundation Fund or*

Moved by: Virginia Schweitzer Carried

ARTICLE X – FINANCE, Section 4 (ii) – delete *the surplus that accumulates in the Foundation Fund over book value* and insert **funds that have been set aside by the Council for contingencies**

Moved by: Virginia Schweitzer Carried

ARTICLE X – FINANCE, Section 4 (iii) – delete (iii)

Moved by: Virginia Schweitzer Carried

Action Page for May 21-24, 2015 AGM and Conference Minutes (affix page to the front of the AGM Minutes)

1. We should put a capsule of NCWC history on our website. We could put a link on our website to our book online. We could put the microfiche from the archives on our website.
2. Motion: that the Board of Directors consider changing the deadline for updates of policies to be the same as the deadline for resolutions.
3. The Education Fund should be shown separately in the Financial Statements.
4. Motion: that the financial reviewer for 2015-16 be Robert Montgomery.
5. Motion: that NCWC be allowed to borrow \$18,275 from the reserve account for the operating account for 2015-16.
6. Theme for Common Program for next two years is "Safety and Security of Persons". Carol Schweitzer will send out all the suggestions that title encompasses.
7. Winnipeg Council of Women and the Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba put Council on notice that they will ask to host the 2019 AGM to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 1919 strike.
8. Winnipeg Council is beginning the process to apply for a commemorative stamp to celebrate NCWC's 125th anniversary.
9. Ottawa should host meeting in 2017 since it is the 150th anniversary of the founding of Canada and host the meeting in 2018 since it is the 125th anniversary of NCWC.
10. Gisele S-R noted that Michaëlle Jean has been named secretary-general of La Francophonie (a 4-year post) - the first women to hold that position. Gisele asked that a letter of congratulations from NCWC members be sent to her.