POLICY 2017 NCWC

1. The Provision of Humane Holding Conditions for Immigration Detainees
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1. THE PROVISION OF HUMANE HOLDING CONDITIONS FOR IMMIGRATION DETAINEES

Whereas #1 the Government of Canada has failed to respect the purposes of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act and international human rights law by holding immigration detainees, including families and children, in jails and detention centres where sometimes children are separated from their parents; and

Whereas #2 many of the detainees have no criminal record and are held mainly for administrative purposes; and

Whereas #3 there can be harmful mental health consequences for both children and adults because of the conditions of jails and detention centres; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy that immigration detainees awaiting either approval to enter Canada or before deportation, be held in humane conditions, and that children not be separated from families; and be it further

Resolved #2 that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada uphold the purposes of the Canada Immigration Act to respect human rights by:
  a. immediately halting the practice of holding immigration detainees, in jails as they await government approval to enter Canada legally;
  b. immediately planning and providing suitable immigration detainee and family centres in all major Canadian cities; and
  c. ensuring that humane conditions in these facilities be maintained and monitored.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL HARM FROM CIGARETTE FILTERS

Whereas #1 cigarette filters are a wide-spread pollutant, mostly discarded into the environment, with many being washed into lakes, and eaten by birds, animals and fish; and

Whereas #2 cigarette filters, 95% of them being made of non-biodegradable cellulose acetate particles, provide little to no benefit to smokers, and are designed to accumulate toxins; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy that cigarette manufacturers be required to make cigarette filters fully bio-degradable within the next three years; and be it further

Resolved #2 that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to enact legislation that requires manufacturers to make cigarette filters fully bio-degradable within the next three years.
3. DANGER OF ADDITIVE AZODICARBONAMIDE (ADA)

Whereas #1 Azodicarbonamide is a food additive found in bread flour and is also found in the undercoating of jarred food lids, including baby food; and

Whereas #2 Azodicarbonamide has been found to produce asthma in those manufacturing it or using it; and

Whereas #3 Europe has banned the additive but Health Canada considers it safe; and

Whereas #4 Health Canada has not established a safe daily intake level; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) adopt as policy that azodicarbonamide not be used in any food, food containers and children’s toys and children’s clothing; and be it further

Resolved #2 that NCWC urge the Government of Canada to prohibit azodicarbonamide from being used in any food, food containers and children’s toys and children’s clothing.

4. ADDRESSING SUICIDE OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

Whereas #1 suicide and self-inflicted injuries are among the leading causes of death among First Nations, Métis and Inuit people; and especially among youth, which are six to 11 times the Canadian average and one of the highest suicide rates in the world; and

Whereas #2 suicide is a symptom of many factors including crowded housing, inter-generational trauma, family violence, a family history of suicide, witnessing or experiencing physical or sexual abuse, depression, alcohol and drug dependency, mental health disorders, hopelessness, isolation, low self-esteem, parental loss or homelessness, and lack of access to treatment; and

Whereas #3 community suicide prevention is best undertaken by community members, friends and family who understand the social context of the community; and

Whereas #4 it will require co-ordination among education, justice, employment and social welfare sectors to ensure aboriginal communities have a community-based approach that is rooted in indigenous culture and values to protect against suicide; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) adopt as policy that National, Provincial and Local Governments work with aboriginal communities to address and reduce suicide of Canada’s aboriginal peoples; and be it further

Resolved #2 that the NCWC urge the National, Provincial, Local and Aboriginal Governments, with overlapping jurisdictions, to work together to:

a. determine the specific causes of suicide within individual aboriginal communities;

b. provide aboriginal communities with the dedicated resources necessary to deal with these issues;

c. help all aboriginal communities to thrive socially, culturally and economically.
EI 1  RESCINDING THE SAFE THIRD COUNTRY AGREEMENT WITH THE USA

Whereas #1  Canada has a “Safe Third Country Agreement” with the USA which prohibits refugees in the USA from seeking protection at border crossings; and

Whereas #2  the International Agreement assumes that both Canada and the USA respect refugee rights; and

Whereas #3  at present the USA cannot be considered safe for the purposes of refugee protection since recently signed Executive orders in the USA demonstrated a total disregard for the rights of refugees; and

Whereas #4  issues of concern in jeopardy are access to asylum, threats of deportation to the country of origin, arbitrary arrest and imprisonment, and serious threats to the rights of children; therefore be it

Resolved #1  that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy advocating for rescinding of the “Safe Third Country Agreement” with the USA in order to protect the rights and safety of refugees; and be it further

Resolved #2  that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to rescind the “Safe Third Country Agreement” with respect to the USA and to allow refugees in the USA to apply for refugee protection at official border crossings.