

## QUESTIONS FOR THE PROVINCIAL ELECTION OCTOBER 10, 2007

*Democracy forever teases us with the contrast between its ideals and its realities,  
between its heroic possibilities and its sorry achievements.* Agnes Repplier

The questions below were prepared and submitted by members of the three Standing Committees of CFUW Ontario Council -- Education, Legislation, and Status of Women & Human Rights -- at their March 2007 meetings.

For resolutions that touch on many of these issues, check CFUW policy at [www.cfuw.org](http://www.cfuw.org) and CFUW-Ontario Council policy at [www.cfuwontcouncil.ca/policy.html](http://www.cfuwontcouncil.ca/policy.html)

### A. Children

1. What kind of resources would you advocate to support initiatives for early childhood education and quality regulated day care?
2. The new report of the The Hon. Margaret McCain, Fraser Mustard and Stuart Shanker entitled *Early Years Study 2: Putting Science into Action* states the cost to the educational system would be less if our children received quality early learning. How does your party view the costs of early learning compared to putting more money into the Ministry of Education to cover costs for Special Education teachers and anti-bullying programs? Will you put into practice the main recommendations and conclusions of this report?
3. What would you do to facilitate the implementation of “Best Start” programs for children in more Ontario centres? Are you aware of the impact the program has at the municipal level?
4. The Premier's promise to end Ontario's clawback of the National Child Benefit Supplement for those on social assistance has not yet been fulfilled. Would you work to end this clawback? If so, how?

## **B. Education**

1. Are you in favour of increasing support for post-secondary students through lower tuition fees and increased financial support for students?
2. Will your government support the integration of newcomer children and their families into the school system in connection with the new program enhancement grant announced on March 19, 2007, by the Education Minister that would now make possible "dedicated" funding for ESL/ESD (English as a Second Language/English as a Second Dialect) and FSL/FSD (French as a Second Language/French as a Second Dialect)?
3. How would your party revamp the education funding formula to make it more suited to the specific needs of local school board concerns?
4. What are your party's views on the strengths and weaknesses of the province-wide testing in schools under the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO)?
5. Will you support the recent promotion by the Canadian Education Association of a citizenship education curriculum for all grade levels to include history of the democratic process, skills of democratic participation, and understanding of the various levels of government?

## **C. Electoral Reform**

1. What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed mixed member proportional (MMP) electoral system?
2. If the Mixed Member Proportional electoral system is adopted, how would your government implement it?
3. How would your party encourage women to become provincial candidates?

## **D. Environment**

1. How would you encourage the use of fuel-efficient (hybrid) vehicles?
2. How would you increase the efficiency of and encourage the use of both urban and rural public bus and rail transportation?
3. What would you do with regard to regulating the toxicity of household cleaning products?
4. Can industry be regulated to reduce the amount of packaging, and could we make manufacturers responsible for its disposal?

5. How would your government protect farmland, keep food costs moderate and pay attention to pollution involved in food imports?

### **E. Equity**

1. Now that The Family Statute Law Amendment Act (Bill 27) is in force, how do you propose that those to whom it may apply will learn about its implications especially for women who might not be aware that religious tribunals are no longer permitted as part of Ontario's legal system?
2. How will you ensure that seniors will have consistent, affordable home care and social services to allow them to stay in their own homes, thus reducing the increasing need for institutional accommodation?

### **F. Health**

1. How does the Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) legislation create an integrated health system when major health care providers such as family doctors, medical specialists, chiropractors, physiotherapists, labs, dentists, optometrists are not involved? Would you amend the legislation to include these professionals in the LHINs?
2. How do the LHINs protect against privatization and why is accreditation not mandatory for private health care facilities?

### **G. Municipalities**

1. How would you assist municipalities who are overburdened with downloading of services, and renovation of aging water and sewer systems for which they are now financially responsible?

### **H. Poverty**

1. What is your party's policy for reducing poverty levels, particularly of children and seniors in Ontario? Do you favour the \$10 minimum wage?
2. How would you work to support people on social assistance so that they become self-sufficient, particularly since the present social assistance program does not permit receiving student loans etc.?
3. Do you have any suggestions for eliminating the necessity for Food Banks for the poor including the working poor?