



Canadian Federation of University Women  
**ONTARIO COUNCIL**



[www.cfuwontcouncil.ca](http://www.cfuwontcouncil.ca)

**ACTION 5 ADVOCACY 5 EDUCATION**

[cfuwontario@yahoo.com](mailto:cfuwontario@yahoo.com)

***Comments on:***

**POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY CONSULTATIONS, 2008**

*to*

***GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER***  
***Cabinet Committee on Poverty Reduction***

**July 31, 2008**

by the

**Canadian Federation of University Women**  
**ONTARIO COUNCIL**

Submitted by  
Myra Willis  
President, Ontario Council  
Canadian Federation of University Women  
[www.cfuwontcouncil.ca](http://www.cfuwontcouncil.ca)  
[cfuwontario@yahoo.com](mailto:cfuwontario@yahoo.com)

**Researched and written by:**  
**Linda Hall, Poverty Issues**  
**Teri Shaw, Advocacy Coordinator**

**GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER  
POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY CONSULTATIONS, 2008**

July 31, 2008

The Ontario Council of the Canadian Federation of University Women commends the Government of Ontario for pledging to introduce a poverty reduction strategy by the end of 2008. This is an issue that we have studied and have had policy on since our conception. Ontario Council hopes that this submission, along with the many others, will help formulate a plan that will be effective both in the short and long term.

It is not enough to study and consult. There must be action – the political will through strong leadership from the provincial government, a buy in from all sectors and the funds to make it happen.

Ontario Council of the Canadian Federation of University Women is composed of fifty-nine (59) clubs comprised of graduates living in urban and rural areas across Ontario. We are non-partisan, non-sectarian and totally member funded.

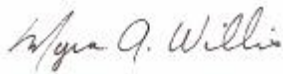
Our policies are voted on by a one club/one vote system so that all areas of Ontario, from northern communities to large cities, have an equal voice. This results in well-balanced policies that may be embraced by most Ontarians.

Our members put their education and diverse skills at the service of their communities and are active in:

- o public affairs
- o public education, justice, health and environmental issues
- o improving the status of women in Ontario, and
- o ensuring human rights in the province.

CFUW Ontario Council is part of the Canadian Federation of University Women and has links to the International Federation of University Women (IFUW).

Yours truly,



Myra Willis,  
President, Ontario Council  
Canadian Federation of University Women

**Question 1: Given that our first priority is children and their families, how can we do a better job with **existing resources** to improve opportunities for children living in poverty?**

The Ontario Council of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW OC) applauds the Ontario government's initiative concerning family poverty.

Establishing a Cabinet committee under the direction of the Hon. Deborah Matthews to make a "clear-cut progress on reducing child poverty"<sup>1</sup> is a positive sign that our Government is committed to taking action on this issue.

**The Government has before it many resources. All of these paint a picture of great concern.**

Last year there were a flurry of reports - from the Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition's social audit of Ontario<sup>2</sup> to John Stapleton's *Why is it so tough to get ahead?*<sup>3</sup> to the reports specific to Toronto written by the United Way<sup>4</sup> and the University of Toronto<sup>5</sup>

These build on others from previous years that includes the study done by Minister Matthews<sup>6</sup> on social assistance, as well as its critique prepared by the Income Security Advocacy Centre<sup>7</sup>, and the reports of the Task Force on Modernizing Income Security for Working- Age Adults (MISWAA)<sup>8</sup>

This year the provincial government has held province wide consultations and gathered further input from a very active website.

Also available to the government are a plethora of organizations and people who have experience, expertise and knowledge. This committee of the Cabinet that has been charged with making progress on child poverty will have extensive resources available

<sup>1</sup> Government of Ontario, *Speech From the Throne*, Nov.29,2007

<sup>2</sup> Murray MacAdam, ed *Lives Still in the Balance, Ontario's Social Audit*, Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition, Kitchener ON

<sup>3</sup> John Stapleton *'Why is it so tough to get ahead? How our tangled social programs pathologize the transition to self-reliance'* Metcalf Foundation, 2007 [www.metcalffoundation.com](http://www.metcalffoundation.com)

<sup>4</sup> 4 United Way of Greater Toronto *Losing Ground: The persistent growth of family poverty in Canada's largest city, Nov. 2007* [www.unitedwaytoronto.com/whoWeHelp/reports/losingGround.php](http://www.unitedwaytoronto.com/whoWeHelp/reports/losingGround.php)

<sup>5</sup> J. David Hulchanski, *The Three Cities within Toronto: Income polarization among Toronto's neighbourhoods, 1970–2000* Centre for Urban & Community Studies, University of Toronto [www.wellesleyinstitute.com/files/cucs/threecitiesreport.pdf](http://www.wellesleyinstitute.com/files/cucs/threecitiesreport.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Deb Matthews, M.P.P., *Review of Employment Assistance Programs in Ontario Works & Ontario Disability Support Program*, Ministry of Community & Social Services, December 2004 [http://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/NR/rdoonlyres/F1B51636-3FFA-4490-A703-CCEC8CEE7272/95/EmploymentAssistanceProgram\\_Matthews\\_eng.pdf](http://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/NR/rdoonlyres/F1B51636-3FFA-4490-A703-CCEC8CEE7272/95/EmploymentAssistanceProgram_Matthews_eng.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Income Security Advocacy Centre, *The Matthews Report: Moving Towards Real Income Security*, May 2005 [www.incomesecurity.org/documents/ISACResponseToMatthewsReport-final.doc](http://www.incomesecurity.org/documents/ISACResponseToMatthewsReport-final.doc)

<sup>8</sup> *Time for a Fair Deal: Report of the Task Force on Modernizing Income Security for Working-Age Adults* May 2006 [www.torontoalliance.ca/MISWAA\\_Report.pdf](http://www.torontoalliance.ca/MISWAA_Report.pdf)

to it in order to make sound policy decisions, and develop strategy, action plans with targets, timetables and methods of evaluation.

**What then becomes necessary is the political will and the financial resources to make the essential changes to positively affect the lives of Ontario citizens.**

Using existing resources:

- **Review legislation, policies and regulations**, update and coordinate those that require it
- **Plan and set realistic targets** based on a holistic evaluation of both short term and long term poverty
- **Continue to support successful programmes** that are working such as after-school options for recreation, the arts and homework clubs, neighbourhood resource centres to support parents and healthy child development
- **Continue to support evidence-based research**, for example, how much does it cost realistically to run a household in Ontario?
- Have a **Minister of Poverty Reduction** that would coordinate and implement changes required
- **Continue pressuring the federal government:**
  - to return to Ontarians more of their own money
  - to increase access to Employment Insurance
  - to fund the National Child Care Strategy and affordable housing
  - to fund the Kelowna Accord
  - to allow for full parental leave on Employment Insurance and make access to maternity and parental leave universal. (Only 2 in 3 working women are eligible under current EI rules.)

**Know where you are going, make sure it happens and garner public support for this to continue**

**Question 2: What **new ideas** could we incorporate into our existing supports that would increase opportunities for children living in poverty?**

**Poverty is about individuals who do not have sufficient resources to support themselves and their families.**

Individuals at times in their lives require support and assistance:

- **Parents**
  - **Strong and supportive communities** with access to
    - § **affordable housing**
    - § **early learning and child care**
    - § **public education and training programs**
    - § **public transit**
  - **Liveable incomes** combined with tax credits for low-income workers - good jobs and a realistic income system when employment is not possible - is the absolute basic.
  - **Pay equity**
  - Access to locally based supportive **community programmes** such as community kitchens, toy exchanges, play programmes, community courses where parents can congregate and support one another
  - **Support from employers** to allow for flextime for parents to look after children in emergency situations
  - **Parenting courses**
  - Extension of the **parenting resource centres**
  - Access to healthy **food** and information about food while pregnant
  - Stable sustaining funding for **women's shelters and transitional supportive housing**
- **Young children**
  - Access to **quality early childhood development programmes**
  - Access to and **counselling for parents about child development** including nutritional requirements for the developing brain
  - Access to **nutritious food** for brain development

- **School age children**
  - Extension of programs like **Roots of Empathy, Pathways to Education**
  - Access to **breakfast and lunch programmes** with nutritious food needed for optimal learning
  - **Safe schools** with qualified counsellors to assist and to guide vulnerable young people
  - Quick access to psychiatric and **mental health services**
  - Access to **affordable recreation and sport programmes**, developing strong healthy bodies and minds, teaching skills of cooperation and team-building
  - Access to **affordable after-school programmes and homework clubs**
  - Specific programmes for children who have become **homeless and have their schooling interrupted** – the embarrassment and trauma of leaving friends impedes learning<sup>9</sup>
  - **Life skills courses** returned to the curriculum
  - **Parenting courses**
  - Programs, such as mentoring, to encourage parents and their children to have **a life view that includes post-secondary education**
  - Enhance programmes geared to **reduce youth drop-out rates**
  
- **Youth**
  - Access to programmes as mentioned above
  - More **grants and low cost loans for post-secondary education**
  - Extension of **apprenticeship programmes**
  - Access to **affordable supportive housing** intended for youth who are fleeing abusive, traumatic family situations
  - Access to **health clinics** designed for street youth

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<sup>9</sup> Anne Decter, *Lost in the Shuffle: The Impact of Homelessness on Children's Education In Toronto*, Community Social Planning Council of Toronto.2007

- Stop **regulations that impede post-secondary students returning to work** while living with parents
- Extension of resources and support for **youth-at-risk**, ages 16-22, and **youth-in-care**

Then, the **community requires long term, stable and sustaining funding for community based research and evaluation** to continue to study what is successful and what problems are developing (the law of unintended consequences). Agencies like social planning councils, professional based think tanks such as CRIAW, CCSD, CPRN, CCPA can evaluate programmes, tax systems, government policies and their effect on poverty reduction.

**We have learned over the years that just throwing money at the problem of poverty does not work. We need to think outside the box. We must bring together all the stakeholders including the broader public and business sectors. As has been said over and over again, it takes a community to raise a child.**

**Question 3: We know that communities are best positioned to understand and respond to the local realities of poverty and opportunity. *What is already working in your community to support children, youth and their families living in poverty to achieve their potential?***

**There are already programs in existence in communities across Ontario that make a difference in the daily lives of children, youth and their families who are living in poverty. Unfortunately these existing supports are not sufficient.** The provincial government needs to support these initiatives and provide leadership.

Here is a sampling of some of the programs we know about in Hamilton, a mid-sized city<sup>10</sup>.

A central coordinating community body, the **Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction**, has identified 5 priorities, and in turn has enlisted the help of 5 starting point partners to research, plan, develop and coordinate the implementation of viable programmes to address poverty.

The Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction is co-convened by the City Of Hamilton and the Hamilton Community Foundation.

<sup>10</sup> *The Hamilton Spectator*, June 5, 2008 "Sharing Hamilton's Success in Poverty Reduction".

The 5 starting point partners and the programmes they are coordinating include:

1. **Hamilton Best Start Network** - Increases community recognition of the importance of high quality Early Child Development opportunities and integrates supports for parents of pre-school-aged children.

Examples of programmes:

- **Healthy Babies, Healthy Children**
- **Family Home Visitor Program,**
- **“From Here to the Bay Program”** links private sector investment with the early years sector to enhance early years centres programming
- a new health centre in the Keith Neighbourhood,
- early learning and parenting centre in the Beasley Neighbourhood
- child-care for 24 low-income families who are continuing to work or enhance their education

2. **School Aged Solutions** - Promotes access to out of school programs.

Out of school programs are recognized as a key component of a healthy community. This organization identifies “gaps” in low-income communities and aligns resources to ensure more children have access to skills through education, activity and recreation.

Examples of programmes:

- 8 partnerships between schools and local businesses to support at-risk schools
- **School-Age Activity Program at King George School**
- **Teen Drop In Centre on Queen St. North**
- Mentoring program for before and after school programs
- Family literacy evenings at Hamilton public libraries

3. **Skills Development Flagship** - A skills development program for at-risk youth.

This organization identifies best practices for skills development in youth-at-risk and links with local organizations to deliver the programs

Examples of programmes:

- **Threshold School of Building**
- **Wesley Urban Ministries Scholarship Program**
- **Youth Opportunities Strategy** (ministry funding for 3 years to create summer employment)
- **Student Success: Tackling Poverty Together** – helps at-risk students stay in school and then finds jobs

- innovative youth centre to include a drop-in centre, mentoring programs, employment and educational supports

#### 4. **Hamilton Immigrant Workforce Integration Network**

This organization supports a seamless pathway to employment for immigrants. It creates opportunities for meaningful employment for new immigrants, develops partnerships, and supports employers to hire and integrate immigrants into their workforce;

Examples of programmes:

- 32 employers commit to hiring new immigrants
- a bridging program to connect internationally trained professionals and trades people with employment, licensing, training/upgrading
- a mentoring program for immigrants in the banking sector has a 70% employment rate
- Global Experience @Work Program provides free human resources consulting

#### 5. **Affordable Housing Flagship**

This organization works towards decreasing the number of low-income families that spend over 30% of their income on housing.

The provincial and federal governments must continue to fund and expand successful programs that make housing affordable for low-income families.

Examples of these programmes:

- **Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program** will allow 551 more affordable housing units in Hamilton
- **Hostels to Homes Program** moved 80 people from emergency housing into longer term rental housing
- **Hamilton HomeStart Program** moved 38 families into home ownership from social housing
- **Home Ownership Affordability Program** moved 9 families into their own homes.

In addition the City of Hamilton continues its own programmes including an **Affordable Transit Pass**, a pilot program for one year that allows 1200 low-income workers and students to purchase bus passes at 50% off.

The strength of this coordinating community based body is that it allows for individual agencies and groups with specific expertise to tackle the problem in concert with other agencies.

**Question 4: We know that to be successful we must all work together. How can we better *integrate the roles that we all play* – individuals, not for profits, the private sector, volunteers, and all levels of government – in increasing opportunity for Ontarians living in poverty?**

The provincial government must take the lead in coordinating efforts to better integrate the roles we all play. The inter-ministerial cabinet committee headed by Minister Matthews is a welcomed model that starts to bring all the different but relevant government departments to one table.

In its role as leader, the **provincial government must:**

- **Review current levels of collaboration** that exist among Ministries and coordinate initiatives, rules, procedures, etc. so that all are on the same page. Systems must be integrated so that departments are working together rather than in silos.
- **Map all existing government and private agencies to streamline all policies regarding social assistance.** New policies must be supportive, not punitive in nature. Eliminate claw backs. The current model is often riddled with systems barriers. Extra support staff is needed to help applicants access needed programs.
- Create a **Ministry of Poverty Reduction** that can set targets for reducing poverty and bring together a broad base of support and collaboration involving all interested and involved parties. The government does not have to start from scratch to formulate viable targets. Jurisdictions, such as Ireland, have been at this for over 20 years and have successful strategies and policies to share.
- This Ministry must ensure that the **Ontario Poverty Reduction Plan has some flexibility in its components** for all affected groups, e.g., children and their families, youth-at-risk living on their own, seniors, the Aboriginal community, immigrants, institutional residents, the working poor. At present government policies are applied with a cookie cutter approach and we know from experience “one strategy or policy does not fit all.”
- **Track the progress of the Poverty Reduction Plan** with its component parts. Make the results public on an annual basis and keep the plan moving forward. Involve independent citizen groups in the monitoring process. Communication of progress reported on a regular basis is critical.

The provincial government needs to provide the leadership and make investments in community programs. To ensure success however, it must work with communities and **provide stable funding to ensure that agencies and local governments have the capability of long-term planning and implementation of programs** to help the poor.

- Encourage a system that allows for **citizen participation** and provides incentives for the broader private and business sectors to get involved.
- Encourage **community building and grass roots initiatives**.
- Encourage **partnerships between various institutions**; e.g., colleges and elementary schools and intergenerational mentoring.
- Create **neighbourhood hubs**.
- **Listen to the people who live in poverty** - they know what needs to be changed; they know what needs to be coordinated – they are the ones who must navigate through the current maze of rules, regulations, policies and services.

**Question 5: We are focusing on children first, but we will develop a comprehensive, long-term poverty reduction strategy for all people living in poverty. What are the key long-term goals for improving opportunity with respect to **groups other than children**?**

Vulnerable populations that have high levels of poverty:<sup>11</sup>

- women alone with children
- Aboriginal peoples
- racialized minorities
- people with disabilities
- recent immigrants & refugees
- victims of domestic violence
- psychiatric survivors
- homeless adults & families
- adults with limited literacy
- seniors, aged 65 and older

**CFUW Ontario Council supports** the following long-term goals:

- **the aims of “25 in 5”**. While we recognize that there are potential limits in the time frame, we understand that their priorities are essential

<sup>11</sup> Community Development Halton, *A Legacy for the Future: An Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy*, Community Conversation: Halton Speaks, June 27, 2008 & *Hamilton Poverty Matrix – Estimated Number of People Living in Poverty, 2005* developed in partnership with Social Planning & Research Council of Hamilton and City of Hamilton Public Health & Community Services Department

- the need to have **special holistic services for vulnerable populations** that will allow them the dignity and support to re-establish themselves
- the **gradual shift of focus from alleviation to prevention.**

**Question 6: We need to be able to measure our progress on poverty reduction. What measures do you think will best show our progress in improving opportunity for Ontarians living in poverty?**

There will obviously be a need for a combination of currently recognized measuring tools such as LICOs (low income cut offs) and LIMs (low income measures) and MBMs (market basket measures.)

However for our purposes here, we will limit our suggestions to developing **concrete indicators in key areas of concern**, such as the following

#### **Collaboration**

- Increased engagement of the private and business sectors

#### **Community**

- Decrease in crime rates
- Increase in community hubs
- Increase in community workers in neighbourhoods
- Increase in social and health supports in neighbourhoods
- Increase in voter turnout rates

#### **Children**

- Increase in number of child care spaces
- Fewer children coming into protective care
- Increased access to after school programming
- No child going to school or bed hungry

#### **Education**

- Reduced high school drop out rates
- Increased access to and participation in post secondary education
- Improved EQAO scores in high risk schools
- Increased funding and more special education, literacy, ESL and numeracy teachers, librarians and guidance counsellors
- Decreased incidents of racism, school suspensions

### **New Immigrants**

- Increased training and bridging programs
- Higher employment rates
- Solutions/programs for accrediting foreign trained professionals

### **Finance/Incomes**

- Change perceptions –think living wage rather than minimum wage
- Decreased barriers to social assistance
- Social assistance rates reflect the real costs of living and managing a household
- Punitive policies such as claw back of post secondary students' earnings are eliminated
- OW is fully uploaded to the province and indexed to inflation
- Increased supports for people trying to access social assistance programs
- Full time workers earn a living wage

### **Employment**

- Increased training and retention in the workforce
- Higher employment rates
- Review of and improvements in the Employment Standards Act
- Increased access and eligibility to Employment Insurance
- Precarious workers (part time, contract) receive benefits, job protection

### **Health**

- Decrease in domestic violence
- Decrease in teen pregnancy rates
- Increased access to basic dental care
- Decreased rates of using food banks
- Fewer food drives and food banks needed

### **Housing**

- Decreased homeless rate
- Increased affordable, safe housing
- Increased home ownership
- Reduced wait times for affordable housing
- Decreased rates of eviction for arrears in rent

**Do you have any **additional thoughts**, stories or ideas you'd like to share?**

**Resources that we have used:**

Community Development Halton, *A Legacy for the Future: An Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy*, Community Conversation: Halton Speaks, June 27, 2008.

Decter, Anne, *Lost in the Shuffle: The Impact of Homelessness on Children's Education In Toronto*, Community Social Planning Council of Toronto. 2007

*Hamilton Poverty Matrix – Estimated Number of People Living in Poverty, 2005* developed in partnership with Social Planning & Research Council of Hamilton and City of Hamilton Public Health & Community Services Department

Home, William R. and Todd Stubbs, *Supporting the Communities of Simcoe County* 2008, United Way Simcoe County

Hulchanski, J. David, *The Three Cities within Toronto: Income polarization among Toronto's neighbourhoods, 1970–2000* Centre for Urban & Community Studies, University of Toronto [www.wellesleyinstitute.com/files/cucs/threecitiesontario.pdf](http://www.wellesleyinstitute.com/files/cucs/threecitiesontario.pdf)

Income Security Advocacy Centre, *The Matthews Report: Moving Towards Real Income Security*, May 2005  
[www.incomesecurity.org/documents/ISACResponsetoMatthewsReport-final.doc](http://www.incomesecurity.org/documents/ISACResponsetoMatthewsReport-final.doc)

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Matthews, Deb M.P.P., *Review of Employment Assistance Programs in Ontario Works & Ontario Disability Support Program*, Ministry of Community & Social Services, December 2004 [http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/NR/rdonlyres/F1B51636-3FFA-4490-A703-CCEC8CEE7272/95/EmploymentAssistanceProgram\\_Matthews\\_eng.pdf](http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/NR/rdonlyres/F1B51636-3FFA-4490-A703-CCEC8CEE7272/95/EmploymentAssistanceProgram_Matthews_eng.pdf)

Stapleton, John, 'Why is it so tough to get ahead? How our tangled social programs pathologize the transition to self-reliance' Metcalf Foundation, 2007  
[www.metcalffoundation.com](http://www.metcalffoundation.com)

*Time for a Fair Deal: Report of the Task Force on Modernizing Income Security for Working-Age Adults* May 2006 [www.torontoalliance.ca/MISWAA\\_Report.pdf](http://www.torontoalliance.ca/MISWAA_Report.pdf)

United Way of Greater Toronto *Losing Ground: The persistent growth of family poverty in Canada's largest city*, Nov. 2007  
[www.unitedwaytoronto.com/whoWeHelp/reports/losingGround.php](http://www.unitedwaytoronto.com/whoWeHelp/reports/losingGround.php)

## Appendix A

**Canadian Federation of University Women  
ONTARIO COUNCIL**

**Policy relating to the  
Growing Stronger, Poverty Consultations, 2008**

**Note: CFUW Ontario Council policy integrates CFUW Ontario Council policy, as well as that of CFUW and IFUW.**

## **EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE**

### ***Child Care and Early Learning***

CFUW, 1987

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women urge the Government of Canada to commit itself, through social and economic policies, to facilitate the provision of an adequate supply of affordable, accessible child care facilities, which fulfil the purposes of providing a safe, healthy, physical, social, emotional and intellectual development.

### ***Early Childhood Education and Care***

CFUW, 2006 Revised Resolution (Original Resolution 1994)

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women reaffirm its existing policy and urge the Government of Canada to give priority to the creation of a quality, universally accessible and comprehensive early learning and child care program which emphasizes the development of the whole child. Funding for this initiative should involve all levels of government through cost-sharing mechanisms, as in other human services such as health, education and social programs.

### ***Parenting***

CFUW, 1979

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women urge provincial ministries of education and local school boards to establish programs in parenting and human relations for all students, elementary, intermediate, and secondary, such programs to be compulsory in at least the intermediate and elementary grades.

## **EDUCATION**

### ***Education for All***

IFUW, 1992

RESOLVED, That the National Federations and Associations of IFUW work towards the implementation of and urge their respective governments to affirm and implement: 1. the rights of all people to education as asserted in the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" (United Nations - 1948) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (United Nations - 1966);

2. the "World Declaration on Education for All", and to work to achieve the goals set down in the "Framework for Action to Meet Basic Learning Needs" as adopted at Jomtien, Thailand, by the "World Conference for Education for All - Meeting Basic Learning Needs" 1990; and

3. to provide funding for functional literacy programs.

GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER, Poverty Reduction Strategy Consultations  
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### ***Apprenticeship and the Skilled Trades***

CFUW, 1989

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women urge federal, provincial and territorial authorities concerned with education and skills development and local boards of education:

1. to work with business and labour to create an apprenticeship strategy national in scope, including portable certification and increased opportunities for apprenticeship; and
2. to strengthen technological studies and guidance counselling for both men and particularly women within the schools as well as their links with business, industry, community colleges and trade schools; and
3. to promote public understanding and recognition of skilled trades, and to foster pride in those occupations.

## **EMPLOYMENT/EMPLOYMENT EQUITY**

### ***Equal Pay - Work of Equal Value***

CFUW, 1986

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women support the principle of equal pay for work of equal value and urge the enactment of legislation, encompassing this principle by the Government of Canada and the provincial and territorial governments where such legislation has not already been adopted. The legislation should apply to all workers without exception. The necessary components of this legislation should include:

1. contract compliance;
2. time-tables;
3. enforcement and penalty procedures (both complaint based and pro-active approaches to the implementation); and
4. the establishment of a pay equity commission and tribunal to administer and enforce pay equity legislation.

### ***Responsibilities of Family and Work***

IFUW, 1998

RESOLVED, That in recognition that people are a country's major resource and that to develop this resource effectively strong family structures are required, national federations and associations should intensify their efforts to lobby the business community and their respective governments to value the status and role of parenting by:

1. promoting the importance of ongoing educational opportunities for employment, voluntary work, leisure and family living including conflict resolution;
2. encouraging employers to make adequate provision for the recognition of the family responsibilities of their employees; and
3. recognizing and funding the work carried out by community-based services which support parents, children, young people and the elderly.

## **HOUSING**

### ***Affordable Housing***

CFUW, 1992

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) urge the Government of Canada to reinstate non-profit, co-operative and affordable housing programs, and to promote and to finance these programs; and

RESOLVED, That CFUW urge all levels of government to co-operate in establishing comprehensive plans for land use, which will guarantee affordable housing within community developments.

### ***Homelessness and Poverty***

CFUW, 1999

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) urge the Government of Canada to take immediate action to carry out its UN commitments as stated in article 25.1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1949) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1967), by defining and ensuring access to an adequate standard of living for all Canadians to maintain health and well-being;

RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the Government of Canada to recognize the present crises of homelessness and poverty, and to work with the provincial, territorial, local and aboriginal governments, as well as with the business and community sector, to ensure the provision and coordination of a full range of short-term social support and health-related services, with ease of access by homeless and poor people;

RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the Government of Canada and the provincial, territorial, local and aboriginal governments to work together with business and community organizations to provide support to existing affective community initiatives and to create other appropriate immediate and long-term programs such as low-cost innovative housing and the development of new employment opportunities to eliminate homelessness, alleviate poverty and foster independent living; and

RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the Government of Canada, provincial, territorial, local and aboriginal governments, and the business sector to ensure that adequate funding is provided for:

1. community-based mental health outreach programs, including public education on the interpretation and application of the Mental Health Statutes and on support strategies for families;
2. adequate, comprehensive, supportive housing for those with mental illness who no longer need full-time institutional care, but are not yet ready for a completely independent life-style.

### ***Homeless Youth***

CFUW, 2006

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women urge the federal, provincial, territorial, regional and municipal governments to formulate and implement gender sensitive plans to address the specific needs of homeless youth, to include:

- 1.a range of housing options
  - Crisis
  - Transitional
    - supportive
    - supported
  - Long-term affordable housing;
2. coordinated and accessible youth support services with focus on education and self-sufficiency; and
3. ongoing financial resources committed to organizations and agencies that provide housing and support services to homeless youth.

## **POST-SECONDARY AVAILABILITY**

### ***Funding Meritorious Students***

CFUW, 1991

RESOLVED: That the Canadian Federation of University Women urge the Government of Canada and the

provincial and territorial governments to:

1. Establish a self-sustaining loan system for students, and a grant system for needy students, to cover fees and contribute to living expenses, thus ensuring that successful under-graduate and graduate students can complete a university education;
2. Monitor the distribution of funds to ensure equity for women as well as disadvantaged, ethnic, aboriginal and rural persons.

### ***Access to Post-Secondary Education***

CFUW, 2004

Resolved, That the Canadian Federation of University Women urge the federal government to work to remove economic and social barriers to post-secondary education by:

1. ensuring that federal transfer payments to provinces and territories include funds dedicated specifically and exclusively for the support of post-secondary education; and
2. improving and increasing a needs-based student financial aid program that includes a combination of grants, federally insured student loans, and debt reduction programs available to both undergraduate and graduate students.

## **POVERTY**

### ***Poverty***

CFUW, 2000

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women urge the federal government to renew its commitments to the UN regarding poverty; and

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women urge the federal, provincial and territorial governments to:

1. implement measures intended to reduce and prevent poverty, especially child poverty.
2. initiate a careful re-evaluation of the situation regarding the real economic, healthcare and educational needs of Canadian children, as well as the actual public resources available to fight poverty.

### ***Income Equality for Ontario's Children***

CFUW Ontario Council, 2006

RESOLVED, that the Ontario Council of the Canadian Federation of University Women urge the Government of Ontario to stop the claw back of the National Child Benefit Supplement from recipients of the Ontario Works program (OW) and the Ontario Disability Support Plan (ODSP).

## ***VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN***

### ***Prevention of Violence against Women***

CFUW, 1992

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women urge the Federal, provincial and territorial governments to take appropriate steps to improve measures to prevent violence against women.

***Wife Assault Victims***

CFUW, 1992

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) urge its members to promote the use of violence prevention education programs in their communities; and

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women at all levels of the organization, work to ensure that victims of wife assault receive the information, shelter and protection required to enable them to establish lives free of terror.

***Violence Prevention Education***

CFUW, 1992

RESOLVED, That the CFUW urge the Government of Canada and the provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to continue to exercise their leadership roles to ensure security of the person and to promote zero tolerance to violence for Canadian women in the following ways:

1. by expanding the multi-media education campaign on violence against women;
2. by working with relevant professions and community groups to promote strong and consistent violence-prevention education; and
3. by working together to ensure that the community has adequate resources to accommodate the demand for services for abused women and children resulting from the increased education on violence.

***Violence-Free Family Life***

IFUW, 1998

RESOLVED, That all national federations and associations promote the development and implementation of programs that address the problem of domestic violence with particular reference to the human rights of women and children and that these programs be concerned specifically with:

1. demanding legislation and adequate resources to prevent domestic violence and to protect the victims;
2. encouraging research by governments, universities and private institutions into the incidence, causes, nature and effects of family violence;
3. addressing the social conditions that lead to family violence;
4. rising awareness through the media, seminars and study programs of the increasing levels of violence against women and girls;
5. ensuring that, because of the widespread and increasing incidence of family violence in many societies, education for the peaceful resolution of conflict is included in school curricula at all levels;
6. establishing shelters in the community where those abused can receive protection and support;
7. disseminating information widely about success to help in crises; and
8. developing and supporting strategies whose effectiveness is proven in breaking self-perpetuating patterns of family violence.

## Appendix B



**Ontario Council of The Canadian Federation of University Women  
Club Locations**

Ajax – Pickering	Kitchener - Waterloo	Perth
Aurora - Newmarket	Leaside - East York	Peterborough
Barrie & District	London	Renfrew & District
Belleville & District	Markham- Unionville	Sarnia Lambton
Brampton	Milton & District	Saugeen
Brantford	Mississauga	Scarborough
Brockville & District	Muskoka	Southport
Burlington	Nepean	St. Catharines
Cambridge	Niagara Falls	St. Thomas
Chatham -Kent	Norfolk	Stratford
Cornwall & District	North Bay	Sudbury
Etobicoke	North Toronto	Thunder Bay
Georgetown	North York	Toronto
Georgian Triangle	Northumberland	Vaughan
Grimsby	Oakville	Welland & District
Guelph	Orangeville & District	Weston & District
Haliburton Highlands	Orillia	Windsor
Hamilton	Orleans	
Kanata	Oshawa & District	
Kincardine	Ottawa	
Kingston	Owen Sound & Area	

GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER, Poverty Reduction Strategy Consultations  
By the Ontario Council of the Canadian Federation of University Women  
July 31, 2008