



Comments on  
2006 Ontario Budget

submitted to

Legislative Assembly of Ontario  
Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs

Room 1405, Whitney Block  
Queen's Park, Toronto, ON M7A 1

February 2, 2006

By the

Canadian Federation of University Women

**Ontario Council**

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Fax 22 pages including cover

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Room , Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs,  
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2 February, 2006

Dear Mr. Hoy,  
Members of the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs,

The Canadian Federation of University Women/ Ontario Council (CFUW/Ontario Council) welcomes the opportunity to submit some of its core issues for your urgent consideration for the 2006 Ontario Budget.

The health of Ontario's economy and the health, education and life quality of Ontarians are interdependent. High quality public education for all, at all levels, guarantees an educated well trained workforce, innovation, research and a civilized community life full of arts, music and sports. We are worried however about the students that are being left behind because of their origin or the low socio-economic standing of their family.

Public, comprehensive, universal, portable, accessible high quality health care for all is essential. Health care funding needs to maintain these principles.

We want our Ontario Government to look after society's vulnerable, the sick, the mistreated and the poor. The Government needs to consider the root problems and fund programs that help those that need help to help themselves. Here also education will be an important factor.

And while this is not a direct provincial responsibility, we are very concerned about the current state of living and water conditions, health care and education of the large Native population that lives in our rich province.

Violence in the streets, in the family and against women as well as in schools is unacceptable. Our members also want our Ontario Government to protect the environment and be a good steward of the province's natural resources. Water is the most basic resource for the life and the health of individuals as well as communities.

Therefore, while CFUW/ Ontario Council understands that there are many other areas that will need the government's budgetary attention, we recommend that the Ontario Government also to keep concentrating on these areas that affect the daily life of Ontarians:

- Public Education
- Child Care
- Public Health Care
- Violence against Women

- Family Poverty
- Affordable Housing
- Water

## **EDUCATION:**

### **Elementary and Secondary Schools:**

While CFUW Ontario Council commends the government for making progress in funding smaller elementary class sizes and increasing education funding in several targeted areas, we have noted that recommendations from Dr. Rozanski's 2002 report, *Investing in Public Education*, have yet to be fully funded. Funding should be fair, equitable, respond to student need, focus resources on the learner and promote accountable decision making for student success. Basic services should be funded adequately with enriched funding for local priorities.

We commend the government for its bullying prevention program detailed in *Shaping Safer Schools, Nov.2005*.

We applaud the Government's plans through its *Student Success Program* to encourage students to stay in school to succeed.

These and other initiatives, however, can only succeed in the long run if the government is willing to provide schools with the necessary financial and staff resources.

There has been a decrease in full time administrators, physical education teachers, music teachers, teacher-librarians, guidance, fine arts, family studies, and technology specialists. We share the concern of People for Education (2005 Elementary and Secondary Tracking Reports) that in spite of increased funding, the decline in specialty teachers continues.

CFUW Ontario Council participated in the Safe Schools Act Review, both in Round Tables and with a Brief. Some situations that were noted there also:

- lack of guidance counsellors
- lack of alternative programs for students who are misbehaving and require suspension or expulsion
- lack of ESL/ESD programs that lead to student frustration
- perceived discrimination with support services
- lack of technology training and/or home economics courses in the elementary school which in turn leads to lack of interest in these courses in the secondary school

We hope to see this change with the impact of targeted funding for 2005-2006.

Of specific concern:

- In the elementary sector, 47% of schools with ESL students had no ESL teacher. Some schools in Toronto reported in People for Education Tracking Reports that 80% of the students require ESL.
- A study by Dr David Watt and Dr Hetty Roessingh, of the University of Calgary's Faculty of Education found that high school drop out rate for ESL students in Canadian urban schools to be above or approaching 70% which also speaks strongly for the need to monitor and support ESL students all the way through to graduation.
- In its 2005 report, the Auditor General of Ontario expressed a number of concerns about ESL training for Ontario students, including the lack of resources, little accountability concerning funding, and concerns about lack of standards.
- Special education conditions are especially dire. In elementary schools, the average percentage of students requiring help has increased, with one-third of schools reporting that they have students who are not receiving any help.
- While we applaud the class size reduction and the extra teachers, we are concerned that the supplies for the extra classrooms can not come out of current funding.
- We also applaud the 20 minutes of physical education but are concerned about the management of this.
- Many school boards continue to use ESL and Learning Opportunities Grant funding to cover salary and operating costs.

**CFUW Ontario Council calls upon the Government of Ontario to ensure that its 2006 Annual Budget include sufficient funding (in line with the Rozanski Report) to provide high quality public education, taking into account the real costs of:**

- **salaries for teachers and support staff;**
- **safe and healthy school buildings;**
- **special education programs and staffing for both gifted and challenged education students;**
- **adequate funding for English as a Second Language programs in order for the student to develop better linguistic and cultural fluency; this would include Canadian-born children of immigrants;**
- **regular physical education with a specialist physical education teacher;**

- **students who require some assistance and support to complete the new curriculum;**
- **guidance counsellors, and programs to support students who are affected by the Safe Schools Act and violence, either as victims or perpetrators**

### **School Libraries:**

CFUW/Ontario Council has been concerned about the continual demise of the school library. During the early 1980's Ontario was considered a leader in the development of school libraries, but the lack of interest and support was very evident this past year when the new Literacy Secretariat was announced, not involving teacher-librarians who work with literacy on a daily basis.

Over the past thirty years, research has shown that an accessible school library, with a curriculum-based current collection of materials, staffed by a qualified teacher-librarian, with support staff, has a positive effect on reading and general academic achievement.

**CFUW/Ontario Council recommends that funds be available to ensure that school libraries:**

- **can be open and available for students;**
- **staffed by full-time teacher librarians, supported by technical staff;**
- **collections are current and curriculum based**

### **Post-Secondary Education:**

We commend the government on its review of post secondary education by the Hon. Bob Rae, and we are supportive of the *Reaching Higher* Program

Yet our major concerns for this past year

- remain the high indebtedness experienced by students from the accumulation of student loans thus limiting access to a post secondary education for many;
- also as noted in the Rae Review, the low level of funding for Ontario universities both from the Ontario government and
- the low level of funding from federal transfers.

**CFUW/Ontario Council recommends to the Government of Ontario for its 2006 budget that it continue to ensure that access to post secondary institutions**

remains possible for students from all socio-economic levels , and that the government

- fully fund the Rae Report recommendations;
- work towards lowering the student-teacher ratio;
- continue to pressure the federal government for the return to earlier levels of transfer payments;
- continue discussions and evaluations of the tuition policy – even with the announcement that the tuition freeze will end in 2006-2007;
- the student assistance program is reformed before the tuition freeze is lifted

## HEALTH CARE

As in previous years, CFUW/Ontario Council members continue to overwhelmingly support maintaining the five principles of the Canada Health Act - public, comprehensive, universal, portable and accessible - and for a system that is accountable to the public. We expect the Government of Ontario to maintain these principles in its federal provincial negotiations and when it considers type of health care funding.

CFUW has policy that supports *Building on Values: the Final Report of Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada*, better known as the Romanow Report. CFUW Ontario Council supports innovation rather than privatization for the delivery of health care services. Health policy advisers like Dr. Colleen Flood and Dr. Michael Rachlis have stressed that quality, innovation, coordination, training, education and prevention, rather than privatization is what is required by the Canadian health system.

We commend the government on their initiatives this past year in Health Care, including the \$40 million to be used to retain nurses. We are concerned that the money provided to health care institutions will not reach the experienced nurses and not result in the desired retention of these much needed health care professionals.

We will continue to watch the development of the Local Health Integration Networks. In theory, being able to plan, co-ordinate, integrate, and fund the delivery of health services at the community level is an ideal situation for patient and health care, but the practical application might be more problematic. We have concerns about accountability, contracting out and the possible privatization of all and any services.

Like most Ontarians, CFUW/Ontario Council has learned with concern about the health care front line staffing shortages, with the Ontario Medical Association in a November 2005 report projecting a doctor shortage of about 2400. We have also read with concern in a report by the National Post (Feb. 18,2005) of the problems of internationally trained doctors who cannot qualify to enter residency programmes, noting that immigration can only hope to add a small number of medical staff.

**CFUW/Ontario Council recommends that the Government of Ontario:**

- **continue to work collaboratively with all stakeholders in health care to implement and fund the recommendations of the Romanow Commission *Building on Values; The Future of Health Care in Canada [2002]* ;**
  - including electronic integration of files and information
  - home care for post-hospital
- **continue to fund and search out innovative methods for cooperation and coordination in medical services within the not-for-profit and public arenas of expertise, such as the funding and support to community support services;**
- **the funding and support of home care for the chronically ill and the elderly;**
- **continue and expand the use of nurse practitioners;**
- **to be cognizant of the social determinants of health;**
- **to involve the community into LHIN planning and implementation;**
- **to continue and appropriately fund recreation services for children, services supporting physical activity and nutritional eating;**
- **to fund appropriately the transition of doctors and other professionals to Family Health Teams (FHT)**
- **encourage recognition of foreign trained health professionals, while continuing to properly vet their training**

## **COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

### **Violence against women:**

CFUW/Ontario Council believes that violence against women is an urgent priority.

We commend the Government's Action Plan to combat violence against women and girls, including criminal law reforms. However, violence against women and girls persists.

Transition houses, women's centres and rape crisis centres provide successful anti-violence. Yet funding to these organizations continues to BE cut. Inadequate funding for women's crisis services and shelters means that meeting the needs of these women is difficult. The Government must take action on the commitments made to combat violence against women and girls and increase its funding for women's crisis centres and shelters in order to address the needs of women victims of violence.

Many women do not have the means to access legal help yet funding for legal aid has been reduced.

### **CFUW/Ontario Council recommends that the Government:**

- **Provide budget resources for the prevention and elimination of violence against women, including resources for the implementation of programs of action at all levels.**
- **Provide well – funded shelters and support for girls and women subjected to violence, as well as medical, counselling and other services and free or low-cost legal aid, as well as economic assistance.**
- **Provide shelters with core funding, and do not expect shelters to do all their own fundraising.**
- **Implement its programs to eliminate sexual harassment and all other forms of violence against women.**
- **Increase legal aid support for women, especially when seeking redress in issues of civil and family law.**

## **The Arbitration Act and the Family Statute Law Amendment Act:**

CFUW/Ontario Council believes that all who live in Ontario, regardless of their culture, language, or faith, should have equal access to the resolution of family disputes within the parameters and protections of the Family Law Act. No group, or member within that group, should be disadvantaged by lack of knowledge of their rights and responsibilities under Canadian law

CFUW/Ontario Council is a member of the No Religious Arbitration Coalition that has been actively opposing the concept of religious arbitration in family law.

We commend the Government's decision to end all religious arbitration in family law disputes.

We note however, that Bill 57 does not provide for legal aid, which is essential if quality advice is to be received. CFUW/Ontario Council is very concerned that economically vulnerable women will not have the funds to pursue that legal advice. The lack of legal aid for family law means that many women do not have equitable access to justice.

We are pleased that, in concert with Bill 27, Community Outreach and Education Programs are being developed by the *Ontario Women's Directorate* and the *Ministry of Community and Social Services* to increase legal literacy and make all Ontarians understand their rights under Canadian and Ontario family law and family law arbitrations.

### **CFUW/Ontario Council recommends that the Government:**

- **ensure that adequate legal aid is available to all women who need it and ensure the necessary funding to maintain legal aid services;**
- **provide a public education process that meets the needs of the women and their service providers in communities across Ontario**

### **Family Poverty:**

We commend the Government's anti-poverty measures, however we remain concerned about the high percentage of women living in poverty, in particular elderly women living alone, sole support female parents, older women, women of colour, immigrant women and women with disabilities, for whom poverty persists or even deepens, aggravated by the budgetary adjustments made since 1995 and the resulting cuts in social services.

Child poverty is really family poverty. One of the worst is female lone parent families – 39% of low income children live in sole support female parent families. Of all families

with children in Canada, 21.4% live in housing where shelter costs are more than 30% of their total income. Among low-income families with children, 66% live in unaffordable housing

Employment income is no longer sufficient to escape poverty and hunger and earn a sustainable living. In the Greater Toronto Area, 33% of families using food banks have at least one family member working (a small percentage of which are children under 18). We commend the 30 cent minimum wage increase but \$7.75 minimum wage is not enough to make a living and support a family.

Welfare recipients who enter the work force in low-paying jobs lose prescription drug and dental benefits. Also, any added income from employment is “clawed-back” in programs such as rent-geared-to-income housing and day care subsidies.”

Also of concern is the clawback of the Canada Child Tax Benefit, which includes the Child Tax Benefit Supplement that has been clawed back in Ontario from welfare families.

We agree with Susan Pigott and Lidia Monaco of St. Christopher’s House,

“The debilitating effects of poverty and inadequate housing are hardships that low-income families live with every day and we all have a responsibility to advocate for improved social conditions through better income support programs, improved labour market conditions, and adequate social housing. Removing the provincial claw-back to the national child benefit, raising provincial social assistance rates, as well as enforcing child support payments and raising the minimum wage are all income-related measures which would assist low income parents. Above all, we need more affordable housing and rent supplements.”

**CFUW/Ontario Council recommends that the Ontario Government:**

- **implement the recommendations of the Deb Matthews’ 2004 report on the Review of the Employment Assistance Programs,**
  - **especially those regarding the move from Ontario Works to paid employment and the supports that are needed:**
    - § **child care,**
    - § **transportation,**
    - § **drug and health benefits**
- **raise the minimum wage to \$10.00 with inflation index as requested by Campaign 2000 in their 2005 Report Card**
- **recognize and implement measure to deal with low wage earners**
  - **extending prescription drug and dental benefits to the working poor**
  - **income supplements, both tax benefits and real**

- **allow low-income children to receive the full funds from the federal National Child Benefit which is currently clawed back**
- **continue to create, develop and fund subsidized housing for families and single women, especially those living in poverty and female heads of household, removing all obstacles to access so that all may have a safe, affordable place to live**
- **reinstate the “diet allowance” necessary for women and families and create anti-poverty programs to improve access to food for women and families living in poverty**
- **implement programs and policies to ensure equal access, participation and benefit within employment for women and specifically for marginalized women**

## **CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES**

### **Child Care:**

It goes without saying that child care is essential to the economy of Ontario – for the intellectual development of the child as thoroughly explained in the 1999 report, *The Early Years Study* and for care of children while parents are working. Affordable childcare and early learning programs are particularly important for parents from the lower socio-economic scale.

The Ontario Council of Canadian Federation of University Women has been concerned about and has had extensive policy on the provision of child care since 1987.

We support the goals of quality, universality, accountability and development, and have over the past years asked previous federal and provincial governments “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.”(CFUW Resolution, 1987) as well as creating “well-defined standards and criteria” that also “ensure that salaries be consistent with professional training, experience and responsibility.” (CFUW Resolution, 1988)

We applaud the signing of the 2005 Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement and the 2003 Multilateral Framework on Early Learning and Child Care and the approximately 12,500 new child care spaces these would create.

We are therefore very concerned that these agreements may not be honoured by the new federal government.

Compensation for child care workers is extremely low. According to the Child Care Human Resources Sector Council, a full-time child care worker earns an average of \$17,800. for a person with no post-secondary education and \$25,000 to \$28,000 for those with college certificates and university degrees. This does not compare to kindergarten teachers. We applaud the proposed creation of College of Early Childhood Educators and hope that with the study of standards will come the amelioration of the salaries.

The working conditions can be difficult with long working hours and few breaks. These lead to a rapid turnover in staff. Better working conditions and better pay will bring and keep a better trained and a more stable workforce, an essential part of a quality child care system. This is especially important if kindergarten teachers and child care workers are to be part of a holistic centre.

**CFUW/Ontario Council recommends:**

- **that the Government of Ontario urgently work with the federal government to continue the federal-provincial agreements on the funding of the infrastructure involving child care and early learning;**
- **that compensation of child care workers be ameliorated**

**ENVIRONMENT**

**Water:**

A key CFUW concern over the years has been water. Given that water is an essential ingredient for individual health and that it is not a renewable resource, only a recyclable one, CFUW Ontario Council has been alarmed at the serious consequences of taking this valuable resource for granted.

We commend the Government for signing the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement and for its proposed Clean Water Act concerning source protection of the watershed.

While applauding the Clean Water Act, CFUW/Ontario Council has some concerns:

It is important to recognize that small municipalities and/or Band Councils on their own do not have the expertise, the resources or often even the will to invest in the kind of measures needed to ensure Source Protection. It would be very difficult to ensure consistency. And it is important to recognize that contaminants polluting a source of ground water or surface water anywhere in the province will affect the quality of Ontario's water resources.

CFUW Ontario Council is also concerned that the funding provided by the Government of Ontario be sustainable over the long term and not subject to the yearly negotiations of conflicting Budget priorities. It must be sufficient to ensure both compliance with and enforcement of this Act. In particular, owners of private wells, owners of small and medium farms, small municipalities, despite their best wishes to comply, may not have the financial resources to do so. They may also lack adequate access to the required testing facilities or availability and/or adequate funding for enforcement officers without additional support from the province.

**CFUW Ontario Council recommends that:**

- **there be an explicit commitment to adequate long-term funding for the Clean Water Act**
- **some of the funding required for implementation of and compliance with the Clean Water Act be generated by substantial water taking charges, pollution charges, and also by development charges and permit fees, as well as by municipal water and sewage rates, and thus also encourage conservation;**
- **dedicated funds be set aside which can be accessed by small landowners, farmers or municipalities to make improvements to their wells, land and/or water system infrastructure to help bring them into compliance with the provisions of the Clean Water Act;**
- **the number and locations of water testing facilities be increased; and the cost of testing for small businesses and individuals be subsidized;**
- **a comprehensive education and incentive program be undertaken by the government to support the Clean Water Act.**

**CFUW/ ONTARIO COUNCIL**

CFUW/ Ontario Council is made up of approximately 6000 women university graduates from all the regions of Ontario. We are totally member - funded. Our members live in 58 Ontario communities, in big urban areas as well as in rural and northern towns (see Appendix B). We are non - partisan and non- sectarian. When

voting on policy each of our clubs has one vote so that the voice of members from Thunder Bay and Renfrew and St. Thomas have the same weight as those from the Toronto and Ottawa areas. This results in well-balanced policies that may be embraced by most Ontarians.

We are business women, scientists, teachers, university professors, nurses and physicians, seed specialists and engineers, farm women and artists and accountants, wives, daughters, mothers and grandmothers. All put their skills and education at the service of their community, and work

- in all public affairs
- for a high standard in public education,
- for the improvement of the Status of Women in Ontario, and
- to ensure Human Rights in the Province.

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

CFUW/Ontario Council will look forward to the recommendations that the Standing Committee on Economic and Social Affairs will make to the Ontario Government and Council and members will continue to monitor the progress made in the areas of the greatest concern to us.

Sincerely,

Edeltraud Neal, President,  
Ontario Council Canadian Federation of University Women

Appendix A



**Some Canadian Federation of University Women Policy on  
Pre-Budget Consultations**

**Note: CFUW /Ontario Council policy integrates  
CFUW/ Ontario Council policy, as well as CFUW and IFUW policy**

**EDUCATION**

**Elementary and Secondary Schools**

**Education: Public Funding of Public Education**

**ONTARIO, 2002**

RESOLVED: that the Canadian Federation of University Women Ontario Council re-affirm its stated purpose to assist:

- In achieving and maintaining high standards of public education;
- Supporting publicly funded public education with equal access for all; AND

.....

RESOLVED: that the Canadian Federation of University Women Ontario Council urge the provincial government

- To provide high quality public education in Ontario, with funding to meet the individual intellectual, emotional, psychological and physical learning needs of each student in Ontario; and
- Affirm Public Education as a key priority

**Education - Capping Class Size in the Primary Grades**

**ONTARIO, 2000**

RESOLVED: That the Canadian Federation of University Women/Ontario Council urge the Ontario government to establish a policy of capping the number of students in the

primary grades at 22 students, and the school boards be given adequate funding to staff the primary grades at this class size.

### **Physical Education**

**NATIONAL, 1976**

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) request all provincial departments of education to place top priority on promoting a daily period of physical education for all elementary students. This daily period is to be planned with the guidance and programming assistance of trained physical education specialists; and

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### **School Libraries**

#### **School Libraries and Achieving Information Literacy**

**NATIONAL, 2004**

.....

RESOLVED, that the Canadian Federation of University Women urge the provincial, territorial and local governments:

1. to fund, support and maintain school libraries at all grade levels, staffed by qualified teacher-librarians; and
2. to adopt policies and standards for school libraries and teacher-librarians by working with professional organizations such as the Canadian Association for School Libraries.

### **Post-Secondary Education**

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

**NATIONAL, 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.

### **Post-Secondary Education Funding**

**NATIONAL, 1988**

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RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the Government of Canada and the provincial and territorial governments to promote actively the need for excellence in post-secondary education, and to undertake negotiations in a renewed spirit of co-operation to facilitate provision of appropriately directed funding, so that each level of government can meet its obligations in the field of post- secondary education.

### **Apprenticeship and the Skilled Trades**

**NATIONAL, 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.

**HEALTH**

### **Health-Care Delivery Standards**

**ONTARIO, 1995**

RESOLVED: That the Canadian Federation of University Women/Ontario Council call upon the Government of Ontario to ensure quality, universally accessible, comprehensive, portable, publicly administered health care and preventive health care programs

RESOLVED: That the Canadian Federation of University Women/Ontario Council call upon the Government of Ontario to ensure that all reforms to the health care system incorporate the five principals of Medicare as outlined in the Canadian Health Act (1984) ; and that input from the public and concerned organizations be given due consideration.

### **Health Care Delivery Services (Romanow Report)**

**NATIONAL, 2003**

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women urge the federal, provincial and territorial governments of Canada to work collaboratively to implement the recommendations of the Romanow Commission Building on Values; The Future of Health Care in Canada (2002); and

.....

### **Inclusion of Home Care Services under the Canada Health Act**

**NATIONAL, 2005**

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women urge the federal, provincial and territorial governments to extend home care services to individuals beyond those identified in the Final Report of the Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada 2002 (Romanow Report), to include the elderly, the chronically ill and/or disabled; and

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women urge the federal, provincial and territorial governments to ensure that the provision of home care for both acute care and chronic care patients become an integral part of the Canada Health Act.

## **COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

### **Violence against Women:**

### **Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**

**NATIONAL, 1981**

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) urge the Government of Canada to take all necessary measures in order to ratify the 1979 United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) as soon as possible; and

RESOLVED, That CFUW urge all provincial and territorial governments to take the necessary steps to amend without delay their Provincial / Territorial laws so as to make them conform to the provisions of CEDAW.

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

**NATIONAL, 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.

### **Family Law:**

#### **Equality in Family Law**

**NATIONAL, 2005**

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women urge the Government of Canada and all provincial and territorial governments of Canada to exclude family law disputes from arbitration legislation, so that the rights of an individual under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms are respected; and

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women urge the Government of Canada and all provincial and territorial governments of Canada to ensure that all residents of Canada are made cognizant of their rights and responsibilities under family law legislation and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

#### **Legal Aid Provision in Canada**

**NATIONAL, 2003**

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) urge the federal, provincial and territorial governments of Canada to enact “access to justice”

legislation which will ensure that adequate legal aid is an integral component of the Canadian justice system; and

RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the federal, provincial and territorial governments of Canada to work collaboratively to establish regulations and standards which would define, and guarantee, effective and accessible civil legal aid throughout Canada, and to ensure the necessary funding to maintain these regulations and standards.

## **Poverty**

**NATIONAL, 2000**

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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.

## **CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES**

### **Child Care:**

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

**NATIONAL, 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.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Canadian Water 2001**

**NATIONAL, 2001**

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) urge the

federal, provincial and territorial governments of Canada to protect our water resources and specifically to declare that water, being a non-renewable natural resource of paramount importance, belongs to the Canadian public and its use must be regulated in the long-term public interest;

RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the federal, provincial and territorial governments to adopt and implement a sustainable and prudent water management policy to respond to long-term regional needs with due regard to the ecosystem and hydrogeological reality; and

RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the federal, provincial and territorial governments to promote conservation and more efficient use of surface water and groundwater at individual, local, provincial, territorial, national and international levels.

### **Drinking Water Quality**

**NATIONAL, 1988**

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women urge the Government of Canada, to enact legislation which would establish substantive and procedural laws in order to:

1. set rigorous quality standards for ground and surface drinking water which would be updated frequently to reflect current research and increased technology; and develop strict standardized inspection, testing and enforcement procedures to uphold these standards;
2. fund research into the identification and removal of substances in the drinking water which may be harmful to human health and distribute the results of such research to the provincial and territorial authorities responsible for administering water quality legislation;
3. provide user protection by requiring immediate public notification of instances of water contamination and ensuring an adequate supply of safe water either by
  - a) decontamination or the provision of alternate sources; and
  - b) requiring the inclusion of safe water provisions in Emergency Planning Canada and promoting emergency planning schemes at other government levels.

## Appendix B



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

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

