

Answers received on all concerns

Replies to our resolutions have been very slow this year. As soon as replies from the various sources came in, a copy of the replies was mailed to the Area Conveners in regard to the sustained Resolutions in their Area.

Recorded for your information are the replies received to date on the nine resolutions: —

Resolution 1. Re — Request that a substantial portion of the tax revenue from the licensing and sales of alcoholic products be used for the treatment of alcoholism.

This resolution was forwarded to The Honourable Larry Grossman, Treasurer of Ontario.

Mr. Grossman in his reply thanked Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario for forwarding him a copy of our resolution. He stated that — "The Government, through the Ministry of Health, provides funding for 16 detoxification centres throughout Ontario as well as for rehabilitation and counselling services. Funding is also provided for advertising campaigns and programs delivered through the education system to inform the public, and especially young people, of the health and social effects of alcohol abuse. In addition, the Government's position on the control of the consumption of alcohol is reflected in its strictly regulated distribution, the enforcement measures at the municipal level and the rate of taxation on alcohol products."

Resolution 2. Re — Request to enact legislation which will exclude psychiatric patients from the nursing homes for seniors.

This resolution was forwarded to The Honourable Keith C. Norton, Minister of Health, and to The Honourable Frank Drea, Minister of Community and Social Services.

Each minister has replied to the resolution and thanked Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario for conveying our concerns with respect

to psychiatric patients residing in nursing homes.

Mr. Norton stated that prior to admission to a nursing home, all clients are thoroughly assessed by qualified medical practitioners and only those patients who require the type and level of nursing care provided are admitted. The Nursing Homes Act provides that "where the physical or mental condition of a person is such that, in the opinion of his physician or the Director, the person cannot be properly cared for in a nursing home, the person shall not be admitted or remain as a resident".

Members of the Women's Institute who have any concerns about specific nursing homes, should contact: —

Mr. Paul Gould,
Acting Director,
Nursing Homes Branch,
5th Floor, 15 Overlea Blvd.,
Toronto, Ontario, M4H 1A9

Mr. Drea replied that Nursing Homes are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health, and psychiatric patients residing in homes for the aged fall under the jurisdiction of his Ministry, the Ministry of Community and Social Services. As of 1973, persons may be admitted to a home for the aged from a psychiatric facility provided that at the time of admittance, an agreement is established between the psychiatric facility and the home for the aged. The agreement provides for the readmittance of the patient to the psychiatric facility should problems develop at the home for the aged.

Resolution 3. Re — Request to implement compulsory centre line markings on all blacktop surfaces.

This resolution was forwarded to The Honourable James W. Snow, Minister of Transportation and Communications.

Mr. Snow in his reply thanked Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario for their interest in traffic safety. He further concurred with our view that all blacktop roads would be

safer to drive if they had centre line markings. His ministry also encourages municipalities to blacktop the rural roads, however, for economic reasons, asphalt is not always used. Where asphalt is used it is normal practice to provide painted pavement markings. Many roads are maintained with a blacktop of prime using sand or surface treatment with crushed stone. While these methods give a dust-free roadway, it does not provide a surface that will maintain painted markings. In many locations, even on roads maintained by the ministry, painting the centre line is not done, as there is not a uniform pavement width to allow two full lanes of traffic. Under these circumstances, Mr. Snow stated that he is unable to take the necessary steps to implement compulsory centre line markings on all blacktop roads.

Resolution 4. Re — Raise the drinking age to 21.

This resolution was forwarded to the Attorney General of Ontario, The Honourable Roy McMurtry.

The reply from the Ministry of the Attorney General came from Michael Leshner, Counsel. He stated that he appreciated the concern which prompted the letter to Mr. McMurtry. The Attorney General is very mindful that drinking and driving cannot be deterred through one simple law. While he is committed to the deterrence of drinking and driving to the extent possible through legislation, and he has recommended changes to the Criminal Code, he believes that it is just as important to an effective deterrence policy, that the public perceive and agree as a matter of good citizenry and common sense that drinking and driving is simply unacceptable conduct. To the extent that you can persuade any members of your local community of that simple fact, you have contributed in a life-saving manner.