

Replies received on all resolutions

During the annual board meeting of Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, November 1985, 11 resolutions passed at the 1985 area conventions were presented for consideration, along with three area emergency resolutions. Nine of the area resolutions and two of the area emergency resolutions were sustained after all but two area resolutions were amended.

The 11 sustained resolutions were retyped. Signatures of the provincial president, provincial secretary and provincial convener of resolutions accompanied each resolution before it was forwarded to the proper authorities as directed. A letter of support was sent with each resolution.

As soon as replies from the various sources were received, a copy of the reply was mailed to the area convener. This year I included a copy of the reply received for the district and branch. Hopefully by now the branch that formulated the resolution in the beginning has this information.

Recorded for your information are the replies received for the 11 resolutions:—

Fencing now under review

Resolution 1. Re — Safety precautions be maintained for all types of existing and future farm manure tanks.

This resolution was forwarded to The Honourable Jack Riddell, Ontario Minister of Agriculture and Food, The Honourable Bernard Grandmaitre, Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs, and The Honourable James Bradley, Ontario Minister of the Environment.

Mr. Riddell commended our organization's interest in farm safety and particularly the need for safety fences and structures around manure holding tanks. Currently there are safety regulations that are fully supported by his ministry. There is a financial assistance program for the construction of manure storages, provided safety fences are completed, also, field staff are available to advise farmers on the proper protection. Our resolution will be considered at the same time the Ontario Task Force on Health and Safety in Agriculture

Resolutions Convener Janet Hiepleh



have their recommendations reviewed.

Mr. Grandmaitre was deeply distressed to read of the tragic circumstances on which our resolution was based. He stated that the specific problems of dealing with farm manure tanks are more within the jurisdiction of his cabinet colleagues, the Ministers of Agriculture and Food and of the Environment.

Mr. Bradley shares our concern for safety with respect to liquid manure tanks. His Ministry has reviewed the verdict of the coroner's jury and has provided the following comment:

"Presently fencing requirements for liquid manure storage facilities are under review; safer methods of access and egress to these facilities are also under consideration; and information is being prepared by the Farm Safety Association which will point out the hazards of working in and around these facilities. There is a specific message being prepared for young children."

To be considered

Resolution 2. Re — Request for a small sink in public washroom cubicles for the handicapped.

This resolution was forwarded to The Honourable Murray Elston, Ontario Minister of Health.

Mr. Elston thanked Federated Women's Institutes for sending in our resolution for consideration. However, the mandatory installation of sinks in public washrooms is under the jurisdiction of the Ontario Buildings Branch of the Ministry of Housing. Our resolution was forwarded to The Honourable Alvin Curling, Minister of Housing, for response.

Mr. Curling replied — "I have forwarded your letter to the Buildings Branch of my ministry with the instructions to consider your resolution for the next amendments to the Ontario Building Code. Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention."

Counties/regions can be named

Resolution 3. Re — Forbidding persons from hunting game from roadsides in rural and agricultural areas.

This resolution was forwarded to The Honourable Vincent G. Kerrio, Ontario Minister of Natural Resources.

Mr. Kerrio responded by stating that "throughout Ontario, it is unlawful to discharge a firearm from or across the travelled portion of a public road while hunting or trapping." Regulation 410, under the Game and Fish Act lists counties and regional municipalities in which no person, while engaged in hunting or trapping game or while going to or returning from a hunting camp or locality in which game may be found, shall discharge a fire-arm from or across a highway, road, street, avenue, parkway, driveway, square, place, bridge, viaduct, or trestle, used or intended for use by the public for the passage of vehicles.

If a county or regional municipality is not named in Regulation 410, but wishes to be included, the council should write directly to Mr. Kerrio with their request. He is prepared to give serious consideration to all such requests.

Difficult to enforce

Resolution 4. Re — Vehicles continuing to pass school buses with lights flashing and stop arm extended.

This resolution was forwarded to The Honourable Ed Fulton, Ontario Minister of Transportation and Communications, and the Attorney General of Ontario, The Honourable Ian Scott.

Mr. Fulton replied that a School Bus Working Group, with representation from the police, the Ministry of Education, school bus operators, school business officials and his own staff, had been meeting over the past year to study issues related to school bus safety. The issue of owner liability has been raised and is currently under review with recommendations made by this group expected within two months, (in regard to school bus safety and our resolution).

The concerns being reviewed in-