

Disposition of the Resolutions

- Passed at the FWIO Annual Meeting, November, 1996

By Leila Pettigrew

It is a challenging experience to respond to the resolutions from the November 1996 Annual Board Meeting. Although I was at the annual meeting, the former Resolutions Convener, Gillian Catto, undertook the follow-up and notified the appropriate ministries. The responses have been returned to me. What follows is a summary of this correspondence.

From the Eastern Area:

- *urging the Minister of Justice to ensure the sentences imposed on dangerous criminals is served in full*

A letter was sent to the Hon. Allan Rock, Federal Minister of Justice, but no reply has been received to date.

From the Trent Valley Area:

- *requesting the Ontario Ministry of Health to maintain funding to provincial health care for all*

A letter from the Minister of Health, Hon. Jim Wilson, states there will be some transitional problems, but the eventual goal is a more integrated health system that is responsive to the needs of Ontarions. Many changes have occurred since our hospitals were built. Over the fiscal years from 1990-'91 to 1994-'95, 8,073 hospital beds were closed in Ontario as a result of advances in drug therapy and medical practices. The letter stated that hospital restructuring does mean some buildings will close and there will be less administration, but it does not mean that patient care will suffer. The money saved will be put back into front line services.

- *supporting and promoting a United Canada that includes Quebec*

Letters of support were received from the Quebec Women's Institute, the Leader of the Yukon, as well as the Premiers of all the provinces, except Quebec.

From the Simcoe Area:

- *requesting the Attorney General of Canada to enact legislation to hold offending minors and their parents financially responsible for repairs*

The Assistant Deputy Attorney General of the Criminal Law Division responded thanking FWIO for their concern. The letter pointed out some of the changes that have

been made to the Young Offenders Act, and there are more to come. Making parents civilly liable for their children's actions is still under consideration.

From the Grey-Bruce Area:

- *requesting the reconsideration of the placement of Video Lottery Terminals in public places*

The Executive Director of the Gaming Central Commission stated they were proceeding in a cautious and controlled manner and access to minors will be strictly enforced. The Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations states the same message and they are developing a comprehensive problem gambling strategy.

From the Hamilton Area:

- *requesting that the Government of Canada live up to the promises made at the World Summit on Children in 1990*

Responses were received from the Minister of Industry, the Minister of International Trade and the Minister of Foreign Affairs. They are working with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to change the conditions of abusive child labour. Efforts undertaken by the ILO to adopt a convention by 1999 banning the most intolerable forms of child labour is supported by Canada. Canada is also fully supporting the efforts of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in the development of optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the sale of children and on child prostitution and pornography. Protocols are also being developed for children in situations of armed conflict.

From the North Central Area:

- *urging the Minister of Natural Resources to ban the spring bear hunt*

A reply from the Minister of Natural Resources stated it is illegal in Ontario to shoot cubs and female bears with cubs during the spring hunt. The letter remarked that female bears with cubs do not venture as early or as far from the den as male bears.

From the Northwestern Area:

- *urging Canada Post to allow the use of addressed admail rates by non-profit groups*

The reply from the General Manager of Canada Post stated that they cannot offer rates for certain customers based on social or other non-postal considerations. Some reductions have taken place, but not enough to benefit the FWIO. However, this resolution was sent on to the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada and was sustained at the June Convention in Hamilton. They too will be writing to Canada Post.

- *petitioning the officials of Health and Welfare Canada to declare a moratorium on the use of BST (bovine somatotropin) until its use has been proven safe for humans and cows*

Concern about this injectable synthetic hormone is ongoing and fully supported by the Northwestern Area.

Anyone wishing more information about any of the above resolutions, please contact Leila Pettigrew, Resolutions Convener for the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. She can be reached at 1665 Merlye Ave., Vickers Heights ON POT 2Z0, Phone: (807)577-8596.



On the Buses: A Cross Canada Venture

As part of their cross Canada tour, twenty-six guests from New Zealand stopped in the Stirling area from July 10 to 12. The guests, hosted by Hastings North and West Women's Institute members, visited farm operations, agriculture related businesses and tourist attractions in the counties of Hastings and Prince Edward. From the welcoming reception to the closing "Dinner with Friends," Coordinator Rosella Clancy and her committee felt that the venture promoted goodwill and friendships and showcased area agriculture.

Submitted by Rosella Clancy, Stirling WI, Hastings West