

# DOES ANYONE EVER READ OUR RESOLUTIONS?

By Gillian Catto

The answer is a resounding YES! Many letters were sent out to many different places and most of them were acknowledged. The replies were thoughtful and in many instances they stated that our ideas would be taken into consideration at policy-making meetings. Copies of these letters will be available at your Area Conventions, with the Area Resolutions Convenor, for you to read at length. Meanwhile, here is a precis of those letters.

## Eastern Area:

### Requesting the continuation of work on Highway 16.

The Ontario government is committed to the completion of Hwy. 16 and is pursuing an aggressive design and property acquisition schedule for projects at the southern end of the highway. They are in a position to accelerate construction without delay in the event that new funds become available. New funding sources, such as tolls or external funding from private or Federal sources, are currently being pursued.

### Requesting changes in the National Libraries Act.

The Minister of Communications responded that amendments to the Act were under consideration in an effort to ensure that the National Library continues to be an effective instrument for the collection and preservation of Canada's published heritage. This was followed by a letter from the National Librarian, Marianne Scott, thanking the FWIO for their support and that an amendment to the National Library Act was given Royal assent on June 15th. They are now in the process of revising the deposit regulations that are made pursuant to the Act.

### Requesting changes in the Income Tax Act.

Reply from the Hon. Paul Martin: "To working parents, child care expenses are a cost of earning income and should therefore be deductible. These parents are less able to pay tax than individuals in similar circumstances who do not have child care expenses. As such, the deduction ensures neutrality and is not intended as an incentive to join the labour force. You have suggested that current child care expense deduction be converted into a form of tax relief which would also be available to families with one parent at home. You may be sure that I appreciate the positive intent of this proposal, and that I will keep it in mind during discussion with my colleagues, and during the current review of the social security system."

## London Area:

### Requesting a test burn of tires at St. Mary's Cement Kiln.

I received a phone call from the office of the Ministry of the Environment telling me that they were being bombarded with letters regarding this resolution. I told them that their reply could be printed in our newsletter, however, when it came it was rather lengthy, so a copy of the letter will be sent to every Area Resolutions Convenor to be filtered down to the Branches. I hope that it gets to you all. Representatives from the Ministry have been in touch with Managers of this company regarding a test burn. The Minister again stated their policy is to reuse, whenever possible, the scrap tires; and, he encourages all drivers to properly maintain their tires which can increase their life by 30 per cent.

## Hamilton Area:

### Requesting uniform guidelines on obscenity within Ontario that conform to the criminal code of Canada and requesting a sticker identification system on videos for sale or rent.

A reply from Marilyn Churley, stated that the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations are presently working on appropriate classification information for videos. She has asked the Ontario Film Review Board to review its guidelines to better reflect community standards. She states that it is the responsibility of Police Forces to interpret the criminal code and lay charges.

### Requesting that Family Studies be retained or reinstated in our schools.

I sent many letters in regard to this resolution. As a result of one of these letters the Ontario Teachers Federation formulated a resolution of their own in support of our resolution. This was sent to the Ministry of Education. The Minister of Education stated that they make curriculum recommendations to the school boards, but that ultimately the Boards set the courses. He suggested that we write to our local school boards requesting that these courses be retained.

## South Western Area:

### Requesting mandatory counselling for impaired drivers.

The Transportation Ministry is working with other ministries and services to develop the most appropriate and effective strategy for dealing with drunk drivers. Policy work

is being done to assess the feasibility of specific measures, including rehabilitation programs and convicted drivers.

### Requesting central guidelines for the new reproductive technologies.

In November, 1993, the Government released the final report from the Royal Commission on New Productive Technologies - "Proceed with Care;" it is 1,275 pages long. The Royal Commission recommends that a national regulatory body, such as we requested, be created to monitor, license and regulate facilities providing new reproductive services. Our views will be taken into consideration when the Government prepares its response to this report.

### Requesting that "cat eyes" (Permanent Raised Pavement Markers - PRPM) be installed on our highways.

The durability of these markers is in question. The castings holding the reflectors have lasted up to twelve years in trials, but the lens only lasts for a maximum of three years which makes maintaining these devices a costly venture. Though these markers are added benefit during rain and fog, they are not very effective in snow conditions. The Ministry feels that other forms of markers are as effective under such conditions.

## Trent Valley Area:

### Requesting review of the laws pertaining to the dumping of sewage on farm fields.

The use of raw sewage on agricultural lands is currently being reviewed by the Sludge and Waste Utilization Committee. Membership of this Committee includes representatives from universities, interested industry stakeholders, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the Municipal Engineers Association, the Ministry of the Environment and Energy, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. This Committee expects to make recommendations for the use of raw sewage on agricultural land to the Ministry of the Environment later this year.

I hope this update will answer your questions; if not, please feel free to contact me at Box 16, Site 14, RR 1, Whitefish, ON. P0M 3E0.

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