

What ever happened to the resolutions?

By Joan Law

What ever happened to the resolutions passed by the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) at their 1991 Annual Board Meeting? (See the January, February, March 1992 issue of the *Home & Country* for a list of these resolutions). To date, the following feedback has been received:

1. The Ministry of Community and Social Services will not back the request that anyone practicing psychotherapy be licensed and have the proper training and examination. However, consumers of inadequate private social work services who need protection will be covered by a new Consumer Protection Code under the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations and that applies to all goods and services received by consumers. As well, only regulated practitioners can use the words 'psychology' and 'psychological.'
2. The Farm Safety Association for years has urged for legislation to restrict the use of slow moving vehicle signs to their original intended purpose. Recently, the FWIO has also begun to lobby for this restriction, and the wheels have now been set in motion to bring about this change.
3. The request that the 'Best Before Date' on all food products be in larger print and in a more prominent place was forwarded by Premier Bob Rae to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations for further consideration.
4. The importance of promoting community-wide, hospital-based, breast-feeding committees is being recognized by the Ministry of Health who is conducting demonstration projects in Essex and Sudbury to provide postpartum support in the home following early discharge. And many nurses are now becoming lactation consultants providing support both in the hospital and in the home. Community initiatives have been successful in Halton, Peterborough and Ottawa.
5. The Ontario Medical Association (OMA) endorses the World Health

Organization's international code of marketing breast milk substitutes, and discourages the provision of free formula discharge packs to all mothers by hospitals without offering specific guidance. The OMA encourages any hospital facility providing maternity services to support breast-feeding in as positive and constructive a fashion as possible.

6. There has been no feedback on the recommendation to have the Archives of Canada remain in Ottawa.
7. In 1991, the Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO) undertook a study of return systems for wine and liquor containers. Three options were reviewed: deposit systems at LCBO outlets; deposit systems at stand-alone depots; and, extended blue box programs. The costs and impacts associated with recovery systems will also be contributing factors to the final decision on this issue.
8. & 9. Because CBC faced a projected shortfall of \$108 million, eleven stations across Canada were closed. The Windsor situation was especially difficult because of its unusual circumstances. In response, CBC Channel 6 expanded from a Toronto program to a regional one, with journalistic bureaus in Windsor, London and Hamilton to provide a good regional service for Southern Ontario. The Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission will be holding a public hearing of applications to renew network licenses in the latter part of 1992 or early 1993. Our concerns may be presented in a brief at this time.
10. The regulation of pharmaceutical dispensing fees rests with the Ontario College of Pharmacists. Dispensing fees range from \$4.98 to \$13.00, with an average fee of \$9.14. For prescriptions paid by the Ontario Ministry of Health, the maximum fee is \$6.47. The dispensing fee covers the cost of stocking and dispensing medications and maintaining patient records, as well as operating costs such as taxes, salaries and rent. Customers are encouraged to discuss these fees with their pharmacist.

11. Amendments to the Young Offenders Act are contained in Bill C-12 which would: (a) make it clear that protection of the public is paramount in deciding whether a young person should be tried in adult court as opposed to youth court; and, (b) simplify the appeal procedures governing such transfer decisions (thus eliminating delay), and raise from three to five years the maximum disposition that a young person can receive as a result of being found guilty of an offence.
12. Pavement markings may be obscured by dirt, wear or environmental conditions. Since their visibility cannot always be guaranteed, these markings have no legal authority and are provided as a guide only. The Highway Traffic Act only recognizes signs of a specified design which may be mounted beside or over a roadway. With the exception of brief periods of adverse weather conditions, roadway markings are legible and it would be difficult to justify the expense of overhead signs for these brief periods of need.
13. & 14. The Fair Tax Commission is reviewing the existing Ontario tax system with a focus on reform of the child care system to develop an affordable, high quality, flexible system of programs and services to respond better to the needs of children and families. If this results in revisions to the tax system, the Ontario Ministry of Revenue and Revenue Canada will consider how to respond to the special situation of farm families.
15. Ontario is the first province to introduce employment equity legislation. Firms with fifty or more employees must set goals and timetables for the hiring and promotion of Aboriginal peoples, persons with disabilities, racial minorities and women. The government is committed to employment equity after holding extensive public consultations across Ontario and receiving over 400 submissions from business, labour and community groups.

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