



CFUW Policy Session Booklet 2025

JULY 13, 2025, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AGENDA | RESOLUTIONS REPORT

Prepared for the CFUW AGM 2025

Policy Session Booklet 2025

CFUW 2025 Policy Session July 13, 2025

Presiding: Linda Sestock, National President

Co-Chair: Barb Gustafson, Deputy President

Parliamentarian: Elizabeth Haynes

Tech Parliamentarian Team: National Office & Elizabeth Haynes

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Proposed Agenda

- Call to Order **Linda Sestock**
- Introduction of Platform **Linda Sestock**
- Credentials Report **Credentials Committee**
 - a. Credentials Report
 - b. Test Vote
 - c. Motion to adopt Credentials Report

Motion to accept the Credentials report (unanimous consent requested)

- Consent Agenda : **Chair/Co-Chair**
 - a. Standing Rules of AGM in force
 - b. Motion to Adopt Agenda
 - c. Introduction to Tellers and Timekeepers
 - d. Motion to Adopt Committee to verify minutes

- Report of Resolutions Committee **Margaret Therrien and Wendy Taylor, Resolutions Chairs**
 - a. Resolution 1 – Addressing Period Poverty and Menstrual Inequity in Canada
 - b. Resolution 2 – Expanding Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services
 - c. Resolution 3 – Supporting 2SLGBTQ+ Rights
 - d. Resolution 4 – Strengthening the Awareness and Safekeeping of Individuals and Their Animals Experiencing Domestic Violence
 - e. Resolution 5 – Equitable Phase Out of Fossil Fuels
 - f. Resolution 6 – Archiving Select CFUW Adopted Resolutions
 - g. Resolution 7 – Affirming Housing as a Human Right and Social Good

- What happens after the Resolutions are adopted? **VP Advocacy**
 - Fall Advocacy Package

- Thank you to Resolutions Committee **Chair/Co-Chair**

- Adjournment of Policy Session **Linda Sestock**

Report of the Resolutions Committee 2025

Margaret Therrien and Wendy Taylor, Co-Chairs CFUW Resolutions

Committee Members: Maggie Buchanan, Bonnie Jensen, Bilkies McKen, Heather Oxman and Linda Sestock

Consultant: Kenzie Zimmer, CFUW National Advocacy and Policy Specialist

Resolutions adopted since June 2024 Report:

At the 2024 Policy Session, eight resolutions were adopted. Those were: Archiving Select CFUW Adopted Resolutions I, Archiving Select CFUW Adopted Resolutions II, Archiving CFUW Adopted Resolutions Identified for Combining, Combined CFUW Adopted Resolutions, Restore and Preserve Canada's Peatlands, Preserving Deep Sea Ecosystems, Ageing in Place: Resources for all Canadians to Age at Home and in Community Settings and Incentives to Adopt Current Standards for Long-Term Care.

September – November 2024:

In early September, the Resolutions Information and Guidelines were revised and submitted for Board approval prior to publishing. In revising the Guidelines schedule, consideration was given to lengthening the time that the Resolutions Committee had to review both the Intents and the Resolutions and providing more time for Clubs to review Resolutions during the amendment process.

Committee members met by Zoom on October 1 for introductions of the new committee and to discuss the scope of the Committee work for 2024-25. Google Docs training was provided by Kenzie Zimmer, which was particularly advantageous for Committee members who had not used this means of communication previously. Based on the Resolutions Process and Schedule, dates were identified for future Resolutions Committee meetings.

Prior to the deadline for Intent Submission, committee members interacted with Clubs or Committees indicating an interest in submitting a resolution this year. Following the Intent Submission of November 1, the Resolutions Committee met on November 12 to discuss the Intents. All seven were examined to confirm the Intents were national in nature and to ensure that CFUW did not already have an adopted resolution on the subject. All were accepted although the intent titled Strengthening Support for Individuals and Pets Fleeing Domestic Violence did require a rewrite for clarification. Proposers were advised by email and were also advised that the Resolution Committee members were available to answer questions and to provide assistance when requested.

2025 Resolutions:

All seven Intents submitted went on to be developed into resolutions for submission at the 2025 Policy Session. These are:

Resolution 1 – CFUW Milton and District, and CFUW Perth and District
Addressing Period Poverty and Menstrual Inequality in Canada

Resolution 2 – Advocacy Standing Committee
Expanding Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services

Resolution 3 - Advocacy Standing Committee
Supporting 2SLGBTQ Rights

Resolution 4 – CFUW Prince George
Strengthening the Awareness and Safekeeping of Individuals and Their Animals Experiencing Domestic Violence

Resolution 5 - Advocacy Standing Committee - Environment and Climate Change Sub-Committee
Equitable Phase Out of Fossil Fuels

Resolution 6 - Advocacy Standing Committee – Adopted Resolution Book Review Sub-Committee
Archiving Select CFUW Adopted Resolutions

Resolution 7 - Advocacy Standing Committee
Affirming Housing as a Human Right and Social Good

February – April 2025:

Resolutions including Resolved Clauses, Background, Implementation and Bibliography were received by the Resolutions Committee by January 30. The Committee met by Zoom to discuss these resolutions. Several suggestions to improve the Resolution Resolved Clauses were emailed to each Proposer for consideration prior to submitting their revised resolutions on February 22.

On March 7 a Special Newsletter on Resolutions was made available to Clubs requesting a review of each of the seven resolutions and recommending emphasis on the Resolved Clauses. Clubs are able to submit amendments using an online form until April 30.

In discussing the Amendment Process it was identified that a Zoom meeting with the Resolutions Committee and Resolution Proposers would provide clarification regarding the amendment of responses required by the Proposers. This meeting, held on March 27, was well received with all having a better understanding of how Amendments would be accessible on Google Docs to each Proposer and the Resolutions Committee, and the action required.

May – July 2025:

Preparations are underway for the Proposers and Amenders Workshop scheduled for May 29. A Special Newsletter on the Revised Resolutions will be available on May 23 with the final Resolution versions completed by June 5 for publishing in the Policy Session Booklet. On July 3 there will be a practice session for the Proposers and Resolutions Committee in preparation for the July 13 Policy Session.

Acknowledgements:

Thanks to all Proposers and Clubs who became involved in Resolutions this year and to all members of the Resolutions Committee.

Proposed Resolutions for 2025

Resolution 1: Addressing Period Poverty and Menstrual Inequity in Canada

Proposers: CFUW Milton & District, CFUW Perth & District

Original Wording	Amended Wording
<p>RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the federal, provincial, territorial, regional, municipal, and Indigenous governments to improve access to menstrual products by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandating provision of free menstrual products in washrooms in all publicly funded buildings, such as rail stations, incarceration facilities, schools, shelters, libraries, sport facilities and community centres. • Updating legislation, including, but not limited to, occupational health and safety, building, and labour codes to require all washrooms in commercial/industrial/office buildings and transportation hubs to provide free menstrual supplies and water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities. <p>RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the federal government to reduce the cost of menstrual products by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removing import duties/tariffs on imported menstrual products. • Establishing a tax credit for all Canadians who menstruate. <p>RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the provincial, territorial and Indigenous governments to ensure that all publicly-funded educational institutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide comprehensive knowledge of the menstrual process and options available for menstrual hygiene management that is sensitive to culturally and gender-diverse menstruators. 	<p>RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the federal, provincial, territorial, regional, municipal, and Indigenous governments to improve access to menstrual products by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mandating the provision of free menstrual products in washrooms in all federally, provincially, and municipally regulated buildings, such as transportation facilities, schools, shelters, libraries, sports facilities, publicly funded campgrounds and community centers. ● Updating provincial, territorial, and Indigenous legislation, including, but not limited to, occupational health and safety, building, and labor codes, to require all medium and large employers to provide free menstrual products as well as access to WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) in all washrooms, gendered and gender neutral. <p>RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the federal government to reduce the cost of menstrual products by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Removing any remaining import duties/tariffs on imported menstrual products. ● Introducing measures to address the costs of period products for menstruators who are: living in remote and Indigenous communities; experiencing poverty; living with disabilities; experiencing

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage open conversation, both within and outside of the classroom, about menstruation to address the stigma and shame felt by menstruating youths. • Specifically address the needs of Canada's Indigenous and remote communities. 	<p>homelessness; newly arrived immigrants; and/or vulnerable for other reasons.</p> <p>RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the provincial, territorial, and Indigenous governments to encourage all publicly funded elementary, secondary and, where relevant, post-secondary educational institutions providing training for health care workers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide comprehensive education on the menstrual process and options available for menstrual hygiene management that is sensitive to Indigenous, culturally diverse, and gender-diverse populations. ● Encourage open conversation, both within and outside of the classroom, to address the stigma and shame surrounding menstruation. <p>RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the federal government to act upon the 11 recommendations of the Standing Committee on the Status of Women 2023 report: <i>Let's Talk About it, Period: Achieving Menstrual Equity in Canada</i>.</p>
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Resolution 2: Expanding Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services

Proposer: CFUW Advocacy Standing Committee

Original Wording	Amended Wording
<p>RESOLVED, CFUW commits to supporting universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, including abortion.</p> <p>RESOLVED, That CFUW urge federal, provincial, and territorial governments to</p>	<p>RESOLVED, CFUW commits to supporting universal access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, including abortion, contraception, fertility care, maternal care, prevention and treatment of sexually</p>

<p>expand access to abortion and other sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services by, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensuring surgical and medical abortions are covered under public healthcare plans; • increasing funding for SRH service delivery, particularly in rural and remote communities; providing targeted funding for Indigenous-centered, culturally appropriate SRH services; • developing a centralized referral system to locate SRH service providers; • requiring comprehensive training on SRH, trauma-informed care, cultural competency, and informed consent in medical and nursing schools; and • delivering sustainable funding to non-profit organizations that improve access to SRH services for under-served communities. 	<p>transmitted infections, care of sexual and reproductive organs, and SRH education.</p> <p>RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to expand access to SRH services through measures including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensuring surgical and medical abortions are fully covered under public healthcare; • increasing funding for timely delivery of SRH services, particularly in rural and remote communities; • providing targeted funding for Indigenous-centered and culturally appropriate SRH services; • offering a centralized referral system to locate SRH service providers; • requiring comprehensive education and training on SRH, trauma-informed care, cultural competency, and informed consent in medical and nursing schools; and • delivering sustained funding to non-profit organizations that improve access to SRH services for under-served communities.
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Resolution 3: Supporting 2SLGBTQ+ Rights

Proposer: CFUW Advocacy Standing Committee

Original Wording	Amended Wording
<p>RESOLVED, That CFUW commit to advancing the human rights, equality, and inclusion of 2SLGBTQ+ (Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer) people.</p> <p>RESOLVED, That CFUW urge all levels of government to uphold the rights of 2SLGBTQ+ youth and adults, ensuring their access to</p>	<p>RESOLVED, That CFUW commit to supporting the human rights, equality, and inclusion of 2SLGBTQ+ (Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer +) people.</p> <p>RESOLVED, CFUW urges all levels of government to protect the rights of 2SLGBTQ+ youth and adults, ensuring their access to</p>

<p>healthcare, education, employment, and housing, free from discrimination and violence.</p> <p>RESOLVED, That CFUW urge all levels of government to fund programs and services that support the wellbeing of 2SLGBTQ+ people, including, but not limited to, gender affirming and mental health care, community support services, and public campaigns to foster understanding of sexual and gender diversity.</p> <p>RESOLVED, That CFUW urge provincial and territorial governments to implement comprehensive and mandatory sexual education curriculum that speaks to the diversity of sexual orientations and gender identities, in line with the 2019 Canadian Guidelines for Sexual Health Education.</p>	<p>healthcare, education, employment, and housing, free from discrimination and violence.</p> <p>RESOLVED, That CFUW urge all levels of government to fund programs and services that support 2SLGBTQ+ people—including, but not limited to, gender-affirming care, mental health care, community support services, and public education campaigns—with particular emphasis on meeting the needs of the most marginalized.</p> <p>RESOLVED, That CFUW urge provincial and territorial governments to implement comprehensive sexual education curricula that speaks to the diversity of sexual orientations and gender identities, in line with the 2019 <i>Canadian Guidelines for Sexual Health Education</i>.</p>
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Resolution 4: Strengthening the Awareness and Safekeeping of Individuals and Their Animals Experiencing Domestic Violence
Proposer: CFUW Prince George

Original Wording	Amended Wording
<p>RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the federal, provincial, territorial, regional, municipal, and Indigenous governments to recognize the repercussions of the Violence Link and to include safety supports for animals of individuals fleeing domestic violence in the following ways:</p> <p>1. Include language in appropriate policy and action plans relating to supporting victims and</p>	<p>RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the federal, provincial, territorial, Indigenous, regional, and municipal governments to recognize that cruelty to animals and domestic violence are often connected, known as the Violence Link, and to include the need for safety supports for animals of individuals experiencing violence in the home in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include language in appropriate policy and action plans that support victims-survivors

<p>survivors of intimate partner and family violence that reflects the Violence Link and the importance of animals in their lives.</p> <p>2. Review or initiate programs dedicated to providing care for the animals of survivors of intimate partner and family violence.</p> <p>3. Provide options for continued safety of animals after individuals flee domestic violence including social infrastructure.</p> <p>RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the federal, provincial, territorial, regional, municipal, and Indigenous governments to raise awareness at all levels of society about the Violence Link and protection of animals by creating informational resources and educational materials.</p>	<p>of domestic violence that reflects awareness of the Violence Link and the importance of animals in their lives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and initiate programs dedicated to providing immediate care for the animals of survivors of domestic violence because they are also at risk. • Provide options for continued safety of animals after individuals flee domestic violence including pet-inclusive affordable housing. • Provide sustainable and consistent funding for support programs. <p>RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the federal, provincial, territorial, Indigenous, regional, and municipal governments to raise awareness at all levels of society about the connection between animal cruelty and domestic violence, known as the Violence Link, by creating and widely disseminating informational resources and educational materials for the safekeeping of individuals and their animals.</p>
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Resolution 5: Equitable Phase-Out of Fossil Fuels

Proposer: CFUW Advocacy Standing Committee

Original Wording	Amended Wording
<p>RESOLVED, that CFUW urge federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments and the corporate sector to phase out the use of fossil fuels in an orderly and equitable manner, so that Canada may uphold its legally binding commitments to the international Paris Agreement on climate change, adopted in 2015.</p>	<p>RESOLVED, That CFUW urge all levels of government and the corporate sector to phase out the extraction and combustion of fossil fuels in an equitable manner, to uphold Canada's obligations to the 2015 international Paris Agreement on climate change.</p>

<p>RESOLVED, that CFUW urge governments at all levels to encourage the switch from fossil fuels to carbon-free alternatives, starting without delay, for the sake of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and environmental pollution.</p> <p>RESOLVED, that CFUW urge federal, provincial, and territorial governments to educate Canadians about the environmental and health risks from the continuing extraction and use of fossil fuels.</p> <p>RESOLVED, that CFUW urge public and private sectors to support Just-Transition plans, including retraining programs for workers in the industries affected and adequate compensation for job losses.</p>	<p>RESOLVED, That CFUW urge all levels of government to encourage a rapid transition away from the combustion of fossil fuels to carbon-free alternatives to enable the reduction and elimination of greenhouse gas emissions and environmental pollution.</p> <p>RESOLVED, That CFUW urge all levels of government to educate Canadians about the environmental and health risks from the continuing extraction and combustion of fossil fuels and about viable alternatives.</p> <p>RESOLVED, That CFUW urge all levels of government and private sectors to support a Just Transition process that is as fair and inclusive as possible to everyone concerned, creating decent work opportunities and leaving no one behind.</p>
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Resolution 6: Archiving Select CFUW Adopted Resolutions

Proposer: CFUW Advocacy Standing Committee

Final Wording (No Amendments Made)
<p>RESOLVED, That the CFUW Clubs support the transfer of the following CFUW adopted resolutions from the current online CFUW Adopted Resolutions Book to the online CFUW Archived Policies Book:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children – Aid to Children “at risk” – 1979 2. Consumer Protection – Self-Service Retail Outlets – 1976 3. Culture, Heritage and Information – Cable Television Advertising – 1972 4. Employment Equity – Mandatory Retirement – 1988 5. Employment Equity – Discrimination in Employment – 1973 6. Environment – Energy from Renewable Resources – 1975 7. Finance and Pensions – Taxation and Poverty -1969

8. Finance and Pensions – Tax Exemption of Housekeeper’s Wages - 1967
9. Government – Preservation of Democracy: Increasing Voter Turnout – 2014
10. Health – Health: Pre and Post Natal – 1979
11. Health Care System – Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness in Canada – 2002
12. Peace, Security and Trade – Responsibility to Protect – 2004
13. Peace, Security and Trade - Abolition of Nuclear Weapons – 1998

Resolution 7: Affirming Housing as a Human Right and Social Good
Proposer: CFUW Advocacy Standing Committee

Original Wording	Amended Wording
<p>RESOLVED, That CFUW urge all levels of government to protect and respect the human right to housing within their jurisdiction, using the maximum available resources and giving priority to those in greatest need.</p> <p>RESOLVED, That CFUW urge all levels of government to allocate housing funds to new and converted housing units that meet the accessibility criteria outlined in the Accessible Dwellings Standard.</p> <p>RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the federal government to adopt measures to address the financialization of housing, such as, but not limited to: a. Continuing to restrict foreign ownership of residential properties. b. c. Regulating Real Estate Investment Trusts to prioritize long-term housing stability over profit. Encouraging public pension funds to invest ethically in housing as a social good.</p>	<p>RESOLVED, That CFUW urge all levels of government to work together to protect and respect the human right to housing within their jurisdictions, by implementing policies and initiatives that increase the affordability and availability of housing, using all available resources, and giving priority to those in greatest need.</p> <p>RESOLVED, That CFUW urge all levels of government to allocate public housing funds to new affordable units, repairing and maintaining existing affordable units and converting housing units so that all meet the criteria outlined in the Accessible Dwellings Standard and Building Codes and successor Codes.</p>

RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the provincial and territorial governments to protect tenants' rights and preserve the affordability of rental housing by regulating rent increases and renovations.

RESOLVED, That CFUW urge municipalities to adopt innovative initiatives increasing affordability and availability of housing in their communities, such as, but not limited to, a. Reducing taxes on property improvements, b. c. d. e. f. Supporting co-housing arrangements, Switching to a Land Value Tax, Rezoning, Reducing or waiving permit fees for development or property tax exemptions, and Applying vacancy taxes.

MOTION from the CFUW Resolutions Committee Chair

Motion to permit the Chair of Resolutions to make grammatical corrections.