

**REALIZING POTENTIAL:
ADVOCACY ACTION USING
CFUW ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS
2024-2025**

These are usable summaries of some of our adopted resolutions that reflect current issues and CFUW priorities. If you need more information on other resolutions that have been adopted over the years, or a more complete version of the ones included here, please see [CFUW Adopted Resolutions](#).

For guidance on advocacy action please contact the CFUW National Advocacy and Policy Specialist, advocacy@cfuw-fcfdu.ca.

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Affordability, Cost of Living and Poverty

Concern about the cost of living is currently very high within Canada. CFUW has discussed many variations of these issues.

CFUW supports:

- A basic income program that ensures all adult residents of Canada, as defined for tax purposes, receive an income adequate for the necessities of life. (Poverty – **Moving Canadians Out of Poverty** – 2013)
- The development of a comprehensive Post-Pandemic Socioeconomic Recovery Plan including specific interventions to address the disparate effects of pandemics on the lives of women in Canada and abroad. (Employment Equity – **Post-Pandemic Recovery for Women in Canada and Abroad** – 2021)
- Measures intended to reduce and prevent poverty, especially child poverty, including a re-evaluation of the situation creating poverty and the resources available to fight poverty. (Poverty – **Poverty** – 2000)
- The creation of a national food security policy to ensure an affordable, accessible, nutritious, safe, and sustainable food supply for all, and the development of urban and rural food production opportunities, including the preservation of agricultural land for food production. (Food and Food Security – **Ensuring Food Security in Canada** – 2012)
- Taking action on Canada’s international commitments by defining and ensuring access to an adequate standard of living for all Canadians to maintain health and well-being. (Poverty - **Homelessness and Poverty** – 1999)
- Non-profit, co-operative and affordable housing programs and the establishment of comprehensive plans for land use which guarantee affordable housing within community developments. (Poverty - **Affordable Housing** - 1992)

For CFUW, affordability includes salaries and employment equity. We have been asking for equal pay for equal work since 1920.

CFUW supports:

- The principle of equal pay for work of equal value and the enactment of legislation encompassing this principle. (Employment Equity – **Equal Pay – Work of Equal Value** – 1986)

- All levels of government strengthening employment by, but not limited to, amending relevant legislation and agreements, and broadening the application of equity policy and special measures to ensure equitable barrier-free workforce participation. (Employment Equity – **Strengthening Employment Equity** – 2022)
- Collaborative remedies to address the underrepresentation and lack of retention of women in skilled trades and non-traditional occupations by creating an inclusive workplace. (Employment Equity – **Retention and Promotion of Women in Skilled Trades and Non-Traditional Occupations** – 2012)

Child Care

Child care is an issue that covers many of our concerns – affordability for young families, child development and the ability of parents, especially mothers, to work outside the home. Access to universal, quality child care and early learning are fundamental core beliefs of CFUW.

While Canada now has the Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework agreements concerning child care, there are many issues about its implementation, especially the salaries of child care workers and spaces in childcare ‘deserts’.

CFUW supports:

- A quality, universally accessible and comprehensive early learning and child care program which emphasizes the development of the whole child. Funding for this initiative should involve all levels of government through cost-sharing mechanisms, as in other human services such as health, education, and social programs. (Child Care and Early Learning – **Early Childhood Education and Care** – 2006)
- A National Strategy on Child Care with national and well-defined standards and criteria for a safe and healthy environment, parental participation in decision making, approved child/staff ratios, inspection and licensing of all facilities; and Provincial/Territorial governments ensuring that salaries are consistent with professional training, experience and responsibility. (Child Care and Early Learning – **Child Care - Standards and Criteria** – 1988)
- Provincial and territorial governments providing increased financial support for quality day care, including day care for infants, private home day care, lunch and

after-school programs, as well as licensed day care centres. (Child Care – **Increased Financial Support** – 1978)

Climate Change and the Environment

Environmental and climate change issues are of significant concern to CFUW members. This is particularly true after the last few years of weather crises and forest fires. CFUW has many adopted resolutions on environmental topics.

Importantly CFUW supports:

- Constitutional recognition that a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a human right, as adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in July 2022. (Environment – **A Clean Healthy & Sustainable Environment is a Human Right** – 2022)

Regarding climate change, CFUW supports:

- The declaration of a climate emergency by provinces, territories, municipalities and other community groups and organizations. (Environment – **Climate Emergency – Declarations and Action Plans** – 2020)
- The implementation of national, comprehensive, and predictable carbon taxes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the adoption of carbon taxes as the centre of a robust Canadian climate action plan. (Environment – **Reducing Climate Change Through the Use of Carbon Taxes** – 2015)
- The development of mitigation and adaptation strategies to address the negative impacts of climate change on people and communities, particularly vulnerable populations, including women. (Environment – **Climate Change: Mitigation, Adaptation and the Inclusion of Women** – 2012)
- The creation of a national climate action plan that sets strong short-term targets for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the provision of ongoing support for research and education concerning all aspects of climate change. (Environmental – **Addressing Climate Change: Greenhouse Gas Emissions** – 2009)

Managing our water resources, CFUW supports:

- The protection of Canadian water resources and that water use be regulated in the long-term public interest to promote conservation and more efficient use of surface water and groundwater. (Environment – **Canadian Water** – 2001)

Related to this, CFUW also supports:

- The protection of, and research about, wetlands and peatlands, a major part of our natural ecosystem, as well as concerns about any proposed development in areas where these might be degraded or lost. (Environment - **Restore and Preserve Canada's Peatlands** – 2024 & **Preservation of Wetlands** – 1990)
- The protection of deep sea ecosystems in Canadian coastal waters by immediately extending the current moratorium on deep seabed mining, as well as urging the government to press the International Seabed Authority to declare a precautionary pause on international deep seabed mining activities until research has been completed and a robust regulatory regime has been developed and implemented. (Environment - **Preserving Deep Sea Ecosystems** – 2024)

CFUW also supports:

- The implementation and follow-up of the Canada-wide Action Plan on Zero Plastic Waste. (Environment – **Single-Use Plastics and Plastic Packaging** – 2021)
- Government investment in transportation that ensures universally accessible service and the creation of incentives to discourage the use of private vehicles (Environment – **Public Transportation** – 1992)
- The implementation of a moratorium on the sale and use of the neonicotinoid class of pesticides, and scientific studies on the effects of this class of pesticides being made available for public review. (Environment – **Saving Our Pollinators and Our Environment – Moratorium on the Use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides** – 2015)
- The protection of the health of Canadians by reducing their exposure to environmental toxins by strengthening and enforcing regulations, by producer responsibility at every stage of product life, and the promotion of public awareness and education regarding toxins. (Environment – **Protecting the Health of Canadians by Reducing Environmental Toxins** – 2009)

Education

Equitable access to education is one of CFUW's core values. CFUW supports funding at all levels of education, including:

- The provision of high quality public elementary and secondary education as a key priority. (Education – **Public Funding of Public Elementary and Secondary Education** – 2003)
- Effective debt relief programs for post-secondary students. (Education – **Student Debt** – 2008)
- A development plan by governments, industry, and research establishments for universities to improve the quality of teaching and research work in Canadian universities to help Canada compete internationally, including long term budget commitments from federal and provincial governments to support this development plan for universities. (Education – **Planning for Universities** – 1991)
- A loan and grant system, ensuring equity, to cover fees and contribute to living expenses so that successful university students can complete a university education. (Education – **Funding Meritorious Students** – 1991)

CFUW supports the inclusion of the following subjects in education curriculum:

- Age-appropriate HIV/AIDS education. (Education – **Promoting HIV/AIDS Education in Canada** – 2007)
- Citizenship education curriculum, including the skills of democratic participation. (Education – **Promoting Citizenship Education in Canada** – 2006)

CFUW also supports:

- Equitable access to provincial and territorial curricula and social justice education for all children particularly in support of home schooling. (Education – **Equitable Access to Provincial Curricula and Social Justice for All Children** – 2018)

Elections

CFUW supports several elections-related actions, including:

- Electoral reform by adopting a proportional representation model to ensure that each party's share of the seats in Parliament reflects the popular vote. (Government – **Electoral Reform – Changing the First Past the Post Electoral System to Proportional Representation in Canada** – 2016)

- Electoral reform for federal elections, in consultation, that guarantees fairness and impartiality in voting, and encourages more voter participation through multiple measures concerning voting, donations, Election Canada itself, as well as restoring the per-vote annual democratic basic funding system. (Government – **Fair Elections for Canada** – 2014)

Gender-based Violence

CFUW is concerned about all forms of violence against women and children.

CFUW supports:

- The taking of appropriate steps to prevent violence against women and children. (Violence and Exploitation – **Prevention of Violence Against Women** – 2024)
- The funding, development, and implementation of action plans to end violence against women in politics. (Violence and Exploitation – **Violence Against Women in Politics** – 2022)
- Amendments to the Criminal Code of Canada to protect victims of Intimate Partner Violence by strengthening bail laws. (Violence and Exploitation – **Strengthening Bail Laws to Protect Victims of Intimate Partner Violence** – 2022)
- The provision of exit strategies in the form of safe housing, health services, trauma counselling, and all other services required for successful exiting for prostituted and trafficked women and girls. (Violence and Exploitation – **Enforcement of the Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act** – 2020)
- Protecting against sexual exploitation by: raising public awareness of the social, cultural and financial costs of sex trafficking and other forms of sexual exploitation, as well as enforcing legislation prohibiting international sex tourism being organized in Canada. (Violence and Exploitation – **Sexual Exploitation of Women and Children** – 1997)
- The development of a coordinated strategy on bullying and cyberbullying including educators, counsellors, parents, and implementing the six (6) recommendations of the 2012 Senate Committee on Human Rights report *Cyberbullying Hurts: Respect the Rights in the Digital Age* (Violence and Exploitation – **Bullying and Cyberbullying** – 2013)

Gun Control and Legal System

CFUW has been concerned about gun control since the death of 14 young women at the École Polytechnique in 1989.

CFUW supports:

- The establishment of a cost-effective national registry of all firearms and of Firearms Acquisition Certificates including periodic review of the latter, regulations regarding safe storage, display, handling and transportation of firearms and a total ban on assault weapons, large capacity magazines and handguns and the importation of prohibited weapons. (Justice and Legal System – **Gun Control – Comprehensive** – 1994)

CFUW also supports:

- The exclusion of family law disputes from arbitration legislation, ensuring the rights of an individual under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms are respected. (Justice and the Legal System – **Equality in Family Law** – 2005)
- “Access to Justice” legislation ensuring that adequate legal aid is an integral component of the Canadian justice system, with regulations, standards and funding which guarantee effective, accessible civil legal aid throughout Canada. (Justice and the Legal System – **Legal Aid Provision in Canada** - 2003)
- The adoption of a holistic, women-centred, community-oriented rehabilitation approach directed towards the reintegration of federally sentenced women, and a stronger focus on the needs of women prisoners, including cultural, socioeconomic, health, gender, and family needs. (Justice and the Legal System – **Federally Sentenced Women** – 2003).
- Action concerning police and race relations involving the teaching of a common code of ethical standards for police that upholds the equality provisions of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, independent investigation of criminal allegations against an officer and the establishment of a race relations training program. (Justice and the Legal System – **Policing and Race Relations** – 1993)

Health Care

CFUW supports quality health care, including:

- Quality health care and preventative health care programs which are universal, accessible, comprehensive, portable, and publicly administered, that all reforms to the health care system incorporate these five principles of Medicare as outlined in the Canada Health Act 1984, and that these programs implement the recommendations of the Romanow Commission (Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada) *Building on Values; The Future of Health Care in Canada* (2002);. (Health Care System – **Health Care Standards** – 2024)
- Mandatory infection prevention, control, and hygiene programs (with standardized guidelines) in acute care, long-term care, continuing care facilities and community health clinics, with sustained dedicated funding, infrastructure, human resources, and incentives. (Health – **Preventing Healthcare Facility Acquired Infections** – 2008)
- Extending home care services to include the elderly, the chronically ill and/or the disabled as an integral part of the Canada Health Act. (Health Care System – **Inclusion of Home Care Services Under the Canada Health Act** – 2005)
- National standards for medically necessary care in order to maintain the integrity of the Canada Health Act. (Health Care Systems – **Canada Health Act and National Standards for Medically Necessary Care Across Provinces and Territories** – 2020)

CFUW supports several measures related to child birth and birth control, including:

- A model to collect and analyze consistent disaggregated and anonymized data about maternal deaths and close calls, including the sharing of this data in a confidential form with relevant groups and the development of a comprehensive maternal death prevention strategy. (Health – **Towards a Comprehensive Maternal Death Prevention Strategy** – 2023)
- A public policy that women can choose whether they wish to give birth in a hospital, birthing center or at home. (Health – **Midwifery** – 1991)
- Information concerning contraception and sexually transmitted diseases, family counselling, and comprehensive counselling and follow-through service for pregnant women seeking advice and assistance in making a decision to continue or terminate a pregnancy. (Health – **Birth Planning: Counselling** – 1977)

CFUW supports action in the following aspects of health care and the social determinants of health:

- Action by government to address Canada’s opioid crisis as outlined in the December 2020 Government of Canada document, “Federal Actions on Opioids to Date”. (Health – **Canada’s Opioid Crisis** – 2021)
- A publicly funded and financially sustainable drug plan that would cover medically necessary prescription drugs for all Canadians, regardless of their ability to pay. (Health Care System – **Universal Pharmacare** – 2017)
- An individual’s right to assisted death while simultaneously protecting individuals identified as vulnerable. (Health Care System – **Physician Assisted Death** – 2015)
- A mental health strategy that promotes mental health, prevents mental illness and responds to the needs of those suffering from mental illness through access to diagnosis and treatment, research, training, support and accountability. (Health - **Mental Health Strategy for Canada** – 2012)
- A high standard of hospice/palliative care available and accessible to all eligible residents of Canada that ensures continuity of care, as well as unpaid leave from work without penalty for caregivers. (Health Care System – **Hospice/Palliative Care** – 2000)

Immigration, Refugees and Migrants

CFUW supports:

- All governments phasing out the use of correctional facilities for the purpose of the detention of immigrants taking into consideration public safety and security, and the collaboration among all levels of governments to develop, fund and utilize alternative options of monitoring immigrants that treat them with dignity and respect. (Government – **Immigration Detention in Canada** – 2023)
- An increase in the number of vetted refugees and asylum seekers accepted into Canada supported by an efficient and effective refugee claims system and the suspension of the Canada/US Safe Third Country Agreement. (Government – **Fair and Non-Discriminatory Management of Refugees and Asylum Seekers** – 2018)

- The creation and funding of a national and equitable system of support for the integration of immigrant and refugee children and their families into the school system, including dedicated ESL/FSL programs, including for children born in Canada. (Education – **Improving English/French as a Second Language through Dedicated Funding and Upgraded Support Services** – 2006)
- Legislation to protect victims of human trafficking that is respectful of the human rights of trafficked persons and includes funding provisions to allow supportive services. (Violence And Exploitation – **Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking** – 2006)
- The documentation of the current and developing situation in Canada related to human trafficking, and identification of areas of required policy, program and legislative reform; and appropriate follow-up action, including prosecution of traffickers, protection of victims including potential legal status in Canada; training for law enforcement. (Violence and Exploitation – **Trafficking in Human Beings** – 2001)

Indigenous Peoples

In support of Indigenous Peoples, CFUW supports:

- The timely implementation and monitoring of the 94 Calls to Action recommended in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report. (Indigenous – **Achieving the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action** – 2020)
- Access to safe, clean, accessible, and affordable drinking water and sanitation for all residents of all First Nations Reserves and Communities., and the development of inclusive national water standards, including future plans of action to ensure funds allocated are adequate and utilized for sustainable solutions. (Indigenous – **Right to Safe, Clean, accessible and Affordable Drinking Water and Sanitation on First Nations Reserves in Canada** – 2017)
- Ending the marginalization of Indigenous women in Canadian society by adopting and implementing the recommendations of the Amnesty International 2004 report: Stolen Sisters: Discrimination and Violence Against Indigenous Women in Canada. (Indigenous – **Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls – Ending the Marginalization of Indigenous Women in Canadian Society** – 2017)

- The honouring of Crown commitments and, in collaboration with Indigenous organizations, the development and funding of balanced and holistic solutions to the discrepancies in standards of living between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians. (Indigenous – **Closing the Gap in Living Standards for Indigenous Canadians** – 2008)

International Trade and Relations

Concerning trade, CFUW supports:

- Initiating and engaging in public hearings and public debate before Canada signs or ratifies any international investment treaty. (Peace, Security and Trade - **International Trade and Investment Agreements** – 1998)
- Canada taking a leading role within international bodies to establish a clearer and more ethical set of rules for international borrowing and lending in order to help prevent a recurrence of the debt crisis. (Peace, Security and Trade - **International Poverty and Debt** – 1999)
- Canada's Official Development Assistance (ODA) to developing nations be the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of Gross National Product (now Gross National Income) (Peace, Security and Trade – **Increase in Foreign Aid** -1992)

CFUW has been involved in international relations since its establishment. CFUW supports the following aspects of international relations:

- Policies and programs that support a culture of peace, including efforts to assist people to cope with cultural, political, environmental and other social transformations, and the full participation of women in peace negotiations and conflict resolution. (Peace, Security and Trade – **Culture of Peace** – 2014)
- The prevention of mass atrocities and implementation of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) which in turn promote international acceptance of the principles surrounding the responsibility of states to protect their citizens from avoidable catastrophes such as mass murder and starvation. (Peace, Security and Trade – **Mobilizing the Will to Intervene – W2I** – 2010)
- Canada promoting international security by ending its role in supporting the Canadian commercial arms trade and stringently controlling arms transfers from Canada by establishing military export guidelines. (Peace, Security and Trade – **Military Commodities Export Control** – 1992)

- Canada actively supports the non-proliferation and the disarmament of nuclear weapons and exercises all possible peaceful means to avert the weaponization of space. (Peace, Security and Trade – **Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and Averting the Weaponization of Space** – 2006)

CFUW has had consultative status with the United Nations ECOSOC since 1998 and supports, among many others:

- The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) (United Nations – **CEDAW** – 1981)
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Children - **The Need for a Federal Commissioner for Canada's Children** – 2013)
- United Nations Convention of Biological Diversity, Framework Convention on Climate Change, and Statement of Forest Principles (Environment - **Sustainable Forestry** – 1997)
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) (Health Care System- **Full Accessibility and Barrier-Free Environments for Persons with Disabilities** – 2012)

CFUW also supports the United Nations Security Council Resolutions called Women, Peace and Security

- Support for:
 - UNSCR 1820: Recognizing sexual violence as a weapon and tactic of war, and to prosecute the persons responsible,
 - UNSCR 1882: Accountability of those killing, maiming and other acts of sexual violence against children to be listed in the Secretary-General's reports on children in armed conflict and
 - UNSCR 1888 and 1889: To strengthen the implementation of UNSCR1325, and to promote female participation in the peace process (Peace, Security and Trade - **United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1820, 1882, 1888 and 1889 on Peace and Security for Women and Children** – 2010)

Long Term Care and Elder Rights

The Covid-19 pandemic demonstrated the vulnerability of Canada's elder population.

CFUW supports:

- The creation of universal, accessible, regulated, respectful long-term care for elderly and vulnerable persons in Canada, and that be regulated under the Canada Health Act,. (Health Care System – **Long-Term Care Under the Canada Health Act** – 2020)
- The establishment of common evidence-based standards that ensure all vulnerable Canadians can live in safety, comfort and dignity and have access to high quality, affordable long-term care. (Health Care System – **Long-Term Care: Protect the Vulnerable** – 2020), and that,
- These standards be developed, adopted and implemented, with incentives to do so, based on the current Health Standards Organization's and Canadian Standards Association's Long-Term Care Service Standards and their Infection Prevention and Control Standards (or the updated recognized standards) (Health Care System - **Incentives to Adopt Current Standards for Long-Term Care** – 2024)

For those not wishing or needing long-term care, **CFUW also supports:**

- The funding of and support for older adults' high-quality, accessible, affordable, and person-centred community services to enable ageing in place at home or in their preferred community setting, taking into consideration cultural diversity and the specific needs of rural, remote, and urban settings. (Health Care System - **Ageing in Place: Resources for all Canadians to Age at Home and in Community Settings** – 2024)

Media and Information Literacy

Currently there are many concerns about the media – from the slow death of print to the challenges of social media.

CFUW supports:

- The promotion of the importance of information literacy in today's society and the teaching of information literacy skills. (Education – **School Libraries and Achieving Information Literacy** – 2004)

- A strong independent national broadcasting system which provides Canadians with knowledge and understanding of one another and a vital sense of our Canadian identity and culture, which also provides quality Canadian programming in all regions of Canada, without excessive reliance on commercial sponsorship and control, and includes editorial freedom. (Culture, Heritage and Information – **Public Broadcasting** – 1999)
- The funding of all libraries and archives, allowing them to serve the public and the scientific and cultural communities in order to support information requirements and the preservation of historical records. (Culture, Heritage and Information – **Improved Funding for Canadian Libraries and Archives** – 1993)

Sustainable Development Goals

CFUW's current priorities are based on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

CFUW supports:

- Canada upholding its commitment to the SDGs, both in Canada and internationally, to ensure the targets are achieved before 2030, including by increasing Official Development Assistance to 0.7% of Gross National Income. (United Nations – **Sustainable Development Goals, also known as Global Goals** – 2016) The SDGs are:
 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.
 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.
- The use of international trade agreements and related policies as tools to promote and accelerate the 17 United Nations SDGs and the consultation of civil society in developing, monitoring and evaluating the gendered impacts of international trade agreements. (Peace, Security and Trade – **Advancing Sustainable Development and Gender Equality Through International Trade Agreements** – 2023)

About CFUW

CFUW is a non-partisan, self-funded organization with 94 clubs across Canada and over 6,600 members. Since the founding of CFUW in 1919, our mission has been to achieve educational and economic equality and social justice through continuous learning and empowerment. Our vision is that women and girls are educated and empowered to make transformative change in the world. For more information, please contact CFUW's National Advocacy and Policy Specialist at advocacy@cfuw-fcdu.ca