

CFUW ONTARIO COUNCIL
SURVEY OF ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS 1981-2018
Aug.30, 2019

At the CFUW 100th Anniversary celebration, Cheryl Ambrose, VP Advocacy took us through 100 years of national resolutions adopted by the CFUW membership.

Ontario Council (OC) also has a small collection of Ontario-specific resolutions that has been adopted during our own 40-year history. They are found on the Ontario Council website.

Our first adopted resolutions were in 1981, and involved the use of empty classrooms for daycare, and bias and stereotyping in educational materials.

That same year, National CFUW had two resolutions about hazardous waste. This was followed by OC adopting one in 1983 on hazardous spills. Concerns about water pollution had started much earlier with CFUW, in 1967 with a resolution titled simply Water Pollution.

Other OC resolutions on the environment were adopted in 1991 (Preservation of the Wetlands – an Ontario-specific version of a CFUW one) and in 1998 (Natural Resources, which was a follow-up to the Wetlands one).

Education, being a provincial responsibility, has been the focus of 6 resolutions over the years, with the most important being the 2002 one on the public funding of public education. This was repeated the following year for CFUW.

In 1987, OC prepared a position paper on child care emphasizing the affordable, accessible care that meets the social, physical, language and intellectual needs of the child with a caring and safe environment. This is a position that we still use, and is just as valid today. Children have also been the foci of two other resolutions: addressing child poverty (2006) and youth in care (2014)

The Canada Health Act was adopted in 1994. Both OC and CFUW followed with resolutions supporting the five principles of Medicare in the two following years. In 2011, OC also adopted a resolution on mental health and addictions. Once passed, we had been asked to notify the Minister of Health immediately as the government of the day was in the process of developing a strategy, and our position counted. It was exciting to know that we were being listened to.

Other resolutions have included two dealing with work: health and safety together with the elimination of smoking (1986) and age discrimination in Ontario Employee Benefit Programs (2016), and support to TVOntario as of 1999, and the 2018 housing for all through sustainable and mixed urban development.

