

## **2000.01EM Genetic Testing**

**Whereas:** recent advances in genetic research, including the Human Genome Project, have meant that science is increasingly able to identify through early testing individuals likely to develop certain diseases; and

**Whereas:** this early identification may lead to new and successful medical interventions but may also face the individual concerned with difficult decisions about his/her future; and

**Whereas:** the information from such testing, if known to prospective employers or such organizations as insurance companies or institutions of learning, could become the basis for denial of insurance coverage or employment, admission to courses, or other forms of discrimination; therefore be it

**RESOLVED:** that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to pass legislation, which would ensure that:

- a. information gained from genetic testing would be available to the person tested and his/her medical advisor, and at the same time counseling services would be made available,
- b. access by others to this information would require the specific permission of the individual tested,
- c. results of genetic testing would not be grounds for discrimination,
- d. all federal privacy legislation would be amended to give the individual power to refuse access to his/her personal genetic information; and further be it

**RESOLVED:** that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Provincial Councils of Women to urge their respective Provincial Governments to amend provincial privacy legislation so as to give the individual power to refuse access to his/her personal genetic information.