

## 2001:01PU FEDERAL GOVERNMENT 'S ROLE IN HEALTH CARE POLICY

**Whereas:** the federal government has an established role in protecting the health of Canadians through its responsibility for a multiplicity of factors such as safe food standards, environmental controls against poisoning of air and water, licensing of pharmaceuticals and promotion of healthy life styles; and

**Whereas:** the federal government also has an established role in the delivery of health services through the passage of the Canada Health Act of 1984 and the federal transfer payments to the provinces for the funding of health care; and

**Whereas:** the five original principles on the Canada Health Act of 1984 (universally available, reasonably accessible to all, medically comprehensive, portable between provinces and publicly administered) are the basis for general standards for the delivery of health care services in all provinces and territories; and

**Whereas:** the government has the responsibility to ensure that these standards are met across Canada; and

**Whereas:** the growing number of private, for-profit health services are creating or supporting inequities in access to care across the country; and

**Whereas:** where these services are accessible through public funding, the combined service and profit costs may place a heavy financial load on the public health system; therefore be it

**RESOLVED:** that the National Council of Women of Canada confirm as its policy support for the federal role in health care policy and support for the Canada Health Act in providing equitable and adequately funded health care services for all Canadians; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to:

1. retain its responsibility for protecting the health of Canadians, including setting standards of health care delivery as outlined in the Canada Health Act; and
2. continue to work with the provinces and territories in the development of an accountable, financially sustainable health care system which meets the needs of all Canadians; and
3. evaluate with the provinces how well different methods of health care delivery support the five principles of the Canada Health Act, including a study of systems in other countries, such as France; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** that the National Council of Women of Canada urge its Provincial Councils, and Local Councils in provinces where there is no provincial council, to urge their governments to accept the federal government's role in the health field and work with that government in the development of the Canadian health care system.