

2003:03

**HELPING FOREIGN-TRAINED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS ACCESS
ACCREDITATION**

Whereas: there is, at present in Canada, significant shortage of health care professionals such as nurses and doctors; and

Whereas: although qualified foreign-trained professionals could provide a partial answer to this shortage, they face a lack of recognition of their credentials; and

Whereas: in order to ensure a level of competence for health care professionals across Canada, standard tests for accreditation have been set up, but fees for these qualifying exams are high; and

Whereas: foreign-trained professionals are often not able to afford the fees required to qualify and find it difficult to obtain Canadian experience in their field; therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as its policy that the process of accreditation of health care professionals trained in other countries be made more accessible to those professionals, while ensuring that a uniform standard of competence is maintained across Canada; and be it further

RESOLVED: that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to work with the provincial governments, professional organizations and licensing bodies to make accreditation more accessible for foreign-trained professionals, while ensuring that a uniform standard of competence is maintained across Canada by:

- a. ensuring loans and other resources are available for qualifying examinations and upgrading;
- b. developing academic assessment tools and testing;
- c. ensure re-testing is accessible and affordable;
- d. increasing the opportunities for foreign-trained professionals to acquire more Canadian experience under supervision; and
- e. accelerating the accreditation and retraining process through English and French language training, including long term and/or immersion language training where necessary.