

**2007:01PU      WOMEN AND HIV/AIDS**

**Whereas 1**      in 1992, the National Council of Women of Canada urged the Government of Canada to increase research into HIV/ AIDS in women, allow women access to clinical trials; and ensure that women have equal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS; and

**Whereas 2**      in 1999 the National Council of Women of Canada urged the Government of Canada to increase funds for HIV/AIDS programs for women; develop educational programs for the public, physicians, healthcare workers and other professionals to identify and support women with HIV/AIDS; and requested Provincial Councils of Women to develop educational programs for women, pre-teens, physicians, healthcare workers and other professionals; and support women with HIV/AIDS and those at risk of infection, which are often their children, through counseling and financial help; and

**Whereas 3**      women continue to be under-diagnosed and anonymous testing is not consistently offered in all provinces and territories; and

**Whereas 4**      women continue to be unable to negotiate safer sex because of situations of domestic violence and gender inequality; and

**Whereas 5**      medical care and treatment continues to be inaccessible and unaffordable for many women; and

**Whereas 6**      many women become infected due to risky drug use practices combined with risky sexual behaviours; and

**Whereas 7**      Aboriginal Canadian women are disproportionately affected by HIV and AIDS; therefore be it

**Resolved 1**      that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy that the needs of women with HIV and AIDS be fully addressed; and be it further

**Resolved 2**      that the National Council of Women of Canada reiterate to the Government of Canada the need for research, clinical trials and equal access to treatment for women with HIV/AIDS; and to provide education programs for the public and professionals to identify and support women with HIV/AIDS; and be it further

**Resolved 3**      that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to:

- a. provide anonymous HIV testing in all areas under its jurisdiction
- b. continue promoting the equality of women so that abused women are not vulnerable to HIV infection from their partners; and
- c. provide funding for targeted programs that address drug use and its risks and which acknowledge sex trade as the ripple effect of addictions; and
- d. be more proactive in the global efforts to provide Anti-Retroviral Treatment for AIDS; and
- e. provide more effective prenatal care for aboriginal women, as they are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS, so that their children are less likely to be born HIV+; and
- f. strengthen the penalties for knowingly infecting a partner; and be it further

**Resolved 4** that the National Council of Women of Canada request Provincial Councils of Women and, where appropriate, Local Councils of Women to urge their respective Provincial Governments to:

- a. provide anonymous HIV testing in all provinces; and
- b. provide funding for more treatment centres and training for more HIV specialists; and
- c. provide funding for needle exchange programs, detox centres and addiction centres; and
- d. provide more effective prenatal care for aboriginal women, as they are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS, so that their children are less likely to be born HIV+.